

the Mountain Chalice



Unitarian Universalist Community of the Mountains

October 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 12 for Kid-Centered Activities ...

Monthly Theme: The Practice of Deep Listening

October 6 *Deep Listening: Hearing into Speech*
Rev. Kevin Tarsa with
Lindsay Duncel, Worship Associate, and
members of UUCM's Lay Pastoral Care Team

"There is no more powerful, challenging, or rewarding spiritual practice than deep listening," writes the Rev. Cat Cox. We name this truth, and its importance and place in our tradition, in our UUCM orientation sessions. With this service, we courage our deep listening, for the sake of our community, our nation, our world, our close-in circles, and our own selves.

October 13 *Indigenous People's Day: What Does It Mean to be a Good Ally?*
Jordan Reznik and Shelly Covert,
with Frank Lawrence, Rev. Kevin, and
Randy McKean, Worship Associate

Special Invitation: Stay for SOUP LUNCH and Jordan's 1:00 PM presentation after the service

Artist and scholar Jordan Reznick interrogates historic photos for what they reveal and conceal about history and cultures. In recent work, he has brought his insightful and skillful eye to Malakoff Diggins, in conversation with members of the Nisenan tribe. On this day before Indigenous People's Day, an afternoon presentation will highlight that work. In this morning service, Frank Lawrence facilitates a conversation with Jordan and tribal spokesperson, Shelly Covert, about their experiences navigating this cross-cultural endeavor. In the process, they surface insight

into the ethics of academic research, allyship, and what it means to be in truly respectful and right relationship with Indigenous peoples.

October 20 *Sermon School – 1: Spirituality*
Cheryl Morris, Worship Associate,
with Jenny Dewey

What does it mean to be spiritual? As Unitarian Universalists, this is for each of us to define for ourselves. We can listen to wisdom from other cultures, from the natural world, from an internal voice, and from each other. Jenny Dewey has completed "sermon school" with Rev. Kevin and is stepping up courageously to share her sermon with us. We will accompany her on a spiritual journey that began when she was a child and continues to this day.

October 27 *What Is Remembered, Lives*
Service Description on page 4

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Rev. Kevin Tarsa
UUCM Minister

From the Minister

Living Love Through The Practice of Deep Listening.

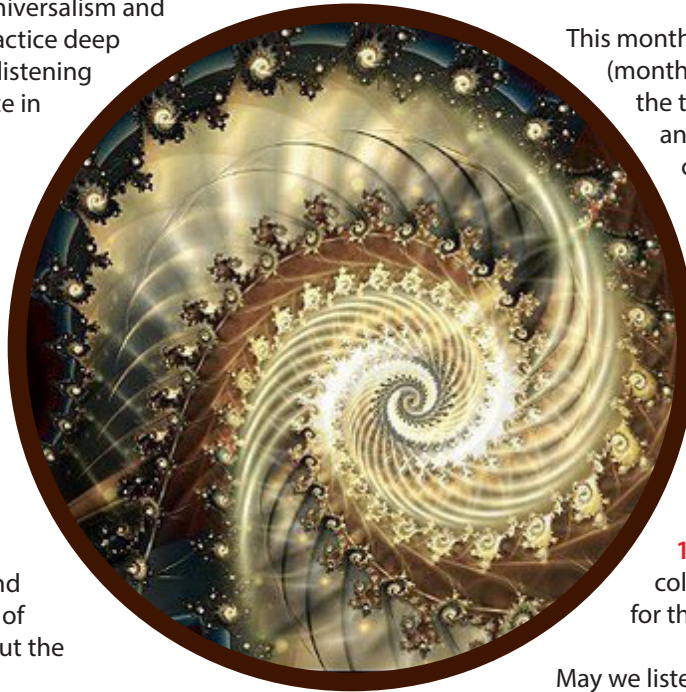
In our Starting Point orientation series for people wanting to know more about Unitarian Universalism and UUCM, we talk about AND we practice deep listening together, naming deep listening as a foundational spiritual practice in our tradition.

If we are to stay ever open to new truths, new insights, and new understandings, as our UU tradition asks of us, deep listening is key, and this is true whether we are listening within, listening to others, or listening to the wordless voice of what transcends us (God, Spirit, the Divine, Life, the Universe, Love, the nameless, or ?....). Our ideas, perspectives, and expectations will come and go and evolve over time. It's the practice of listening that serves us throughout the entire journey.

But there's more. The act of deep listening is not only a resource for remaining open and for reaching ever deeper truths, it is also a primary way to relate, to practice love, to live love, as this month's theme invites. In the midst of our incredulousness over some people's political views, for example – and, perhaps, our anger, angst, and anxiety – deep listening is a strong and vital tool for keeping ourselves from becoming rigid and impermeable, and one of the only ways to keep a door open to connection and, dare I say, love.

The invitation is to become curious: Why does someone think, feel, believe, act the way they do? What in someone's life experience leads them to hold the perspective they hold? But being "curious" reaches only part way. Curiosity helps us to stay softer personally (no small thing), but the practice of living love asks us (when it doesn't place us in emotional or physical danger) to complete the relational outreach. To query and to listen deeply, with no self-serving agenda other than to understand and to hear another deeply, so that they know

themselves more authentically, helps us to become more aware of the deep, universal needs that have so far led them to where they are.



This month, in our Soul Matters circles (monthly, deep sharing sessions around the theme), in our various gatherings and meetings, and out in the community, may we practice living love through the "simple" and challenging act of listening deeply. Truly listening. Deeply.

Watch for resources and opportunities all month long, including in Sunday services and in a Deep Listening workshop via Zoom for UUCM members and friends on **Saturday, October 12, from 10:00 AM -12:00 PM**, led by my colleague Cat Cox (check your email for the invitation).

May we listen within and without deeply enough to "en-courage" our love, and to help ourselves and our world to be more compassionate, sustainable, and just.

With care,

- Rev. Kevin

MINISTER'S OFFICE HOURS



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

Email Admin@uugrassvalley.org
or call the office at (530) 274-1675
to schedule an appointment

Board of Trustees



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

Dear Readers,

The Board of Trustees has been working hard to craft a Leadership Development plan to revitalize our governance structure and to give form and substance to a new Strategic Plan to guide us into the future. Both goals require all of us to take stock of our current position, assess its shortcomings, and craft a clear path out of the tangles of uncertainty.

To address the most pressing goal first, the Board needs to fill three critical positions in the coming months: President, Secretary, and Vice President. That's right, we need to hit a triple. Thankfully, as she has done so well for years, former Board President Pam Kisor has courageously stepped forward to serve. Initially, in the wake of the resignation of our immediate past President, she volunteered to stand in as acting President until someone could be found to take her place. That's where I entered the picture by accepting appointment to that office through the 2024-2025 Board year. After I begged sufficiently, Pam agreed to stay on as Vice President. This configuration seemed to be working until we learned that the law expressly requires us to have a Board Secretary. Unsurprisingly, Pam, whose generosity knows no bounds, simply sighed and graciously offered to fill that office, while maintaining her VP role, until a successor could be found.

Obviously, our immediate goal is to find candidates to relieve Pam and to complete the terms of Vice President and Secretary for the current Board year. My appointment runs through June, reducing the pressure to find my successor for the moment.

To reach our first goal, the Board will work with the Nominating Committee and Ministry Council leaders to explore ways to identify and invite interested UUCM members to participate at the Board level. Although we have given December 1 of this year as the target date to accomplish this goal, we recognize that there is nothing magic in that date. The magic lies entirely within the membership.

Our second goal involves the development of a viable strategic plan to carry through the coming five years. Jeff Gold will be contacting you shortly, perhaps before this edition of the Mountain Chalice even reaches publication. He will go into greater depth on the plan, its implementation, and a description of the methodology the Strategic Plan Committee will employ to reach its targets.

As I have suggested in earlier columns, our current situation is somewhat anomalous for UUCM. During the many years since we joined, the community seemed to bustle with enthusiasm and energy.

Times change, obviously. Energy flags as the years pile up. Reliance on the strength and vitality of the old guard is habit-forming. We need some new habits. Now is the time to follow up on how to get more involved in the life of the community, over and above your attendance and fiscal contributions.

Kathryn and I have spent years telling anyone willing to listen that our best friends have come from our UU extended family. We served on committees together, sang songs together, and simply shared our lives together. Just a couple of weeks ago, we shared a wonderful afternoon with the very first people we met at UUSS (the Sacramento church which we joined in 1995). These people quickly became dear friends, now of nearly thirty years. We have friends here, too, of course, people without whom our lives would be so much less rewarding and enjoyable.

While it may seem like the Board and I are hectoring and cajoling you to dig deeper into your reserves of energy solely for the sake of this entity we call our spiritual home, the call is much, much, more than that. Unitarian Universalism eclipses mere philosophy or belief. It is an organic sharing of our common humanity and love for our planet and its maddeningly wonderful and perplexing people. Please answer the call to share your time, talents, and enthusiasm within the embrace of this loving family of friends.

-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

Board meetings are open to all members and friends starting at 1:30 PM on the third Wednesday of each month.

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



It's starting to feel like fall, and that means the start of a new church year. Meetings have resumed, energy levels seem higher, and for the Worship Team it means nine new monthly Soul Matters topics and packets of resources to work with.

September welcomed everyone back with Living Love Through the Practice of Invitation. Kind of a mouthful, but all the words are important. We often mentally and verbally shorten the topics to something like "the topic is invitation," but it becomes deeper and more nuanced when we consider all the words. Each month we will consider Living Love Through the Practice of.....something.

In October, we are diving into Deep Listening. So, Living Love Through the Practice of Deep Listening. Love is at the center of our UU values, which is why it anchors the title of each month. Likewise, practice suggests it's not a one-time or occasional thing.

Deep listening, what it is, making a practice of it...that's what we will be exploring this month. As usual, each service will look at it through a different lens and will have a different energy and emotional tone.

And speaking of listening, we love feedback and try to listen deeply when we receive it. We want to know what touches you, intrigues you, challenges you. If you have something you'd like the congregation to hear, maybe a poem, a reflection, or a piece of music, please let us know that, too, so we can work together to include it in a service.

Looking forward to listening to and with you.

- Cheryl & Carol



Soul Matters Themes for 2024-25 The Practices of...

October:	Deep Listening
November:	Repair
December:	Presence
January:	Story
February:	Inclusion
March:	Trust
April:	Joy
May:	Imagination
June:	Freedom

Upcoming Services

Description continued from page 1...

October 27 *What Is Remembered, Lives*
Lindsay Dunckel and Carol Mimick,
Worship Associates

All Hallows Eve, Día de Muertos, All Souls, and All Saints days invite us each autumn to remember our ancestors and our beloveds who have died. These tender days on the way to winter even open a window to working on our relationships with those who have gone before us. In a service steeped in ritual and music, we will remember with honesty, gratitude, and hope.

Monthly Evening Service

Join Us for an Evening Joys and Sorrows Candlelight Service

Mark your calendar for this month's service on Thursday, October 10, 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 from 7:00 PM to 8:00 PM.

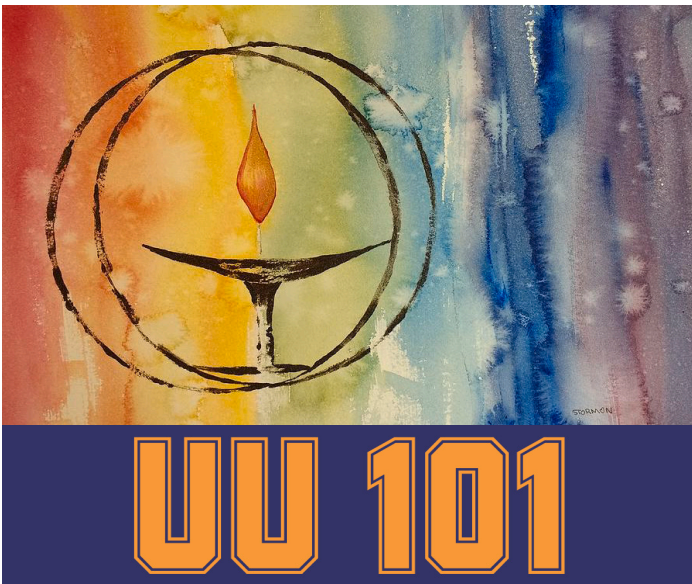


Membership

Laura Harter
Leader, Membership Team
membership@uugrassvalley.org

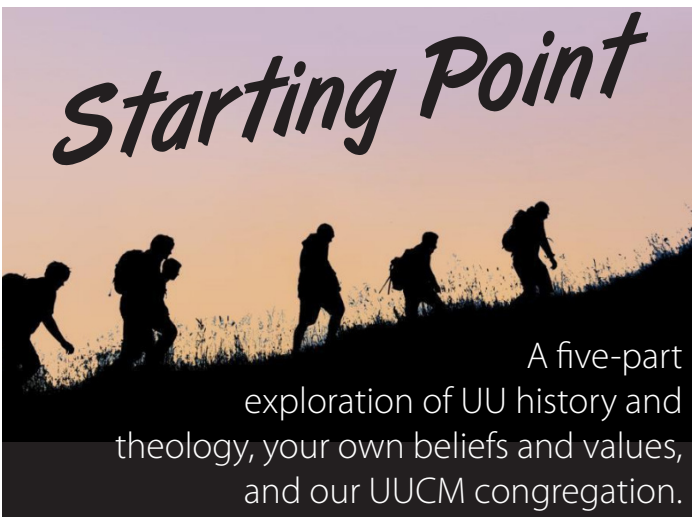
UU101

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

We are in the middle of our current Starting Point which will continue on Fridays, October 4 & 11, and possibly a 5th session, time of day TBD. If you are interested in joining the NEXT series, please let Ruth Edwards know and get on the list. Email Ruth at startingpoint@uugrassvalley.org.



Circle Suppers Are Here!

Last spring, Circle Suppers were a great success and a fun time to connect with friends old and new. And now it's time for the Fall Circle Suppers! If you have never been to a Circle Supper, or you have treasured them through the years, please join us in October for this rich opportunity for sharing food and conversation in a small group in a host's home.

Laurie Bell recruited hosts in September, so watch the UUCM website, eChalice, and Sunday slides to see when guest sign-ups are open!

The suppers have limited seating, don't miss out!



Endowment

Kathryn Young
Endowment Committee
Endowment@uugrassvalley.org

Simple Gifts Thank You

Thank you to everyone who has given Simple Gifts, and especially Corrie Silva, Susan Sanford and Gail Schulz who gave generously in September to celebrate birthdays and honor UUCM friends' generosity. Large and small gifts add up, and we appreciate every one.



Simple Gifts are always a great way to honor special events in your life, or the passing of friends, family, and fellow UUCM-ers, or anything you feel like acknowledging with a special contribution. We would love to talk with you about other kinds of Endowment Gifts, too.

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

Currently our UUCM Endowment Fund has over \$70,000 in it!

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



Parish Care

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

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

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

As Unitarian Universalists we believe that we all share in the responsibility for one another's care, and we invite all members and friends of UUCM to become actively involved in this wonderfully important opportunity for service. If supporting this work interests you, please fill out this brief [Parish Care Team Volunteer Survey](#) to identify tasks you would be willing to do on occasion. The Parish Caring Team will contact you as needs arise.

For more information, to request care, or to share word of someone in need of care, please contact us at: Caring@uugrassvalley.org



PARISH CARE TEAM MEMBERS:

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



Lay Pastoral Care Team

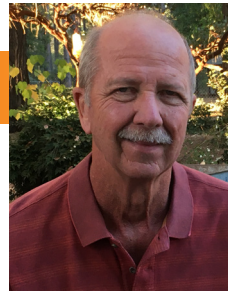
Are You Facing a Life Challenge?

UUCM's Lay Pastoral Care Team (LPCT) offers a confidential, caring presence to congregants undergoing stressful life challenges. With the support and guidance of the minister, team members commit to be available for weekly caring conversations of up to one hour, and for the duration of a congregant's current challenge or until a time of closure arises naturally.

Please contact a member of the Lay Pastoral Care Team when you are facing difficult and stressful portions of your journey and if you feel that a companioning presence from one of our team members might be helpful to you.

LAY PASTORAL CARE TEAM MEMBERS:

George Dunstan, Carol Grant, Sue Gregory, Carol Richey, Corrie Silva, and Tom Wernigg, or you can email the whole team: LayPastoralCare@uugrassvalley.org



B & G Team

Wally Holtan, Leader,
Building & Grounds Team
B-G@uugrassvalley.org

Getting Stuff Done While Having Fun!

The Building & Grounds Team manages our day-to-day facility needs and goals for improvements for our church's physical environment. We seek volunteers that are willing to help us meet those needs through work parties and project development. These are individuals who like doing projects, repairs, cleaning, or working outside in gardens and yards. There are no requirements for joining, other than enjoying hands-on tasks and working with others.

Whether you are new to UUCM or have been a part of it for a while, if you would like to meet people while doing some fun and interesting things, the UUCM Building & Grounds Team is a good place to start.

-Wally

The Perfect Vacation

by Jenny Dewey

Vacation season is winding down. Some people will head out for precisely this reason: fewer cars and RVs on the road, not as many smoky barbecues and unruly children in campgrounds.

You have choices searching for the perfect vacation. One is to head for the hills with backpacks full of freeze-dried food, powdered eggs, band-aids for blistered feet, ointment for poison oak, and tweezers for ticks.

Another choice is staying in a motel. With this decision you leave a tip for the person you never see who makes your bed and replaces the too-small soap, shampoo, and conditioner left by the sink. You consider taking towels and washcloths home, secreted in your luggage, and think better of it and feel guilty for having such thoughts in the first place.

There is also the option of staying home and planning what your perfect vacation will be like next year.

My idea of the perfect vacation is not likely to appeal to more than two or three people. My favorite was going to a remote town in Southern Arizona on the border with Mexico to do reptile research.

I camped in the desert outside the nearest town and took my meals in the one-and-only restaurant within 100 miles. Every day I followed reptile experts from Berkeley on their rounds monitoring the behavior of a particular species of rattlesnake. Trailing herpetologists in the wilderness was informative and interesting. However, what made my experience

exceptional was not what the experts showed me, but everything else.

I'd never seen a peccary in the wild. One morning she raced past my camp, six baby peccaries running like mad to keep up with her.

I watched two male kangaroo rats battle under a full moon, males slapping the ground with tiny feet, making a drumming sound.

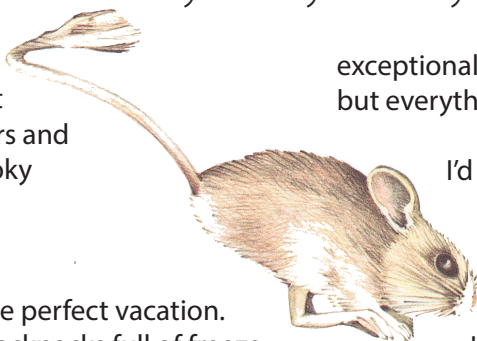
A black-tailed rattler a few feet from my hiking boots climbed a quarter of the way up a mesquite tree. Turns out some rattlers climb trees.

One morning I opened my eyes to see hummingbirds spinning in the air above my head; flashes of brilliance improbable in that desert landscape. A pair of desert tortoises the size of dinner plates marched in slow motion around my camp. I figured I was trespassing on their territory.

What made this trip exceptional (I called it a vacation) was all I saw and learned well beyond the scope of my research. The so-called barren desert is alive with a wide variety of animals, from a rat with a tail as long as its body, to a fat, pig-snouted peccary.

Maybe everywhere we go offers experiences like mine. Even motel rooms have carpets, wet-bars, and ugly furniture worth discussing and debating.

Illustrations by Jenny Dewey from her desert "vacation" experiences.



Nisenan Update

By Eileen Hale



JOIN US FOR A LECTURE BY FEATURED SPEAKER JORDAN REZNICK ON GRINDING STONE V. PHOTOGRAPH: NEVADA CITY RANCHERIA NISENAN TRIBAL LAW AND THE MALAKOFF DIGGINS CASE

On Sunday, October 13, 2024, at 1:00 PM, UUCM will host in person and on Zoom, photo historian Jordan Reznick, who reconsiders historic Malakoff Diggins photographs against evidence supplied by the bedrock mortar and early portraits of Nisenan Tribal members. The lecture is sponsored by UUCM, with support from CHIRP, the California Heritage Indigenous Research Project.

Background: During the 1880s the hydraulic mining operation at Malakoff Diggins was the subject of a pivotal early environmental law case which also pioneered the use of photographic evidence in U.S. courtrooms. However, the photographs that illustrated the ecological catastrophe precipitated by hydraulic mining did not portray the full picture of the land. A Nisenan grinding stone recently re-discovered in the diggings confirmed what the Nevada City Rancheria Nisenan Tribe has always known to be true: that “this is our place.” This lecture reconsiders the Malakoff photographs against evidence supplied by the bedrock mortar and early portraits of Tribal members.

Together these Nisenan materials re-orient the assessment of the Malakoff images around Nisenan Protocols concerning the Rights of Nature and Indigenous Land Title.

Jordan Reznick is Assistant Professor of American Studies at Grinnell College. He researches Native North American, settler colonial, and transgender histories of photography. His book project, “Landing the Camera: Indigenous Ecologies and Colonial Photography in California,” examines how native history and ecological knowledge shaped nineteenth-century landscape photographs in California.

Reznick was 2022-2023 GRI/NEH Postdoctoral Fellow at the Getty Research Institute and recently published articles in American Art and Art Journal. For an introduction to Jordan’s work, see his essay [Native Land and Colonial Photography at Yosemite](#) from an exhibit at the San Francisco Museum of Modern Art.



Bending the Arc Task Force

By Gail Johnson Vaughan, BTATF Member

YOUR BENDING THE ARC TASK FORCE AT WORK

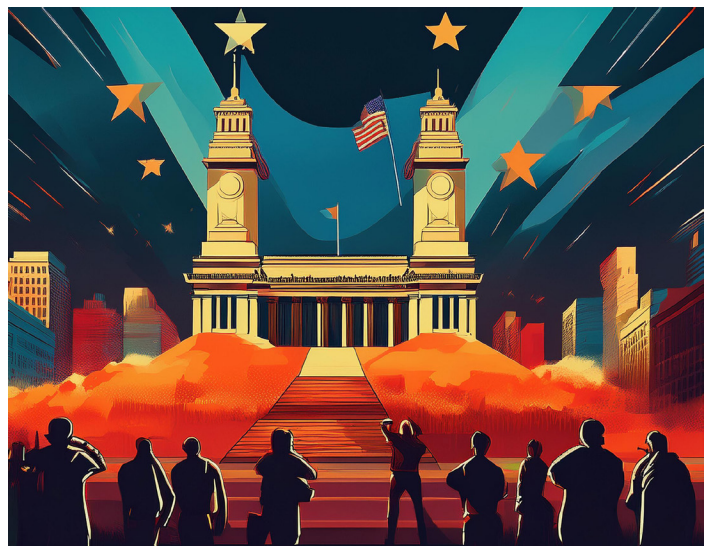
Busy, busy time for your Bending the Arc Task Force and all of you. We are so close to this climactic election. Here’s what you have helped us do:

- Postcards: Goal for 2024: 18,000; Actual as of Sept 20, 2024: 28,884; Projected final count: 30,000 +++. Number of writers: 186 (UUCM folks: 80; others we have recruited: 106) + lots more who have funded stamps.

Check this link to the [Bending the Art Task Force web page](#) (on our UUCM website) to get information about all the work they are doing, along with voter guides and more, including:

- Phone bank calls as of Sept 20, 2024: 3,250
- Local Candidate Profiles
- League of Women Voters Forum Access Info
- New Voters Registers: 5
- Election Observers Recruited: 1
- Nurturing Hope Worship Service: August 25; include sample election activities flyer and contact info.

And the work continues! Pick up your next postcard packet. Talk to Keith Johnson about how simple and fun phone banking is. Talk to Gail Johnson Vaughan about learning how to be part of texting campaigns in the last two weeks before the election. You all are amazing defenders of democracy!



Justice News & Activities

Share the Plate

UUCM's August *Share the Plate* recipient, [Sierra Streams Institute](#) will receive \$780.51, 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 September *Share the Plate* partner, [Nevada County Habitat for Humanity](#)



Our October *Share the Plate* recipient is [Bear Yuba Land Trust](#). Bear Yuba Land Trust exists to conserve and protect the natural, working, and cultural lands in the Bear and Yuba River watersheds and empower a healthy, resilient community through nature access and education.

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

Hospitality House Donations

UUCM is supporting Hospitality House by collecting donations of needed items for their guests. With the upcoming cooler weather some needed items have changed.

HOSPITALITY HOUSE NEEDS THESE ITEMS ONLY:

- Towels
- Twin-sized blankets
- Men/Women's sweatpants & sweatshirts - all sizes
- Women's underwear - all sizes
- Men/Women's coats & jackets - all sizes

Please leave donations in the designated bin in the UUCM refreshments room.

*Thank you in advance for your generosity,
- Laurie Bell and Keith Johnson*

Community Connections

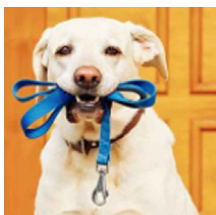
WEEKLY @ UUCM

[Subscribe to the weekly e-Chalice](#) for Zoom links and phone numbers. If you need links, please contact our administrative assistant at Admin@uugrassvalley.org.

SUNDAY SERVICES - 10:30 AM VIA ZOOM OR IN PERSON

Make Connections at UUCM

Please contact the organizers if you are interested in joining!



WALKING GROUP

**8:00 AM, TUESDAYS AND THURSDAYS,
OFFSITE**
Email Walking@uugrassvalley.org

MEET AT 8:30 AM, STARTING OCT. 15

The **Thursday group will meet at Condon Park Pavilion** on 10/3 and 10/10 at 8:00 AM. Tuesday walks will continue to be at 8:00 AM am at Wolf Creek Trail. It will be okay to harvest on Thursdays on Houtman's. Be sure to latch gates.

All walks will begin later at 8:30 am starting 10/15 and Thursday walks will resume at Houtman's 10/17.

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



FREE DRAWING SESSIONS WITH JENNY DEWEY

**EVERY OTHER FRIDAY FROM 1:00 - 2:30 PM
AT UUCM IN THE REFRESHMENTS ROOM**

All welcome, beginners or old-timers, kids and adults - instruction based on "the natural way to draw" - a well-known, respected method useful to everyone - those starting up, as well as those who've been drawing forever. **This month's sessions are on Friday, October 4 and 18.**

More Connections on the next page...

Community Connections – Online & In Person



WOMEN'S GROUP MONTHLY POTLUCK – SECOND MONDAYS, 6:00 PM AT UUCM

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

Our next meeting is **Monday, October 14 at 6:00 PM at UUCM**. We will be having a potluck and then Leonna will help us celebrate Autumn with a cozy, old-fashioned sing-a-long featuring some of the top hits from last year's UUCM fall harvest festival, as well as some old favorites from our UU camping songbook. We are also having a magazine swap -- you're invited to bring any magazines you'd like to give away. 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

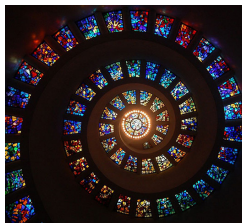
Our UUCM Humanism Discussion Group is a gathering for both those who identify as humanists and those who are interested in learning about this philosophy.

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

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

The topic for our next meeting on Wednesday, October 2, at 10:45 AM at UUCM will be Geoengineering, the concept of lowering the earth's temperature by shading the planet in various possible ways.

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

Questions? Contact:
Spirituality@uugrassvalley.org

The deepest, richest connection to the beating heart of Mystery may materialize when we allow space for silence. Some say the "Holy" is most helpfully approached without words. Paradoxically, one of the finest places to make room for this is in the quiet company of co-journeymers.

If this idea resonates with you, consider trying the UUCM Spiritual Sharing Circle on for size. We'll meet October 26 (fourth Saturday) from 2:00 – 3:30 PM at UUCM. (Zoom is available by advance request.) There will be thoughtful conversation and shared silence.

P.S. John Lennon once said, "Time you enjoyed wasting was not wasted." Is that relevant? (giggle)



NEW! ARTS & CRAFTS CIRCLE

SECOND AND FOURTH TUESDAYS, 12:00 TO 2:00 PM
IN THE REFRESHMENTS ROOM

Come and meet with other UUs every second and fourth Tuesdays from 12:00 - 2:00 PM in the Refreshments Room to work on your own art or craft form!

It's a place to enjoy each other's company while working on independent projects with people who are doing the same. You're sure to get encouragement and inspiration! No teacher or facilitator. Nine people have signed up so far! Let us know if this schedule works for you too: we can fit in a couple more.

And... we can have a group exhibit of our work in the UU library from May 15 through August 15! Fine to include other pieces besides those worked on together. Of course, showing your work is completely optional - don't let it deter you from joining our circle!

Questions? Contact arts-n-crafts@uugrassvalley.org

Community Connections – Online & In Person

Back by Popular Demand...

BEAT AND JAM CAFES ARE BACK...

Yes, dust off your guitar case, blow the cobwebs from your harmonica, and select your new and old writings, as in poems, essays, short stories, to share and participate at one or both events. You are welcome to bring non-members and friends, and contributions of snacks and beverages are, of course, always enjoyed and encouraged.



Beat Cafe, Tuesday, October 29, (last Tuesday of each month), doors open at 6:00, mic is 'hot' at 6:30. Contact BeatCafe@uugrassvalley.org with questions.

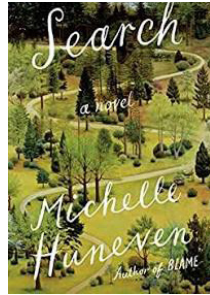
Jam Cafe, Thursday, October 31, (last Thursday of each month), doors open at 6:00, Jamming @ 6:30. Playlists include familiar tunes and a mix of classic rock, folk, and some country. *(Since this falls on Halloween, please check to make sure it has not been rescheduled before showing up.)* Contact JamCafe@uugrassvalley.org for complete playlist.



2nd Sunday Book Group

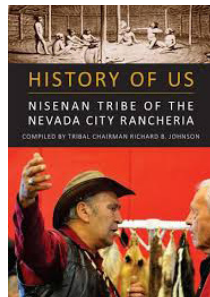
USUALLY THE SECOND SUNDAY OF THE MONTH AT 12:15 PM IN THE CHANNING ROOM AT UUCM

CONTACT: Theresa at BookGroupInfo@uugrassvalley.org



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.

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[Sunday Book Group Zoom](#)

Meeting ID: 927 1111 8322

Passcode: 472984

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Find a list of the next several months of book selections in the July 2024 Issue of the Mt Chalice at our [UUCM Website](#).

The Three E's for Rich Talk

By Cheryl Spaulding, Family Ministry Team Member

Last year our Family Ministry Team was laser focused on reconceptualizing and implementing a new version of our Kids' Connection program. At our Kids' Connection Open House last month, we officially went public with the results of our program development efforts. The new program has a new look with additional spaces and materials, as well as with rituals and routines that are well established now. We are very proud of it.

Now, I want to share with you another aspect of our program development, one that is not so visible to those who visit us upstairs. In addition to our new spaces, materials, rituals and routines, our program also consists of the adults who spend an hour or more interacting with our UUCM children in a wide variety of contexts. This other form of program development, commonly known as staff development, aims to enhance the knowledge and skills of the people who bring the program to the children each week. Three of us have been exploring ways that we can enhance our interactions with our children by supporting their development—socially, emotionally, cognitively, and spiritually. In early August, we three attended a webinar entitled "Using Everyday Conversations to Nurture Play and Creativity in Young Children." The presenter, Rebecca Rolland, EdD, is a certified speech language pathologist who specializes in children's oral and written language development. Her presentation targeted teachers and caregivers of young children. We fit right in with that target audience, as we consider ourselves to be straddling that line between teacher and caregiver every Sunday.

In a nutshell, Rolland's message in the webinar was that how teachers and caregivers talk with children can serve to open up opportunities for their development. She gave many examples of how conversations between children and adults can promote the having, exploring, and sharing of big, interesting, and wonderful ideas. She showed how open-ended conversations with adults can support children as they learn to solve problems and show each other compassion.

I left the webinar wanting to know more, so I ordered her book entitled "The Art of Talking with Children: The Simple Keys to Nurturing Kindness, Creativity, and Confidence in Kids." Unlike the webinar, the book's target audience is parents. I found, however, that her message and examples in the book were thoroughly applicable to the time we spend upstairs with our UUCM children. One idea we have adopted from her webinar and book is what she calls the "Three E's for Rich Talk."

According to Rolland, "rich talk" is a form of talk characterized by open-endedness, deep and patient listening, and a mutuality or reciprocity that engages both child and adult.

Specifically, Rolland's Three E's are EXPAND, EXPLORE, AND EVALUATE. The Three E's are a sort of guide that adults can rely upon in their efforts to create more of this "rich talk." To help children EXPAND their thinking, an adult might say to a child recounting a recent event, "Tell me more." The adult who wants to help children EXPLORE ideas beyond those currently under consideration might prod with "I wonder what would happen if we did it this way instead of that way. What do you think would happen?" And adults can promote EVALUATION by asking a child who has just resolved a conflict with another child "What might you do next time you have this problem?", following up their answer with "Why would you do that?" Examples of linguistic prompts that promote "rich talk" are innumerable and make conversations with children authentic and rewarding. In order to remind ourselves of the Three E's while we are actually interacting with children, we have posted signs in the rooms upstairs where we spend the most time with the children.

So, the task of growing and improving our Kids' Connection program is ongoing. We recognize that the success of the program lies not only in the spaces, materials, rituals, and routines that shape the experiences our children have on Sunday mornings. Success also resides in the knowledge, skills, and intentions of the adults who mediate the ways the children connect with the environments we have created for them.

Soul Matters Circles

Soul Matters Circles Starting

By Gene Gilligan

Each month, UUCM Sunday services revolve around a theme that change monthly so we explore deeper questions for ourselves and as a community.

Soul Matters Circles, small groups of eight or fewer members, are focused on the same monthly themes as our services. Meeting for two hours in small groups, once a month, allows us to get more personal in our exploration of the theme and to get to know other members that much better. It also can help you delve into yourself a little deeper by listening to how the themes resonate for others.

You are invited to spend two hours a month and learn more about yourself and others in a safe, caring environment. If you are already a Soul Matters Circle member, you might want to consider being an SMC Facilitator. You will have lots of support while helping others to benefit from the SMC experience.

If you are interested in joining a Soul Matters Circle, reach out to Gene Gilligan at: soulmatters@uugrassvalley.org.



Unitarian Universalist Community of the Mountains

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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*

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Mountain Chalice Newsletter submissions are due by the 20th of the month prior to publishing.

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

[Article Submission Form](#)

VOLUNTEER TEAM MEMBERS: *Kathryn Young, Design/Layout; Lesley Champlin, Editing/Proofreading*