

the Mountain Chalice



Unitarian Universalist Community of the Mountains

June 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 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 15 for Kid-Centered Activities ...

JUNE THEME: *The Gift of Renewal*

June 2 *Music for Heart and Soul*
Rev. Kevin Tarsa, with Toby Thomas-Rose & UUCM Musicians; Randy McKean, Worship Associate

Our annual Music Service – a gift from wonderful UUCM music makers and friends – always embodies this month's theme of renewal. Come, let the music, including your own singing, meet you where you are and carry you where you need to go.

June 9 *Room to Breathe: The Gift of Renewal*
Rev. Kevin Tarsa and
Worship Associate Sophia McKean

Dive deeper into this month's "renewal" theme, and maybe, just maybe, go home not with the "right" answer, but with a question that makes the difference.

June 16 *Stepping In, Stepping Out*
Carol Nimick, Beth Karow, Worship Associates

Renewal happens as we mindfully "step in" to each moment with each breath or we "step away" for new perspectives and experiences. Renewal is integral to the life of our beings, community, planet. We'll explore the diverse range of opportunity to renew ourselves, our beliefs, and UU faith

June 23 *Do You Feel What I Feel?*
The Skill of Deep Communication
Cheryl Morris & Carol Nimick, Worship Associates with Guest Speaker Jeff Kane, MD

Deep, thoughtful conversations are a hallmark of the UU experience, and we have many opportunities at UUCM to engage in them. It is so fundamental to our denomination that Deep Listening has been selected as a Soul Matters theme for next year. But we don't need to wait! Today's speaker, Jeff Kane, is a deep communicator. He has honed this skill during his life as a physician, writer, yoga teacher, musician, and husband/father/grandfather. And that's not all! Jeff was the very first speaker for the fledgling UUCM and is returning now to help us celebrate our 30 years as a congregation. We welcome him and will listen deeply to what he has to say.

June 30 *A Celebration of Pride*
Lindsay Dunckel and Sophia McKean,
Worship Associates

Unitarian Universalism was on the forefront of the gay rights
Service description continued on page 5

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Rev. Kevin Tarsa
UUCM Minister

From the Minister

Note: Fitting this month's theme of "the gift of renewal," I'll be working remotely June 15-July 7 and on vacation July 8-22, this to allow me to attend several family weddings, a family reunion, and the chance to meet several new infants born to niblings (i.e. born to the children of my siblings). I'll have deep chances for one-to-one time with family and long-time friends.

As June warms into summer, rhythms shift for many. The heat, the gardens, the call of the river, the extended evenings, vacation travel, and school being out often insert a pause, interrupting the usual. I think of this season as time for a break, but not exactly as a time of renewal, though I suppose it is that, too. My own renewal rhythms center in the introspective months of autumn and winter, although the fruits of that inner cultivating ripen most years in late spring and then grow through the summer.

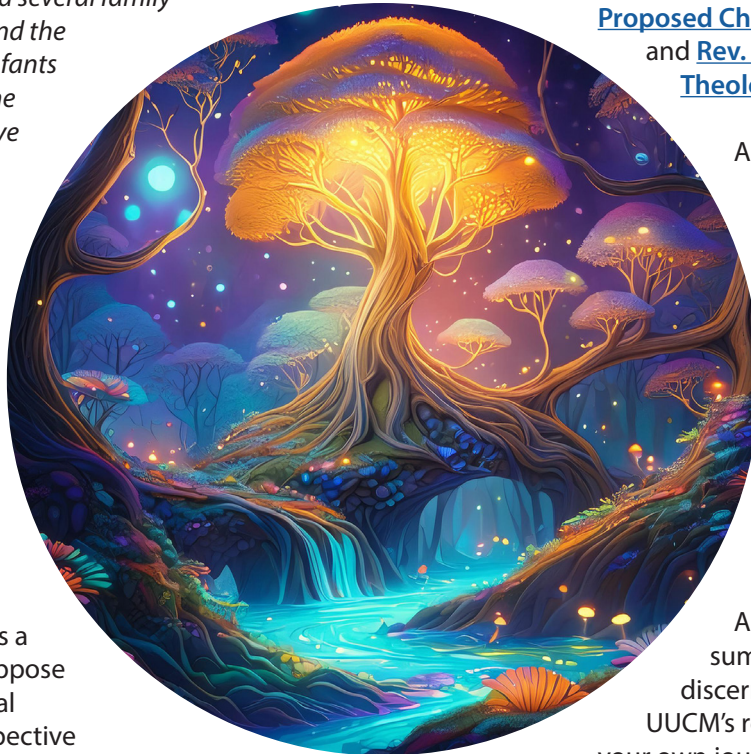
In the May 19 service rooted in Enneagram Nine-ness, I spoke of my internal journey and my transformative April encounter with my most true, authentic, and free self – the liberated, powerful, luminous me underneath all the accumulated layers. I explained that I now find myself asking, "What would Luminous Kevin do?" In the service I raised the questions, "What would liberated, Luminous UUism do?" and "What would Luminous UUCM do?"

These are the intertwined, renewing questions I'm taking with me into the warm and spacious months of summer.

June will include our Unitarian Universalist Association vote on whether to adopt a set of values anchored in love (all the Article 2 stuff we've been talking about) as THE

articulation, for now, of what matters to us UUs, in effect repurposing, reformatting, and replacing the current Seven Principles. Your three UUCM delegates and I will be voting on this on your behalf. Be ready at UUCM's June 2 Annual Meeting to help us know how you would want us to vote.

(As resources, see the [Original 1961 UUA Principles](#), the [Current UUA Principles and Sources](#), the [Proposed Changes/Re-formatting](#), and [Rev. Dr. Sheri Prud'homme's Theological Reflection](#))



And... I invite you to take your own renewal questions into the summer with you. What needs renewing within you and within your life? What might renewal look like for you? What would Luminous You do? Our June services are designed to help us surface the renewal questions that are most relevant and helpful for each of us.

And on the far side of the summer, watch for invitations to discern together the next moves in UUCM's renewal journey, informed by your own journey and the beauty as well as the suffering of the world.

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

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

Some months ago, Rev. Kevin gave a sermon on what it means to be a community of **citizens**. In this sermon Rev. Kevin introduced Jon Alexander's thoughts on the evolution of citizenship:

Jon Alexander portrays humankind's journey over time as a journey from being subjects of powerful rulers, to becoming consumers with choice and buying power and expectations of being served, to now, ideally, becoming citizens who co-create and co-regulate.

The times, the current personalities and politics, the place that humanity finds itself in on this journey, all call us to move, Alexander says,

- from **demanding**, to **participating**.
- from **choosing** (among options offered to us), to **creating**.
- from **servicing**, to **facilitating**.
- from **rights**, to **purpose**.
- from **bureaucracy**, to **network**.
- from **objective**, to **deliberative**.
- from what's done **for** each other, to what's done **with** each other.
- from being **consumers** to being **citizens**.

*In other words, from living as if we are **independent**, to living the truth of our **interdependence**, a truth we can live both within this UU community, and in the wider world.*

So now, in what was to be my final month as your president, I find myself wondering - what would a board of citizens look like? Would there be a need for titles? Would the President's role be required? Or would the group share the work equally to support the community - according to the community's expressed needs?

I'm pondering this because in the last couple of years more teams and committees are saying "we want to do the work, we want to support the mission, but we don't want to lead." Additionally, the Board now finds itself with many open positions and no one wanting to fill them. This situation is not unique to UUCM. Many religious institutions and other organizations are encountering similar challenges.

As a community we must recognize that this is not a problem for the Board to "solve." Rather, this is an opportunity for the Community to work together to find a new path forward. We have no shortage of talented, dedicated individuals in our community. We are passionate about many things, and we serve in many ways. But we also have a growing desire to avoid over-committing, and a desire to simplify the existing governing structure we currently use. This desire to do things differently has created both a crisis of sorts, and an opportunity for creative change.

So the question remains - what does a board look like now? How do we meet our fiduciary obligations without a full board? Can we restructure in a way that meets these obligations but also takes away the onus of "leadership" which seems to be a stumbling block? I don't pretend to have the answer to these questions. But I do think that we have an opportunity to be very creative in how we meet this "leadership" challenge and how we embrace the transition as our existing structure morphs into something new. Let's approach this future work like the citizens we are. I look forward to discovering what we co-create and embrace together!

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. 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.



Finance Team

Carol Richey
Leader, Finance Team
finance@uugrassvalley.org



GOOD NEWS!

As one financial year ends, we cross a threshold into the new year.

At this threshold, we want to hold on to the generosity that values our members, friends, staff, guests, and partners with courageous love. We want to hold on to our mission to create a world that is more compassionate, sustainable, and just. We want to hold on to the continued cultivation of our strengths. But we can leave behind any reservations or doubts that we are enough, that we have enough, or that our sense of wonder can imagine a world that we all want to create.

The year ending on June 30, 2024, has welcomed 20 new members and friends who have chosen to financially support our mission. We are well on our way to gratefully receiving payment for the pledges made over a year ago. We have been responsible stewards of the funds received by spending money within the budget approved by the membership last June. Where we have fallen short in needed income, such as fund raising, we have spent less, such as using an all-volunteer team for Family Ministry. Cost-saving measures have been taken in several areas. Very generous contributions have been made to support justice causes and funding of other special causes. Volunteer hours, though not specifically reported, are immeasurable. It's been a very good year.

We start the new year with the highest pledge amount we have ever received. With the additional funds, we have created a budget, which will be presented to the membership for approval on June 3, that allows:

- Raises for Kevin, Siobhan, and Toby (no raises were given last year due to budgetary constraints).
- Funds to cover out of pocket costs previously paid by members in Member Care, Family Ministry, Stewardship, Justice, and Arts and Aesthetics.
- A paid Mail Chimp account to improve our communication.
- A digital sound mixer for the Audio-Visual team supporting Sunday services.
- Funds for introduction of new music in support of Sunday services.
- Funds to cover some of the postage costs for the Justice team's postcard campaign.

- A small amount for outside consulting help for Board projects.
- Reserves for building repairs and the Minister's sabbatical leave. (With funds set aside during the COVID years, there are plans to make design changes to the building interior.)

It's an exciting time to be a part of UUCM!

On the administrative side, please remember to plan for getting your new pledge paid by either identifying the funds you will use for a one-time payment or setting up an automatic monthly payment to begin by July 1, 2024. You can do this from the bill pay option offered by your bank or by going to <https://www.uugrassvalley.org> and clicking on the GIVE button. If needed, Siobhan, in the office, can help you set up your payments. (Admin@uugrassvalley.org)

Of course, checks and cash are welcomed too.

If you are one of the few people who has not yet fully paid last year's pledge, please do so before the end of June or let Siobhan know if you are unable to make your payment. (Admin@uugrassvalley.org) If you are a new friend to UUCM, Siobhan can also help you set up a pledge for the coming year.

Thank you for being part of our engaged, financially secure, involved, and sustainable community.

Thank you all for your generosity,

-Carol



Words from the Worship Team



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

You probably know that from September through June our services are coordinated with the Soul Matters monthly themes. Recently UUCM, along with other congregations that use the Soul Matters material, had an opportunity to vote for next year's themes by completing a poll that gave a choice of several topics for each month. Members from Worship Team, Ministry Council, and Soul Matters group leaders were invited to complete the poll, and then the top UUCM choices were submitted for consideration.

Participating in this not only gave us the opportunity to vote for our choices but it also gave us some idea of what our members would like to focus on. Once we received notice of the Soul Matters themes chosen for next year, we compared them to the UUCM choices. There were a couple of exact matches and others that were quite similar (e.g., "repair" and "healing"). "Presence" was a joint selection but not for the same month. We will keep the UUCM choices in mind as we plan for each month.

Here is the list for next year, with the official Soul Matters theme on the left and the UUCM choice on the right:

- Cheryl & Carol



Soul Matters Themes for 2024-25

The Practices of...

September:	Invitation/Expectation
October:	Deep Listening/Deep Listening
November:	Repair/Healing
December:	Presence/Hope
January:	Story /Possibility
February:	Inclusion/Inclusion
March:	Trust/Presence
April:	Joy/Resilience
May:	Imagination/Curiosity
June:	Freedom/Gratitude

Many thanks to those who took the time to complete the poll. As always, we love hearing your thoughts and what you think is important for our congregation at this time.



Monthly Evening Service



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

We'd love to have you join us for the June contemplative service. Mark your calendar for this month's service on **June 13, 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.

Upcoming Services

Continued from page 1...

June 30 **A Celebration of Pride**
Lindsay Dunckel and Sophia McKean,
Worship Associates

Unitarian Universalism was on the forefront of the gay rights movement among American religious traditions, our early involvement bolstered in part by our emphasis on uplifting the inherent value of individual truths within the context of loving community. This pride month, join us for a tapestry of faith service where we celebrate the LGBT+ community and hear from UUCM members about the ways their faith and identity interweave and inform each other.



Membership

Laura Harter
Leader, Membership Team
membership@uugrassvalley.org

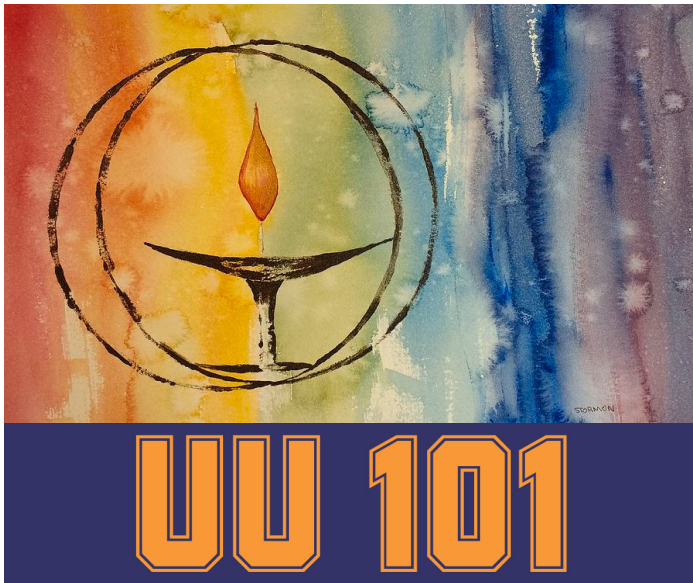


Endowment

Kathryn Young
Endowment Committee
Endowment@uugrassvalley.org

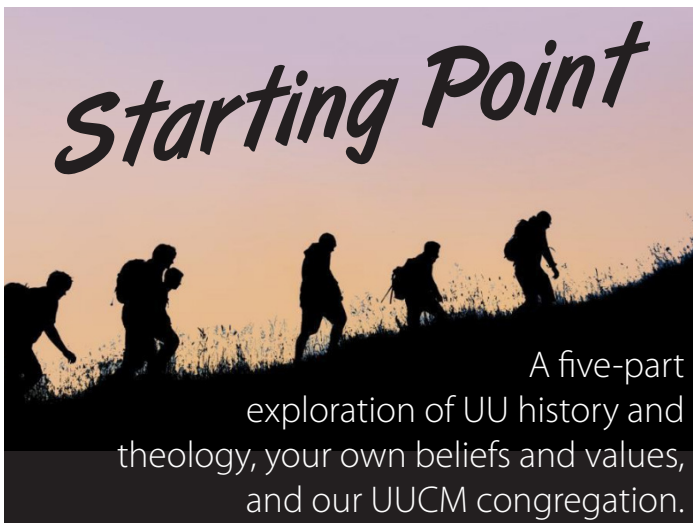
UU101

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



STARTING POINT

Our next Starting Point series will start in September. They will be on Fridays, September 6, 13, 20, and October 4. If you are interested, please let Ruth Edwards know and get on the list. Email Ruth at startingpoint@uugrassvalley.org.



We are extremely grateful for all the Simple Gifts that have come in since June of 2023 when Anita Wald-Tuttle kicked it off with her \$96 gift...and now she's about to turn 97!!

Thank you to Jim Perkins and Martha Turner who celebrated their recent birthdays with Simple Gifts to our UUCM Endowment Fund!

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.

Legacy Gifts

The Endowment encourages members and friends to make a Legacy Gift, one that can help sustain UUCM as a vital force for liberal religion for generations to come.



We have informative brochures available to help explain these programs, and we'd be delighted to speak with anyone who is interested in finding out ways to set up contributions through their wills and trusts, as well as tax-free qualified IRA distributions.

Please contact us at: Endowment@uugrassvalley.org with your questions!

Currently our UUCM Endowment Fund has \$72,572 in it!

...Let's keep it growing with Simple Gifts and Legacy Gifts.



A & A Team

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

Fire Cluster Project

Fire Season is Here!

By Martha Turner

As the 2024 fire season approaches, we are hearing the message from many sources: "Are you ready?" I am glad to say that we at UUCM are READY!

The Fire Cluster project is humming along. Siobhan keeps track of people moving in or out of the Zones and updates the cluster when this happens. Please let her know if you have a change or are newly interested in joining a cluster, she will identify your Zone and the cluster you will be part of, and update that cluster list for all cluster members.

Many of the clusters have identified their lead person and several have had informal cluster member get together, which can increase one's understanding of "being ready," share tips, and strengthen the feeling of community. Plus, it can be FUN! Please let Siobhan know who your cluster leader is.

During this past year, a new idea to enrich our Fire Cluster project, with approval of the Board, is to identify who in our spiritual home might have space and be willing to temporarily house others during an evacuation. Siobhan has posted this question and a number of people have already responded, thank you very much! The questionnaire can be found at <https://www.uugrassvalley.org/host-fire-evacuees/>

Please take the time to be as ready as you can be. The 2023 fire season had little impact on our community while several of the years before were horrific. There's no knowing what this year will bring. The following are some suggestions for what to do to be as ready as you can be:

- Schedule a get together with your Fire Cluster members.
- Complete the questionnaire on possibly hosting others who get evacuated.
- Know your fire zone and keep your UUCM Fire Cluster list handy. If YOU hear about a fire impacting a zone in your cluster first, you call the persons above you and below you, to alert others.
- Have your GO BAG (or bins) packed and ready to grab and go, including supplies for your pets.
- Know your evacuation routes.
- Sign up for Watch Duty for public notifications at <https://app.watchduty.org/> and or <https://www.nevadacountyca.gov/3453/Ready-Nevada-County> for county recommendations.

Our Newest Art Exhibit

The Arts and Aesthetics Team is pleased to be featuring the art work of Shauna Smith in the latest exhibit in our library through June 15.

Introducing Shauna Smith

Featured artist at our UUCM Library Art Gallery until August 15, 2024



My husband Ray and I are new to the Unitarian Universalist community here in Grass Valley and are just beginning to know a few people. We would love to meet you!

I am a mom and a grandma and have been a licensed marriage, family and child therapist for over forty years. I'm the author of *Making Peace With Your Adult Children* (HarperCollins), *Missing Father* and many articles, stories, poems, and a lullaby.



Like many children, making art and writing poems were ways to survive a difficult world, and the arts have continued to sustain me throughout the years. I will work in any medium available in the moment - pastels, oil, watercolor, silk, batik, clay, monoprints, collage, photography and even a mural. Most of my pieces were

created because I fell in love with wildlife or a scene, was inspired to do portraits, mostly of loved ones, or because I needed to create a political/social statement.

I will have several magnets of my artwork for sale - all proceeds to go to UUCM.

My formal reception will be on June 16, after the service, but you are welcome to check it out any time.

-- Shauna Smith



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

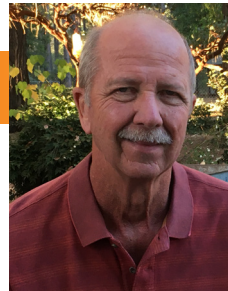
Are You Facing a Life Challenge?

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

Rattlesnake Summer

by Jenny Dewey

Babe was my horse when I was a kid, my long-legged strawberry roan. On summer days we rode through spindly stands of willow and tamarisk along the banks of the Rio Grande.

Puddles of quicksand formed along the edges of the river. Babe knew to walk around them. We found shade under a withered cottonwood, the same tree where I once saw a great horned owl.

August is the hottest month in the summer in New Mexico. The river runs sluggish and brown. I'd dismount and leave Babe munching dry grass in willows so I could look for jackrabbit tracks.

The warning buzz and the snake's strike happened in the same instant.

The snake struck me on my ankle.

Horses are afraid of snakes, but Babe wasn't.

The snake was near enough for Babe to hear the rattle, but she stayed where I'd left her, reins dropped, head down, her hide twitching with horse-fly bites. I climbed up on Babe's back, venom pulsing up my leg. I was certain I'd die before getting to the ranch, five miles away.

Town and the hospital were even farther away. In the hospital the doctor said, "How did you do a fool thing like this?" and then I passed out.

I was the heroine of the neighborhood that August: the kid who got bit by a rattler and came out okay.

Kids brought me Fudgesicles and bottles of cold 7-UP and sat on the grass around my lawn chair.

"Show me your scar. Do you have a scar?"

"How come you didn't die of gangrene?"

"What happens right after? Did you throw up?"

In early September I'd recovered enough to go to school. Our fourth-grade teacher was impressed by my story; she said she was terrified of snakes. She assigned the class to research pit vipers and write reports.

I wrote about rattlesnake myths along with what's true about them. Words from my report:

The Navaho People believe the spirit of a mean person is lodged in the body of a rattlesnake.

Drinking a glass of venom is as harmless as swallowing orange juice or water unless you have a mouth sore or an ulcer.

In the United States more people die from lightning strikes than venomous snakes.

In Texas there is a saying: A good rattlesnake is a dead one.

A folktale says how a rattlesnake bit a wagon tongue. The tongue swelled so badly the driver had to chop it off to save his wagon.

The Yurok Indians once believed an eclipse was caused when a rattlesnake swallowed the sun.

Rattlesnake enemies are humans, hawks, eagles, pigs, weasels, kingsnakes, roadrunners and great horned owls.

I've decided one rattlesnake strike in one lifetime was probably all I'll ever have.



Illustration by Jenny Dewey

We the People Choose Democracy

GETTING VOTERS TO THE POLLS WINS ELECTIONS – PLAIN AND SIMPLE.

Our get-out-the-postcard campaign through Reclaim Our Vote (ROV) is doing just that! UUCM postcard writers have sent over 7,000 postcards to voters of color experiencing voter suppression in Georgia and Virginia.

Don't forget to put up a colored dot on the Tally Jar poster in the UUCM Lobby for each packet you have written (or ask Gail JV to do it for you).

WHAT'S NEXT?

NORTH CAROLINA "PLEDGE TO VOTE AND DO MORE" CAMPAIGN:

We are heading into North Carolina for ROV's "Pledge to Vote and Do More" campaign. 1.5 million Registered Black voters in N.C. will be contacted twice this year.

- Once with our **Pledge to Vote** postcards (where voters will be given information on registration, how to find info about candidates, and ways to spread the word about the importance of voting).
- And then again with our **Get Out the Vote** campaign.

The postcard packets include a flier to explain the rationale and success of our **Pledge to Vote** campaigns. Extras are on the postcard table as well.

The script is short and easy to write! This script and strategy were originally written and deployed in 2020, by the Reverend Dr. T. Anthony Spearman in partnership with the **Reclaim Our Vote** (ROV) campaign.

This year, several groups in N.C. approached our ROV director to bring it back. So, the N.C. campaign is the result of a growing collaboration with the new NC Team Unity, a coalition of N.C. Black activist and faith groups, to help them organize and empower their own voters, in this pivotal campaign for November and beyond. This is how it works:

The script asks N.C. voters to pledge to vote, and recruit five others to do the same. Pledging at the link brings voters into Team Unity's online support network, for

- follow up on navigating the dangers of voter suppression.
- encouragement to vote early in person (where you can update/fix your registration and vote, even if you've been purged!).
- tips on absentee voting, safe and legal voting.
- assistance with rides to the polls.

Voters will naturally want to invite friends and family to pledge and benefit as well! This campaign brilliantly transforms voters into activists and organizers. A single postcard can touch an untold number of people. MoveOn has cited studies indicating that this social technique of being asked to vote by people you know (called "Vote Tripling") is far more effective than being asked to vote by strangers.

SO HERE WE GO UUCM!

If you are a Postcard Club member, North Carolina packets with your name will be on the postcard table by June 2. There will also be a box of single packets for those who prefer not to commit to a packet or more each month. Club members are also welcome to take additional unassigned single packets after you finish the ones with your names on them.

HOW WE PAY FOR THE STAMPS, CARDS ETC.

When we reach our goal of 18,000 postcards we will have spent \$9,540 on stamps alone! That's why we ask for your help by reimbursing us when you can @\$10/packet. (Our actual cost is \$11.25/packet. Three cheers for those who are able to write (and write and write!) and cover their own costs.

Those not able to cover the cost, your packets can be scholarshiped by others. I am blown away by the prolific "Writer-Only" folks. And I am also so very deeply grateful to those of you who are underwriting those costs for those who can't. I'm holding my breath that enough "Funder-Only" folks will contribute. All contributions small and large and in between will get us there.

WAYS TO COVER COSTS OF POSTCARD PACKETS:

Online: Go 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.

Donation Jar: Write your name on one of the small envelopes by the jar. Put cash or check to UUCM in the envelope, put the envelope in the jar.

Thank you all for helping UUCM make a real difference to save our democracy!

Bending the Arc Task Force

IS THE IDI FOR YOU?

So many of us are working hard to build our intercultural competence. Curious about how you are doing with that? The Bending the Arc task force is working to bring the highly touted Intercultural Development Inventory (IDI) to any UUCM member interested in taking this confidential assessment survey.

THE IDI:

- assesses one's intercultural competence – the capability to shift cultural perspective and appropriately adapt behavior to cultural difference and commonalities.
- helps individuals grow their intercultural competency through targeted learning.
- provides individual respondents a personalized Intercultural Development Plan (IDP) which outlines a clear roadmap of appropriate activities to increase intercultural competence.

The IDI has been used with much success by other UU congregations as a foundational step toward building a multicultural congregation. That's important given that multiculturalism is embedded in our values.

For example, the proposed changes to the UUA bylaws describe our shared value of justice as follows: "We work to be diverse multicultural Beloved Communities where all thrive. We covenant to dismantle racism in all forms of systemic oppression."

Mistakes and Miracles, Congregations on the Road to Multiculturalism by Nancy Palmer Jones and Karen Lin tells a story that made me smile. Dan, a member of the UU church in Tulsa, Oklahoma, took the IDI and discovered he was what he called in the "self-congratulatory phase." His reaction was "like a shot in the heart, like 'Whoa!...I didn't want to stay there. Even in the process of sitting with Tamara [the Administrator of the IDI] and going through it, things started to open up."

The IDI is an excellent starting point for multicultural work because the focus is on the individual. UUCM members decide whether they wish to take the assessment, as no one is forced to do so. The survey is administered by a Qualified Administrator (QA). Results of the assessment are confidential and are only shared with the Administrator. The Administrator will support further actions that the member can take to improve their intercultural competence.

The total cost to receive training to become the QA is \$1,950. A member of UUCM has already expressed interest in completing the training to become the QA and has offered to pay a portion of the training cost. Funding for the remaining part of the QA training cost will be determined once the congregation's interest in this program has been assessed. If approved, the only cost to folks taking the assessment will be a \$23 fee to IDI to process the results (scholarships may be available to offset the processing fee).

If you are interested in taking part in IDI or have further questions please do not hesitate to contact BTA members Keith Johnson, Gail Johnson Vaughn, Lindsay Dunckel, Jim Perkins, or Tracy Pepper. More information about the IDI is available at <https://www.idiinventory.com/>.

1,000 Sticky Dots

By Bob Miller



- The Justice Team is using a new method to select the partners for Share the Plate for the year starting July 1.
- Previously the partners were selected by the Justice Team. In the new approach, members of the congregation will have the opportunity to vote for their preference. After the service on May 26, June 2, and June 7, there will be a poster listing the candidate organizations at the front of the sanctuary. These organizations are those we have supported recently, and an additional one nominated by a member.
- You will be given ten sticky dots to place against the partners of your choice. Another poster will explain the process in more detail and list a set of categories. The Justice Team will ensure that only two partners are selected from each category.
- We hope that this process will encourage participation. We will see!

REMINDER ABOUT SHARE THE PLATE COLLECTION CHANGES FROM THE BOARD

In addition to the selection process change, your Board of Trustees has been considering how to update and simplify collecting donations for this program. Last fall we circulated a proposed change to our Share the Plate policy, and after review and consideration of the pros and cons brought up since then, we have decided to make changes effective July 1, 2024.

WHAT WILL CHANGE:

BEGINNING JULY 1, WE WILL BE UPping OUR PARTNER'S PORTION OF SHARE THE PLATE TO 50%.

As of that date, the white envelope is eliminated, and we will also eliminate the option to designate contributions through the website as 100% to the monthly partner. The partner's website will be publicized so that you can conveniently make additional contributions directly to the partner.

The Board of Trustees will review this after six months and may readjust.

WHY ARE WE DOING THIS?

Connection. The Board believes that it is important for those in our community who have a major commitment to one or another of our Share the Plate partners to establish a direct

Justice News

contributory relationship with that partner, and not obscure their support of the partner by directing their contribution through UUCM.

Fairness. Share the Plate is intended to be actually shared! It is our Sunday plate, and it is intended to be split between UUCM and the partner, not one sided.

Administrative efficiency and fiscal integrity.

It is a challenge and a considerable amount of administrative work trying to make certain that all the monthly contributions intended for a partner from multiple sources (white envelope, website) arrive at that specific partner. Further, the "white envelope" and targeted donations are increasingly discouraged in congregations because it may create a fiduciary obligation on the church's part to that partner for those specified donations.

HOW WILL THIS AFFECT OUR OVERALL SHARING PERCENTAGE?

Last fiscal year, of all the money contributed either through Share the Plate or the white envelope, the partners received 46%. If we each contribute the same total amount to our Sunday donations, the Share the Plate recipients should receive about the same amount as under the current system. The reason we are going to review after 6 months is to evaluate the actual impact of the change on our Share the Plate program overall.

Should you have any questions, please email your treasurer at treasurer@uugrassvalley.org or reach out to another member of the Board.

Hospitality House

Hospitality House Contributions

UUCM is supporting Hospitality House by collecting donations of needed items for their guests. Utah Phillips, the founder of Hospitality House, was a member of UUCM, and UUCM has supported the shelter, named in his honor, since its inception as a nomadic shelter.

The project is on-going each month of the year, and requests are updated monthly based on the current need. Please bring your donations on the **last Sunday of the month** when a collection box will be in the foyer of the church.

Hospitality House is in urgent need of these items ONLY:

- Twin-sized (only) sheets and blankets
- Women's Bras and Underwear (S M L)
- Q Tips
- Men's & Women's Sneakers - any size

*Warm thanks for your gifts,
Laurie Bell, Keith Johnson, Carol Nimick*

Share the Plate

UUCM's April *Share the Plate* recipient, [Citizens for Choice](#), will receive \$1268.31, 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 May *Share the Plate* recipient, [KARE Crisis Nursery](#)



Our June *Share the Plate* recipient Our June Share the Plate recipient is [Nevada County Veterinary Disaster Response Team](#). NCVDRT is a 501(c)(3) volunteer organization. NCVDRT does not charge any fee for its services during an evacuation event. Their mission statement includes:

- assisting in the safe and prompt evacuation of domestic and farm animals in a disaster area.
- allowing human refugees a comfortable stay at an evacuation center by providing a safe shelter for their pets.
- providing a clean shelter, proper feed, and routine care to as many affected animals as possible.

For the full mission statement and details, please visit <http://www.nevcoanimalevac.org/>.

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



Community Connections – Online & In Person

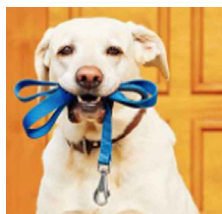
WEEKLY @ UUCM

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 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

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

Our next meeting is **Monday, June 10, at UUCM**. We'll be starting off with our usual potluck dinner, and then Cheryl will lead a playful exercise that is another approach to identifying different personal styles. Unlike the enneagram, this is non-verbal and simple. As with Kevin's use of the enneagram, it's not intended to pigeonhole people but to help us understand ourselves and others better. And have some fun. 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 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, June 5 at 10:45 AM** at UUCM will be "archetypes."

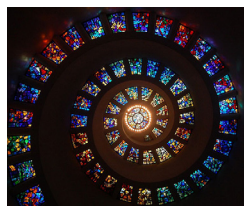
Topics for group discussion are chosen by participants and optional readings on the topics are made available prior to the meeting. When health precautions allow, we meet in person at UUCM. If you would like to participate via Zoom, request the link by emailing Humanism@uugrassvalley.org

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



UUCM ADOPT-A-ROAD SUNDAY, JUNE 9 FOLLOWING THE SERVICE AT NOON

For those interested in participating in the another litter pick-up along UUCM's Ridge Road Adopt-A-Road section, please meet after service at noon out front of the church. We'll carpool to Ridge Road. Collection bags, safety vest and litter picker-sticks provided. Please wear appropriate footwear and clothing, and bring water. Thanks for joining in.



SPIRITUALITY SHARING CIRCLE FOURTH SATURDAYS, 2:00 - 3:30 PM, ONSITE AND VIA ZOOM

The Spirituality Sharing Circle will meet on **Saturday, June 22, from 2:00-3:30 PM**. 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: Please email: Spirituality@uugrassvalley.org

Community Connections – Online & In Person



Arts & Crafts Fair

Saturday, June 8, 2024
10 am to 2 pm

Unitarian Universalist
Community of the Mountains

246 South Church Street
Grass Valley, CA 95945

- Original Art
- Vintage Collectible Art
- Handmade Crafts
- Book Sale
- Bake Sale

with New Books by Local Authors!

www.uugrassvalley.org/



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.

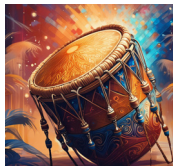
UUCM members are invited to register to attend GA at www.uua.org/ga

Summer Drum Circle with Claire Leve

THIRD THURSDAYS, OFFSITE

Claire Leve invites you all to her home for an outdoor drum circle on the third Thursday of the month. The next circle will be **Thursday, June 20, 5:30-7:00 PM**, with a potluck to follow. Bring a drum, a camp chair, and a dish to share... or just bring yourself!

RSVP to Claire at Drums@uugrassvalley.org



UUCM Family Campout- 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 our website.

Offering many ways to serve the life of the community.

FamilyMinistry@uugrassvalley.org

Slowing Down for Summer at UUCM

By Cheryl Spaulding,

I love the fact that our church year is like a school year—starting up fresh in September each year and slowing down in June. For me, it is a pattern that brings with it the comfort of familiarity, and more importantly, the opportunity for renewal that is built into this pattern. Even though the activities at this church, and by extension the activities in our Kids’ Connection program, do not shut down over the summer months, they do slow down and give time for reflection and reorganization and renewal. Happily, we are fast approaching this time of renewal. My favorite part of this renewal period is that it leads us to a fresh start, a time to make changes in our routines, an opportunity to try some things that are brand new and untested. Renewal is taking time to pull back a bit so that the next steps can be bigger, bolder, and brighter than what came before.

Family Ministry is already looking forward to this fresh start, this opportunity for renewal, that will be upon us in the fall of 2024. We are in the earliest phases of planning an Open House for our Kids’ Connection program. All children who have been associated with Kids’ Connection over the past year and their grown-ups are invited. In addition, the UUCM members who have served so graciously as our assistant teachers each week are invited. Lunch will be prepared and served courtesy of the individuals who make up the Soul Matters Circle led by Carol Richey. (They have taken on support for our Open House as their Soul Matters Circle service project.)

Here is the most pertinent information for YOU to get on your calendars—PLEASE SAVE THE DATE!!

Kids’ Connection Open House

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 15, 2024, NOON-1:30 PM

UPSTAIRS IN THE KIDS’ CONNECTION ROOMS.

To everyone in our UUCM family, if you know of a family with young children (approximately ages 2 - 11), who might be interested in knowing more about our Kids’ Connection Sunday program for young children, please feel free to invite them to church on that Sunday and to our Open House upstairs afterward. We are hoping to increase our visibility in the community, and you might help us immeasurably with that effort.

May you find time for a refreshing renewal over the coming summer season. Kids’ Connection will continue to be provided each Sunday. We look forward to seeing you and spending time with your amazing children.

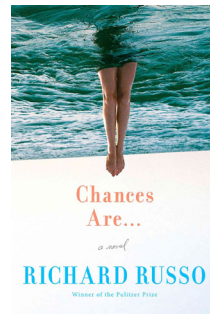


2nd Sunday Book Group

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.)



June 9, 2024 - *Chances Are*
 by Richard Russo, 320 pages

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

.....
[Sunday Book Group Zoom](#)

Meeting ID: 927 1111 8322 Passcode: 472984

.....





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*