

the Mountain Chalice



Unitarian Universalist Community of the Mountains

October 2023

UPCOMING SERVICES

**Our Sunday Services are at 10:30 AM in person
and 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 13 for Kid-Centered Activities ...

OCTOBER THEME: *The Gift of Heritage*

October 1 *Finding the Paths*

Rev. Kevin Tarsa;

Sophia McKean, Worship Associate

In this second service in Rev. Kevin's Enneagram series, Worship Associate Sophia McKean and Rev. Kevin invite us to consider our personal paths toward emotional and spiritual wholeness, paths of growth that invite our self-acceptance, and above all, paths that lead us home.

October 8 *Here Before Our Ancestors*

Shelly Covert, with Rev. Kevin Tarsa,
Cheryl Morris, Worship Associate, and
members of the Nisenan Task Force

In our annual service paying tribute to the Nisenan, on whose ancestral homelands we live and worship, we follow the tribal members' ongoing journey toward recognition and stabilizing their people, and we attend to the layered legacies we inherit. Tribal spokesperson Shelly Covert will join us once again, speaking from her growing knowledge and evolving insight.

October 15 *In and Of this World*

Rev. Kevin Tarsa, Randy McKean, Worship Leader,
and the UUCM Humanist Group

Humanism – a "religious" perspective grounded here in the natural rather than the supernatural - finds a unique home in

Unitarian Universalism, born of our traditions and our ancestors' long-time commitment to religious freedom, to the use of reason, and to expansive tolerance. No matter your theological stance, consider yourself in good company.

October 22 *Pumping Irony: Power, Protection, Control, and Vulnerability*

Rev. Kevin Tarsa;

Lindsay Dunckel, Worship Associate

In the midst of current and confounding "strong man" energies in national and world politics, we draw on Enneagram insights (Type 8) to consider the ways that strength, power, and control sometimes arise in each of us as ways to protect ourselves from feeling vulnerable, uncertain, powerless.

October 29 *What is Remembered, Lives*

Continued on Page 5...

► INSIDE THIS ISSUE ◀

Item	Page
Upcoming Services.....	1 & 5
From the Minister	2
Board of Trustees	3-4
Endowment Committee	4
Words from the Worship Team	5
Membership Team	6
Harvest Festival	7
Parish & Lay Pastoral Care Teams	8
Building & Grounds Team	8
Art & Aesthetics.....	9
Feature: Profile of Cheryl Spaulding	10
Justice News and Activities.....	11
Share the Plate	11
Community Connections	12
UUCM Family Ministry	13
Second Sunday Book Group.....	13-14
Spirituality Sharing Circle	14
Monthly Calendar.....	15
UUCM Contact Info and Office Hours	16



From the Minister

*Rev. Kevin Tarsa
UUCM Minister*

As we begin this month focused on “the gift of heritage,” I’ve just returned from a moving UU History tour in Poland. With colleagues from the U.S., colleagues from Transylvanian Unitarian churches, and members of the single Unitarian organization in Poland, we went looking for our Unitarian roots.

The pacifist Minor Reformed Church of Poland, better known as the Polish Brethren (they preferred to call themselves simply “Christians”), flourished for a brief shining moment in the Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth, for one generation, between 1565 and 1658, at which point, for the first and so far only time, a religion was completely banned within the Polish borders, and its members expelled.

Why banned and expelled? There are layers of reasons, of course, but to start, the radical Polish Brethren espoused deep pacifism, decrying capital and corporal punishment and, at first, public service that might require them to support war. Drawing on their understanding of the very earliest Christian communities, they advocated for the enfranchisement of peasants (including the serfs on their own lands), universal healthcare, and a universal educational system, including for women. And... their conception of God was Unitarian, a heretical notion of God as “one,” denying the reigning trinitarian conception of God as God-Son-Holy Spirit, and thus placing Jesus somewhere beneath the level of God proper.

While at their peak in the 1620s they made up only 1% of the population, Brethren amounted to 20% of the commonwealth’s intellectuals.

We U.S. Unitarian Universalists are not the institutional descendants of these radically inclusive and courageous people, but we are the inheritors of their ideas and their commitments. They debated and argued and formed their views within the values of freedom and reason. They put those ideas in writing and sent them out into the world far beyond Poland, influencing many European thinkers and, in time,

our more direct Unitarian and Universalist ancestors on this continent.

This month, as we consider our deep personal inward journeys (October 1), our paths toward integrity and wholeness (October 8), the heritage of humanism in our tradition (October 15), the relationship between the pursuit of power and the reality of vulnerability (October 22), and as we honor those who have died (October 29), I’ll cast a parallel and appreciative glance backward throughout, to these passionate and brave ancestors upon whose shoulders we rest as we look out into the world and our place within it.

With care,

– Rev. Kevin



*The view from inside the Polish Brethren Church
built in 1654 in Kolosy, Poland.*

MINISTER'S OFFICE HOURS

*Rev. Kevin's office hours are usually held
Tuesday through Thursday afternoons.*

Email Admin@uugrassvalley.org
or call the office at (530) 274-1675
to schedule an appointment



René Wiley, President,
UUCM Board of Trustees
President@uugrassvalley.org

Board of Trustees

October begins the monthly theme of Heritage. This has me thinking about building on the legacy of the UUs who came before us, following along the path, and how we can fulfill our current mission.

Fittingly, on Sunday, October 15, the UUCM Women's Group will proudly honor Anita Wald-Tuttle's legacy to Unitarian Universalist values with a certificate of membership to the Clara Barton Sisterhood. Here is our Lesley Champlin's submission to the UU Women's Federation, who awarded Anita the honor:

"In the early 1990s, Northern California Unitarian Universalists living in Grass Valley and Nevada City had to travel 30 miles to the Sierra Foothills Unitarian Universalists church in Auburn. When Anita Wald-Tuttle became Board President at SFUU and realized just how many people from the North County gave their support, she proposed a once-a-month Sunday morning "Great Ideas" meeting, with the first one in her living room in Grass Valley in 1994. That was the very beginning of what is now the Unitarian Universalist Community of the Mountains, a thriving congregation of 130 UUs and friends.

Anita has served UUCM in about every capacity, from helping to obtain the UUA charter in 1995, to being elected President of the Board in 2001, to working on the ministry teams, to bringing her famous deviled eggs to gatherings. The number of committees on which Anita has served is long, and she is the first to volunteer, just to show how it's done. To boost contributions to the Endowment Fund, for example, she initiated a new tradition of writing a check for the number of years she celebrates each birthday. A simple but meaningful effort that has caught on.

Anita's contributions did not start and stop at the walls of UUCM. There were decades of contributions to her previous UU churches and to her many community and justice activities (Grandmothers for Peace, League of Women Voters, Ministry for Earth, Stop the

Mine Task Force, just to name a few). She has served on numerous nonprofit community boards and shows up and speaks up loudly for justice again and again. Among her many areas of service, Anita:



Anita Wald Tuttle, circa 1980s, dressed as Clara Barton for a UU San Diego celebration

- volunteered in a secret abortion clinic in a small community in the Midwest
- successfully worked to get UUCM awarded as a Green Sanctuary
- is a member of the Governing Board of Connecting Point (Nevada County regional information and resource organization), where she was also the very first recipient of Gold Country Stage's Golden Ticket, a free transit pass for seniors over 80 years old
- and so devoted is she to supporting UUCM, she even lived in the apartment upstairs at the church for a time to serve as a caretaker for the building.

Anita's reputation for energetic activism is well known throughout Nevada County. Listen to this recent interview on KVMR, a local radio station, for additional insight into Anita's life:
<https://www.kvmr.org/podcasts/anita-wald-tuttle-community-activist-extraordinaire/>

At 96, Anita continues to be the soul of UUCM, a true "Treasure of the Sierra Madre" cherished by all for her leadership, enthusiasm, service, and wisdom, in addition to embodying the history of our area and this grateful congregation."

This is only a portion of Anita's living legacy to Unitarian Universalism. Hers has been the joyful and sometimes challenging work of creating Beloved Community.

As we enter the work of creating Beloved Community today, I'm thinking of our worship-led exploration of the UUA's proposed Article II amendment that expands on the 7 Principles. Anita participated in a Spring 2023 workshop with the UUA's Board Committee to craft the language on the value of Interdependence. After a study of the proposed values

Board of Trustees

over many Sundays, we came to recognize that everything stems from a kind of love in action, and with an intention to be held accountable to others in the work of welcoming and belonging.

John A. Powell [sic] of the Othering and Belonging Institute describes belonging as "having the right to co-create, being seen as fully human, and participating in the very structures and cultures that you are belonging to."

A large part of the governance work for our Board of Trustees is ensuring that our structures of communication, policies, and procedures serve everyone in our covenant as well as guide how we can belong to one another.

Rev. Ben McBride is a visionary leader of radical belonging and peace building. He shares the importance of bridging across differences to belonging and offers that the wrong first question is "What do we need to do?" and the right first question is "Who do we need to become?"

I believe that Anita Wald-Tuttle and the other UUCM founders may have started with that right first question in their hearts, asking "Who do we need to become?" I'm proud of UUCM and the path of growth we are on, and I know that we have a lot of work ahead of us. May we continue to become more curious, more courageously loving, and carry on with a goal of bridging across differences to belonging. In that spirit may we co-create a world that is more compassionate, sustainable, and just.

Yours in Beloved Community,

René

UUCM BOARD OF TRUSTEES

JULY 2023 - JUNE 2024

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

Members at Large:

Chuck Champlin, Jeff Gold & Lisa Haden

Board meetings are open to all members and friends starting at 1:30 PM on the third Wednesday of each month.

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

Endowment



Kathryn Young
Endowment Committee
Endowment@uugrassvalley.org

Estate Workshop was Awesome!

Thank you so much to all those who showed up to help set up, clean up, bring snacks, make coffee, and participate in the Estate Planning workshop last month. It was a great success! I personally learned a lot – and I heard a few others say that they also had their eyes opened about a few things! The two attorneys, Laura Paré and Rich Keene, were so engaging and the information they presented was very relevant. The Endowment team could never have done it without expert help from Gail Schulz – who has planned a few workshops for UUCM in the past couple years! I hope everyone got all their questions answered and that we as a community are better able to sort out our plans for what happens when we are no longer here!



Simple Gifts Thank You

The Endowment Committee would like to extend our gratitude to....

Gwen Eymann and Gail Schulz

who each donated in celebration of their recent birthdays!
Each gift brings us closer to the \$50,000 base when we can start using earnings toward special programs at UUCM.

The Endowment Committee would like to encourage members and friends to help sustain UUCM as a vibrant and vital force for liberal religion for generations to come by making a Legacy Gift, if you can, or Simple Gift of any amount, whenever the spirit moves you! Please contact us at: Endowment@uugrassvalley.org with your questions!



Words from the Worship Team

Cheryl Morris and Carol Nimmick
Worship Team Co-Leaders
Worship@uugrassvalley.org



The Citizenship/Ownership model for UUCM, presented by Rev. Kev in the September 10 service, has created quite a buzz. If you missed this service, I encourage you to watch it on YouTube because the concepts presented will guide many aspects of church life throughout this year and beyond.

For the Worship Team, this means finding creative ways for congregants to participate in planning and presenting services. With Rev. Kev at the helm, and experienced team members ready to guide and support, we are brainstorming opportunities for members to contribute significantly without committing to be full-fledged Worship Associates.

Watch for specific invitations to come to a worship planning session or a Worship Team meeting. Do you like to express yourself in writing, or art, music, or movement? Each month has a theme, and we would love for you to create something that speaks to that theme. You could read/show/perform/embody it during a service or have it done by someone else.

The theme for each month starts with "The Gift of..." For October it's Heritage, followed by Generosity in November, Mystery in December, Liberating Love in January, Justice and Equity in February, Transformation in March, Interdependence in April, Pluralism in May, and Renewal in June. Do any of these strike a chord or inspire you? We would love to see what you come up with!

As we look for ways to make our services more inclusive internally, we are also thinking of the community outside our walls. We plan to increase our presence in the media and publicize offerings that may have broad appeal, such as our solstice services. And we are thrilled to have added Sophia McKean to our team!

Sophia will bring us new ways of thinking and doing, as well as acting as ambassador to young people who don't know about us yet. Sophia is a life-long UU, first in New York and then, from age 7, at UUCM. They served as a Worship Associate starting at age 14. Their senior project at Nevada Union High School was shadowing then-minister Meghan Cefalu, including putting together an entire Sunday service complete with sermon. They are now 27 years old and recently returned home to Grass Valley where they are working on a farm and applying to grad school at UU seminaries. Proud parents Lindsay Dunckel and Randy McKean are both members of the Worship Team and said they didn't have to do any arm-twisting to bring them back aboard.

Please join us in welcoming Sophia and see where your imagination takes you as you think of what your contribution to Sunday services will be.



2023-24 Soul Matters Themes

The Gift of...

October:	Heritage
November:	Generosity
December;	Mystery
January:	Liberating Love
February:	Justice and Equity
March:	Transformation
April:	Interdependence
May:	Pluralism
June:	Renewal



Upcoming Services

...Continued from Page 1

October 29 *What is Remembered, Lives*
Beth Karow, Service Leader

All Hallows Eve, Día de los Muertos, All Souls, and All Saints days invite us each autumn to remember our ancestors and our beloveds who have died. These tender days on the way to winter even open a window to working on our relationships with those who have gone before us. In a service steeped in ritual and music, we will remember with honesty, gratitude, and hope.



Laura Harter
Leader, Membership Team
membership@uugrassvalley.org

Membership Team

Fun for All at UUCM's End of Summer Camping Trip

All trips come with adventure . . . surprises . . . and finding ways to work them all out. We had some good times and some challenging times with rain. But there were campfires and s'mores, a delicious BBQ potluck, and singing some great campfire songs in harmony. We hiked, swam, kayaked, and enjoyed hanging outdoors together with great stories and conversations. We look forward to doing it again in 2024!



Harvest Festival at UUCM

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 21, 3:00 TO 6:00 PM

Everyone is invited to our Harvest Festival on Saturday, October 21. We're serving a Chili Dinner with choice of meat or vegetarian chili, corn bread and green salad. We'll also have some delicious apple desserts!

In addition, we've got fun activities planned including live music, a singalong, crafts and games! Celebrate fall and friendship at this fun community event! Tickets are \$10, with kids 16 and under free!

Please see the poster on the next page!



WE WOULD LOVE SOME PARTY VOLUNTEERS!

It takes a UU village to make a Harvest Festival. If you can help set up, cook, or serve food and drinks, please contact Shannon at ShannonDooleyMiller@uugrassvalley.org.

We look forward to seeing you there...it's going to be a good ol' time!!





UUCM Presents A

Harvest Festival

Saturday, October 21

3:00-6:00 PM

FEATURING

**Song Circle, Games,
Crafts & a Chili Dinner**

Meat or Veggie Chili, Salad,
Corn Bread & Apple Desserts

Tickets \$10.00

(16 and under Free)



Celebrate Fall, Friendship & Fun!



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 supporting this work interests you, 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

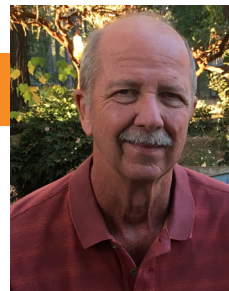
Are You Facing a Life Challenge?

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 you can email the whole team:
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

LIBRARY ART GALLERY SHOW SCHEDULE IS AS FOLLOWS:

Renee Weilmann – Paintings: Now – November 15

Ruth Ghio – Art Works: November 15 – January 15, 2024

If you want to display art in the library contact us at:

Art@uugrassvalley.org. We have filled all the slots for this year and are looking for new artists for 2024.

Introducing Renee Weilmann

Featured artist at our UUCM Library Art Gallery from September 15 – November 15, 2023

Renee Weilmann grew up in Southern California and Hawaii and has lived in Nevada City for the past 24 years. In her early years, she loved expressing herself creatively through drawing and painting, and studying Hawaiian and Tahitian languages, ballet, and tap dance. Later, in high school and college, she studied photography and printmaking. In the 1990s she began to paint, and simultaneously began "painting" with plants in her garden. In the mid-2000s, she began quilting with UUCM's "Frayed Knots," a group started and led by Kia Hatch which included UUCM members Gwen Eyman, Robin Hart, Theresa Houtman, and Gail Johnson Vaughn. This is the first time her paintings have been shown publicly.



Hospitality with Justice

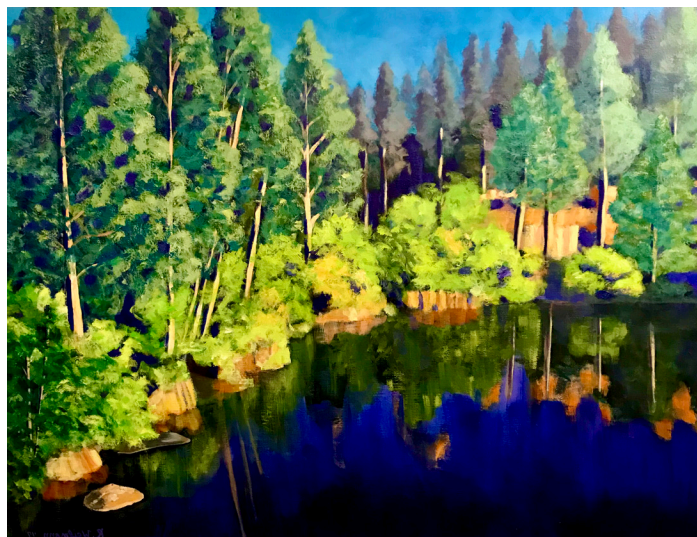
Café Justo

Get your coffee from the farmers who grow it via Cafe Justo, serving hand-picked coffees from small farms in Mexico, directly from the farmers and their collective. The price is unbeatable! Organic, shade-grown, sun dried:

Regular coffee	\$9 per pound or \$38 for 5 lbs.
Decaf coffee	\$10 per pound or \$43 for 5 lbs.

CHOOSE: Arabica or Robusta
Light Roast or Dark Roast
Whole Beans or Ground

Order through Julia Park Tracey at Coffee@uugrassvalley.org



Two of Renee's paintings from the show are pictured:
above: "Hirschmans Pond," and "Three Sisters," top, right.

Flowers Bloom and Fade in Time

A Profile of Cheryl Spaulding by Jenny Dewey

Cheryl Spaulding's first appearance in the writing sessions at UUCM was the faded version of the flower. When Cheryl first came to the sessions there was no indication of who she was, what her background was, or what sort of flower she was before the fading phase.

There are times when someone interesting enters your life, times when the mystery is such that you hesitate to pry, to ask questions, to seek more information. Time provides opportunities to sit back and watch and wait.

Cheryl was mysterious to begin with, in part because she came to the writing sessions knowing a lot about writing. Why would someone accomplished with the written word need a writing session centered around the elements of the craft?

The imagined faded bloom began to bloom, to flower, to reveal herself, shyly at first, hesitantly.

Wonder and wait, this was the mantra.

The quiet, unassuming Cheryl has a PhD (Language, Literacy, and Culture), from Stanford University. She is a published author. She has spent much of her adult life teaching high schoolers. Cheryl's teaching has focused on developing methods that encourage reluctant learners to shine (reference the flower that blooms after it fades).

Years ago, Cheryl realized the Principles of Unitarian Universalism fit her personal philosophy, and she

particularly liked the people she encountered. At present, as part of the Family Ministry Team, Cheryl looks after the children of congregants during services.



Cheryl Spaulding

The skills Cheryl has with the written word have emerged slowly, even cautiously. Her writing experience as an educator consisted primarily of expository texts. She shifted to writing both narrative fiction and non-fiction.

This can be a rough transition. The expertise developed for academic writing does not guarantee a gift for writing narrative.

With courage and a great sense of humor, Cheryl has become an essential member of the sessions. As a group we ultimately teach each other, and there are occasions when I, as the "team leader," want to turn everything over to Cheryl. I spent years, too many to count, in the dark about what a semi-colon is for. In my own writing I avoided using it. Cheryl explained the uses (and abuses) of the semi-colon and at once I understood how to use it.

Cheryl is the mother of an adult daughter who lives with her family not far from where Cheryl lives. It is clear Cheryl loves children (of all ages) and knows how to direct their energy for learning about the world into tangible experiences.

The flower you felt sad about, as you watched it fade, clearly has more lives to live. Save it, and watch for a fresh bloom.

Justice News and Activities

Bending the Arc Task Force

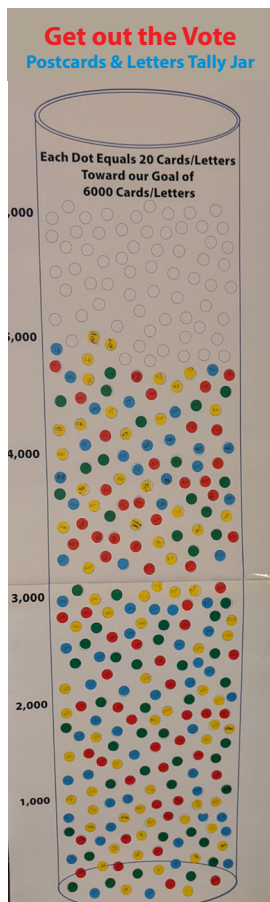
Gail Johnson Vaughan,
UUCM Justice Team Member

A CLOSE LOOK AT UUA'S PROPOSED ARTICLE II

If you're like most of us, you may not have a firm grasp on the proposed changes in the UUA Bylaws Article II. What's it all about really?

Your Bending the Arc Task Force invites you to join them for a four-session program developed by the UUA Wellspring team to engage us in the purposes, values and covenant, inspiration, inclusion, and freedom of belief within Article II which will be voted on at General Assembly 2024. The 90-minute sessions will be held once a month beginning in October, with dates and times to be determined based on the needs of those who participate. The sessions will be facilitated by Gail Johnson Vaughan and other members of the Bending the Arc team.

Contact BTATF@uugrassvalley.org by October 10 to learn more. We hope you will join us and see how Article II resonates with your heart.



Almost at the 2023 Postcard Finish Line!

By Gail Johnson Vaughan,
UUCM Justice Team

I am happy to announce that as this article is being written there are less than 10 postcard packets waiting to be "adopted." We started with 150 packets - way to go UUCM!

Postcards can be mailed through October 25. Please consider adopting one or more of these packets. And be sure to add a dot with your initials to the Tally Jar poster in the foyer. I'm really looking forward to seeing the poster fill up.

We will begin our next postcard campaign in early 2024. Stakes will be high in those elections, and we will want to repeat our incredible results from 2022! You are amazing and making a real difference! Thanks so much!

Share the Plate

UUCM's August Share the Plate recipient, [Animal Place](#), will receive **\$652.97**, thanks to generous UUCM members, friends, and visitors. These weekly donations add up - thank you all.

As of this writing, we are currently finishing up collections for our September partner, [Sierra Streams Institute](#).



Our October Share the Plate recipient is [Wildlife Rehabilitation and Release](#).

Founded in 1985, WR&R is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization dedicated to the care and rehabilitation of injured and orphaned wildlife. Each year this team returns to the wild over 100 different species of native wildlife, including mammals,

bats, songbirds, and raptors. WR&R is completely funded by volunteers and generous individuals.

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



IFM (Interfaith Food Ministry)

IFM is in need of volunteers - specifically drivers and checkers. Qualifications:

- **DRIVERS** must have a truck or van and a good back to pick up perishable food items from local markets, starting at 7:30 AM. Two - three hours, you select the dates to work. Training provided and helper assigned if needed.
- **CHECKERS** greet, talk with clients to go over food choices and log their visit into the computer. 9:30AM - 1:15PM shifts on Monday, Wednesday or Friday, or 8AM - 1PM on Saturday. You choose your dates. Training provided.

IFM is also in need of donations of paper bags and egg cartons!

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 our administrative assistant at Admin@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.

Make Connections at UUCM

Please contact the organizers if you are interested in joining!



WALKING GROUP

8:00 AM, TUESDAYS AND THURSDAYS
OFFSITE

The Walking Group meets at **8:00 AM**. We meet on **Tuesdays** at the Wolf Creek Trail/Northstar Mining Museum parking area, and on **Thursdays** at 418 Chapel, Grass Valley. Be sure to ask our Administrative Assistant (Admin@uugrassvalley.org) to include you on our walking group mailing list so you can be informed of last minute changes.

Email Walking@uugrassvalley.org for info.

MEN'S GROUP

WEDNESDAYS FROM 8:30 - 10:30 AM AT UUCM

Men gather to enjoy each other's company.

Contact for the group: Men@uugrassvalley.org

SINGING MEDITATION CIRCLE

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

Contact SingingMeditation@uugrassvalley.org

SPIRITUALITY SHARING CIRCLE

SECOND SATURDAYS, 3:00 - 4:30 PM, ONSITE AND VIA ZOOM

All are welcome to explore spiritual questions, with open hearts and minds.

Contact Spirituality@uugrassvalley.org



HUMANISM DISCUSSION GROUP

FIRST WEDNESDAY OF EACH MONTH AT 10:45 AM

Our UUCM Humanism Discussion Group is a gathering for both those who identify as humanists and those who are interested in learning about this philosophy. We gather to explore humanism and how it relates to the various aspects of our lives in today's world while encouraging self-exploration as well as relationship with the group.

Subjects for group discussion are chosen by members and optional readings on the subjects are made available prior to the discussion.

The topic for our next meeting on Wednesday, October 4 at 10:45 AM at UUCM will be "Is Capitalism Compatible with Humanism?"

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 Meeting Link](#)

Please view the UUCM Website Calendar for the most up to date meeting information. For questions, please contact: Humanism@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, October 9 at UUCM**. We're having international potluck! Please bring a dish you make from another culture -- and plan on sharing the recipe, origin, your connection to it, or ?. We will send a reminder to the Women's Group email list a week ahead of the meeting for RSVPs. If you are not on the Women's Group email list, please send an email to our Administrative Assistant, Siobhan Boylan, 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.

Our UU Heritage: Let's Pass It On

By Cheryl Spaulding,
UUCM Family Ministry Team Member

This month's theme is a juicy one—heritage. I decided to begin my preparations for this article by looking up the numerous definitions of heritage. There was one upon which I chose to focus—"valued objects and qualities, such as cultural traditions . . . that have been passed down from previous generations." UU's have many beloved objects and qualities (and I might add rituals), that make up our heritage. Included among those objects, qualities, and rituals are our chalices (including our rituals of lighting and extinguishing them), our sharing of joys and sorrows, our commitments to social justice, and our respect for theological diversity.

Our heritage is a rich and meaningful one, and our efforts to find creative and sustainable ways of passing our heritage on to the next generation of UU's is the very heart of our work in Family Ministry. The issues that we face—each time we meet as a team and each time we meet with our children and youth in Kids Connection or teen meetings—center on a few important questions, e.g., how do young people come to identify with UU values, rituals, and traditions? And how can we (the adults) work in such a way that our words and actions make our UU heritage clear, accessible, and engaging for our youth?

This effort to highlight and share the sometimes-intangible attributes of our UU heritage while interacting with our children and youth is important work. It is one of the many ways UUs can touch the future. If you would like to know more about the Family Ministry Team and the many opportunities for UUCM adults to find purpose and meaning inherent in our team's work, please reach out to one or the other of us—Cheryl Spaulding, Lindsay Dunckel, and Rene Wiley. We would be delighted to discuss with you the ways that you might participate in building this program into one that is ready to serve our current group of children, as well as the children who will one Sunday show up with their parents, ready to explore Unitarian Universalism for the first time. TOGETHER WE CAN TOUCH THE FUTURE!!

PLEASE TAKE NOTE:

KIDS CONNECTION

will be available every Sunday this month.

BUILDING AND GROUNDS WORKDAY:

Saturday, October 21, 9 AM - 12 PM. All ages are welcome. Age appropriate tasks will be made available for children.

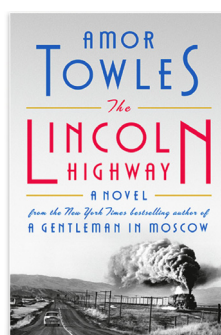
HARVEST FESTIVAL

Saturday, October 21, 3:00 to 6:00 PM at UUCM.
\$10 for Adults, 16 and under free, at UUCM. Come enjoy live music, face painting, apple crafts, corn hole, meat or vegetarian chili, corn bread, apple desserts, and more, including lots of UUCM opportunities to connect with each other. Everyone Welcome!

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



Sunday October 8, *The Lincoln Highway*
by Amor Towles

The Lincoln Highway is a joyride. Amor Towles' new Great American Road Novel tails four boys — three 18-year-olds who meet in a juvenile reformatory, plus a brainy 8-year-old — as they set out from Nebraska in June, 1954, in an old Studebaker in pursuit of a better future. If this book were set today, their constant detours and U-turns would send GPS

into paroxysms of navigational recalculations. But hitch onto this delightful tour de force and you'll be pulled straight through to the end, helpless against the inventive exuberance of Towles' storytelling. Presenter Susan Merrill

• • • • •

ZOOM LINK:

[Sunday Book Group Zoom](#)

Meeting ID: 927 1111 8322

Passcode: 472984

• • • • •

We have picked book selections for November of 2023 through June of 2024! Book titles, authors and descriptions are listed on the following page..

Full Community Education

Second Sunday Book Choices NOVEMBER 2023 THROUGH JUNE 2024

November 12, 2023 - *The Bereaved*

by Julia Park Tracey

Based on her research into her grandfather's past as an adopted child, Julia Park Tracey has created a mesmerizing work of historical fiction illuminating the darkest side of the Orphan Train.

Presenter: Theresa Houtman with Julia Park Tracey

December 10, 2023 - *Soul of an Octopus A Surprising Exploration of the Wonder of Consciousness*

by Sy Montgomery, 224 pages

The author explores these complex, intelligent and spirited creatures which have distinct personalities. There is growing scientific appreciation of consciousness in this sentient ocean animal that has "venom like a snake, a beak like a parrot and ink like an old fashioned pen."

Presenter: Martha Turner,

January 14, 2024 - *Dinners with Ruth:*

A Memoir on the Power of Friendships

by Nina Totenberg, 320 pages

This memoir was written by one of the founding mothers of NPR. She shares both professional and personal successes and struggles within the intimacy and power of women's friendships. Nina includes her relationship with RBG.

Presenter: Judith Gropp

February 11, 2024 - *Block Seventeen*

by Kimiko Guthrie

Kimiko Guthrie Akiko "Jane" Thompson, a half Japanese, half Caucasian woman in her mid-thirties is attempting to forge a quietly happy life in the Bay Area with her fiancé, Shiro. Starting with a bizarre car accident, their lives are disturbed by a numbers of worrisome incidents. Jane wants to ignore these disturbances until a cry from the past robs her of all peace, forcing her to uncover a long-buried family trauma.

Presenter: Jo Waters

March 10, 2024 - *Entangled Life*

by Merlin Sheldrake

A story about one-third of the earth's biosphere that we never learned about in school. Fungi are not only complex and fascinating, their study may be key to solving environmental problems.

Presenter: Cynthia Burton

April 14, 2024 - *Harlem Shuffle*

by Colson Whitehead

This book by the Pulitzer Prize a Pulitzer winning author, is lighter, humorous at times and feels more personal than his previous novels. It explores class, race and power in the guise of an engaging crime story. The characters are colorful and complex, living in a city that is described so vividly as to seem a character itself. Presenter: Cheryl Morris

May 12, 2024 - *Chances Are*

by Richard Russo, 320 pages

This absorbing novel introduces a new level of suspense that will quicken the readers heart beat throughout this saga of how friendship's bonds are every bit as constricting and rewarding as those of family or any other community. Presenter: Keith Johnson

June 9, 2024 - *Bury My Heart at Chuck E. Cheese*

By Tiffany Midge

This powerful and compelling collection of musings on life, politics and identity of a Native woman in America, artfully blends sly humor, social commentary and meditations on love and loss. Presenter: Susan Merrill



Spirituality Sharing Circle

By Scottie Hart

SECOND SATURDAYS OF EACH MONTH
3:00 - 4:30 PM AT UUCM

It turns out that many UUCMers are unaware there's a **Spirituality Sharing Circle** once a month. (Also by Zoom.) All are welcome to gather, spend time, share our thoughts, respect our differences, and open our hearts.

ARE YOU CURIOUS? HERE'S WHAT TO EXPECT:

After opening words and a chalice lighting, those who wish check in for 2-3 minutes, broadly focusing on their current spiritual question, challenge, or exploration. Then we sit together in shared silence for about fifteen minutes. Another round of sharing addresses what has arisen in each of us during the gathering. By then, it's time to close, even though we tend to want to keep sharing the warmth, acceptance and creativity that have been generated.

Touch base with Scottie Hart, Lindsay Dunckel, or Rev. Kevin for more details. ...or just "come on down!" and give it a try!

October 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
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
10:30 Finding the Paths 12:00 Mistakes & Miracles Book Study	4:00 Stop the Mine Task Force	8:00 Tuesday Walking Group 4:00 Parish Care Team Meeting	8:30 Men's Group 10:45 Humanism Discussion Group 6:30 Adult Choir	8:00 Thursday Walking Group 7:00 Singing Meditation	4:15 UUCM String Ensemble	
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
10:30 Here Before Our Ancestors 12:00 Mistakes & Miracles Book Study 12:30 Book Group	6:00 Women's Circle	8:00 Tuesday Walking Group 6:00 Bending the Arc Taskforce	8:30 Men's Group 12:00 Art & Aesthetics Team 3:00 Ministry Council Meeting 6:30 Adult Choir	8:00 Thursday Walking Group 9:30 Men's Circle of Trust 10:30 Writers' Group 2:00 Finance Committee Meeting 6:00 Worship Team Meeting	4:15 UUCM String Ensemble	9:00 Building and Grounds Workday 3:00 Spirituality Sharing Circle
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
10:30 In and Of this World 12:00 Mistakes & Miracles Book Study 12:30 Family Ministry Monthly Meeting	7:00 Citizens' Climate Lobby – Nevada County Chapter	8:00 Tuesday Walking Group 5:15 Nisenan Project Team Meeting	8:30 Men's Group 1:00 Board of Trustees Meeting 5:00 Justice Team Meeting 6:30 Adult Choir	8:00 Thursday Walking Group 10:00 Greeter Meeting	4:15 UUCM String Ensemble	3:00 Fall Festival
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
10:30 Pumping Irony: Power, Protection, Control, and Vulnerability 12:00 Mistakes & Miracles Book Study		8:00 Tuesday Walking Group	8:30 Men's Group 2:00 Membership Team Meeting 6:30 Adult Choir	8:00 Thursday Walking Group 10:30 Writers' Group	4:15 UUCM String Ensemble	
29	30	31	1	2	3	4
10:30 What Is Remembered, Lives 12:00 Mistakes & Miracles Book Study		8:00 Tuesday Walking Group	8:30 Men's Group 10:45 Humanism Discussion Group 6:30 Adult Choir	7:00 Singing Meditation	4:15 UUCM String Ensemble	



Unitarian Universalist Community of the Mountains

246 South Church St., Grass Valley, CA 95945

Telephone: (530) 274-1675

Website: [uugrassvalley.org](https://www.uugrassvalley.org)



Most Updated Version of the UUCM Calendar:
<https://www.uugrassvalley.org/calendar/>



Sunday Services are held at 10:30 AM by Zoom or on-site

Office Hours: Monday through Friday, 8:30 AM - 12:00 PM
(Our Administrative Assistant is available by phone or email until 5:00 PM, M-F)

Rev. Kevin Tarsa Office Hours:

Rev. Kevin's office hours are currently held by appointment.
Contact Rev. Kevin at (231) 883-1058 or minister@uugrassvalley.org

UUCM STAFF MEMBERS

Reverend Kevin Tarsa, *Minister*

Siobhan Boylan,
Administrative Assistant

Toby 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 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*