

the Mountain Chalice



Unitarian Universalist Community of the Mountains

January 2025

UPCOMING SERVICES

Our Sunday Services are at 10:30 AM in person and via Zoom. *If you've been exposed to Covid, RSV, the flu, or are just not feeling well, please attend online.*

TO JOIN THE ZOOM SERVICE AT 10:30 AM ON SUNDAYS:

Online via Zoom: <https://zoom.us/j/746107217>

Meeting ID: 746 107 217 # • Passcode: 688010

Audio by phone: Dial in: 1 669 900 6833 or 1 408 638 0968

Meeting ID: 746 107 217 # • Passcode: 688010

... See Page 11 for Kid-Centered Activities ...

Monthly Theme: The Practice of Story

January 5 Re-Telling

Sophia McKean with Randy McKean

What do you do when your history has been purposefully obscured? This Sunday, we look at Beyonce's Cowboy Carter and the creation of a Queer British Art exhibit at the Tate as two examples of answers to that question. Join us for an exploration of the ways art can help us reclaim lost stories.

January 12 I Am From

Rev. Kevin Tarsa and all, with Carol Nimick

We turn to our personal stories this second Sunday of the new year. We'll invite stories of our 2024 journey with a personal Word for the Year, offer an invitation to craft and share a poem, each line of which begins, "I am from..." and invite you to start considering your word for 2025.

You are encouraged to create your "I am from..." poem ahead of time (see the formula [HERE](#)), and to consider sharing it in the service.

Plus! Join the INSTANT CHOIR!
Rehearse before the service and sing!



January 19 What Now? More Than Ever.

Rev. Kevin Tarsa with Sophia McKean

This Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Day weekend, we root our exploration of practicing "story" in the sacred text of Lea Morris's

song, "More Than Ever," written by Lea and friends shortly after the November election. "Now is a moment for shining on," Lea sings, "It's all right to cry, keep your eyes on the prize. The world needs your light more than ever."

January 26 Heretics in Good Company

Rev. Kevin Tarsa with Cheryl Morris

Both the Unitarian and Universalist traditions we inherited began as heresies and then got more heretical from there. Which is to say that you are in good company. We'll pick up a few of the threads from our traditions' story and consider what they have to do with us now and moving forward. Join UUCM's mid-year congregational meeting at 12:30 PM, after the service.

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Rev. Kevin Tarsa
UUCM Minister

From the Minister

Living Love Through the Practice of Story

Wonderfully appropriately, we open the new year with the theme of “story.” To be specific, we open with the theme of “Living Love through the Practice of Story.”

In one of my early services here at UUCM I shared the idea that the stories we hold and tell and repeat continually shape who we are. The other half of that insight is that we have the power to shape our stories in the ways we hold and tell and re-tell them. I also shared psychologist Dan McAdams’ claim that the stories we tell about ourselves are among the most powerful of all stories, because they so shape our lives.

This is all true at the level of a community like UUCM, and a county like Nevada County, and a nation like the United States, too. The stories we tell and repeat shape who we are, and this is where the “practice” of story comes in. So, here’s an invitation to tune in carefully – full of care – to the stories we hold and tell and re-tell at all these levels – our personal stories, the stories we tell about others, about this community, and beyond. I invite us all especially to notice what our version of a given story tells us about ourselves, and to consider whether there are more accurate, more life-enhancing ways to tell it.

National and world events are both showing and deeply challenging the stories some of us have held about the United States and about humanity and progress. We’re being required to update our stories. In a January 18 workshop UUCM members and friends will be considering the story you want to be able to tell about UUCM within the next five years. In our

January services, Sophia will share a piece of their story; we’ll open a chance to *tell your story in a poetic way and share some of your experiences of traveling with a word for the year; we’ll examine the story we’re telling about our shared cultural/political life; and we’ll lift up some stories of where we came from as a Unitarian Universalist tradition.



Yes, the practice of story is a great way to enter the new year. Combining it with the invitation to understand our storytelling as one of the ways that we can live love in the world makes it even more meaningful.

Here’s to our thoughtful and ongoing practice of story, not least with and among each other.

With care,

– Rev. Kevin

* You are encouraged to create your “I am from…” poem ahead of time (see the formula [HERE](#)), and to consider sharing it in the service.

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



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

Board of Trustees

We enter the new year full of ... what? Optimism, hope ... dread? The new year is supposed to signify new beginnings, new opportunities, new adventures. Though still well within the clutches of winter, the days are growing longer, skiing, sledding, shoveling (?) and other joys and toils of the season capture our time and imaginations with eager energy and plans. But there is something else, isn't there, like the feeling of having left the water running just as you get on the airplane at the start of a long vacation? Doubts.

Doubts about where we go from here and how we get wherever that is. Last month, the Board of Trustees invited members of our community to share their thoughts and concerns. We held two sessions, one in person and the other via zoom. Not surprisingly, the direct approach was more popular. Both sessions, however, were informative and revealed some unexpected things.

Initially, in keeping with the spirit of recent services, we anticipated receiving more expressions of concern about the implications of the November election. That is not what we heard. Instead, in classic Unitarian Universalist fashion, our members are already directing their attentions outward. There is a very strong desire to increase public awareness of UUCM as a resource for spiritual strength, hope, and reassurance to the wider Grass Valley and Nevada City communities. Many participants shared suggestions for elevating both community awareness of our presence and of the ways in which we may enhance the lives of those we touch. This revelation should not have been a surprise. UUs are a hardy bunch, but the degree to which the membership has already transferred from the doldrums to forms of action braces our hearts, nonetheless.

Throughout our history, Unitarians and Universalists have been in the vanguard of socially progressive movements. Unitarians were integral participants at the formation of our country. As

Reverend Kevin told us shortly before Christmas, Unitarians saved Christmas itself from the clutches of the Puritans. Unitarians and Universalists were in the forefront of the Civil Rights movement and marched passionately in opposition to the Vietnam War. Today's plague of locusts seems bent on eating its way through the core of our traditional American values, but the response from the members of our little church

suggests that once again, UU principles and values will not let us stand by and watch, but instead compel us forward.

Since the election, attendance at our Sunday services has grown significantly, threatening to outstrip the capacity of our little box. We hope that this trend continues even as we brainstorm ways to welcome everyone; the last thing we can let happen is to turn away anyone in spiritual need.

IN OTHER NEWS, TWO "SAVE THE DATES" FOR YOU:

Saturday, January 18 – Congregational Visioning Workshop, 10:00 AM – 2:00 PM at UUCM. Come and share your ideas with the Strategic Planning

Group as they begin work on a five-year plan. Lunch will be served. (See more information on page 4.)

Sunday, January 26 – Annual Business Meeting, 12:30 PM at UUCM
Please attend our annual January Business Meeting. This year, as we did in our May Business Meeting, we are going to get right into it at 12:30 PM. Just enough time to grab some snacks, coffee, and a place to sit. I am confident that the meeting will be brief. The Board has proposed amendments to the bylaws that will bring references to our principles and values into conformance with their expression as adopted by the Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA). You will also be updated on the state of our house.

AND MORE GREAT NEWS!
For those who may have missed the earlier announcements, the Trustees are very happy to report that Lin Jovanovic has volunteered to serve as Board Secretary through June of 2026

Continued on page 4...

UUCM BOARD OF TRUSTEES

JULY 2024 - JUNE 2025

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

Members at Large:
Chuck Champlin, Jeff Gold & Charlene Dugan

UUCM Committees:
Finance • Governance • Endowment
Nominating

Board meetings are open to all members and friends starting at 1:30 PM on the third Wednesday of each month. An email announcing the meeting and a Zoom link will be sent to the community each month, one week prior to the meeting.

If you wish to address the Board, please give at least two days notice so the agenda timing can be adjusted.

Board of Trustees

Continued from page 3...

and more recently, Carol Richey will serve out the Vice-Presidential term held by Pam Kisor. It is expected that Carol will also stand for election to the presidency at the May meeting.

Having mentioned Pam, I would be beyond negligent were I to let my gratitude and that of my fellow Board members go without expounding on her service to UUCM. As is often the case, Pam and Gary Kisor had barely time to take their seats before Pam was recruited to become President of the Board of Trustees. Undaunted, she took to the challenge like she had been born to it. She brought impeccable management and leadership skills to bear on every aspect of Board service.

Despite severe physical challenges requiring surgery and a lengthy recovery, Pam managed to guide us through Rev. Kevin's sabbatical and significant personnel issues with neither drama nor disruption. In everything, her adroit leadership and devotion to the best interests of UUCM have consistently demonstrated the highest standards of excellence. It is now her desire to take a step back from the spotlight for a while and to recharge in the warm embrace of the supporting hearts and minds of the congregation.

Thanks, Pam, we could not have done it without you.

-Taylor



Membership

Laura Harter
Leader, Membership Team
membership@uugrassvalley.org

Membership Team News

The Membership Team is pleased to report that two Starting Point series recently concluded and a third will start in January. If you are interested in attending please email startingpoint@uugrassvalley.org to get on the list and help set the dates.

Starting Point is a wonderful way to explore Unitarian Universalism values and history. It is a meaningful and fun way to connect with others, both newcomers and seasoned members, to learn about the different perspectives and experiences that make up UUCM. To learn more visit [Starting Point](#).

The Membership Team wishes you a bright New Year filled with meaningful connection and community. As always, please reach out at the email above if you have any questions about UUCM or thoughts or suggestions to share.

In appreciation,

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

Strategic Planning

*Please Join Us for a
CONGREGATION WORKSHOP
SATURDAY, JANUARY 18, 10:00 AM – 2:00 PM*

The Strategic Planning Committee is newly formed and charged by the Board of Directors with preparing a 2025-2030 plan in the coming year. This five-year plan will be the touchstone against which we prioritize and support our activities in pursuit of our mission. This plan is an effort to be done by the Committee in conjunction with input from activity groups and the congregation at large – we need to hear what's important to you.

Join us for a Congregation Workshop on Saturday, January 18 to introduce you to the Committee members, to learn how they are working, and to let us hear your visions for UUCM's future.

STRATEGIC PLANNING WORKSHOP DETAILS:

Date: Saturday, January 18

Time: 10:00 AM – 2:00 PM, lunch will be provided

Where: Sanctuary

What: *An interactive workshop with Q&As and an opportunity to share what you'd like to see at UUCM through a visioning exercise.*

We deeply appreciate your time and input to this process – we hope you will be able to come. [Click HERE to RSVP](#) or use the sign-up sheet at UUCM.

Respectfully,

The Strategic Planning Committee Members:

Lesley Champlin, Charlene Dugan, Lindsay Dunckel,
Jeff Gold, Laura Harter, Carol Richey,
Allison Rivers, Rev. Kevin Tarsa, Alan Weisberg



Words from the Worship Team

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



Here in mid-December, we are wondering where the year went and what lies ahead. The Worship Team and other UUCM teams, at the request of Rev. Kevin, are pondering the increase in the numbers of people attending Sunday services and what this means for our planning going forward. As he says, it's a good problem to have!

A stop-gap measure has already been implemented in the form of overflow seating. Team member Gail Johnson Vaughan, assisted by Eduardo Hernandez, bought and hung curtains in the Channing Room to cover up the whiteboard and some of the written information on the wall. Our goal is to make this a welcoming space for worship, and some may even prefer it when the sanctuary feels too crowded. Kudos to the congregation for embracing this and making room for newcomers to have the full sanctuary experience.

Discussion has begun and will be ongoing. There may be short-term, mid-term, and long-term proposals for how to welcome and integrate new folks. As always, the Worship Team wants to hear your ideas, hopes, and preferences. Consider it an extended brainstorming session and don't censor or prejudge, just keep those thinking caps on and let us know what you're coming up with. We're all in this together, and it's both challenging and exciting to consider ways UUCM can grow, innovate, and serve the wider community.

- Cheryl & Carol

Soul Matters Themes



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

January:	Story
February:	Inclusion
March:	Trust
April:	Joy
May:	Imagination
June:	Freedom



The Worship Team having fun planning together



Join us for an Evening Contemplative Service

SECOND THURSDAYS OF EACH MONTH, 7:00 TO 8:00 PM
GENTLE MUSIC BEGINS AT 6:30 PM

This month's service: Thursday, January 9, 2025

We'll sing hymns, join in meditation, and take part in a Joys and Sorrows ritual where all are welcome to share aloud with the group the joys and/or sorrows in their hearts that night.



Parish Care

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

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

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

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

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



PARISH CARE TEAM MEMBERS:

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



Lay Pastoral Care Team

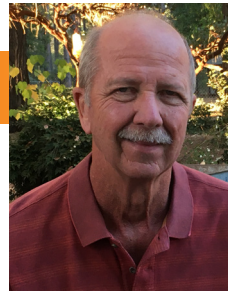
Are You Facing a Life Challenge?

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

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

LAY PASTORAL CARE TEAM MEMBERS:

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



B & G Team

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

Getting Stuff Done While Having Fun!

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

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

-Wally



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

Art & Aesthetics Team

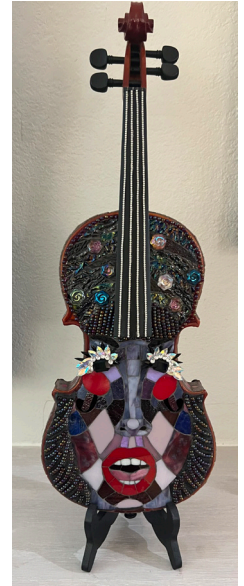
Don't Miss our Mosaic Art Exhibit



Lin Jovanovic
MOSAIC EXHIBIT

IN THE UUCM LIBRARY
DECEMBER THROUGH FEBRUARY

For the next two months, the Art and Aesthetics Team continues an exquisite exhibition of the work of our own Lin Jovanovic in the UUCM library. Lin is a mosaic artist. She takes broken pieces of pottery or tile and uses them to create something new, something even more beautiful. That process was the theme for the month of November, so it seems especially appropriate to be showing her work at this time. Lin's artwork will be on display now through the month of February. She is offering some pieces for sale. Please contact her at secretary@uogras山谷.org.



Endowment Committee



Kathryn Young
Endowment Committee
Endowment@uogras山谷.org

Simple Gifts Thank You

*Thank you to everyone who has given Simple Gifts.
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. We have brochures and packets to give you more details on Legacy Gifts...please let us know if you would like one.



Please contact us at:
Endowment@uogras山谷.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.**

Janet Dunstan – Smiles and Expertise

by Jenny Dewey

Janet Dunstan is someone our UUCM community already knows well, if not by deed, then by reputation. I first took note of Janet a few years ago following a dinner (the occasion for it slips my mind). When the event was over and she and George were leaving, I saw them at the exit and noticed they were holding hands. I love seeing couples who love each other. It's one of my "things." I asked a fellow UUCM-er what she knew about Janet and George, and she said, "They're Humanists." This was useful information, in a limited way, but it only left me more curious.

I've always had admiration for those devoting time and energy to the administration of an organization. I discovered Janet was on the UUCM Board for nine years – a true example of energy and devotion. The work of the Board is often unseen and unsung. Learning of Janet's work on the Board has allowed me to know her better, and finally, over time, to call her a friend.

"Smiles and Expertise" is the title for this profile. Here is the reason: Janet is both.

Janet is a self-described perfectionist.

Whatever she takes on she does with enthusiasm (smiles) and the expert ability to organize and see-a-thing-through (expertise). Attention to detail, along with imagining a positive outcome, means that working with Janet on an enterprise is likely to meet with success.

In her quiet way, Janet pursues private interests with the same enthusiasm. She has been attending the drawing sessions I offer at UUCM. She has great skill and an underlying understanding of the elements of crafting a fine drawing. But she struggles, too. She wants perfection. Of course there is no such thing as perfection. Janet will focus and work at it and be attentive to every detail and the outcome will be a drawing she is proud of. Not perfect, but close.



Getting to know Janet and be the recipient of her care and concern, her humor and joy, is one of the blessings for me in the UUCM community. Combine the professional person you care for with the personal one and you begin to appreciate humanity on a new level. This is what drew my attention on that night following the dinner (the one I can't remember the reason for), when I noticed Janet and George holding hands. This is the smiles part of the equation. There is always more to say.

My joy comes from knowing the story behind the hand-holding and coming to call Janet a friend.

Justice News and Activities

Share the Plate

UUCM's November Share the Plate recipient, Nevada County [Citizens for Choice](#) received \$1480.82, 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 December partner, [Hospitality House](#).

Sierra



Our January Share the Plate recipient is **Sierra Roots**. Sierra Roots is a community of individuals--some are chronically without homes, some feed others, some provide financial assistance and some advocate for those in need--dedicated to listening to and collaborating with chronically homeless persons to help them define and meet their needs. Sierra Roots takes a grassroots, relationship-based approach that acknowledges the dignity of the

person and nurtures the connections within the community to lessen isolation and promote well-being.

A special thanks to UUCM members who have volunteered to help at the Sierra Roots Emergency Weather Shelter: Corrie Silva, Shannon Dooley-Miller, Steve Temple, Cynthia Burton, and Keith and Alice Johnson.

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



Hospitality House Donations

UUCM supports Hospitality House by collecting donations of needed items for their guests.

Due to the generosity of Nevada County neighbors and their limited storage space, Hospitality House is not accepting donations other than food this time. All unexpired/ store-bought foods are accepted. They serve an estimated 90 individuals every day."

For updates on UUCM's partnership with Hospitality House and their most up-to-date donation requests, please visit our website [HERE](#).

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

*Thank you, as always, for your generosity,
- Laurie Bell and Keith Johnson*



Thanks for Your Generosity!

IFM is still calculating the excellent number of donations for supporting meals over the holidays. Unfortunately, due to Avian flu, eggs will not be available for the foreseeable future.

Thanks to the team of folks from UUCM who volunteer once a month. If you are interested in joining in, talk to Keith Johnson. For other ways to help, click on the link below:

[Interfaith Food Ministry website](#)

Spirituality Sharing Circle

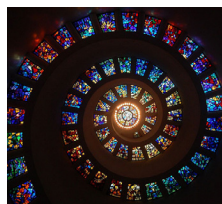
Spirituality? Huh??

By Scottie Hart

What comes up for you when you hear the term "spirituality"? Some of us UUs are very comfortable with this word; others find it challenging. Just my guess, but I suspect no two of us understand it in quite the same way.

We might think it has to do with "God." (Another fraught word!) More than thirty years ago, I started collecting alternative verbiage that might capture more clearly what might be meaningful to me as a religiously liberal thinker. Want to consider some possibilities? Among the six or seven dozen I have gathered so far: Maybe "spirituality" involves The Flow... The Big Silence... Pulsating Chaos and Beauty... The Cosmic Glue... The Solid Core... Inner Wisdom... Spirit... Essential Nature... Original Self... Transcending Mystery... Unfolding Awareness... Nurturing Voice... The Big Everything... Inner Light... Healing Energy... Suchness... The Unnamable... (Indeed, the Tao Te Ching opens by affirming that "The Tao that can be named is not the Eternal Tao."). What are your ideas? Feelings? Imaginings??

If this is a subject that tugs at you, consider checking out UUCM's Spirituality Sharing Circle this month on Saturday, January 22, from 2:00 – 3:30 p.m.



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

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

Community Connections

WEEKLY @ UUCM

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

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

Make Connections at UUCM

Please contact the organizers if you are interested in joining!



WALKING GROUP

TUESDAYS AND THURSDAYS, OFF-SITE
Email Walking@uugrassvalley.org

MEET AT 8:30 AM

We meet on **Tuesdays** at the Wolf Creek Trail/Northstar Mining Museum parking area, and on **Thursdays** at 418 Chapel, Grass Valley.

Be sure to ask our Administrative Assistant, Siobhan (Admin@uugrassvalley.org) to include you on our walking group mailing list so you can hear about last minute changes.

MEN'S GROUP

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

Men gather to enjoy each other's company.
Contact for the group: Men@uugrassvalley.org

SINGING MEDITATION CIRCLE

FIRST THURSDAYS, 7:00 PM, ONSITE AND VIA ZOOM
Contact SingingMeditation@uugrassvalley.org



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

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

Our next meeting is **Monday, January 13 at 6:00 PM at UUCM**. We will be having a potluck and then plan our activities for 2025. Please come contribute your ideas!

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

*Since the first Wednesday is a holiday, our next meeting will be on **Wednesday, January 8, at 10:45 AM at UUCM**, and our topic will be "Euphemisms, their use, and whether there is a moral case for not using them." (Please view the UUCM website calendar for the most up to date meeting info.)

FREE DRAWING SESSIONS

WITH JENNY DEWEY

1ST & 3RD FRIDAYS FROM 1:00 TO 2:30 PM
AT UUCM - REFRESHMENT/ALCOTT ROOM
RSVP to: JennyDewey@uugrassvalley.org



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, January 3 and 17.**



ARTS & CRAFTS CIRCLE

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

Come and meet with other UUs on **Friday, January 10 and 24** at 1:00 PM in the Refreshment/Alcott Room to work on your own art or craft form! Enjoy each other's company while working on independent projects. No teacher or facilitator.
Contact: arts-n-crafts@uugrassvalley.org

Offering many ways to serve the life of the community.

FamilyMinistry@uugrassvalley.org

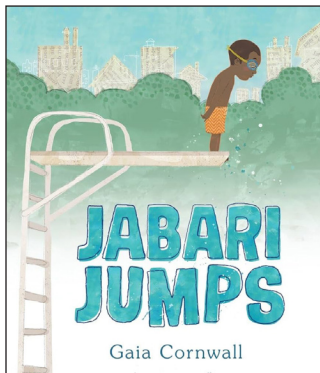
Sharing Stories in January

By Cheryl Spaulding, Family Ministry Team Member

Creating and sharing stories is a fundamentally human endeavor. We create stories to make sense of who we are and how we fit into our world. We share our stories to connect with each other, passing along our values and knowledge in the process. Our stories serve both to entertain and educate people, including those close to us and those we may never know. Storytelling is an act central to our humanity.

Not surprisingly, therefore, in Kids' Connection on Sunday mornings, we rely heavily on stories as a part of our "service" time with the children. On most Sundays, in addition to our UU rituals of building an altar, lighting the chalice, and sharing our joys and sorrows, we typically include the reading (or telling) of a story. In our service, the story is our version of the adults' Sunday sermon.

Over the last year, we have read many books to the children, most of them consisting of a story that touches on one or another of our new UU values. While the children have responded well to many, even most, of these books, one book stands out for me in terms of its ability to draw in the children, providing them with meaningful opportunities to reflect on their own life experiences.



This book is "*Jabari Jumps*" by Gaia Cornwall.

The story is a simple one—a boy, who is prepared to go to a local swimming pool with his very supportive father, has big plans: he intends to jump off the high diving board into the pool. At first, he is very confident, even boastful, about his plans. But as the moment for the jump is upon him, he

pulls back, unsure of himself. Jabari's father supports his son in that moment, without undermining his overall goal of making that jump at some future point. Eventually, Jabari jumps off that high diving board, experiencing all the feelings that go along with conquering a fear through action. When I read this book to our children, which I have done several times, even the quiet ones have stories to tell about when they jumped off the edge of a pool into a loving parent's arms. They are quick

to talk about being brave and doing scary things. Their ability to see their own experiences embedded in this story are what make this book such a meaningful experience for them.

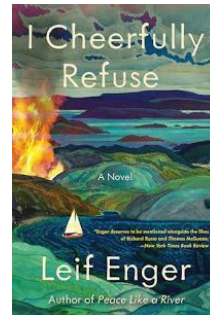
As I reflect on this simple children's book, I also find personal meaning in it. I know that I sometimes experience fear, causing me to pull back from some of my intended goals. Gaia Cornwall's book made me question whether there is a person in my life who supports me through scary situations the way that Jabari's dad supported him. I also have reflected on how I can be that supportive person for the people in my life when they face scary situations. I am especially curious about how to provide them with that much needed support without undermining their intentions to conquer their fears through action, the way Jabari did.

Jabari Jumps is such a simple story—but its lessons are important ones, and oh, so relevant for both young and old. Some stories just have a way of getting inside our very being. Here's to the power of stories to shape our lives.

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



January 12, 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.

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[Sunday Book Group Zoom](#)

Meeting ID: 927 1111 8322

Passcode: 472984

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



Unitarian Universalist Community of the Mountains

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Website: uugrassvalley.org



MOST UPDATED VERSION OF THE UUCM CALENDAR:

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



Sunday Services are held at 10:30 AM by Zoom or on-site

Office Hours: Monday through Friday, 8:30 AM - 12:30 PM

Monday, Wednesday and Friday from 1:00 TO 5:00 PM

(Our Administrative Assistant is available remotely on Tuesday and Thursday afternoons.)

Rev. Kevin Tarsa Office Hours:

Rev. Kevin's office hours are currently held by appointment.

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

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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](#)

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