

the Mountain Chalice



Unitarian Universalist Community of the Mountains

November 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 12 for Kid-Centered Activities ...

NOVEMBER THEME: *The Gift of Generosity*

November 5 *The Joys of Six: Skeptics and True Believers*

Rev. Kevin Tarsa;

Gail Johnson Vaughan, Worship Associate

We enter the world absolutely upon those fallible humans who are caring for us, and so when we are young, we cannot help but be afraid, at times, that we won't have the support or guidance we need or be able to survive on our own. This sends some of us on a life-long search for security and sends some of us in what looks like the exact opposite direction. Come, consider your own sixty self.

Nov 12 *Happy Diwali!*

Worship Associates: Tracy Pepper and Gail Johnson Vaughan with special guest Jivat Mukhi

Put on your colorful clothes, we're celebrating Diwali! This is the first day of the vibrant and joy-filled Hindu festival of lights. Diwali festivities include illumination of lights, candles, firecrackers, and diya (clay lamps) to symbolize the victory of good over evil, inner light over spiritual darkness, and knowledge over ignorance. What better day than Diwali for an introduction to the rich spiritual world of Hinduism. Want to know more? Click this link to find out. [What is Diwali?](#)

Nov 19 *Animal-Housed: Tuning in to Head, Heart & Gut*

Rev Kevin Tarsa with

Gail Johnson Vaughan, Worship Associate

We each take in the world, process what we've experienced, and make decisions through a combination of instinct, feeling, and thinking, though most of us over-rely on one of those three. The rub is that the one we rely on most is also where we are stuck and least free. And that means there is hope.

Nov 26

Who's at the Table?

Rev. Kevin Tarsa;

Gail Johnson Vaughan, Worship Associate

Thanksgiving is a time of gratitude for all that we have received. It is also a time to reflect on our own generosity. Who do we invite to our table of generosity? Who do we leave out? Do we keep our generosity within the bounds of our comfort zones, or are we courageous enough to expand into the realms of discomfort where true generosity lives? Join us as we explore this provocative idea.

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*Rev. Kevin Tarsa
UUCM Minister*

From the Minister

This week, I gathered with leaders of local progressive religious communities. Given the frightening violence in Israel and Gaza, our host invited us to share the resources that we draw on for strength and hope. People shared personal stories of growing up in Northern Ireland during “The Troubles” when the peace that exists there today seemed, back then, a permanent impossibility. People spoke of their Jewish ancestors who had fled Europe and made a life in this nation and ancestors who had died in the concentration camp at Dachau. Colleagues offered sacred texts that brought them solace and encouragement, rituals and prayers that helped them keep moving forward, insights and worries on their minds and in their hearts. One person brought roses and printed prayers to send with us, symbols of and prayers for peace. In some ways, all were naming ways not to be overwhelmed, not to be emotionally flooded, ways to hang on to threads of hope for themselves and for humanity.

When it came my turn to speak, I named that when I risk feeling overwhelmed by humanity’s inhumanity, what helps me is to find, if I can, whatever threads of compassion I can locate in myself. What helps me is to hang on to our Unitarian and Universalist belief that every person is inherently good, even beneath their tragically harmful actions borne of their deep woundedness.

What gets me there most readily these days, is to hold in my mind and heart the people on all sides of a conflict, or the person who is wreaking destruction, or the persons who support them, or the person who is merely getting on my nerves, and to ask in my heart and imagination the kind of question Lindsay Dunckel referenced in a Sunday service: “Where do you hurt?”

“Where do you hurt?” It’s not meant to allow or excuse behavior, but to keep myself from shutting others out and from shutting down. When I remember that most harmful actions are rooted in a person’s or group’s pain, it keeps me present and more open, keeps me from turning away, as our new UUA president, Rev. Sofia Betancourt encouraged. I started writing this for a Sunday service but decided instead to make it the start of this month’s Mountain Chalice column. It occurred to me that keeping oneself open - in this case by asking a question meant to call forth compassion - is a form of generosity, a generosity of heart and spirit. I have so often been the recipient of someone’s generous openness, or

willingness to risk being vulnerable, or care-centered listening, or patience, or forgiveness, that I have many models and much inspiration for finding my own, many, in fact, among you.

Our theme in November is “the gift of generosity,” referring not only to the gift that our generosity is to others, but also the gift that our generosity to others is to ourselves. It’s easy and tempting to limit our sense of generosity to money, or goods, or resources, but there is a deeper current of generosity that is the root and source of those more visible symbols of generosity.

In September, I spoke an invitation to move together as a community from a “consumer” mindset and culture that is all about what I need, about whether I like the product being offered, about what I can “buy,” and about whether I am being adequately served, to a “citizen” mindset and culture in which we realize that we are all in this together, together shaping the world around us, together caring and taking responsibility, together creating this community and together creating opportunities for others to do all of the above. It is a venture that requires a deep spirit of generosity and of letting go, generosity that manifests internally and externally, generosity that keeps the lights on, yes, and that keeps our hearts open, to each other as much as to anyone.

Given our tradition’s inherent optimism about human beings and human nature, every experience of large-scale human violence has brought our tradition to a crisis of faith. The current violence in Israel and Gaza is but our most recent invitation. Like the 9/11 attack that crashed into our sense of safety, this is neither the first nor the last reality that will send us scrambling to find sources of solace, strength, and hope in our tradition and in our community.

The openness of the faith tradition we have inherited asks of us a powerful generosity of heart. May that deep generosity be the source of all of our giving, in all the forms such generosity will manifest.

With care,

– Rev. Kevin

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



Board of Trustees

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

The Board and Ministry wish to announce that after more than five years working together, the Stewardship Team members have moved on to other endeavors, leaving us to renew our thinking about how to best provide stewardship at UUCM. In response to this, the Board and Ministry have reformed Stewardship as a collaboration between governance and ministry with representatives from many areas of UUCM working together to address stewarding for our community as a whole.

Board and Ministry Stewardship Goals are labeled in **bold**, and updates and progress are in *italics*.

BOARD

- **Provide leadership to assure a successful stewarding campaign that provides sufficient annual funds for meeting budget and sustaining fiscal needs –**
The multi-discipline Stewardship Guidance Group, including two Board members, Finance and Membership, was formed with the following members: Lesley Champlin, Jeff Gold, Laura Harter, Keith Johnson, Pam Kisor, Bob Miller, Carol Richey, and Rev. Kevin.
- **Organize a supportive structure for stewarding that includes Board and Ministry teams working together –**
The ad hoc Stewardship Guidance Group is now meeting bi-weekly and will plan and drive the Pledge Campaign activities this year.
- **Provide stewarding training workshop for all members –**
The Board and Ministry realize that stewardship is not just a once-a-year pledging activity, but a year-round attitude of looking after our church home and each other. Training will be arranged for the whole community.

MINISTRY

- **Support and monitor aspects of stewardship that strengthen member connection. Ensure that every member is reached in some personal way –**
The new Steward Program, introduced last year and designed originally with this objective, is moving to the Membership Team. There they will focus on helping new members build connection from Day 1. The program is also available to existing members who feel a need for renewal. Stewards will now be called Guides; look for more information coming from Membership.

- **Encourage an “all hands on deck” approach to stewardship, aligning the expectations and synergy of stewardship and worship in particular, and also aligning as much as possible the work of other ministry teams with stewardship –**

Rather than the old model of stewardship working as a small and sometimes unaided team, the Stewarding Guidance Group will consciously strive to reach across the committees, teams, and the congregation for resources. They will also pursue further discussions about transitioning our community from ‘consumer to citizen culture’ throughout the year.

- **Raise adequate funds for next year’s budget happily and well –**

We are surveying team leaders and activity coordinators to better understand our collective efforts and needs that go into our 70+ activities! We want to acknowledge and joyfully celebrate all that we do.



As evidenced by their busy activity, I’m grateful that the Stewardship Guidance Group has accepted the challenge to think differently, to organize interdependently, and to create opportunities for stewarding connections for member ownership of UUCM. The shared goal of successful stewarding becomes an invitation for all of us to realize and gather our synergistic energy, to foster citizenship among us in all that we do and thereby sustain a joyfully growing community.

The Citizen story, as explained by author Jon Alexander in his book *Citizens*, continues to take shape here at UUCM, gradually, with several teams and groups inviting members and friends into meaningful co-creation and engagement.

Of course, with all transformation comes challenge, at times painful, and generalized anxiety. It may be helpful to note here that NOT everything is changing, and not all at once. Still, any change can be a mixed bag.

When I’ve occasionally found myself reeling lately from our adaptive change, I’ve been gratefully encouraged by the examples of thoughtful citizen actions making progress, here and around the world.

For me, there have already been a few mid-meeting moments as I’ve looked out from the Channing room table to see our community-created mural brightening up the courtyard, and also my spirit, with a depicted blue-sky future, wise little owl, flaming chalice, and a flowing and vibrant rainbow. Thank you, Robin, Linda, and the entire Art and Aesthetics ministry team

Board of Trustees

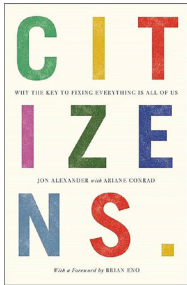
for inviting contribution toward a wonderful project.

We do the work, but not for ourselves. The UUCM examples of a developing Citizen story speak to the quote shared by Rev. Kevin, from the ancient Roman poet Virgil, which graces the inside wall of a Polish Brethren chapel:

Sic vos non vobis nidificatis aves – which means
“Thus do you, birds, make nests, but not for yourselves,”

Here’s to the wholeness and ongoing strength of our congregation, and with gratitude for your joyful participation.

– René



SUGGESTED READING:
Citizens: Why the Key to Fixing Everything Is All of Us,
by Jon Alexander

Sermon-Writing Seminar

Got a message (or sermon) in you?

Rev. Kevin will once again facilitate a lay sermon-writing seminar for 6-8 people beginning early in the new year. Using a rich and connective process developed by the Rev. Erika Hewitt, each person will gradually develop a complete sermon over eight sessions, with support, feedback and encouragement from the rest of the circle. Then, willing members will work with Worship Team members and our Music Director to develop a service around the sermon and its theme.

This will be a significant and meaningful commitment, as the group will meet every two weeks for three hours January to April. (The meeting time will be determined after the group membership is known.) The experience will offer a space of learning and self-discovery as well as a chance to build deep connections en route to deep expression in one's authentic voice. Our hope is that participants will feed ready to share these sermons/messages on a Sunday morning, and so benefit the Community as well.

Intrigued? Interested? (We hope so!) Have questions about it? Contact Rev. Kevin: minister@uugrassvalley.org



Treasurer

Gail Schulz, Treasurer
UUCM Board of Trustees

Our First Quarter Looks Good!

We have completed the first quarter of our fiscal year, and we are generally on track living within our budget. Ministry and governance combined have spent 24% of budgeted expenses. This is a bit heavy toward governance spending, as we paid our full insurance premiums in August.

Our pledge payments usually are high during this period, as a number of us pay our pledges upfront during our pledge drive, and this year is no exception. By the end of the quarter, we had received 43% of the amount pledged for the current fiscal year.

I want to highlight our **Haitian Family Relief fund**. As of October 20, this fund has received a total of \$9,965 and paid out \$2,798. We have \$7,167 in the fund, so this can help pay for flying Nazaire from Haiti to join his family here! We are such a generous community. And I do want to acknowledge that people beyond UUCM are also contributing to this fund.

By November 1, you should have received your first quarter contribution statement. Your finance team tries to keep you up to date! Thank you for your continued generosity.

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 **Share 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.





Words from the Worship Team

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



Ever wonder how a service is created? It starts with good old-fashioned brainstorming. The team sits down with the month's topic, some thoughtful prompts, and then the fun begins. There may be gasps of recognition, laughter (but not the mean kind), and the joy of playing off each other's ideas.

We would love for you to join us! It's a simple and rewarding way to sample planning in a "bite-size portion."

Be a part of planning our January services on the theme of Liberating Love -- no experience or expertise needed!

BRAINSTORM WITH THE WORSHIP TEAM!

The Worship team will host a brainstorming session from
12:15 to 1:00 PM on Sunday, November 5.

Prompts will be provided, and participants will share their ideas popcorn style, with no critique or judgement.

It's a fun and valuable way to inform our crafting of services, and we hope to see you there!

The team was excited to reconnect after the summer. Everyone was present at our October meeting, a total of eight Worship Associates and Rev. Kevin. With a range of personalities, philosophies, talents, and personal styles, we somehow bring out the best in each other. Our goal is to create services that are emotionally and spiritually meaningful, intellectually challenging, and community building.

As UUCM moves toward the Citizenship/Ownership model this year, we invite your feedback and your participation. Volunteer to be a reader, share some of your thoughts on the topic of the month through writing or art, let us know what you'd like to experience in the services and how you'd like to contribute to them.

In this month of giving thanks, I believe I speak for the team when I say we are thankful for the UUCM community, for Rev. Kevin, and for the opportunity to be a part of creating worship experiences each week. Please join us November 5, or speak to any Worship Associate or Rev. Kevin if you are interested in learning more about being part of the team.



2023-24 Soul Matters Themes

The Gift of...

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



Chalice Fountain for our UUCM Entry!

By Anita Wald-Tuttle

For many years Art and Aesthetics has been exploring how to incorporate a water feature into UUCM to enhance the visual experience for all who enter our unique church building. Recently a member walked into the Garden Center at B & C and knew she'd hit "pay dirt"! There stood a 4-foot high replica of our Flaming Chalice UU symbol fashioned from a pebbled matrix with a glass flame that flickered from a light buried within a bubbling basin. Voila!!

B & C's owner, Greg Fowler, offered us a 30% discount, there was a flurry of phone calls and emails, a proposal was made to the

UUCM Board, and with their unanimous support, a campaign to raise funds for the fountain was started! Please contribute!

You can give your check (or cash) to Robin Hart or Anita Wald-Tuttle, or put it in offering basket with a note designating it for the "Chalice Fountain," and soon it will be bubbling away in our entry! THANK YOU!!!

The AV Team

Meet Cypress, Our Newest AV Team Star

By Bob Miller, AV Team Coordinator

Paul Elias, Andy Dooley-Miller, and Steve Temple are long time stalwarts of your Audio Visual Team, coordinated by Bob Miller. David Samson is available as backup if everyone else has a conflict.

More recently we have been joined by Cypress, who clearly comes from a different generation.

So, who is Cypress and how did we find him? One evening, a group of kids arrived at UUCM to play Dungeons & Dragons. I asked if anyone was interested in computers. Cypress raised his hand, and the rest is history.



Cypress wears a big smile after receiving a gift from UUCM, in gratitude for the generous gift of his time and talents!

WOULD YOU LIKE TO BECOME AN AV VOLUNTEER?

We are always on the lookout for potential members of the team. We want enough members so we can cover every Sunday and other events. On the other hand, we do not need too many because you need to do the job regularly to remember how all the knobs and computers work.



Endowment

Kathryn Young
Endowment Committee
Endowment@uugrassvalley.org

We Were Wondering...

If you have any interest in finding out more about giving a gift to UUCM as part of your legacy, the Endowment Team would be delighted to talk with you about the ways you can go about it. Recently, however, someone pointed out to me that it's possible that the Endowment Committee does not even know about giving plans that members HAVE ALREADY MADE to UUCM when arranging their final plans! ***If you already have made plans to contribute to UUCM*** in your will or trust, we would very much like to know. Partly because we want to know what to expect in the future, and also because we'd love to acknowledge your generosity. AND, FYI, if we already know you have made plans, we won't be calling you to ask....!



Simple Gifts Thank You's

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

**Gail Johnson Vaughan, Shanti Emerson
and Kern Hildebrand**

who each donated in celebration of their recent birthdays!
Each gift brings us closer to the required \$50,000 base from which 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!



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, Robin Hart, Carol Hyndman,
Anne Lyon, Cheryl Morris



Lay Pastoral Care Team

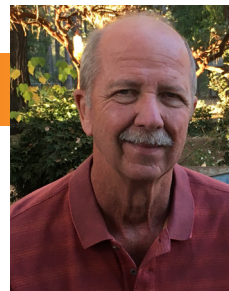
Are You Facing a Life Challenge?

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

Linda Siska, Leader,
Art & Aesthetics Team
art@uugrassvalley.org

The Artists in our Midst!

If you haven't already had the pleasure of viewing Renee Weilmann's beautiful art work, currently adorning the walls of UUCM library, I hope you will stop by and take a look over the next couple of weeks. We have such a talented congregation, and Renee's works are outstanding! Thank you so much to Renee for allowing us to display her art, and thank you to Phil Horning and Laura Harter who helped make it happen.

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 Ruth Ghio

*Featured artist at our UUCM Library Art Gallery from
November 15, 2023 – January 15, 2024*



Beginning in mid-November, we will have a new display: our own Ruth Ghio will be sharing her art. Over the years, Ruth has developed a wide span of artistic styles and subject matter. Her art ranges from celebrating the simple shape of the egg to complex abstracts to intriguing human studies. Her work in acrylics ranges from quite small canvases to quite large, and sometimes she strays into works of clay and ceramic, one of her other artistic loves. Her work is bold and colorful and expresses the enthusiasm she brings to the rest of her life.

Ruth did not start out as an artist. In elementary school, all of the children in her class laughed at a drawing she had made, but her supportive teacher helped her develop her skills in all areas, artistic as well as academic. She dipped her toe into the art world again in junior college but did not get the same kind of supportive understanding that her elementary school teacher had provided. She thought she was done with art.

But art was not done with Ruth. She doesn't remember when she took it up again, but now it is an integral part of her life. She has taken lessons from a variety of teachers over the years, learned a lot about putting paint on canvas, and found she really enjoyed the experience of painting with other people. She attributes the variety of styles she employs to her love of experimentation.



*We will be holding an artist's reception for Ruth in mid-November —
be watching the e-chalice and Sunday announcements for the date and time.*

Two Little Boys A Profile by Jenny Dewey

Meeting Samuel, age 4, and Daniel, just turned 8, made me wish I spoke French. The two little boys are fluent in French, the language of Haiti, their homeland. They are trying hard to learn English.

I am a failure with foreign languages. I know a few French words and phrases: Oh, la vache! (Holy cow), Salut (Hi), and of course Bonjour (Good morning).

The afternoon I spent with the two boys needed more linguistic knowledge than I will ever have.

I set out to pick up the boys at school, their mom giving me directions, and off we went. The first desperate moment came when Samuel, secured in his car seat in the back seat, undid his restraints and tried opening the car door.

I pulled the car over and got Samuel reinstalled and locked all the doors.

Daniel, chin on the back of my seat, whispered incomprehensible words (French or English?) in my ear.

We stopped in a grocery store parking lot so the boys' mom could do a little shopping.

I stayed in the car with the boys.

Every knob, button and handle (and my car has way too many) became fair game for the boys to touch, try out, explore, and generally test for responses. Daniel said he was hot. I switched on the air conditioning. It only works when the car is on.

Daniel said he was cold. Samuel, who was by now in the front seat, started to open the door.

I needed some words, French words, to manage these two squirmy, endlessly curious, and of course bored stiff little boys.

I needed: "Comportez-vous bien," (behave yourself), and "Vous etes mon ami," (you are my friend), and "S'il vous plait, ne pleurez pas," (please don't cry).

Samuel grasped the key in the ignition, and I turned off the car. Daniel worked away at opening a bag of chocolate kisses, finally succeeding by using his teeth. Samuel smiled wistfully and reached with a small hand to get a piece of candy. Daniel contorted his body so his back was to his little brother. He finally agreed to share.

Tiny wads of silver paper began to flutter inside the car (the windows by now closed so Samuel couldn't slip out), and I sighed and realized the tangled, octopus-nature of two small boys confined in a hot car was not something any of us had bargained for.

Back home the boys dashed away from the car, gleeful to be released from captivity. Samuel paused, halted, turned around, and ran back. A beautiful face

smiled broadly up at me. Two arms reached for the sky.

I did my best to pick him up. He was too heavy. I knelt to give him a hug – grateful for my afternoon with two little boys.



Photo of Daniel, top, and Samuel, below

Justice News and Activities

Small Group Justice Opportunities Survey

Bob Miller

UUCM Justice Team Co-Leader

The Justice Team created a survey in August to which 42 people responded. They indicated those opportunities for which they would like further information. For some none of them was a fit, but we did get positive responses from many. The Justice Team looks for those that generate enough interest to form an autonomous group.

There have already been instances when people have undertaken justice work as a result of the survey. It will take time for us to contact potential members of a group, explain what is involved, gauge their level of interest, and find a leader. It's the intention of the Justice Team to spin-off these groups rather than attempt to lead them.

If you are now a leader, please let us know of any actions by your group.

If you indicated an interest in an opportunity and have not been contacted, send an email to justice@uugrassvalley.org. The survey is still open. We monitor it from time to time. You can still share your interests with us at [Justice Survey](#).

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 began in October, and will continue each month, 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 soon to learn more. We hope you will join us and see how Article II resonates with your heart.

Share the Plate

UUCM's September *Share the Plate* recipient, [Sierra Streams Institute](#), will receive \$775, 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 October partner, [Wildlife Rehabilitation and Release](#).



Our November *Share the Plate* recipient is [Bright Futures for Youth](#), a community-focused nonprofit organization committed to addressing the ever-changing needs of youth, from sixth-graders to those in their mid-20s in Nevada County. *Bright Futures for Youth*, created by the merger of *The Friendship Club* and

NEO in summer 2020, has three programs to address the issues and help youth in numerous ways, from after-school programs and a drop-in Youth Center to ensuring access to services. Our focus areas are health and wellness, healthy relationships, goal setting, self-awareness, self-sufficiency and community connectedness.

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



Sponsor a Family for the Holidays!

IFM will be holding their annual fundraiser:
Sponsor A Family for the Holidays.

As the holidays near, their goal is to provide each client family with a memorable holiday meal. The holiday meal includes turkey or ham, potatoes, vegetable, soup, and cranberry sauce. A holiday dinner for one family costs \$25. Please donate to IFM and provide a family or families with a delicious meal this holiday season.

IFM VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

Drivers • Packing and Sorting
Checkers • Traffic Control Help
More details at

<https://www.interfaithfoodministry.org/volunteer.html>

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

8:30 AM, TUESDAYS AND THURSDAYS
OFFSITE

The Walking Group is moving their start time to **8:30 AM** with the shorter days and cooler weather. 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, November 1 at 10:45 AM at UUCM will be "How to Think Morally About the Israel-Hamas War."

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, November 13 at UUCM**. It's our annual **PMS Party.... Pizza, Movie and Sundaes!** We'll be watching a movie, eating Papa Murphy's Pizza and making our own ice cream sundaes. Please bring money to help offset the cost of the pizza and ice cream, AND, bring a favorite ice cream topping! 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.

Generosity the UU Way

By Cheryl Spaulding,
UUCM Family Ministry Team Member

Generosity is such a fundamental value of Unitarian Universalism. We are called upon to share our talents, our time, our energy, and our financial resources for the good of each other, our community, and the whole wide world. Learning to be generous starts in childhood. Children experience their very first lessons on generosity when the adults around them extend generosity to them. In other words, by being on the receiving end of generosity, children begin to learn why and how to be generous themselves.

Here at UUCM, the treasured volunteers who spend some of their Sunday mornings up in Kids Connection with us are teaching our children about generosity. They generously share with our children their time and their energy, as well as their deep knowledge and many talents. But the opportunities to learn about generosity in our Kids Connection program do not stop there. Almost every week, our children are challenged to embody the UU value for generosity. As they interact with each other and with some of the more desirable materials we have in the Kids Connection setting, invariably two of them will want to play with the same toy or tool. Those are the moments when a calm, caring, and attentive adult can help the children understand the feelings they are experiencing, at the same time that they learn to identify and use strategies for responding generously to each other, even when someone else wants to cut short their opportunities to play with the stethoscope or the toy hammer or a Buddha board. Other opportunities to learn about generosity occur when we (the adults) sit down with them to share snacks, when we model the use of kind and supportive words, or when we give our undivided attention to their thoughts and concerns.

Generosity—it is a UU way of being that is on display in our Kids Connection setting each Sunday. We welcome adults who would like to share their time, energy, and talents with our children on an occasional Sunday morning. Talk to Cheryl Spaulding or Lindsay Duncel if you want to know more about how you might contribute to our Kids Connection program

PLEASE TAKE NOTE:

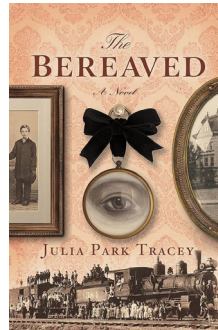
KIDS CONNECTION

will be available every Sunday this month.

2nd 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 November 12,
The Bereaved
by Julia Park-Tracy

Meet the Author and More

Susan Merrill will be joined by Julia Park-Tracy, the author of *The Bereaved* to discuss her historical novel inspired by her great grandmother. Even if you have not attended this group, you are always welcome to join us for this book and any others that pique your interest. We will

meet in the Channing Room for our discussion at 12:30 PM, Sunday, November 12. Bring your lunch if you wish or join us a little early with some of Sunday refreshments.

ZOOM LINK:

[Sunday Book Group Zoom](#)

Meeting ID: 927 1111 8322

Passcode: 472984

UPCOMING SECOND SUNDAY BOOK CHOICES:

Short book descriptions are available in the
October 2023 Mountain Chalice

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

by Sy Montgomery, 224 pages, Presenter: Martha Turner

January 14, 2024 - *Dinners with Ruth:*

A Memoir on the Power of Friendships

by Nina Totenberg, 320 pages, Presenter: Judith Gropp

February 11, 2024 - *Block Seventeen*

by Kimiko Guthrie, Presenter: Jo Waters

March 10, 2024 - *Entangled Life*

by Merlin Sheldrake, Presenter: Cynthia Burton

April 14, 2024 - *Harlem Shuffle*

by Colson Whitehead, Presenter: Cheryl Morris

May 12, 2024 - *Chances Are*

by Richard Russo, 320 pages, Presenter: Keith Johnson

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

By Tiffany Midge, Presenter: Susan Merrill

November 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
29	30	31	1	2	3	4
10:30 What Is Remembered, Lives		8:30 Tuesday Walking Group	8:30 Men's Group	8:30 Thursday Walking Group	4:15 UUCM String Ensemble	
12:00 Mistakes & Miracles Book Study			10:45 Humanism Discussion Group 6:30 Adult Choir	7:00 Singing Meditation	5:00 Honoring the Ancestors Potluck Supper	
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
10:30 The Joys of Six: Skeptics and True Believers	4:00 Stop the Mine Task Force	8:30 Tuesday Walking Group	8:30 Men's Group	8:30 Thursday Walking Group	Office Closed – Veterans' Day Observed	3:00 Spirituality Sharing Circle
12:15 Worship Brainstorm		4:00 Parish Care Team Meeting	12:00 Art & Aesthetics Team	10:30 Writers' Group	4:15 UUCM String Ensemble	
12:30 UU101		5:00 Starting Point	3:00 Ministry Council Meeting 6:30 Adult Choir	2:00 Finance Committee Meeting 6:00 Worship Team Meeting		
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
10:30 Happy Diwali!	6:00 Women's Circle	8:30 Tuesday Walking Group	8:30 Men's Group	8:30 Thursday Walking Group	4:15 UUCM String Ensemble	9:00 Building and Grounds Workday
12:00 Mistakes & Miracles Book Study		6:00 Bending the Arc Taskforce	1:00 Board of Trustees Meeting	10:00 Greeter Meeting		3:00 Transgender Day of Remembrance
12:30 Book Group			5:00 Justice Team Meeting 6:30 Adult Choir			
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
10:30 Animal-Housed: Tuning in to Head, Heart, and Gut	7:00 Citizens' Climate Lobby – Nevada County Chapter	8:30 Tuesday Walking Group	8:30 Men's Group	Office Closed – Thanksgiving Holiday		
12:00 Mistakes & Miracles Book Study		5:15 Nisenan Project Team Meeting	2:00 Membership Team Meeting 6:30 Adult Choir	8:30 Thursday Walking Group	4:15 UUCM String Ensemble	
12:30 Family Ministry Monthly Meeting				10:30 Writers' Group		
26	27	28	29	30	1	2
10:30 Who's at the Table?		8:30 Tuesday Walking Group	8:30 Men's Group 6:30 Adult Choir	8:30 Thursday Walking Group	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



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

Monday, Wednesday and Friday from 1:00 TO 5:00 PM

(Our Administrative Assistant is available remotely on Tuesday and Thursday afternoons.)

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

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(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*