

the Mountain Chalice



Unitarian Universalist Community of the Mountains

April 2024

UPCOMING SERVICES

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

If you've been exposed to Covid, RSV, the flu, or are not feeling well, 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 14 for Kid-Centered Activities ...

APRIL THEME: *The Gift of Interdependence*

April 7 *Interdependence Days All*

Rev. Kevin Tarsa, with Beth Karow and Carol Nimick, Worship Associate

For several months, Rev. Kevin put out a call for people interested in planning a service together focused on the theme of interdependence. Seemed natural enough. However, there were no takers. Hmmm... Rooted in the aspects of Citizenship lifted up earlier in the year, we'll figure out this service together, beginning with a one-day instant choir which will rehearse before the service. Come, join in!

April 14 *Never Enough*

Rev. Kevin Tarsa, with Randy McKean, Worship Associate

Sometimes the fun-loving, spontaneous, high-energy, upbeat, enthusiastic part of us is exactly these things. And sometimes these are ways to cope, ways to avoid feeling a deep pain beneath the surface. It is no accident that the Laugh Factory in Hollywood has a Psychologist-in-Residence for its comedians. This Sunday, we look into the Enneagram 7 – the Enthusiast – in all of us.

April 21 *The Pale Blue Dot*

Sophia McKean & Lindsay Dunkel, Worship Associates

On the day before Earth Day, we'll contemplate our little planet and our interdependence with it. As Gary Snyder wrote, "Nature is

not a place to visit. It is home." With reverence for the great web of life and with humility, we acknowledge our place in it.

April 28

Corps Values

Rev. Kevin Tarsa, with Cheryl Morris, Worship Associate

Core Values exercises can help individuals focus their life energies and attention in ways that align with what truly matters most to them. So too with groups of people, with the added and significant step of figuring out which values are genuinely shared. This Sunday we kick off our final preparation for an Association-wide attempt to spell out anew our "corps" shared values for ourselves and the world. No small thing in an individualist culture and nation.

► INSIDE THIS ISSUE ◀

| Item | Page |
|---|-------------|
| Upcoming Services | 1 |
| From the Minister | 2 |
| Board of Trustees | 3 |
| Stewarding Guidance Group..... | 4 |
| Words from the Worship Team | 5 |
| New! Joys & Sorrows Contemplative Service | 5 |
| Art and Aesthetics - New Show by Eileen Hale..... | 6 |
| Endowment..... | 6 |
| Membership..... | 7 |
| Virtual General Assembly 2024 | 7 |
| Parish & Lay Pastoral Care Teams | 8 |
| Building & Grounds Team | 8 |
| Feature: Profile of Marilyn Winters | 9 |
| Justice News and Activities..... | 10-11 |
| Second Sunday Book Group..... | 11 |
| Community Connections | 12-13 |
| UUCM Family Ministry | 14 |
| Monthly Calendar | on Website! |
| UUCM Contact Info and Office Hours | 15 |



*Rev. Kevin Tarsa
UUCM Minister*

From the Minister

With eight of us kids in the family, and a ready-to-pitch dad, my siblings and I could play kickball or baseball in our yard any time we chose, often late into the evening when long summer days stretched the daylight just for us. For years, conveniently placed, fading tree stumps served as three of the four bases as well as the pitcher's mound. We'd rotate from batting and running bases to serving in the outfield as needed, not two teams with opposing goals, but a single set of players in it for the personal and shared fun.

I think fondly of these and many other games we played together, and often I see them as a metaphor for the layered ways my family embodied a very strong and self-contained togetherness. Ours was an active, in-house interdependence coupled with a certain kind of insularity, if not exactly independence, from the community. We were thoroughly interdependent with each other, and as a group, more independent when it came to the wider world. It was not unlike the blend of in-house interdependence and communal insularity embodied in the church that was such a central part of my family's identity. Similar dynamic, just scaled up to the level of a particular religious community.

April's theme of "interdependence" names a vital truth of existence and a physical and spiritual reality, even though our U.S. culture celebrates the supposedly "self-made" individual, and our UU tradition tends to attract individualists. Thus, the need to remind ourselves that we are thoroughly intertwined with one another and all that is. "Caught in an inescapable network of mutuality, tied in a single garment of destiny," as Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. put it. And as a religious community, we need to live into that knowing together, to recognize and live our interdependence.

Though I hope that every Sunday service embodies this in some way, each of our April services gets at our interdependence more explicitly: on April 7 within this UU Community, on April 14 within ourselves, on April 21 within this amazing universe, and on April 28 within this living UU tradition.

Images and heart-breaking news from Gaza, the ready demonizing in public discourse of so many "others," the political efforts to reduce rather than expand rights, the intense polarization – all call us to recognize the ways that everything about us humans is fully intertwined with...with everything.



I am reminded again of Jon Alexander's invitation to cultivate citizenship within and among us for the sake of humanity, cultivation which begins with moving from an ideal of independence to an ideal of interdependence.

All this month and beyond, may we remind, encourage, and help each other to live as if we remembered that we are indeed caught – blessed to be caught – in an inescapable network of mutuality.

Happy Interdependence Days!

– Rev. Kevin

Save the Date

Toby & Rev. Kevin Present a Concert on Saturday, May 11

UUCM's Music Director, Toby Thomas-Rose and Rev. Kevin will be hosting a UUCM fundraising concert on Saturday, May 11. Save the date! And watch for details. Look forward to an evening of beautiful, moving, and fun music, with special guests as well as treasured UUCM musicians Kate Canan and Randy McKean!

*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

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

At the beginning of March our president, René Wiley, gave notice that she needed to step away from her role on the Board to focus her energies on her family during a stressful time. The Board offered its full support for René, knowing that this was a difficult decision for her and that it was not made lightly. The Board continues to hold René and her family in our hearts as they focus their energies on health and wellbeing. We are grateful for the leadership René provided during her presidency and will enjoy working with her in other roles at UUCM. And so, I am back, for the time being, in the role of president. (Whew!) I will hold the position of Acting President until the Board formally appoints a president for the remainder of René's term (June 2025). Even though having a vacant position presents challenges, the Board members are supporting each other as we continue to work toward our goals.

The Board recently met to discuss forming an ad-hoc group to develop a long-range strategic plan with our congregation. This will be an interactive opportunity for the community to come together and decide direction and goals for UUCM over the next five years. We are at the early stages of conceptualizing this process, but stay tuned, there will be more information coming soon. This has been a busy season for Stewardship, beginning with the Visiting Steward Training, then the very successful Congregational Dinner followed by the month-long pledge campaign in March. This year I had the opportunity to be a Visiting Steward for the very first time and was truly surprised by how much I enjoyed the role. I will admit that when first asked to be a Visiting Steward, I was a bit nervous. I felt unsure of my comfort in discussing UUCM's needs and asking for financial support for our beloved program. Following the excellent training, I was a bit more confident, but still nervous. The reality of what happened on my visits was both a relief and a pleasant surprise. These visits gave me the opportunity to spend time with individual members, learning about their lives and their involvement

with UUCM. We talked about how this community has supported them, how they have grown through activities in which they take part and about areas they would like to see developed. Each member, regardless of income or ability, was thoughtful about their pledge and what they were able to do. For me, these conversations were a joy and an opportunity for in-depth exploration and discovery. The people I visited were welcoming and gracious, and now I feel I have made some new friends at UUCM. I hope you all had an opportunity to meet with your steward, and that you enjoyed the visit as much as we stewards enjoyed visiting you. This experience was about creating community - and what better way to do that than to spend time connecting with each other?

Namaste,

Pam

UUCM BOARD OF TRUSTEES

JULY 2023 - JUNE 2024

| | |
|---------------|------------------|
| Pam Kisor | Acting President |
| Gail Schultz | Treasurer |
| Janet Dunstan | Secretary |

Members at Large:

Chuck Champlin, Jeff Gold & 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.

Stewarding Guidance Group

Wrapping it Up!

It's April, the flowers are in bloom, and UUCM has just about wrapped up its 2024-2025 pledge campaign, titled "Creating Community in an Ever-changing World." Thank you for your generosity!

Following a fantastic congregational celebration (see some pictures herein), the Stewarding Guidance Group and Visiting Stewards spent the month of March meeting with you, reflecting on what being a part of UUCM means to you, and asking you to submit your pledge to financially support our beloved community for the upcoming fiscal year. As the Visiting Stewards fanned out to meet with as many people in our community as possible, the reports consistently included the warm feeling of "creating community" – getting to know people better, having meaningful conversations, gathering new ideas, discovering the many things we have in common, and respecting the differences. This has been a month of "riches" in many ways.

We are on track to meet our financial goal of obtaining commitments for an annual total of \$250,000. Reaching this goal is truly a community effort that recognizes the importance of continuing to raise the quality of support UUCM brings to its members, friends, and visitors. We value each pledge with equanimity and count on each of you to make a commitment you are proud to offer.

Thank you for welcoming us and making this year's pledge campaign a positive experience for all. We in the Stewarding Guidance group have been enriched by working together with the purpose of nurturing generosity and knowledgeable citizenship through meaningful connection and communication. We hope that this leads to an engaged, financially secure, involved, and sustainable community.

With gratitude,

Your Stewarding Guidance Group:

Lesley Champlin, Jeff Gold, Laura Harter,
Keith Johnson, Pam Kisor, Bob Miller,
and Carol Richey





Words from the Worship Team

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



Every Sunday we sing “This Little Light of Mine” to send the children on their way to Kids Connection. Recently I have been pondering how many bright lights remain hidden within the members of our community, and how we can encourage them to shine. Who knew that Bob Foster plays the Indian flute, or Alec McLean the Cornish bagpipes? (Who even knew there was such a thing as Cornish bagpipes, but I digress.) Then there are the creative artworks on display in our library, sometimes from some of our most unassuming members.

Jenny Dewey’s monthly profiles in the Mountain Chalice give us a glimpse of the multifaceted persons we see frequently, seldom, or not at all...not because they are not present, perhaps, but because they are not truly seen. Then there are all those who work behind the scenes with skills ranging from organizing to research to publishing to event planning to financial know-how to which tool to use for a repair project or how to build something.

Admittedly, the Worship Team has a vested interest in discovering these bright lights because we are always looking for ways to keep the services fresh, interesting, and engaging. And, looked at through a wider lens, this whole community benefits when our gifts are shared. If you have a skill or talent you’re ready to share, or know someone who does, please don’t be shy. If it’s not a fit for the Worship Team, there are many other teams and committees that would love some fresh ideas and energy.

Now, please join me in another round of “This Little Light of Mine.”

- Cheryl & Carol



2024 Soul Matters Themes

The Gift of...

| | |
|-------|-----------------|
| April | Interdependence |
| May | Pluralism |
| June | Renewal |

Feeling Creative?

JOIN US FOR A *BRAINSTORMING SESSION FOR A SERVICE IN JUNE ABOUT RENEWAL*

MARCH 31 FROM 12:15 TO 1:00 PM

Join in a free-flowing, fun, one session brainstorming on the theme of Renewal. Want to have a great, fun, creative time with others? Please join us and share your ideas!

Join Us for Our Evening Joys & Sorrows Contemplative Service
SECOND THURSDAYS FROM 7:00-8:00 PM

The first of our ongoing monthly Joys & Sorrows Contemplative Services took place in March, and we’d love to have you join us for the April service! Mark your calendar for this month’s service on **April 11 from 7:00 to 8:00 PM.**

We’ll sing hymns, join in meditation, and participate in a Joys and Sorrows ritual where all are welcome to share aloud with the group the joys and/or sorrows in their hearts that night. It’s a simple but moving service which takes place the second Thursday of each month from 7:00 to 8:00 PM.





A & A Team

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



Endowment

Kathryn Young
Endowment Committee
Endowment@uugrassvalley.org

Presenting our Next Art Exhibit

Eileen Adele Hale: Dream

SURREAL PAINTINGS AND OTHER WORK

IN THE LIBRARY MARCH 21 - MAY 15

Please join us for her

ARTIST'S RECEPTION: SUNDAY, APRIL 14, AFTER SERVICE



Detail from "Threaded Through", above, and
below: "Infinity Horse: Interlaced"



Simple Gifts Thank You

The Endowment Committee received four
Simple Gifts in March honoring birthdays –
from Carol Richie, Lindsay Dunckel, Ruth Edwards
and Allison Rivers Samson!

Our thanks to all of you!

&

Lesley and Chuck Champlin gave a generous donation
of stock to UUCM

which brings us over the \$50,000 minimum base!
This means that we can now use some of the earnings from
the Endowment Fund towards special programs
at UUCM if we need to.

Did you know?

If you have to take minimum distributions on any of your
investment funds, you can donate that money to UUCM's
Endowment Fund, or pay your pledge with it, and you can
avoid being taxed on the added income!

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!



We have updated brochures
available to help explain these
programs, and we would be
delighted to speak with anyone
who is interested in finding out
ways to set up contributions
through their wills, trusts
and other final plans. Please
contact us at: Endowment@uugrassvalley.org with your
questions!



Membership

Laura Harter
Leader, Membership Team
membership@uugrassvalley.org

We are ready for UUCM's Circle Suppers Springtime 2024!

We have 14 Circle Supper hosts and 84 places at the table! There is much to choose from: dinners, hors d'oeuvres, lunches, and even an afternoon tea party.

In fine UU tradition, be prepared for change in how we do this! Please choose your top three dates and menu themes so Laurie Bell can make sure we all have an opportunity to attend. You can look at the menu themes, dates, and sign up here: [Circle Suppers – UUCM](#). Clip board sign-ups are available in the foyer as well.

MONTHLY LUNCHES

Let's Do Lunch potlucks will go on hiatus and return in June. These casual lunches have been a great way to make new friends as well as deepen connections. Each month has been very different and very comforting and casual. I regret not taking a photo or two! Next time!

STARTING POINT

Our next Starting Point series will start sometime in May or June. If you are interested, please let Ruth Edwards know your preferred dates and times and get on the list. Email Ruth at startingpoint@uugrassvalley.org.

UU101

UU 101 continues the first Sunday of every month at noon in the library. Current members and newcomers are all welcome. We'll discuss the proposed changes in our UU Principles as well as UU history and UUCM's mission. Grab your refreshments and come on in!

HOW TO CONTACT US

We encourage you to sign up for all events and workshops on our website by going to the Event page or to the Calendar. If you need help navigating sign-ups, call Siobhan or Laura or send us a message at Membership@uugrassvalley.org. As always, we welcome your feedback, energy, and ideas for fun and engaging events.



UUA GENERAL ASSEMBLY
VIRTUAL GA • JUNE 20 - 23, 2024

General Assembly 2024

You Are Invited to Virtual GA!

THURSDAY, JUNE 20 - SUNDAY, JUNE 24, 2024

The annual meeting of Unitarian Universalist congregations known as General Assembly will be held **online** this year over four days, June 20-23. No travel to a distant city is required! The UUCM Board has selected three church members this year to serve as voting delegates – Chuck Champlin, Janet Dunstan and Jeff Gold.

At the same time, all UUCM church members are invited to attend the virtual GA if they wish. The cost is \$315 until May 15, and \$400 up to dates of the conference itself. Some financial support is available. Contact UUCM board member Chuck Champlin with questions: trustee3@uugrassvalley.org.

The theme for this year's GA is "Love Unites, Stories Ignite." Co-moderators and long-time UUers Rev. Meg Riley and Charles Du Mond will steer the General Sessions. "Cohort gatherings" will enable attendees to come together with like-minded peers.

A particular GA feature each year is the Ware Lecture, this year featuring Julia Watts Belser, a rabbi, spiritual teacher and a longtime activist for disability and gender justice. With your registration, you can live-stream the lecture on Saturday, June 22 or access the video on-demand when it's made available.

A list of workshops will cover a variety of different topics and provide opportunities for meaningful engagement on social justice, climate justice, and other initiatives. These will be available for access on the conference site for several months after GA.

The conference will also feature a variety of music and worship services over the four days.

UUCM members are invited to register to attend GA at www.uua.org/ga



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

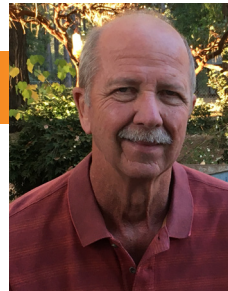
Are You Facing a Life Challenge?

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

A Child at Heart – Marilyn Winters

A Profile by Jenny Dewey

Marilyn Winters has wonderful insight into the hearts and minds of children. Awareness of teaching children successfully and creating an atmosphere of fun – all at the same time – is Marilyn's gift.

Marilyn has possessed this gift for her entire career as an educator. She is one of a handful of people who launched the Unitarian Universalist children's program in Grass Valley, now called The Kids Connection.

She has vivid ways of expressing her philosophy. One is to say, "Engage with children on their level." Another is to say, "Children want to have fun while they learn."

Marilyn's insights into teaching little ones became apparent to me when we discussed one of the books I wrote for children about a human mother and a mother spider. The story (a true one) tells how the mother of a new baby watches a female garden spider building a web and an egg sac in a window.

Marilyn described how she would draw a child into the story by connecting the human's experience of a new baby with the spider's new babies.

Marilyn's gift is to look beyond standard educational material and create all kinds of lures and delights to engage a child's imagination. Marilyn regards elementary lessons-to-be-learned as essential for every child as he or she grows. She also understands there can be no learning without a child being one hundred percent included and involved.

One is struck by Marilyn's innate wisdom about children and how they learn. Also striking is her warm and welcoming

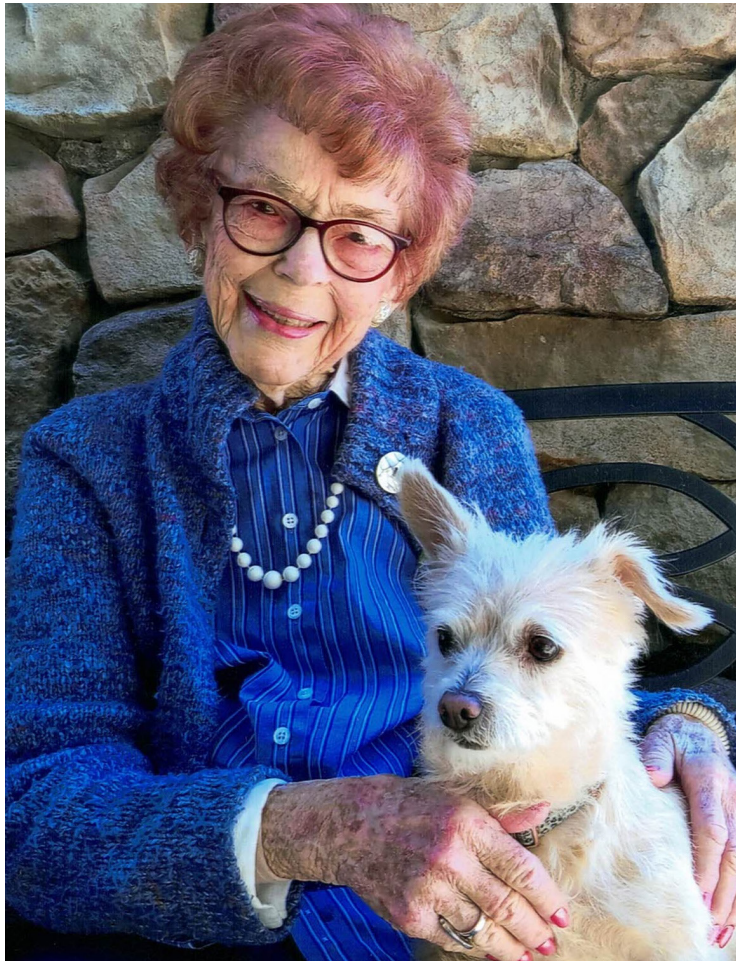
nature. She is generous with her time. She is curious and wants to know what others think about and believe.

Spending time with Marilyn means spending time with Daisy Mae, a tiny, bright-eyed dog who resembles the extension of a dust-mop. Marilyn speaks of how Daisy Mae was a rescue animal, literally taken off the streets. Gradually the little dog's fears were assuaged by Marilyn's gentle patience.

Working successfully with parents and children in school environments requires certain skills. Gentleness and patience are two of the essentials.

Marilyn has spent her career dedicated to educating children. The same dedication holds true of her attachment to UUCM. Working with like-

minded friends and developing successful Sunday morning programs for kids is an enormous contribution to the church community. Many people worked hard to make the program thrive. Honoring Marilyn for her hard work takes nothing away from those others. The honor belongs to everyone who puts time in. This is Marilyn's philosophy, and of course it works.



Marilyn Winters and her beloved Daisy Mae



Bending the Arc Task Force

WAY TO GO UUCM!

By Gail Johnson Vaughan

Our work reaches registered voters who may be facing voter suppression, lack of local voting information, or just need a reminder that their vote matters. It has never mattered more.

Already, 4,000 Georgia postcard addresses have been adopted. Drop these in the mail between April 22 and May 9. Six hundred Virginia addresses have already been adopted as well, and all by March 20!

In voter suppression states, legislators have passed laws making it hard for people to vote, especially voters of color. Our postcards ensure voters of color get the information they need to cast their ballot despite barriers to voting.

In both Georgia and Virginia, we are writing to voters of color in selected congressional districts where there is a compelling candidate or a contested race that could have an impact on the balance of power following the general election in November. And every time we get a voter to the polls for a primary election, we significantly increase the chance that they will vote in November. This is part of The Center for Common Ground's strategy for developing a "habit of voting" among a population that is traditionally under-represented at the polls.

OUR SCHEDULE LOOKING FORWARD:

It is no surprise that we have a busy year ahead. We expect to start our postcard campaigns for the November general election around June 1, with addresses available for Texas voters of color. Those postcards will need to be held for several months before mailing. We hope to launch our general election campaign in Virginia around July 1, with more states to follow through the summer. So please line up your supplies and limber up your wrists, we have a lot of work to do for democracy before November.

LOOKING FOR A WAY TO HELP BUT NOT INTO WRITING POSTCARDS?

With postcard stamps now costing \$.53 each many writers need help coving the cost. Consider funding some of those packets at \$10 a packet. Here's how to do it:

OPTION 1:

Do it online by going to our website

<https://www.uugrassvalley.org/>

- Click on the GIVE tab on the top of the screen. Scroll down to the Postcards icon and make your donation.

OPTION 2:

Put your donation in the donation jar on the postcard table in the foyer

- Write your name on one of the small envelopes by the jar.
- Put cash or check made out to UUCM in the envelope and put the envelope in the jar.

Address questions to Gail Johnson Vaughan,

GailJV@uugrassvalley.org



Progress/Update for the Andou/St. Fort Family

*By Steve Temple,
Justice Team*

Biggest news first: Moustapha and Nazaire have both received

their work authorizations, completed the county job prep course with Connecting Point, and are eligible to work legally. Moustapha starts a job with Sierra Harvest on March 25, and Nazaire is looking at possibilities as an Ag Technician. UUCM members and friends have been very helpful in identifying possibilities. Both boys are doing well in school, have good English skills already, and are looking forward to activities like youth soccer. The family has received a variety of health benefits via MediCal.

They are meeting regularly with their Nevada County case worker, who is helping with technical issues and affordable low-income housing, which anyone who is following NPR and PBS knows is a serious problem at the national, state, and county levels. "Section 8" opportunities, for the huge waiting list of those who have qualified and already placed on waiting lists, have recently been referred to as "lotteries". It seems that many landlords of rentals that qualify for Section 8 are refusing to rent to applicants who cover a portion of their rent with a government voucher. If anyone knows of possible apartment or small house openings, please let the family know.



*Photos:
Moustapha and Nazaire are
happy to be reunited.
Daniel and Samuel enjoy
an afternoon in downtown
Grass Valley including
Lazy Dog ice cream
and gumballs.*



Justice News



IFM has seen a 6% increase in their number of clients since 2023. Donations and volunteers are much needed. Please consider taking part in IFM's March Matching Campaign. Donate on IFM's website at <https://www.interfaithfoodministry.org/>.

Bring your outdated sensitive documents to **Community Shred Day on Saturday, April 13 from 10:00 AM to 2:00 PM**. Suggested donation: \$10.00 per bag - all proceeds go to IFM.

Volunteer drivers needed: Two options: grocery store drivers and truck drivers. Check with Steve Temple for more information.

Clean and dry paper grocery bags needed!

Share the Plate

UUCM's February *Share the Plate* recipient, [Child Advocates of Nevada County](#) will receive \$908.75, 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 March *Share the Plate* recipient, [Interfaith Food Ministry](#).



Our April *Share the Plate* recipient is [Citizens for Choice](#). Citizens for Choice promotes reproductive justice through education, health care access, and advocacy. The organization exists to inform and enable choice. Citizens for Choice envisions the day when everyone of reproductive age has access to affordable, confidential family planning services, current medical knowledge and reproductive health care.

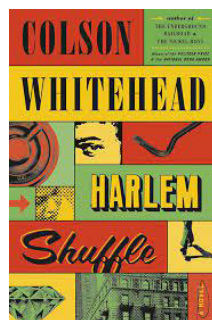
Thank you, each of you, for your continual compassion and justice-centered generosity.

2nd Sunday Book Group

USUALLY THE SECOND SUNDAY OF THE MONTH AT 12:15 PM
IN THE CHANNING ROOM AT UUCM

CONTACT: Theresa at BookGroupInfo@uugrassvalley.org

Join the UUCM Second Sunday Book Group which starts at a NEW TIME. We will begin at 12:15 PM and end by 1:15 PM. We meet in the Channing Room (ramp room.)



Sunday, April 14

Harlem Shuffle

by Colson Whitehead,
Presenter: Cheryl Morris

Colson Whitehead won two Pulitzer Prizes for earlier novels, and this one seems a bit of a change of pace for him. It's lighter, humorous at times, and feels more personal. He explores class, race and power in the guise of an engaging

crime story set in 1960s Harlem. The characters are colorful and complex, and the city is described so vividly as to seem a character itself. This novel is the first of a trilogy, allowing the reader to follow the main character as he matures and as the city changes around him.

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[Sunday Book Group Zoom](#)

Meeting ID: 927 1111 8322

Passcode: 472984

UPCOMING SECOND SUNDAY BOOK CHOICES:

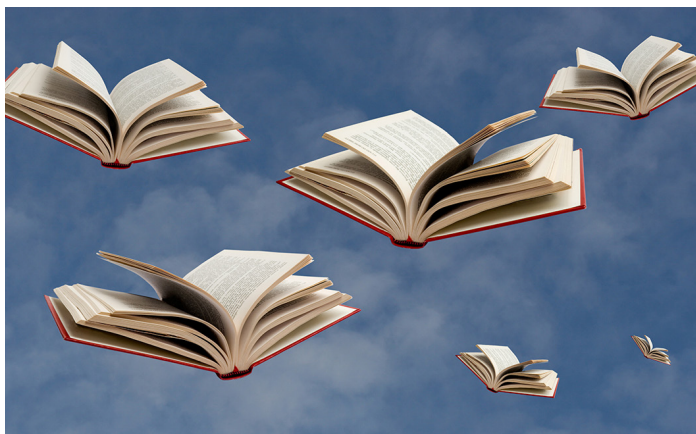
Brief book descriptions are available in the
October 2023 Mountain Chalice

May 12, 2024 - *Chances Are*

by Richard Russo, 320 pages, Presenter: TBD

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

By Tiffany Midge, Presenter: Susan Merrill



Community Connections – Online & In Person

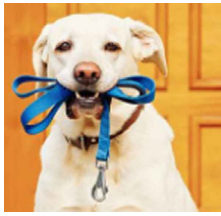
WEEKLY @ UUCM

[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

Make Connections at UUCM

Please contact the organizers if you are interested in joining!



WALKING GROUP

8:30 AM, TUESDAYS AND THURSDAYS,

OFFSITE

Email Walking@uugrassvalley.org for info.

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.

MEN'S GROUP

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

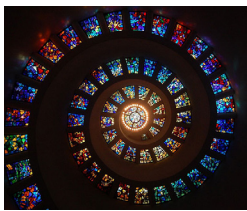
Men gather to enjoy each other's company.

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

FOURTH SATURDAYS, 2:00 - 3:30 PM,

ONSITE AND VIA ZOOM

Questions? Spirituality@uugrassvalley.org

Just a reminder:

FOURTH Saturday at 2:00 PM is the New Normal!

The Spirituality Sharing Circle will meet on Saturday, April 27, from 2:00-3:30 PM at UUCM and on Zoom. Join us to listen (to ourselves, to others, to what Life can offer when we slow down) and to share quiet thoughts and deep questions. For more info: 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.

The topic for our next meeting on **Wednesday, April 3 at 10:45 AM** at UUCM will be "Correlation and Causation."

Topics for group discussion are chosen by participants and optional readings on the topics are made available prior to the meeting. When health precautions allow, we meet in person at UUCM. If you would like to participate via Zoom, request the link by emailing Humanism@uugrassvalley.org

Please view the UUCM Website Calendar for the most up to date meeting information.



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 UU women! For reminders and RSVPs, join the Women's Group email list by sending an email to our Administrative Assistant, Siobhan Boylan, at: Admin@uugrassvalley.org.

Our next meeting is **Monday, April 8 at UUCM**. Starting at 6:00 PM in the Sanctuary, guest yoga teacher, Krista Bindewald, will teach some simple relaxing stretches with both sitting and standing yoga poses, followed by our usual potluck starting at 6:30. Wear loose-fitting clothes to be able to move and stretch.

Krista started doing yoga about 30 years ago and was a resident at Kripalu Center for Yoga and Health.

"My Yoga practice helps me stay balanced, flexible and grounded physically and spiritually. I found Tribal Belly Dance in 2013 and became a certified yoga teacher in 2018. I teach semi-private Ashtanga gentle yoga, flow yoga, "yoga blend", yin style and restorative. I encourage modifications and props to make postures safely available. Let's tune into our breath, feel the earth support us and practice. Namaste." – Krista

Community Connections – Online & In Person



UUCM has Adopted a Road!!

By Paul Elias

The New UUCM Litter Team, as in litter pickup, unleashed its unprecedented force on Ridge Road after Sunday service on March 17. Our assigned adoption area: Ridge Road from Nevada Union High School to Nevada City Highway. (Truth be known, and as honest UUers, we caved at 1.1 of 1.4 miles, leaving remaining assembled litter for another day.)

A hardy team of six, and after first holding a required UUCM committee meeting, pondered if enough litter existed from early in the day scouting reports, provided by Christie.

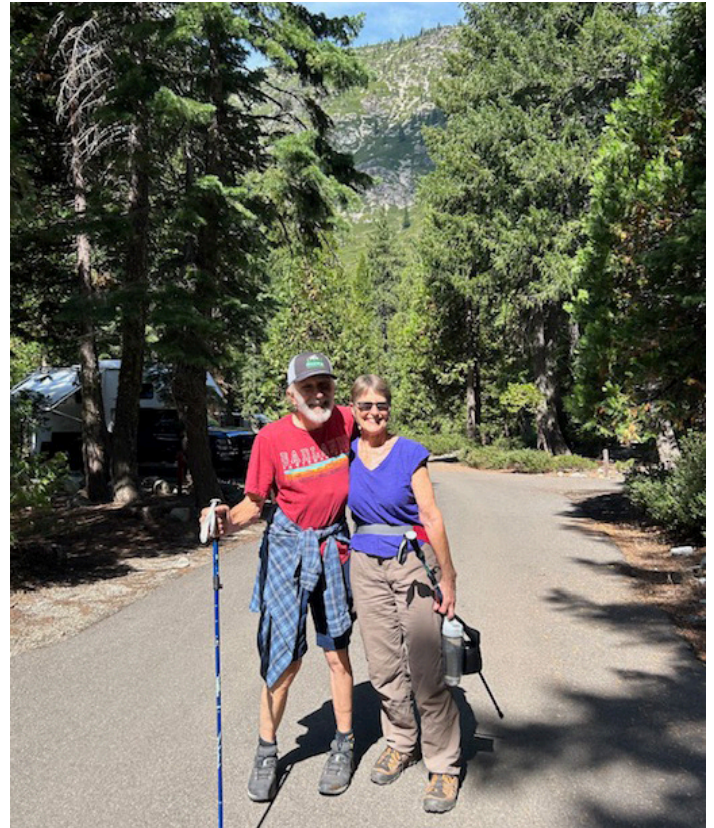
And the answer was “Yes!” We proved Christie and myself wrong: “deep-cleaning” of Ridge Road produced results. Two overflowing bags with car parts from an accident the night before, and bedding found by Jax and her sons. (See photo on lower right.) Way to go team!

Stay tuned for the next “event” probably in mid-May, which should give Ridge Road time to “reproduce” more litter. It is after all, spring, and litter love is in the air...



As a footnote, a theme song was “penned” and sung to the favorite UU standard, “There is More Love Somewhere.” Our version with apologies:

*“There is more litter
somewhere,
At UUCM we’re going
find it.
There is more litter
somewhere!!”*



UUCM Family Camping Trip - August 16-18, 2024

Please join us for our annual family camping trip in the Plumas-Eureka State Park. The park features family-friendly camping, crystal clear lakes, a historic mining-era village, beautiful hiking trails, and impressive, big mountain views of surrounding peaks. We gather to enjoy fire circles, hiking and swimming, and of course a fabulous Potluck...and more. Contact Elizabeth Rose for more information. You can usually find her after service in the refreshment area, or you can find her contact information in the UUCM Directory in the Member section of the UUCM website.



Interdependence

By Cheryl Spaulding,

A few months ago, I read the book *Entangled Life* by Merlin Sheldrake. It is a paean to the interdependence at work in natural ecosystems such as forests and fields. What impressed me about Sheldrake's message is how at first glance, these ecosystems seem to be made-up of individual and identifiable forms, such as trees, grasses and animals, that have found a balanced way to share the same time and space. This balance, in and of itself, is an example of interdependence. Sheldrake goes on to explain, however, that upon closer look, an even deeper form of interdependence operates in these ecosystems. Largely underground and mostly out-of-sight unless we go digging for them, there exist fungal networks that connect all of the above ground life forms that we see in the forests and fields.

These "mycorrhizal networks" promote communication and connection between the various forms that make up a given ecosystem. Through these fungal networks, individual forms can express their nutritional needs, thereby creating opportunities for other forms in the ecosystem to physically support them, passing along the requisite nutrients through the interdependent network that connects them all. Each individual form, such as a tree or a stand of grasses, achieves its health and wellbeing by its connection and communication with other forms in the ecosystem. It is a truly awesome example of interdependence in the natural world.

Here at UUCM, we have a similar "underground" network—one that promotes connection and communication between and across the more formal structures that are the public-facing version of UUCM that is diagrammed so beautifully on our website. Through this sometimes-invisible network, we can communicate our needs, receive support from others not connected directly to our specific mission and tasks, and in turn, provide support to others as their needs are communicated. The examples of how this underground network functions are subtle, but oh so beautiful! Mostly, they leave me feeling that this community has my back—a feeling that I highly value.

Let me illustrate how this underground network has functioned recently in the world of Family Ministry. As the calendar turned to March and my hopes for a gentle spring were running high, I began thinking about the Kids Connection schedule coming up. I had signed up to be the lead for the Easter Sunday Kids Connection service, which

would happen on the last day of the month. I spent some time online researching ways that UUs celebrate Easter with children and youth. Obviously, eggs and baby animals were a recurring theme in what I found online—the child centered version of the resurrection and new life themes that adults tend to reflect upon at this time of year. I was not sure what exactly I wanted to do with respect to these themes, but I was confident that something would come together in my mind before too long.

Fast forward a week, when last Monday I headed up the hill to UUCM to participate in Jenny's writing group, one of my favorite features of my UUCM life. As usual, I was planning to stick my head in the office just to give a greeting to Siobhan. Upon stepping inside the building, I noticed that Siobhan was gathered with a group of people in that space where foyer turns into sanctuary. As I walked toward them to say hello, Siobhan walked over to greet me. She was holding an egg, one of those wooden eggs that was a part of the service on stewardship a few weeks ago. Siobhan, being the prescient person that she is, looked at me and said, "Do you need eggs? Could you use eggs upstairs with the kids?" When I saw the wooden egg in her hands, I immediately said, "YES!" My thoughts turned to decorating them, maybe painting them with sponges and water-based paints. As Siobhan and I were talking, Shanti came up holding a basket full of those wooden eggs, and we told her that I would be taking some of the extra wooden eggs to use upstairs with the children. I right away collected together in my hands and pockets a dozen wooden eggs to be used in some to-be-determined way at our Easter Kids Connection service.

WOW, in a brief moment, as I walked into UUCM to head to my writing group, I had connected with all the UUCM people who would begin to bring my plans for Easter Sunday into focus. Jenny's writing group, Siobhan, Shanti and her basket of wooden eggs from a previous service—it all came together to provide the answer to my simmering thoughts about how to find a way for the children to engage with the usual themes inherent in this season of rebirth and renewal. For me, this is an example of how our interdependent network operates here, every day, at UUCM. As I suggested earlier in this piece, it makes me feel that this community and the individuals that constitute it have my back, that we rise together, that one person's success in their individual efforts to make something happen at UUCM reverberates across the community, to the benefit of all. I am grateful to be a part of this interdependent network that we call UUCM.

ACTIVITIES THIS MONTH INCLUDE:

PRIDE FAMILY POTLUCK,
Friday, April 5, 6:00-8:30 PM at UUCM.

Bring yourself, your family members, your friends and maybe a dish to share!!



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

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*