

# the Mountain Chalice



Unitarian Universalist Community of the Mountains

July 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 13 for Kid-Centered Activities ...

**July 7**      **The Jewel in the Heart of the Lotus**  
 Cheryl Morris, Worship Associate,  
 with Adam Stonebraker

*Our Unitarian Universalist tradition draws from many sources, and Buddhism is an important one. We are honored to have Adam Stonebraker, the new guiding teacher at Mt. Stream Meditation in Nevada City, here to help us discover commonalities and differences between the two traditions and experience some practices that embody the heart of Buddhist teachings. Adam has an impressive background, and we welcome him to Nevada County and to UUCM for this special service.*

**July 14**      **The Wizard of Oughts – A.I. Meets H.I.**  
 Randy McKean, Worship Associate,  
 with the Humanist Discussion Group

*The seeming ubiquity of ChatGPT and other “smart” computer programs in our daily lives has Worship Associate Randy McKean wondering are we really at the Dawn of a Computer Apocalypse? Will Artificial Intelligence soon be in charge, or are we humans still running the show? Randy has recruited UUCM’s Humanism Discussion Group—they who ask “What’s worth talking about? How do we decide What? What makes it worth talking about?”—to bring their human- and nature-centered perspectives to this morning’s service and help us look at What’s behind the curtain.*

**July 21**      **Bring Your (Gods) to Church Today**  
 Sophia McKean, Worship Associate

*In Unitarian Universalism, “God” can be a tricky word. Not all of us believe in God, and those of us that do have many different*

*visions of the concept. In a pluralistic religion, we sometimes try to “address” this difference by avoiding the topic altogether. Alternatively, this Sunday is an invitation for us to talk about God(s) and our various relationships to Her/Him/Them/etc., while still leaving room for all our various (dis)beliefs.*

**July 28**      **We the People**  
 Rev. Kevin Tarsa  
 and Lindsay Dunckel, Worship Associate

*Join in charging and blessing the incoming Board of Trustees as we reflect on how we, together, make up this place called UUCM – we imagine it, we create it each day, we hold it to pass on to those who come after us. It is a whole greater than the sum of its parts; as adrienne maree brown says, “trust the people to do everything better than you could have imagined.”*

## ▶ INSIDE THIS ISSUE ◀

Item	Page
Upcoming Services.....	1
From the Minister.....	2
Board of Trustees.....	3
Words from the Worship Team.....	4
Joys & Sorrows Contemplative Service.....	4
Endowment Committee.....	4
Membership Team.....	5
Parish & Lay Pastoral Care Teams.....	6
Building & Grounds Team.....	6
Feature: Profile of Laura Harter.....	7
Justice News and Activities.....	8-9
Community Connections.....	10-11
Second Sunday Book Group.....	11-12
UUCM Family Ministry.....	13
UUCM Contact Info and Office Hours.....	14



Rev. Kevin Tarsa  
UUCM Minister

## From the Minister

I write just as the annual General Assembly (GA) of the Unitarian Universalist Association ends for this year. As you likely know by now, the changes to Article II – the new articulation of six deep UU values centered in love – were adopted by votes of the delegates – 80.2% voting in favor, 19.8% voting not to adopt the changes. So, we UUs will get to keep exploring what those values mean and what they ask of us. (The only amendment adopted altered the phrasing of the Equity value without altering its substance.)

The majority of UUCM members who participated in this congregation’s own pre-GA vote also supported the adoption of the Article II changes, but as with UUs writ large, there were strong feelings among some against doing so. Objections expressed at GA ranged from objections to wording choices, to the perceived absence of beloved language or ideas from the long-standing expression of Seven UU Principles, to concern about singling out anti-Black racism, to feelings that the process had not been inclusive enough.

Feelings were also very strong, both pro and ‘concerned,’ around the proposed Action of Immediate Witness expressing solidarity with Palestinians, a resolution calling for the return of all Israeli hostages, and a resolution “Affirming Transgender, Nonbinary, Intersex and Gender Diverse People as a Fundamental Expression of UU Religious Values,” all ultimately adopted or affirmed by sizeable majorities.

I was taken with how many people expressed their stances regarding each of these in terms of feeling an “existential threat,” or in terms of wondering, with deep sadness, whether there is a place for them here in Unitarian Universalism after all. In parallel with and surely drawing upon our anxieties about the nation and world at large, many people evidenced an all-or-nothing fear, experiencing all the stakes as terribly high, and each decision and action of ultimate consequence and importance.

Session IV held some of the most challenging conversations,

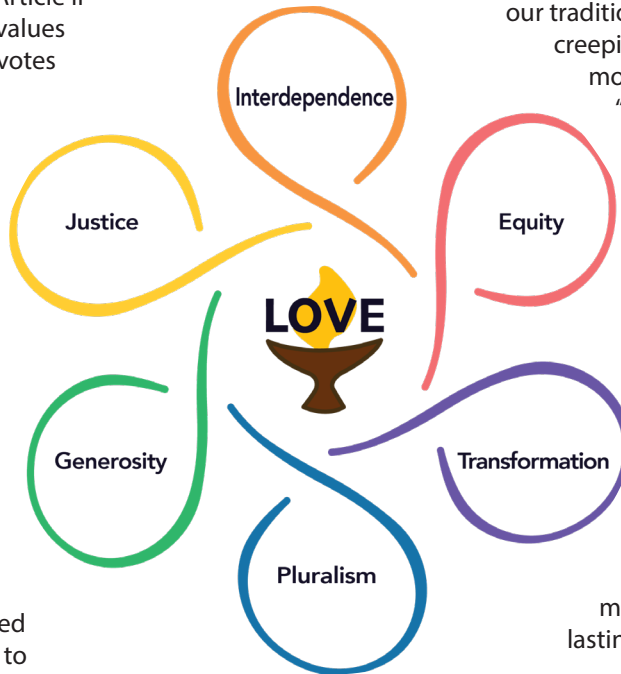
and early in that session, the wise Rev. Victoria Safford helped prepare us for any of the possible voting outcomes by offering a larger perspective, inviting us to keep asking ourselves what truly matters, and what doesn’t (I recommend it to you. Rev. Safford’s reflection begins exactly 31 minutes in.) I found her reference to the very early days of the now long-standing and beloved Seven Principles especially grounding. “Then, as now,” she explained, “people tore their hair, rent their garments, at GA lined up at microphones to decry the death of our tradition, the top-down imposition of a creeping creedalism that would destroy our movement. And here we are,” she added, “not yet destroyed. We can neither be brought down nor saved by any bylaw change. It’s the way we move [together] that matters.”

Oh, yes. Who knows what kinds of decisions we will be called to make together, what changes and realities we will need to move through, what courageous stances we will be inspired to express, and how many times we will feel an existential threat or wonder whether there is a place for us in our communities. It is the ways we move together that will be most important and make the most lasting difference.

I welcome the now-adopted changes in our expression of our UU values and inspirations, and, knowing that not everyone feels the same – about this and any number of things – I’ll be investing my energies and attention in how we move together. Come what may, that’s what will matter.

With care,

– Rev. Kevin



### MINISTER'S OFFICE HOURS

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

**He will be on vacation (and unavailable)**

**July 8 - 23, 2024**



Email [Admin@uugrassvalley.org](mailto: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](mailto:President@uugrassvalley.org)

Nostradamus has nothing to worry about from me. I thought I had written my final President's column years ago. Seems not. Like many of you at the recent congregational business meeting, I was moved by the reports given by Rev. Kevin and Acting President Pam Kisor. I was particularly moved by the plea and invitation to join in the effort to advance our spiritual community into an increasingly challenging future.

My last term as Board President ended shortly before the horrors of COVID. At that time, we were moving forward with the implementation of a new governance model that promised to open doors for more participation and opportunities for greater creativity arising from the ground up. Sadly, events far beyond anyone's control ground those aspirations to dust in a matter of weeks. Suddenly, instead of embracing a robust future, we were faced with the challenges of simply surviving. Rev. Kevin, the Board, along with the teams and committees stepped up and virtually overnight reinvented a path through the pandemic minefield, emerging into an alien landscape.

Our congregational meeting revealed the degree to which COVID still dominates our lives. Much of the energy and optimism that had driven us forward has necessarily been redirected away from the tasks that we had embraced with such enthusiasm towards the reality of survival as individuals and as members of a spiritual community.

We have survived, yet scars linger from the time lost to the virus. Since COVID, I have had two complete shoulder replacements. Friends have also faced new body parts and the manifestations of time and use on old ones. Although the desire to serve and to participate in congregational life remains, the nature of that service may reflect an inevitable shift in capacity.

But this is not a tale of woe. Unitarian Universalists are notoriously forward-thinking. Our little ship has been battered but we have weathered the storm, repaired our sails, and are charting our future course as we speak. New members have joined and are eager to get involved. I understand the reluctance of new members to throw themselves into full participation in congregational life until they feel more settled in, but don't let that stop you. Now is a wonderful time to enter upon what may well be the most enjoyable and satisfying phase of your lives.

I listened to Rev. Kevin and Pam describing what lies ahead and their pleas for members to get involved with something akin to guilt. Among the laundry list of needs they described: the Board needed a new President. Gail Schulz's plans to pick up the scepter were sidetracked by the need to repair one of those body parts I mentioned earlier. Pam, although willing to serve in an acting capacity for a short period, had earned the right and was more than willing to step away for a much-deserved respite.

I wasn't particularly busy, and I know the job. I know that it's not easy, especially because I know that I enter upon it this time pre-eclipsed by Pam's awesome service. So, here I am, writing my *first* President's column as a newly minted retreat. The coming year should be interesting, elucidating, and fun. Please join Rev. Kevin, the Board of Trustees, the committees and teams to open our spiritual home and our loving message to the greater community. Throw yourselves into things with all the abandon your Enneagram encourages.

*-Taylor*

## UUCM BOARD OF TRUSTEES

**JULY 2024 - JUNE 2025**

Taylor Carey	<i>President</i>
Pam Kisor	<i>Vice President</i>
Gail Schulz	<i>Treasurer</i>
Open Position	<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.*



## Words from the Worship Team



Cheryl Morris and Carol Nimick  
Worship Team Co-Leaders  
[Worship@uugrassvalley.org](mailto:Worship@uugrassvalley.org)

July already! How is it possible? Weren't we just working on December holiday services?

So it goes for members of the Worship Team. The months of July and August, with Soul Matters on hiatus, provide ample opportunities to exercise our creativity, though there is also a certain level of anxiety because of the absence of a monthly theme and supporting resources.

But we are up to the challenge, hard at work, and hope you will enjoy the variety of topics and speakers that will be featured this summer. You will be meeting a Buddhist teacher and a Black author of a new novel about Fredrick Douglass, as well as hearing from some of your fellow congregants in our always-popular Tapestry services. Humanists will have their day as well.

We like to involve as many people as possible in the Sunday services, so if you are asked to be part of one as a reader or musician, we hope you'll say yes. Or speak up and let us know you'd like to take part!

Here's to a happy, healthy, and satisfying summer for all.

- Cheryl & Carol

## Monthly Evening Service

### Join Us for an Evening Joys & Sorrows Contemplative Service

Mark your calendar for this month's service on July 11, from 7:00 to 8:00 PM.

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



## Endowment

Kathryn Young  
Endowment Committee  
[Endowment@uugrassvalley.org](mailto:Endowment@uugrassvalley.org)

The Endowment also encourages members and friends to make Legacy Gifts that can help sustain UUCM as a vital force for liberal religion for generations to come. There are many ways, some very simple, to set these gifts up.

Please contact us with your questions at:  
[Endowment@uugrassvalley.org](mailto:Endowment@uugrassvalley.org)

## Simple Gifts Thank You

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 "birthday gift"... and now she's 97!

**Thank you to Charlene Dugan and Alec MacLean who celebrated their 43rd Wedding Anniversary by giving a generous Simple Gift of \$10 per year 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.



# Membership Team

Laura Harter  
Leader, Membership Team  
[membership@uugrassvalley.org](mailto:membership@uugrassvalley.org)

## Change is in the Air

Several Membership Team members are retiring at the end of June after many years of fostering connection at UUCM. These special community builders and fun time advocates are stepping back:

- **Beth Rose** (Sunday Hospitality Coordinator for two years!),
- **Kate Canan** (UU101 and Starting Point Coordinator for several years),
- **Theresa Houtman** (Historian and Circle Suppers since forever)
- **Shannon Dooley-Miller** (Party Woman Extraordinaire also since the beginning of time).

You will continue to find these wonderful women actively organizing excursions and supporting UUCM activities. I am so grateful for their leadership and guidance over the past two years. I hope you will find time to reach out to them and offer your appreciation for their dedication.

Four of us are excited to continue and help newcomers and members connect, explore, and understand UU and UUCM. To this end, we have established a "UUCM INFO Wall." While this may seem a bit impersonal, no worries, our team will continue to offer ways to connect through small groups, one-on-one introductions, and warm welcomes.

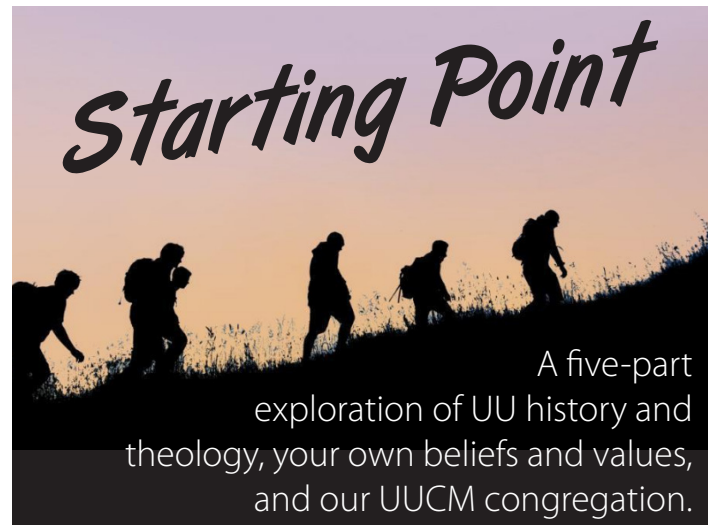
The idea for an info wall has been a long time coming – it was requested and suggested two years ago! The "Wall" is a bulletin board in the "Couch Room" next to the kitchen. It's a place to explore what makes UUCM tick and how you can help.

We hope you will enjoy looking it over and will discover something new as Ministry Teams, Board Committees, and work groups post their purpose and ways to become involved. Perhaps it will help you understand the differences between teams, committees, work groups, task forces, and clarify the complex roles of the Minister, Board, Ministry Council, and members. Maybe it will help you discover a way to joyfully engage and renew.

As always, please reach out to any of the Membership Team members for more information or if you have an idea or suggestion for enhancing connection at UUCM:

- Laura Harter (Membership Chair and Welcome Team Coordinator),
- Ruth Edwards (Historian and Coordinator for UU101 and Starting Point),
- Laurie Bell (Circle Suppers Coordinator),
- Susan Merrill (Member Guide Program Coordinator).

Email Laura at [membership@uugrassvalley.org](mailto:membership@uugrassvalley.org) with questions or suggestions.



## 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](mailto:startingpoint@uugrassvalley.org).



## Parish Care

Gwen Eymann  
Leader, UUCM Parish Care Team  
[Caring@uugrassvalley.org](mailto: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](mailto:Caring@uugrassvalley.org)



### PARISH CARE TEAM MEMBERS:

Gwen Eymann, *chair*,  
Jenny Dewey, Robin Hart, Carol Hyndman,  
Anne Lyon, Cheryl Morris



## Lay Pastoral Care Team

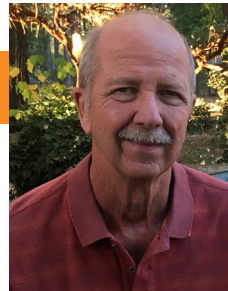
### Are You Facing a Life Challenge?

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, Sue Gregory, Carol Richey, Corrie Silva, and Tom Wernigg, or you can email the whole team: [LayPastoralCare@uugrassvalley.org](mailto:LayPastoralCare@uugrassvalley.org)



## B & G Team

Wally Holtan, Leader,  
Building & Grounds Team  
[B-G@uugrassvalley.org](mailto: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*

## Right Brain, Left Brain

A Profile of Laura Harter by Jenny Dewey

Walk through the doors of the UUCM building on a Sunday morning. Two or three greeters will meet you. They wear yellow ribbons to distinguish themselves from others socializing in the foyer. You are met with smiles and encouraged to feel welcome, to feel comfortable. One of these smiling people is Laura Harter. In fact, Laura coordinates the scheduling of the greeters to make sure there are smiling welcomers on duty any given Sunday.

This describes just one of Laura's several volunteer activities. She is also Chair of the Membership Team and has just finished working on the Safety Task Force and the Stewarding Guidance Group. She also holds a once-a-month pot-luck lunch where everyone is welcome. Laura's organizational skills are certainly evident.

Less evident is the artistic side of her nature. Laura was once committed to following her drive to paint and explore graphic design but decided that it led to more of a "starving artist" lifestyle than was good for her. I can attest that she attends the drawing sessions at UUCM and draws beautifully. I know she paints as well. She is an example of a person with a strong executive side merged with an artist's sensibility.

This is an unusual blend of skills. The organizational brain is understood to be factual, and reality-based. The artistic brain is understood to be driven by emotion and perhaps a tendency to ignore reality in favor of artistic expression.

Laura describes herself as seeking ways to be a "wholistic" person. "Balance is important to me," she says. "I like the big picture and I like details." Writing is especially significant to Laura at this time. Participating in the writing sessions at UUCM gives her a "sense of community and connection."

(It is not by chance the writing sessions are named: Writing Connection.)

Laura uses her writing to find her voice and document something of her family's history, through stored letters, journals, photographs, and genealogy sleuthing her parents and grandparents stored in boxes. She wishes to write a family history based on this material. She describes it as a "daunting task," one she started to help her sister, who stores the family memorabilia. Both Laura and her sister want to understand their roots, honor their parents and grandparents, and provide something insightful for the next generation.

She visits her sister regularly in San Diego to go through the material and sort out real and imagined family dynamics - in written form. Her words create images of laughing, loving, generous family gatherings. The words also describe some of the inevitable dysfunction and grief. She navigates preserving family history and expressing personal feelings and points of view so she can tell a meaningful story. Laura hopes to create a useful and interesting family portrait for her children, nieces, and nephews.

It is easy enough to describe a starving artist slaving away trying to make real unreal dreams. Harder to describe the same person as someone who thrives in a world where

organization is a number one priority. If you ask Laura how she reconciles this she says her family culture was very focused on analyzing and solving problems. As the youngest of five she escaped what seemed to be long, tedious discussions by observing the natural world and beauty. As a teenager, "Art museums were my church and painting and photography were a spiritual practice before I knew what spiritual practice was. She says "Somehow I landed on my feet with my head in the clouds."

Pick Laura Harter as your "go-to person" and you'll have all your bases covered.



*Laura Harter enjoying nature on a hike.*

## Postcard Campaign Update

By Gail Johnson Vaughan

### UUCM ROCKS!

We've sent postcards to 9,500 voters experiencing voter suppression in just four months and I'm not surprised. So many have helped - writers, funders, organizers, moral supporters, cheer leaders. We are an amazing team.

### FLORIDA IS NEXT

We are part of the Reclaim Our Vote team writing to 969,000 Black WOMEN in Florida! Every woman in Florida should have a say in reproductive rights! Packets will be available June 30.

This is the first of our Get-Out-The-Vote campaigns for the November general election. Reclaim Our Vote is starting early because they have a goal to reach 18-million voters of color before November. UUCM is an important part of achieving that goal.

That means the Florida postcards will be **WRITE AND HOLD**. You can write them anytime but please **HOLD THEM UNTIL OCTOBER 1** for mailing. Postcard Club members will write a minimum of 20 postcards a month, some many, many more. Single packet writers are encouraged to write as many as you are willing and able. So, write away and stash your completed postcards in a safe place. We will send out reminders in late September about the mailing dates.

### STAMP PRICE INCREASE

The prices for postcard stamps are going up yet again on July 14, so I am going to stock up before then. Joining the Postcard Club allows me to know how many to buy at the current price. In Phase 1 of the Club (March – July) club members committed to at least one packet per month. So far we have bought 10,000 stamps at a cost of \$5,300 paid for by writers and donors. Now I need to know how many to buy for Phase 2 (August – October).

### SIGN UP NOW FOR POSTCARD CLUB PHASE 2

Postcarding for the November election will make a critical difference in the outcomes of crucial races. Current Club members and others willing to do at least one packet of 20 postcards – please go to <https://www.uugrassvalley.org/gotv-postcards/> now so I will know how many stamps to buy.

## DISINFORMATION

In case you're hearing NOISE about voting trends among Black Voters, please take a look at this [Pew Research article](#). Reclaim Our Vote has received a couple of questions about this topic. But the strategy for getting Black voters to the polls is not only still totally sound but it is more critical than ever given the REAL voting patterns for Black voters and the importance of this presidential election. The constant spew coming from diabolical news outlets is just another way to get people to stay home. It's affecting funding for our work. Stay focused on those whom you trust and the people on the ground. Remember that we are reaching people who are rarely contacted at all or included in the polling numbers that you read. Developing a habit of voting within this population can change election outcomes in our target states and nationwide. Thank you for the tremendous work you have done and all the efforts you will be applying to the 2024 election cycle. You are heroes!

## Bending the Arc Task Force

By Jim Perkins, BTATF Member



### POLL WORKERS NEEDED

The Bending the Arc Task Force is looking to recruit some UUCM members to work at the polls for the upcoming presidential election. Poll workers ensure that the election is conducted fairly and honestly.

This will also support our postcard Get Out the Vote campaign and help us secure another Good Trouble Congregation citation.

The job involves working four full days, up to and including Election Tuesday. Training is provided. And it pays pretty well!

For more information and to sign up, visit the Elections Office on the second floor of the Rood Center.

Rood Center  
Elections Office  
950 Maidu Avenue  
Nevada City, CA 95959

I have signed up and hope to be selected.



# Justice News

## Share the Plate

UUCM's May *Share the Plate* recipient, [KARE Crisis Nursery](#) will receive \$731.12, 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 June *Share the Plate* recipient, [Nevada County Veterinary Disaster Response Team](#).



Our July *Share the Plate* recipient is **Bright Futures for Youth**. [Bright Futures for Youth](#) is a community-focused nonprofit organization committed to addressing the ever-changing needs of Nevada County youth, from sixth-graders to those in their mid-twenties.

Created by the merger of The Friendship Club and NEO in summer 2020, **Bright Futures for Youth** has three programs to address the issues and help youth in numerous ways, from after-school programs and a drop-in Youth Center to ensuring access to services. Their focus areas are health and wellness, healthy relationships, goal setting, self-awareness, self-sufficiency, and community connectedness.

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

## Announcing the Share the Plate Partners for the Upcoming Year

*By Bob Miller*

The Justice Team met in mid-June to review the results of the "sticky dot voting" process. (You will recall that two partners are automatically included due to their ongoing relationship with UUCM. They are Interfaith Food Ministry and Hospitality House.)

The sticky dot process was needed to select ten more to give a year's worth of Share the Plate partners. The voting chose nine winners with three partners tying for 10th place. The justice team voted to select one of these.

Thank you for participating in this nomination and selection process. The final list of Partners for 2024-2025 is:

July	Bright Futures for Youth
August	Sierra Streams Institute
September	Habitat for Humanity
October	Bear Yuba Land Trust
November	Citizens for Choice
December	Hospitality House
January	Sierra Roots
February	Community Beyond Violence
March	Interfaith Food Ministry
April	Child Advocates
May	Kare Crisis Nursery
June	Color Me Human



## Hospitality House

### We Need Your 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*

# 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](mailto: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

8:00 AM, TUESDAYS AND THURSDAYS, OFFSITE

Email [Walking@uugrassvalley.org](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto:Men@uugrassvalley.org)

### SINGING MEDITATION CIRCLE

PAUSED FOR JULY (USUALLY FIRST THURSDAYS, 7:00 PM)

In honor of July 4th celebrations, we will **not** hold our monthly Singing Meditation Circle in July. We'll see you Thursday, August 1st for the next round of contemplative shared song.

Contact [SingingMeditation@uugrassvalley.org](mailto: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, July 8 at 6:00 PM, at UUCM**. After our potluck, Lin Jovanovich will be demonstrating how to make a chalice pendant. Since there isn't enough time for everyone to make one at the meeting, Lin will invite small groups to her home to make their own pendants on future dates. 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](mailto:Admin@uugrassvalley.org).



### HUMANISM DISCUSSION GROUP

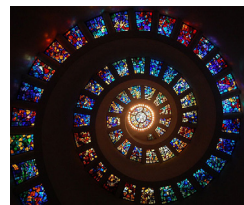
FIRST WEDNESDAY OF EACH MONTH AT 10:45 AM

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, July 3 at 10:45 AM** at UUCM will be "How do we decide what to talk about in our meetings, what's worth talking about and what makes it worth talking about?"

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](mailto:Humanism@uugrassvalley.org)

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



### SPIRITUALITY SHARING CIRCLE

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

#### DAILY DOSE OF WONDER?

Many of us know we need a daily dose of Vitamin C; the body requires it and can't store it. I've long suspected that hugs are similar; we need 'em daily. You can't collect a year's worth of hugs or Vitamin C in the first week of January and then be okay the rest of the year.

A few days ago, re-reading "After the Ecstasy, the Laundry" by Jack Kornfield, I stumbled across a reference to a daily dose of wonder!! Hmm... I'm thinking that's part of the antidote to dismal political news, dismaying climate change, heart-breaking family struggles, a sick tomato plant and all the rest.

A short visit from Wonder may offer respite and, well, work wonders!

Overwhelmed by the to-do list and (at times) a sense of personal powerlessness, our culture insists we should "just do it." Maybe that's not always our best strategy. Maybe a pause to allow Wonder, a moment to fully acknowledge the

*Continued on page 11...*

# Community Connections – Online & In Person

Continued from page 10...

exquisite clover in full bloom beside the crabgrass in our path, is essential to our well-being.

If there has been a shortage of Wonder in your world lately, consider stopping in at the Spirituality Sharing Circle in July. (Saturday July 27, 2:00-3:30 PM, at UUCM) It's a gathering with no real agenda except to notice what's stirring in our deep hearts and use words and silence together to offer it space.

We'll leave the latch string out and the dog tied up, hoping you'll join us.

Questions? Contact: [Spirituality@uugrassvalley.org](mailto:Spirituality@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.

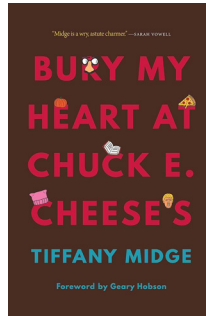


## 2nd Sunday Book Group

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

CONTACT: Theresa at [BookGroupInfo@uugrassvalley.org](mailto:BookGroupInfo@uugrassvalley.org)

Join the UUCM Second Sunday Book Group to discuss *Bury My Heart at Chuck E Cheese's*.... which was postponed from May when the presenter was sick.



Sunday, July 14  
*Bury My Heart at Chuck E. Cheese's*  
by Tiffany Midge,

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

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

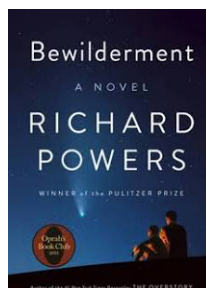
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## Wow! What a Great List of Books!

Our UUCM Book Group has chosen its selections for the next several months. The Book Group is always open to new members or those who have an interest in a particular book being read. Join us on the second Sunday (usually) of the month at 12:15 PM, in the Channing Room. You are welcome to bring your lunch or a snack. Zoom participation is usually available.

*Here are the Book Group selections for the next eight months:*



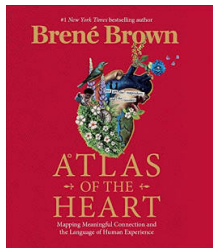
August 11, 2024:  
**Bewilderment** by Richard Powers  
Presenter: Jo Waters

The archeologist Theo Byrne searches for life throughout the cosmos while single-handedly raising his unusual nine-year-old Robin. Robin is a warm, kind boy who spends hours painting elaborate pictures of endangered animals.. He's also about to be expelled from third grade for smashing his friend in the face. As his son grows more troubled, Theo hopes to keep him off psychoactive

# Sunday Book Group

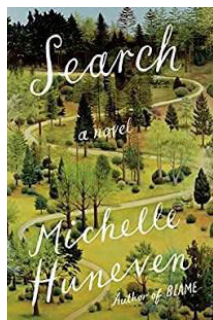
drugs. He learns of an experimental neurofeedback treatment to bolster Robin's emotional control, one that involves training the boy on the recorded patterns of his mother's brain.

With its soaring descriptions of the natural world, its tantalizing vision of life beyond, and its account of a father and son's ferocious love, *Bewilderment* marks Richard Power's most intimate and moving novel. At its heart lies the question, How can we tell our children the truth about this beautiful, imperiled planet?



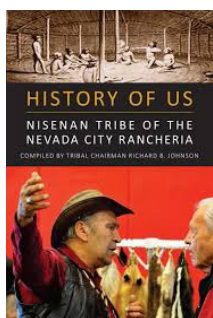
September 8, 2024:  
*Atlas of the Heart* by Brené Brown  
Presenter: Claire Leve

In *Atlas of the Heart*, we explore eighty-seven of the emotions and experiences that define what it means to be human and walk through a new framework for cultivating meaningful connection.



October 13, 2024:  
*Search* by Michelle Huneven  
Presenter: Susan Merrill

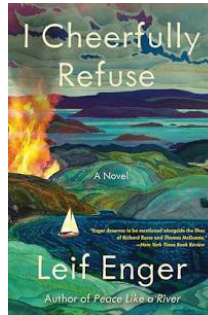
A sharp and funny novel of a congregational search committee, told as a fictionalized memoir by Dana Potowski. Dana is a restaurant critic and food writer and a longtime member of a progressive Unitarian Universalist congregation in Southern California. Under pressure to find her next book idea, she's asked to join the church search committee for a new minister and agrees, resolving to secretly pen a memoir, with recipes, about the experience. The memoir, *Search*, follows the travails of the committee and their candidates —and becomes its own media sensation.



November 10, 2024:  
*The History of Us: Nisenan Tribe of the Nevada City Rancheria* by Tribal Chair Richard B. Johnson  
Presenter: Cynthia Burton

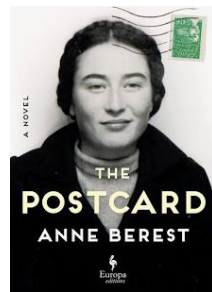
*The History of Us* is about what daily life was like for the local Nisenan for thousands of years until about 1850. It relies on past Research by scholars and interviews with living tribal members. Did you know nursing mothers chewed poison oak so their babies would have immunity?

Part two describes the changes after 1850 when gold was discovered and "this was the beginning of the great downfall of our Nisenan culture." Both parts, one happy and one tragic, can help us understand our neighbors, the Nisenan, who still live among us.



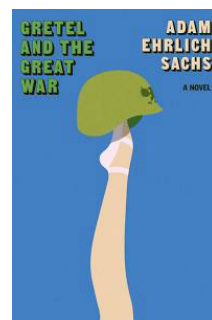
December 8, 2024:  
*I Cheerfully Refuse* by Leif Enger,  
Presenter: Cheryl Morris

This book is based on the myth of Orpheus, the musician who traveled to the underworld to rescue his wife, but it's set in an all-too-possible future. I chose to read this book because I love the author's way with words. Had I known it was "dystopian" I might have had second thoughts, so I am glad I didn't know. But it is so much more than that! Beautiful writing, yes, and also engaging characters, a bit of an adventure story, a poignant description of living with grief and a complete refusal to give in to despair. It strikes me as a rather UU book in its determination to see the world as it is while centering on love, connection, and hope, with the belief they will ultimately prevail.



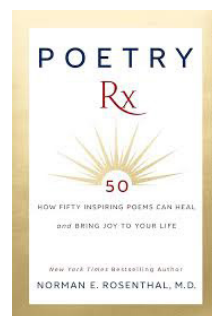
January 12, 2025:  
*The Postcard*, by Anne Berest  
Presenter: Keith Johnson

Who wrote the Postcard? That is the mystery embedded in this poignant, multigenerational story of the Holocaust and its survivors.



February 9, 2025:  
*Greta and The Great War* by Adan Ehrlich Sach  
Presenter: Theresa Houtman

A young girl wanders the streets of Vienna following the Great War. She does not speak. A neurologist concludes the girl has no exposure to language and writes her story for a medical journal but gets a letter from a sanitarium patient who says he is wrong. The writer is the young girl's father and sends along a collection of 26 bedtime stories to tell her of the times in Vienna.



March 9, 2025:  
*Poetry Rx* by Norman E. Rosenthal  
Presenter: Judith Gropp

This fascinating book explores the concept of poetry as a healing modality, coupled with poignant bio about 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.

## Reflection on the Lasting Effects of UU Religious Effects

By Cheryl Spaulding,

Recently, one of my four stepsons visited me. Over dinner he shared with me some of his vivid memories of growing up with his Unitarian father, my late husband. His father spent many years designing and teaching the Unitarian Sunday school classes attended by his four sons during the mid to late 1960s. This conversation with my stepson caused me to reflect on what the long-term outcomes of UU religious education experiences might be. Consequently, I have identified at least three distinct responses that might emerge from children's regular participation in UU religious education programs. Before I describe these three distinct responses, I want to go on record as saying all three seem to be perfectly appropriate, desirable, and consistent with our UU values.

### **The first response is the one represented by my four stepsons.**

They are all in their sixties now. Today, none of them identifies as Unitarian, and they never did after their time in their father's Unitarian Sunday school classes. (They were still operating under the Unitarian umbrella at the time of their religious education experiences.) Yet if you were to know them as I have known them for the last 44 years, you would recognize that they could not be any more Unitarian in terms of their values and the ways they choose to show up in the world. If the goal of a religious education program is to send people out into the world with the sensibilities and inclinations to make a difference, a Unitarian-inspired difference, then mission accomplished with these four boys, now aging men.

### **The second response is one represented by my**

**33-year-old daughter,** a child raised by the same Unitarian father of my aforementioned stepsons. He did not, however, teach her Sunday school classes at the UU fellowships and churches we attended. I did. Unlike my stepsons whose memories of their Unitarian father's Sunday school lessons are still vivid, neither my daughter, nor I, can recall the specific content of the lessons I taught in our UU Sunday school classes over the years. We recall some of the children in those classes, but not the specific UU content of those lessons. Interestingly, even though my daughter was on the receiving end of apparently uninspired religious education experiences at the hands of her mother, today she proudly identifies as UU. How did this happen? I credit the



decade in her life, ages 10 to 20, when we took her to the UU family camp in the Mendocino woodlands for a week each July. There she met and bonded with UUs of all ages from all over Northern California. For my daughter, her reasons for identifying as UU today are primarily grounded in how great it felt for her to be around people like the UUs she met at camp. Today, her explicit knowledge of UU philosophy and values is relatively superficial, and she does not associate with any UU community on a regular basis. However, I count my daughter's UU origin story as a success. She is different from her brothers, and her pull toward UU was bound to be less intellectual and more social, and I would venture to add more spiritual.

**Finally, there is a third response to one's early exposure to UU people, philosophy, and values.** This response is as beautiful as it is rare. People who follow this pattern of response appear to connect deeply with UU at some point in their early intellectual, social, and spiritual development. Typically, they grow up, moving out into the world to get experience, and perhaps to extend their education, but eventually they make their way back to UU, sometimes even to their UU community of origin. We have an example of this response among us here at UUCM, our very own Sophia McKean. I think we can all agree that we secretly hope that at least some of our UU children will grow up to follow a path that is in some ways similar to Sophia's.

As you are all aware, UU has at its core a value for the individual's unique spiritual and intellectual path. Because of this core value, we celebrate the varying responses that our children have to their earliest UU experiences. Each child's, teenager's, and young adult's responses to their formative relationships with UU will be unique, distinctive, and valuable. And that is as it should be.

**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.



## Unitarian Universalist Community of the Mountains

246 South Church St., Grass Valley, CA 95945

Telephone: (530) 274-1675

Website: [uugrassvalley.org](http://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.*

***Rev. Kevin is on vacation from July 8 through July 23 and will not be available.***

Contact Rev. Kevin at (231) 883-1058 or [minister@uugrassvalley.org](mailto:minister@uugrassvalley.org)

### UUCM STAFF MEMBERS

Reverend Kevin Tarsa, *Minister*

Siobhan Boylan,  
*Administrative Assistant*

Toby Thomas-Rose, *Music Director*

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***Submit by filling out the online announcement form on our website, or here:***

**[Article Submission Form](#)**

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