

the Mountain Chalice



Unitarian Universalist Community of the Mountains

May 2025

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 just 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 ...

May Soul Matters Theme:

Living Love through the Practice of Imagination

May 4 ***In a Galaxy Far, Far Away:
The Possibilities are Endless***
Rev. Kevin Tarsa with Lindsay Dunckel,
Worship Associate

We once named imagination a "superpower." Put your cape on and join us. (For those participating via Zoom, you might want to have a wooden spoon ready!)

May 11 ***Boundary or Horizon?***
Rev. Kevin Tarsa, with Elizabeth Rose and
Cheryl Morris, Worship Associates

Barry Lopez writes that "the effort of the imagination is to turn the boundary into a horizon... The boundary says, 'Here and no further.' The horizon says, 'Welcome.'" What if we look beyond the perceived limits of our lives, our country, our world? This Mother's Day, join us as we step boldly into the future, leaving traces of our earthly lives for those who come after us, and go where no one has gone before. Who knows what we might imagine?

May 18 ***Two Questions and a Welcome!***
Rev. Kevin Tarsa, with Tracy Pepper, Worship
Associate, and UUCM's newest members

On May 21, 1995, a set of adventurous and visionary souls signed their names as the first members of a new Unitarian Universalist

community taking shape in Grass Valley and Nevada City. Here, thirty years later, we pick up the thread of their imagination and carry it into the new day. Join us as we welcome UUCM's newest members.

May 25 ***Imagine That!***
Lindsay Dunckel and Randy McKean,
Worship Associates

To create, we first have to imagine. How do we get from imagination to action? Come explore the realms of imagination and where it can take us.

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Rev. Kevin Tarsa
UUCM Minister

From the Minister

Living Love through the practice of Imagination

You will likely not be surprised to learn that in planning the May services, with the theme of "Living Love through the Practice of Imagination," the various worship associates and I have in fact called upon our imaginations, which was not only fun, but took us to places wonderfully beyond where we started. It is a natural follow-up to the April theme focused in joy.

We begin the month by practicing the opening up of our imaginations, both playfully and meaningfully. On the second Sunday, we apply our imaginations to our personal and our shared lives, informed by the difference between a boundary and a horizon. The third Sunday offers an anniversary that invites us to celebrate the imagination and the imaginers (or "imagineers," the term Chuck Champlin brings us from his experience working at Disney) that gave birth to UUCM 30 years ago, and the imagination of UUCM's newest members. As of this moment, the final May service is incubating in the wonderfully fertile imaginations of Lindsay Dunckel and Randy McKean. Imagine!

What's coming up in my memory are the many ways my seven siblings and I relied upon our imaginations for so much of our play. Truth be

told, for so much of our lives. This was aided significantly by the fact that my family did not have a television during much of my childhood and teenage years, a conscious choice of my parents. Our imaginations were also called forth by the reality that our family did not have much money to spend beyond the essentials.

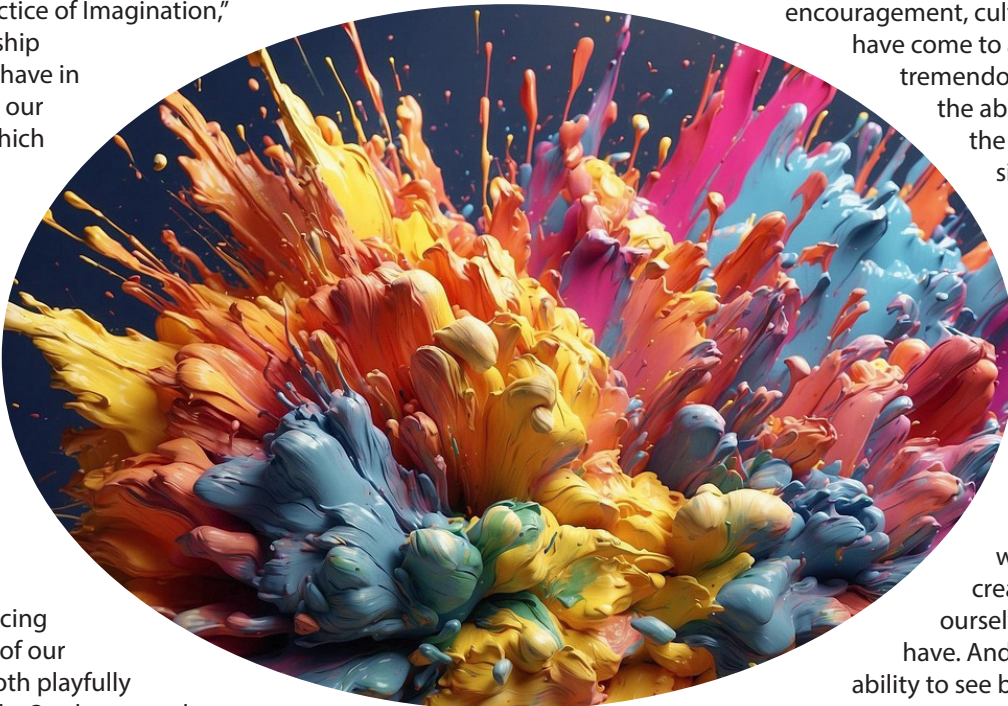
All of this, nurtured by my parents' encouragement, cultivated what I have come to appreciate as a tremendous life-long gift – the ability to see beyond the obvious and the singular, to imagine new possibilities for what is already around us and for most anything within reach. Sometimes this manifests as an ability to make do with what we have, which is really about creatively making for ourselves what we don't have. And sometimes, it is the ability to see beyond the horizon something that does not yet exist.

Our Universalist, Unitarian, Unitarian Universalist, and UUCM ancestors – heretics and imagineers, all – each give us reason to believe in and celebrate imagination this month. It may be at once the most down-to-earth and the most spiritual of our themes this year. Always, it is about possibility.

May your imagination be fed and inspired and called forth this month and may what you imagine meet both the day-to-day of what is within reach, and the longings at the heart of your spirit.

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

*Taylor Carey, President,
UUCM Board of Trustees*
President@uugrassvalley.org

This is my penultimate President's column before my term ends on June 30. While I'm not going to recite the stains and scars of this tumultuous year, I'm not going to ignore them, either. Mostly, I'm going to grieve the loss of faith that has brought our nation to the brink of ruin in just a few short months.

Through the music of George Mann and Bodhi Busick, one of our most famous UUCM members, Utah Phillips, has been on our minds. Long ago, Phillips offered that he was a philosophical anarchist because he didn't need the government to tell him how to be a good person. I assume that he and his friends and associates had faith in the inherent goodness of people. That they would stick to their sides of the street when navigating the inroads and "out roads" of civilization, impelled by their shared faith to watch out for each other.

I first read of these Phillipsian ruminations in the early 70s, shortly before scaling my own Mt. Everest-like challenge of personal shortcomings and law school. What I learned there was that Utah was right ... sort of. He expressed that being good and orderly was a matter of common sense, and I realized that the law was essentially the codification of that notion, to be consulted whenever the common part of our social senses required.

For the most part, our civil rules and regulations are society's way of erecting channel markers through the dark and confusing times when the course is not clear. The civil laws of a nation are its collective statements of faith - I'm not ignoring criminal laws, but those apply when the civil rules have been breached beyond genteel rehabilitation.

Our Founders had faith that the Constitution they crafted to breathe life into the new nation would forever guide and draw

us back to the bedrock commitment to steward and safeguard the common good. They were not naive. They recognized that the realization of their dream inevitably would require tripping and stumbling as the distractions of factionalism, selfishness, stupidity, and greed fought for dominance. But - and this is my projection - they held fast to faith that the agreement penned in Philadelphia would prove stronger than the barbarians at the gate.

UUCM BOARD of TRUSTEES

JULY 2024 - JUNE 2025

Taylor Carey	<i>President</i>
Carol Richey	<i>Vice President</i>
Gail Schulz	<i>Treasurer</i>
Lin Jovanovic	<i>Secretary</i>

Members at Large:

Chuck Champlin, Jeff Gold & Charlene Dugan

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. 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.

I am not willing to throw in the towel just yet. Our forebears revered the pursuit, acquisition, and preservation of knowledge. They saw in colleges, universities, and the free press the institutions for disseminating information to the masses. Though recognizing the churlish inclinations of the press, they could not have foreseen the dark potential lurking in the power of despotic, artificial sovereigns, in the guise of corporate power, to rend the fabric of truth by injecting into every narrative the unsubtle blasphemy that the founders were wrong.

Nowadays we hear much about "constitutional crises." These conflicts are also evidence of lost faith. Utah's view, the founders' view, and

the views of common people no longer resonate with the shared purposes that once animated the heart of the Republic. Today, what we regard as objectively true has to vie with and struggle against the plague of disinformation, the stock-in-trade of corporate predators for which turmoil and doubt generate more profits than peace and tranquility.

Since the election, when the conflict between the real and the unimaginable exploded upon us, many people have struggled with their beliefs and faith in ... everything. But knowledge, and the thirst for it, are the keys to everything. In response, our services have grown from a few empty seats in the sanctuary on any given Sunday to every seat filled and the Channing room pressed into service to accommodate some of the overflow. Zoom attendance may add over forty more attendees.

Continued on next page...

Board of Trustees

Continued from page 3...

Members and visitors sit transfixed as Reverend Kevin weaves history, scholarship, faith, and love into sermons about life, possibility, hope, and joy. His words, drawn from experience and understanding, probe the hearts and minds of an audience hungry for comfort and reassurances in these challenging times.

All of the foregoing bears upon and informs the way the UUCM Board of Trustees discharges its duties and responsibilities, where Board service is its own form of spirituality practice. Those having the honor to serve are blessed by the opportunity to predicate every decision upon the needs and aspirations of our beloved community, knowing that what we do here strengthens our church to extend the hand of welcome to each other and to the wider community.

We are approaching our annual meeting. New Board members will be elected, along with new members of the Nominating Committee. If you have an interest in serving on the Board or Nominating Committee, please let your interest be known. The "NomCom" will soon send out information about how to do that. Don't be shy.

-Taylor



Endowment

Kathryn Young
Endowment Committee
Endowment@uugrassvalley.org



Simple Gifts Thank You

Thank you to Jessica Howell who sent a generous gift to honor the passing of her mother, Dr. Janet Decker Howell, who was a member here for 15 years, before moving to Texas in 2021.

Simple Gifts are always a great way to honor special events in your life, or the passing of friends, family, and fellow UUCM-ers, or anything you feel like acknowledging with a special contribution.

We would love to talk with you about other kinds of Endowment Gifts, too. We have brochures and packets to give you more details on **Legacy Gifts**...please let us know if you would like one.

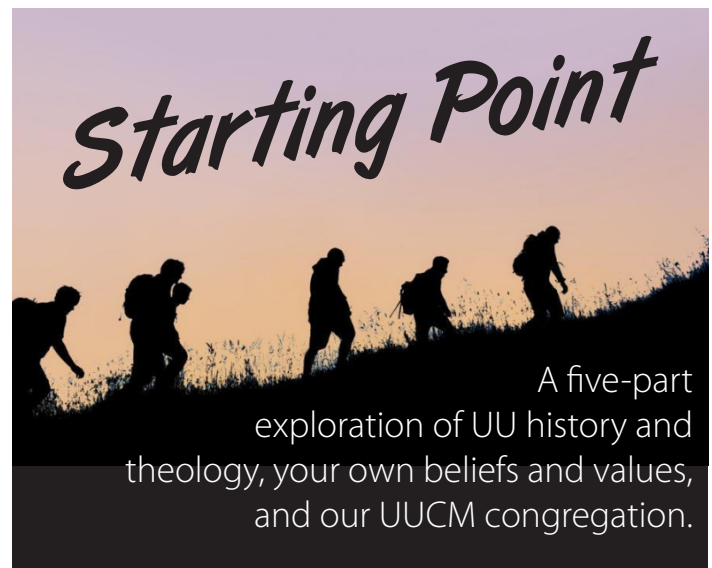


Membership

Laura Harter
Chair, Membership Team
membership@uugrassvalley.org

Starting Point Series this Month!

Starting Point consists of five rich sessions of connection and learning. It is offered 3-4 times per year based on need and will begin again this May. (The **Starting Point** series asks for a commitment to attend all five sessions.) Please reach out to Ruth Edwards if you are interested in enrolling, or email us at StartingPoint@uugrassvalley.org.



Throughout both **UU101** and **Starting Point**, we approach Unitarian Universalism and membership at UUCM as ongoing journeys. And rather than simply *hearing* about Unitarian Universalism, participants will have a chance to *experience* Unitarian Universalism, with awareness that each person brings important insight, experiences, and perspectives to this shared journey.

NEW MEMBER CEREMONY MAY 18

We are looking forward to our New Member Ceremony as part of the Sunday, May 18 service. We hope you can attend and share the joy and celebration as we welcome our newest members.

As always, if you have other questions or suggestions for the Membership Team, please email me at membership@uugrassvalley.org.

MEMBERSHIP TEAM:

Laura Harter, Chair,
Jim Bair, Laurie Bell, Ruth Edwards, and Susan Merrill



Words from the Worship Team

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



Living Imaginatively

Writing this on a beautiful spring day, invigorated by the positive energy of our congregation both within our walls and in the wider world, it is easy to embrace our May theme of Imagination. We have a freshened-up building, blooming plants, new folks becoming regulars at our Sunday services, lively youngsters upstairs at Kids' Connection each week, and so many opportunities to take positive actions that it's impossible to commit to all of them.

Along with the chaos that each day seems to bring, we are beginning to see glimpses of opportunity. The Worship Team had an energetic brainstorming session on Imagination, and we believe you will find the May services invigorating and challenging, inspirational and, well, fun.

As always, we welcome your thoughts, ideas, and contributions. The more people involved in Sunday services, the more interesting they are, and the more growth opportunities for all of us. Don't be shy, use your imagination and connect with us at any time.

- Cheryl & Carol

Monthly Evening Service



*Join us for an Evening
Contemplative Service*

**SECOND THURSDAYS OF EACH MONTH,
7:00 TO 8:00 PM**

GENTLE MUSIC BEGINS AT 6:30 PM

This month's service: **Thursday, May 8 at 7:00 PM**

It's a simple but moving service. We will sing hymns, join in meditation, and take part 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.

Soul Matters Themes



*Soul Matters Themes for 2024-25
Living Love through the Practices of...*

May:
June:

Imagination
Freedom



Adult Learning

*UU Elevator Speech Class:
WHAT DO YOU SAY WHEN...?*

UU Elevator Speech, with Rev. Kevin, guides participants through developing a short speech about our Unitarian Universalist faith. It is called an "elevator speech" because, on an elevator ride when someone asks you "what is Unitarian Universalism?" you only have a short time to make a meaningful statement!

**One-Afternoon Workshop:
Saturday, May 17 from 1:00-4:30 PM**

UU Elevator Speech helps us understand the commonalities we share as Unitarian Universalists, and how to explain our faith better and more succinctly. Get ready to be UU in public and help spread the word in a way you feel good about!

The class will be divided into three parts:

- It's Not A Credo
- Writing Your UU Elevator Speech
- Sharing Your UU Elevator Speech

Register [HERE](#). For more information, contact Rev. Kevin at minister@uugrassvalley.org

UUCM Spring Auction

*Don't Miss the UUCM Auction -
Two Auctions in One!!*

ONLINE SPRING AUCTION

WHEN: APRIL 25 AT 12:00 PM UNTIL MAY 2 AT 8:00 PM

Get started bidding on all kinds of wonderful items and experiences NOW from the convenience of your home computer!

Come to the UUCM
AUCTION

BE SURE TO ATTEND THE LIVE AUCTION!:

WHEN: SATURDAY, MAY 3, 2025

WHERE: THE SANCTUARY (AND OTHER DOWNSTAIRS ROOMS)

TIME: 2:00 TO 5:00 PM

BIDDING: STARTS AT 2:30 PM, CLOSES AT 4:30 PM

COST: \$10 INCLUDES REFRESHMENTS AND BEVERAGES

Purchase your ticket for the May 3rd Live Auction:

uucmingv.betterworld.org/events/spring-auction-tickets

The cost is \$10 (plus optional fees) which includes the opportunity to bid on meals, experiences, popular items (lodging, Marilyn's custom made socks, Anita's deviled eggs), enjoy alcoholic and non-alcoholic beverages and a variety of sweet and savory appetizers, with auctioneers Siobhan Boylan and Lindsay Dunckel!

HOW TO GET STARTED:

Go to the UUCM Online Spring Auction by following this link:

uucmingv.betterworld.org/auctions/spring-auction-2025

You will be asked to create an account simply by adding a password on the checkout page along with your credit card payment information. After that, the system will remember you, so you won't need to sign in again! You will also receive notifications about your bids, so you won't lose something you really want. (Please consider covering the credit card and processing fees so 100% of the proceeds go to UUCM.)

QUESTIONS? Contact any member of the Auction Team below!

Laurie Bell, Lesley Champlin, Keith Johnson, Susan Merrill,
and Carol Richey at auction@uugrassvalley.org



*Featuring the music of Beethoven,
Russell Peterson, Dvořák,
Ólafur Arnalds, John Williams and more.
Plus, a surprise or two, and a chance
to sing along!*

• INCLUDING •

Toby Thomas-Rose & Rev. Kevin Tarsa, PIANO

Kate Canan & Randy McKean, WOODWINDS

Martha Yourd, CELLO

Rose-May Mickelson, VIOLIN

**Saturday, May 31, 2025
at UUCM
6:30 Reception | 7:00 Concert
\$30***

• NO HOST BAR & LIGHT REFRESHMENTS •
*DISCOUNTS AVAILABLE

*For tickets, call 530.274.1675
or visit www.uugrassvalley.org*





Parish Care

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

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

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

As Unitarian Universalists we believe that we all share in the responsibility for one another's care, and we invite all members and friends of UUCM to become actively involved in this wonderfully important opportunity for service. If 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,
Anne Lyon, Cheryl Morris



Lay Pastoral Care Team

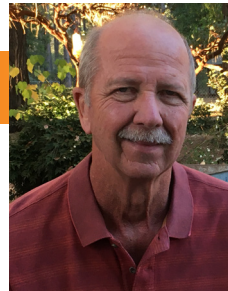
Are You Facing a Life Challenge?

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 Grant, Sue Gregory, 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



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

Art and Aesthetics Team

• Meet Phil Horning •

Horning Exhibition Continues

Our latest exhibition, featuring the paintings of Phil Horning, opened in March and will grace the walls of our library for the months of April and May.



*Phil
Horning*
ART EXHIBIT

UUCM LIBRARY
GALLERY
THROUGH MAY



I grew up back east in Pleasantville, New York, a suburb of New York City. My mom taught nursery school and did oil paintings as a hobby. As a kid I liked to draw and did a few paintings. In high school I worked for a neighbor down the street and built a dry wall and installed landscaping. The interest in art and landscaping led me to pursue Landscape Architecture as a profession.

After graduating from Syracuse I joined the Peace Corps in Iran and worked there for four years designing and building city parks in Gonbad Kavous and then worked for the Iranian National Park Service in Tehran. During this period, I did drawings when there was time and continued this when I traveled for nine months through most of Asia.

Upon my return to the United States, I worked for the U.S. Forest Service on four different forests in California and took a special assignment to Tasmania, Australia, to set up a visual management system for the Tasmanian Forestry Commission. Throughout my career I have had the opportunity to hike and ski in a wide range of mountainous and forested areas and these experiences have been an inspiration to me.

Now that I am retired, I paint scenes that I hope capture some of the experiences that I find inspiring. Some of those experiences include my time as a Peace Corps Volunteer. In those cases, I take pictures of my 50-year-old slides projected on a wall and then store them digitally. Sometimes it is the special lighting as the sun sets, sometimes it is the composition of ridges and mountain peaks that attracts me. One of my favorite activities is downhill and cross-country skiing so you will see several snow scenes.

Typically, my photos of snow capture the bright white during the middle of the day, so I change the shade and lighting in the paintings to create more interest. In other cases, it is the vivid colors of fall, or the dramatic motion associated with a large waterfall that I capture. It seems to me that Mother Nature provides endless opportunities, both dramatic and subtle, to observe amazing colors, shapes, textures, and compositions, and I just try to paint a few of these examples to share with others. Please enjoy."

- Phil Horning

Imagination: A Profile

by Jenny Dewey

"An idea is salvation by imagination."

- Frank Lloyd Wright

One hot summer day a little girl climbed a silver poplar tree. The tree was old with an ancient trunk and sturdy branches. She had two best friends who helped her build a treehouse in the silver poplar. When the house was finished it had a plank floor, plywood walls, and a piece of corrugated tin for a roof. The three friends constructed a ladder from the ground to the door of the treehouse using slats of wood nailed to the trunk of the tree.

The little girl liked to read. Sometimes she went to the treehouse alone and lay on her stomach and read until she fell asleep.

Ravens and magpies came to the tree. The birds squabbled and picked on each other and played and flew away and came back on broad wings, legs and feet dangling.

Tired of reading and feeling drowsy, the girl lay on her back and watched the birds, and she knew she could fly, too. She knew this the way she knew the heat of summer on her skin and the relief of shade under thick, dark leaves.

Ravens and magpies flew to the river and the girl went with them. She ran across the ground, but her feet never touched down. She shared the air and the joyful

sensation of flight with wings as wide and black as the wings of the ravens.

The girl never remembered the day she realized she wasn't really flying. One day she just knew. She wasn't sad, because the memory of it was sweet and unforgettable.

The girl got older and along the way she imagined many things. The world around her, what she watched and felt and absorbed, made her imagination all the more precious. In hard times she imagined how things would get better. There were times she took wing inside her head and dreamed, which is very like imagining.

The older she got, the more she could not fathom those around her who spoke harshly about imagining things, as if everything had to be dead-on factual and tangible and true and real.

They'd say, "Oh, you're imagining that. It isn't true."

The girl realized people who felt this way about the world had no safe place to go in times of struggle. Imagining things

didn't mean ignoring reality. The girl was wise to reality. She knew the meaning of contradictions and danger and sacrifice.

Now as an old woman she sometimes remembers flying. What a joy that was. How lucky to be able to fly if only for a while.





*Ruth Edwards
UUCM Historian*

UUCM History Corner

The First Signers of the UUCM Membership Book

In last month's Mountain Chalice History Corner, I documented the beginnings of UUCM. Please read that article to set the stage for this month!

This year is the 30th anniversary of the founding of UUCM. The first signing of a Membership Book (which UUCM still uses) took place on May 21, 1995. The May 18 service this month will honor the 29 "First Signers."

The following signers were the leaders in the beginning of UUCM; their photos can be found on the bulletin board hanging in the Hosea Ballou room (the old nursery). Please note that the accomplishments listed below reflect those that happened before 1995.

- **Anita Wald-Tuttle** is the only remaining current member from that first group. Anita brought the idea of an outreach meeting from the Auburn church which ultimately led to the UUCM we know today. She also found speakers for the early meetings.
- **John Church**, a retired education administrator, quickly became the organizational leader. He also became the first Chair of the Planning Committee and President of the first Board.
- **Maybelle Church**, John's wife, supported John, was Planning Committee Membership Chair, served on the Caring Committee and the Refreshments Committee and helped with the mailing list.
- **Judy van der Veen** provided music for the Sunday services and was on the Program Committee.
- **John van der Veen** was on the Program, Religious Education, and Strategic Planning Committees.



John and Maybelle Church

- **Leal Portis** planned and ran the RE program for children in the lobby of the library and was on the Planning and Program Committees.
- **Barbara Hoyt**, who was not a member because of affiliation with Noetic Science, provided UUCM with the three paintings that now hang in the foyer and the Martin Luther King painting, as well as innumerable drawings for posters and orders of service.

- **Nancy Malmuth** was on the Planning Committee and the Planning Committee for RE and provided leadership in spirituality.
- **Gini Merrill** was on the Program Committee and served as the Historian, and as a Greeter. She also kept the phone list up-to-date and hosted meetings and picnics at her home.
- **Yvonne Strecjek** had a strong feminist bent which led to a number of home-grown programs. The Women's Group encouraged her to enter the ministry at Starr King.

These ten First Signers and their partners were responsible for the incredible energy needed to create a UU church. Other First Signers contributed as well. Please enjoy the bulletin board in the Hosea Ballou room (the old

nursery). It should be up by May 1.

The First Signers will be honored along with new members who have joined in 2024 and 2025 in the Sunday, May 18 service. Current members will have the opportunity to sign a special 30th Anniversary Book following the service and continuing through June. Helpers will assist members in their honorary signing of the Anniversary Book in the Hosea Ballou Room. Please stop by to take part in the signing. (Note that this signing opportunity is not related in any way to each current member's signing of the original UUCM Membership book. This ceremony honors UUCM's growth from 29 original signers to a robust 133 current members.

Our UUCM history continues in next month's article in the Mountain Chalice.

— Ruth

Justice News and Activities

Get out the Vote Postcard Update

By Gail Johnson Vaughan, Bending the Arc Task Force

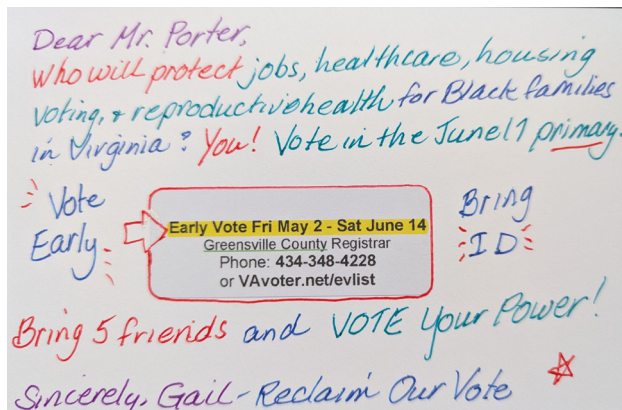
TIME TO START MAILING TO VIRGINIA!

The time has come to start mailing your postcards to Virginia voters! Because Virginia has 45 days of early voting we have until May 30 to get them in the mail, but the sooner the better. Although we'd been told that there were no more address lists to be had, we managed to find enough to make 25 more packets (bringing our Virginia total to 4,400!) You'll find them on the postcard table in the foyer.

So, what's next? Virginia's November general election. That campaign begins in July and will have 900,000 addresses available. You'll have the month of June to rest your writing hands and refill your colored ink supply before they begin again the next round of this important work.

Perhaps you are new to our Get Out the Vote postcard campaigns. UUCM is combating voter suppression one postcard at a time. We sent 3,000 cards to Black voters in Wisconsin to inform them about the issues at stake in the Wisconsin Supreme Court election. Did you know that Wisconsin is a voter suppression state? Well, it is!

Now we are writing 4,400 postcards to registered Black voters in Virginia who did not vote in November. Our nonpartisan postcards invite them to protect jobs, healthcare, housing, voting rights and reproductive health for Black families in Virginia by voting in the June 17 primary election. Research shows that these postcards not only increase the voter turnout for the primary, but increased primary voting in turn increases the turnout in the following general election.



We make it as easy as we can for our postcard writers, assembling 20 stamps, 20 postcards, and other supplies into packets. Writers who can reimburse UUCM for the \$12 cost of the packets. Folks who support the work but aren't writing donate \$\$ to cover the costs of writers who cannot. Contact gailjv@uugrassvalley.org for more information.

Share the Plate

UUCM's March Share the Plate recipient, [Interfaith Food Ministry](#) received \$819, 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 April partner, [Child Advocates of Nevada County](#).



Our May Share the Plate recipient is [KARE Crisis Nursery](#). KARE Crisis Nursery's mission is to provide shelter and respite for the children and assistance to their families who are facing a crisis, and to safely and effectively supervise Court Ordered visitations for families seeking reunification.

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



Hospitality House Donations

Our continued generous support of Hospitality House is greatly appreciated by the guests and staff! When you are enjoying refreshments after a Sunday service, take a peek into our Hospitality House donation bin - especially towards the end of the month. It is heartwarming to see how many items are in there!

Needed Items Are:

- Men's casual pants, sweatpants and sweatshirts
- Towels
- Twin Blankets
- NEW Pillows
- NEW (unopened) Toiletries - Shampoo, Conditioner, Razors, Soap)

For the most current update on their needs, please check their website: <https://hhshelter.org/>

Please leave donations in the designated bin in UUCM's Alcott (refreshments) room.

*Thank you for your generosity,
Laurie Bell & Keith Johnson*

UUCM Library News

What's UP at the UUCM Library?

By Kate Canan, Library Team Member

What's happening with the UUCM Library, you may ask? We have a committee (Rev. Kevin Tarsa, Kate Canan, Penny Harlan, Janet Dunstan, and Anne Merdinger) going through the books, making space for some newer books that fit our UU values well.

Since we have a small library with limited shelf space, we defined criteria for keeping books and acquiring newer, more up-to-date books. We are giving priority to books that are consistent with our UU values, cannot easily be found elsewhere, and are either classics in their category or more recently published. We are also dedicating space to books by UU and UUCM authors.

CATEGORIES:

- UU history, theology, and values, including biographies and significant works of our UU ancestors
- UU spirituality, such as meditation and reflection, chalice readings, and poetry
- Church leadership resources, e.g. membership, stewardship, governance, recruiting volunteers, etc.
- Books supporting current UUA and UUCM justice programs, such as racial justice, environmental justice, Indigenous peoples, and democratic values
- UU influences, including Christianity, Judaism, Islam, Buddhism, Hinduism, Humanism, Atheism, Paganism, and Feminine Spirituality
- Pastoral and self-care resources: addiction, aging, caregiving, depression, grief and dying, parenting, adolescence, gender and sexual orientation.
- UU and UUCM Authors

FREE BOOKS!

The books we are culling are displayed on a table in the refreshment area for UU members and friends to take freely. Donations (optional) will go to buying some new books, usually from the UUA bookstore, to fill out categories that may be lacking or need updating. We will maintain a Library Wish List for books that fit the above criteria and categories.

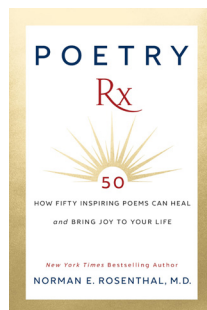
We look forward to opening our library again soon for checkouts!

2nd Sunday Book Group

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

CONTACT: BookGroupInfo@uugrassvalley.org

Our book group is reading an exciting variety of fiction and non-fiction this year. Join us for any or all of these discussions. We hold our meetings at UUCM after church on second Sundays at 12:30 PM in the Channing Room. You are welcome to bring a snack or lunch to these meetings. We also offer the option of joining by Zoom, but please give at least one week's notice so we make sure to have equipment ready to welcome you.



May 11, 2025:

Poetry RX by Norman E. Rosenthal,
2021, 380 pages

Presenter: Judith Gropp

This fascinating book explores the concept of poetry as a healing modality, coupled with poignant bio regarding renowned poets from global backgrounds across the centuries and infused with current vignettes from contemporary issues. This

is one of several books I would bring to a desert island.

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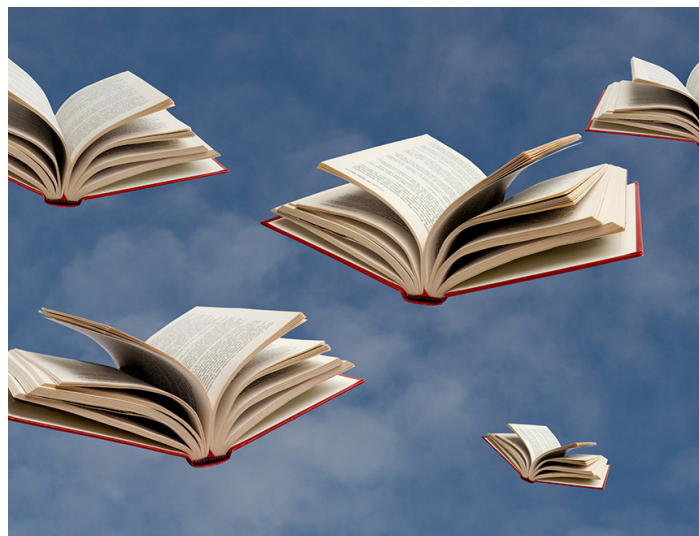
Sunday Book Group Zoom

Meeting ID: 927 1111 8322

Passcode: 472984

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Find a list of the next several months of book selections
at [UUCM Book Group Selections](#)



Community Connections

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

TUESDAYS AND THURSDAYS, OFF-SITE -

MEET AT 8:30 AM

Email Walking@uugrassvalley.org

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, Siobhan (Admin@uugrassvalley.org) to include you on our walking group mailing list so you can hear about 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



WOMEN'S GROUP

MONTHLY POTLUCK –

SECOND MONDAYS, 6:00 PM
AT UUCM

Our next meeting is **Monday, May 12 at 6:00 PM at UUCM**. We will be having a potluck and then a presentation and hands-on learning

about Zentangle/Neurographic Art presented by Jereé Waller. *Please bring permanent black markers, and a selection of highlighters, colored pencils, non-toxic markers, etc. to use on your project.* A Zentangle is a form of meditative drawing or doodling. It is abstract in nature and relies on the use of patterning to create an all over fill. Jereé is a local artist who creates abstract and realistic drawings, paintings, and collages.

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.



HUMANISM DISCUSSION GROUP

FIRST WEDNESDAY OF EACH MONTH AT 10:45 AM

Our next meeting will be on Wednesday, May 7, at 10:45 AM at UUCM, and our topic is: **Success. What is the definition of success? How does that definition change between the areas of emotional, social, occupational, financial, and community success? Are we programmed for success?**

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.

Our group's purpose is to connect and intellectually explore the issues that touch our daily lives through Humanism's values and principles. Humanism emphasizes ethical living, critical thinking, and social justice while aiming to inspire compassionate action and mutual understanding.

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 take part via Zoom, request the link by emailing Humanism@uugrassvalley.org.

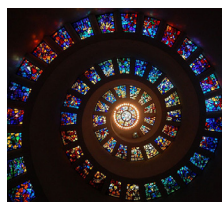
(Please view the UUCM website calendar for the most up to date meeting info.)



ARTS & CRAFTS CIRCLE

2ND & 4TH FRIDAYS, 1:00 TO 3:00 PM
AT UUCM -ALCOTT (REFRESHMENT) ROOM

Come and meet with other UUs on **Friday, May 9 and 23** at 1:00 PM to work on your own art or craft form! Enjoy each other's company while working on independent projects. No teacher or facilitator. Contact: arts-n-crafts@uugrassvalley.org



SPIRITUALITY SHARING CIRCLE

FOURTH SATURDAYS, 2:00 - 3:30 PM,
ON-SITE AND VIA ZOOM

Questions? Need a Zoom link? Contact: Spirituality@uugrassvalley.org

The Practice of Imagination

By Cheryl Spaulding, Family Ministry Team Member

If imagination is what you are looking for at UUCM, then look no further. Stop Number One for you should be our Kids' Connection program that happens upstairs on Sunday mornings. Each Sunday after the short kids' service that we hold upstairs in our sanctuary, we proceed into a suite of rooms that is our imaginary UU world. The range of materials that have been chosen to support artistic creativity, dramatic play, and storytelling are impressive indeed. I thought I would make this essay a pictorial display of the children and their imaginations at work. Enjoy!





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 - 12:30 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

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(530) 274-1675

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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*