



UNISON

February 2009

No. 776

A Month of Sundays

1 *How Hard I Tried to Be the Right Kind of Christian—the Rev. Meg Barnhouse*

Writing spiritual autobiography is one way to touch inner springs of memory, humor, sorrow, and insight about your life. Meg will share some stories from her life and give some suggestions for questions to use when you are starting to write your stories.

8 *Sermon Title: In the Name of Love The Rev. Melissa Mummert*

In the season of celebrating romantic love, we'll consider in this service how we can use the power of love to guide our justice work. The Rev. Melissa Mummert is an ordained Unitarian Universalist community minister and advocate for incarcerated women and their children.

15 *Got Love?--the Rev. Meg Barnhouse*

It's all St. Valentines, chocolate kisses, cards with glitter, and saying sweet things to people you hold in your heart. It's deeper than that too, sticking by someone, encouraging them when they falter, believing the best of them. Loving other people, loving oneself, loving the earth, loving this life, loving the One, it's a lifelong dance of giving and receiving, stumbling, finding your way, making mistakes, and knowing that you got it right. For a moment or two.....

22 *To Be Announced*

WINGO ALERT!

Mark your calendar for the second annual Wingo party sponsored by the Rainbow Group, Saturday, March 7. Wings, salads, mac and cheese, desserts, entertainment. All proceeds to benefit the church.

Meg's Musings

We walked around New York City breathing freezing air. We walked for hours around the Village, Chelsea, around Columbus Circle. For two hours we stood at the Metropolitan Opera watching the Magic Flute because standing room tickets were fifteen dollars and to sit down cost around three hundred. There were some tough people standing with us: women in their sixties wearing sensible London Fogs and good shoes. Even they were shifting from foot to foot by the time the lovers were entering the gates of fear which were guarded by two-story high metallic puppets on either side with arms that moved and faces made of roaring fire. By the court of the sun king we were leaning on the narrow ledges in front of us, unable to stretch out because the standing stations to which we were each assigned were placed so close together.

In the small hours of that morning I woke up with my heart pounding like a jackhammer. I wasn't sweating. My chest didn't hurt, or my jaw or my arms. I thought maybe it was the asthma medicine I had taken that evening after not having taken any in many months. Maybe it was all the walking in freezing air, or knowing my boys and their girl-loves were loose in the City with us, but far from us. My heart was over-stimulated somehow, and I fell back asleep sure it would be better in the morning. It was. No more jackhammer, just an odd quivery sense that I wasn't my usual strong self. During our tour of the Museum of Natural History I sat down often. I pretended to myself that I was meditating on the gigantic Brontosaurus, but I really just needed to sit down. The next day I preached on Long Island. Our rental car got a flat tire there in the church's parking lot. After the service, a lovely man with a red mustache, wire-rimmed glasses, and a fine suit offered to change the tire. After I said my goodbyes to the people, I went out to join Kiya, who was watching him work. A very tall young woman who had told me what finding UUism had meant to her was standing by the car watching, along with an older tall woman named Toni. What I knew about these two women was that they used to be men. The younger one, Lu, said she had her auto mechanic's certification from Tennessee, where she was from. She had been a car-computer expert, and now she was in school for Information Technology to work with all kinds of computers. Lu was giving Craig pointers on where to place the jack, how to loosen the lug nuts. Craig was lit up, doing this for us. He didn't need help, he groused good-naturedly, and he didn't care about ruining his

COME ONE, COME ALL!

Special Religious Education Workshops with Sue Sinnamon, TJ District Director of Faith Development February 27 and 28

Friday, February 27, 7:00—9:00 p.m.

Everyone in the congregation is invited to come and learn more about Religious Education and Lifespan Faith Development. There will be special activities for children and youth. Dessert, coffee, and hot chocolate will be served.

Saturday, February 28, 9:00 a.m.—4:00 p.m.

Workshop for the Lifespan Faith Development Committee, members of the UUCS Board, and others particularly involved in Lifespan Faith Development in our congregation. Breakfast and lunch will be provided.

Sue Sinnamon is the full-time district director of Faith Development in the Thomas Jefferson District of the Unitarian Universalist Association. Her background includes Unitarian Universalist lifespan religious education, humanistic and transpersonal education, and lifespan models of spiritual growth and development. She has served on the Meadville Lombard Winter Institute Committee; taught "Creating Intergenerational Community" and "Spirituality in the Second Half of Life" at Star Island's Religious Education Week; served in the CMWD Consultants Program; chaired the Board of the Jung Institute of Chicago, and served on the Housing Commission for the City of Evanston, IL. In her twenty years of parish ministry, she has loved creating opportunities for intergenerational activities and in addition to extensive experience with social justice programming, she loves combining the arts with religious education. Sue believes that each part of our spiritual journey, from the earliest years through the second half of life, has its own integrity and lessons.

Sue lives in Williamsburg, VA, with her husband, John Kerr, who serves as the Episcopal chaplain at the College of William and Mary and Bruton Parish, and her cat, Bert the Bengal. Sue loves entertaining (especially the cooking), reading, and beaches.

Auction Events Still Available

Check out the bulletin boards in the Fellowship Hall. You can still join in some fun by signing up for events or classes. The fee for such events goes one hundred percent to benefit our church budget. We thank all those folks who have generously donated classes, dinners, and events to our church auction, and we also thank those who pay the suggested donation and sign up to attend. Designate your check or cash for "2008 Auction" and hand it to Ed Wilde or drop it in the collection plate on Sunday. Questions? Contact Abby Fowler at abby2steve@bellsouth.net 433-1244.

If you are not receiving "Happenings," our weekly electronic newsletter, be sure to go to our website at UUCS.ORG and

Meg's Musings (continued)

fine slacks, even though he let his two friends put a car mat under his knee. We were all having fun. A woman walked out of the back of the church and called out to me: "Oh, you talk a good game about women's empowerment (not at all what I had talked about, but people hear what they hear), and now here you all are, four women watching while one man changes the tire." We smiled at her and she got in her car, shaking her head, and drove off. Then we smiled at each other, because we all knew something that woman didn't. Kiya started laughing a little more because she knew something I didn't: that Craig used to be a woman, and he had told her that changing a tire while women watched admiringly was one of his life's fantasies, which we were now all fulfilling.

Sunday evening I felt sicker, and Monday morning was worse. We drove straight from the airport to the doctor, who sent us to the ER. From there to the Heart Center, where they got my heart rate slowed down. It took more than a week. They ran all of their heart tests, including the one where they go in with a wire to take a look inside your heart. The doc came out to tell Kiya that it was a pleasure to see such a healthy heart. They didn't often get to look at one of those. We think what set it off was a bad combination of medicines I took trying to treat my occasional asthma. I came home with instructions to lessen my stress, and to keep eating the way we do and exercising the way we do, since it seems to be working well.

The nurses were wonderful. They didn't blink an eye at Kiya being there 24/7. They referred to her as my "partner" or as my "spouse." I've fallen in love with my heart beat, which has returned to normal. I want to appreciate every day of it. I'm not in love with this uncertainty. How long will I stay healthy? What will happen next? I realize, though, that these are the same questions we all have. Sometimes we manage to forget how uncertain the current status of things is, and I guess that helps us live our day-to-day in greater peace. Other times, though, we are reminded. I hope to respond to that reminder with gratitude for as long as the beat goes on.

Save the Date!

Saturday, March 21, 2009

7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.

The 2009 Canvass Kick-Off Event
Food – Drinks – Fun and Fellowship –
and Entertainment

Featuring the talents of:

THE WILD TIC TACS

PAT JOBE and KIYA HEARTWOOD

- with songs from -

"I GET A KICK FROM UU"

with music by Cole Porter

It will be an evening you won't want to miss!
(No Fund Raising ... Just FUN!)

Spartanburg Sierra Club

MEETING--Thursday, February 26, at 7:30 p.m. at the Unitarian Universalist Church. Jack Seitz, author, *Global Issues: An Introduction*, 3rd edn., will speak on "Climate Change: Who's to Blame?" To solve a problem you have to accurately identify its causes. Was the world's dominant economic system--its governments, its people, or something else the main cause of climate change? Now that the new Obama administration has pledged to attack this problem, how can we evaluate its proposals? Our speaker will present some ideas and hopes to get more from the audience. Y'all come and learn something more about the biggest environmental problem the world faces. Open to the public.

HIKE--Saturday, February 28, at 9:00 a.m. from the parking lot at the Unitarian Universalist Church, we will leave for another winter hike--this time on the Cottonwood Trail in Spartanburg. We will walk the full length of this lovely trail, much of it along the banks of Lawson's Fork Creek. We will explore the plant and animal life in this urban oasis. Hike is rated moderate, about three miles. After the hike those who are hungry will go to a restaurant in town for hot soup, tasty sandwiches, and more fellowship. Open to the public. Phone Jack Seitz, (864) 597-4589 (office), 948-1080 (home), for more details. Hike goes rain, snow, or shine (you'll enjoy the hot soup more if it is raining or snowing--guaranteed).

Greeters Needed

No Experience Required!

We have several openings for smiling faces on Sunday mornings. In fact, we really need five or six folks to greet during the month and it can be as light a schedule as one Sunday a month, or more often if you can. It's from 9:45 to 10:00, 10:45 to 11:00, and fifteen minutes after the service.

You'll not only make Sundays better for visitors, friends, and members, you'll be blessed by all the smiles you get back! If you can help fill this need, please see Michael (Flame Cane) Wray, e-mail jmw945@bellsouth.net, or call 579-0199.

Our Guest Speaker for February 8

The Rev. Melissa Mummert is an ordained Unitarian Universalist Community Minister and advocate for incarcerated women and their children. Last year, she started a program with the Center for Community Transitions called E-KWIP (Empowering Kids with Incarcerated Parents), which supports and advocates for children with parents in jail or prison. Melissa is also a documentary filmmaker. Her first film, "Perversion of Justice," about a woman sentenced to two life sentences in prison for her first drug offense, was completed in 2007 and has screened at film festivals and congregations across the country. Melissa was raised in Columbia, Missouri. She holds degrees in philosophy and theater from Stephens College and a Master of Divinity Degree from Starr King School for the Ministry in Berkeley, CA. Melissa is the type-B partner in her blissful marriage to the Rev. Jay Leach, minister of the Unitarian Universalist Church of Charlotte. When she is not working, she enjoys songwriting, playing guitar, and being constantly awestruck by her and Jay's two-year-old daughter, Annie.

Come to the Seventh Annual Cluster Gathering!

2009 Annual Gathering of the Western Carolinas Cluster in mid-March—Registration Now!

The UU Fellowship of Hendersonville, North Carolina, is holding the Seventh Annual Gathering of the Western Carolinas Cluster of Unitarian Universalist Congregations on Saturday, March 21, from 9:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. This is a great opportunity to meet and learn with UUs from other congregations in the Western Carolinas and Tennessee. This year's program includes a keynote address by the Rev. Laurel Hallman of the First Unitarian Church of Dallas, Texas, lunch, workshops, and a celebration service filled with music. Workshop topics include "Messages with Music," with our minister Meg Barnhouse and Kiya Heartwood; sessions with UUA trustee Anna Olsen and one with TJD district executive Annette Marquis; "Making Energy Conservation a Communal Endeavor"; "Cultivating the Next Generation of Social Change Agents"; "A Jewish Peace Activist's Views on the Middle East"; "Beyond War"; "Hand in Hand with Mother Earth's Sacred Power"; "End of Life Issues"; and "Global Warming: Can People of Faith Live into their Moral Vision." Descriptions of the workshops and speakers are available at www.wcluster.org.

No child care is provided. Youth twelve years and older, however, can attend their own sessions: a yoga and chanting program in the morning and a visit to the Hermitage, a Buddhist retreat, during the afternoon. Cost for the youth program (which requires a parental permission slip) is \$10. Cost for the adult program is \$30 before March 11 and \$35 on or after that date. Online registration at www.wcluster.org is preferred, but you can also contact UUFH by calling 828-693-3157. Online registration accepts credit card payment. If you are interested in carpooling (either as a driver or rider), sign up on the sheet posted on the denomination affairs bulletin board in the fellowship hall.

February Birthdays

Natalie Kurylo (02/11), Margaret Howie (02/13), Barbara Tisdale (02/14), Jennifer Jacobs (02/16), Jill McBurney (02/18), Doug Jenson (02/20), Ted Warrendorf (02/20), Vivian Jordan (02/21), Parker Hill (02/23), Quinn Jacobs (02/23), Laura Culler (02/24), Marggi Roldan (02/25), Louisa Fiacco (02/26), Nigel Baynes (02/28), Jeff Blackwell (02/28), Debra Johnson (02/28).

Buddhist Meditation Group

Tuesdays, 7:00 p.m.

All are welcome.

Please call David Stack (542-1324) with questions.

Unison Deadline—18th of Each Month

Bulletin Deadline—Thursday Nights, 9:00

unison@uucs.org

Please don't leave material in the *Unison* mailbox without notifying Monnie (582-4492).

News from the Membership Committee

EXPLORING UU—If you're new to Unitarian Universalism or to this church, please join us in Room 6 on Sunday, February 8, following the sermon. We'll be hosting a brief, informal Question-and-Answer session for people who want to learn more about our religion in general or UUUS in particular. Snacks will be provided.

MEET OUR NEWEST MEMBERS! Alice Sutton (previously a member of the UU Church of Charlotte) and Michael Rainey have been attending UUUS since they moved to Spartanburg a few months ago, and they signed the membership book in January. Alice was born in California, and Michael was born in Charleston. As a Navy brat, Michael moved frequently during his childhood, including living in Puerto Rico during high school. Michael and Alice met in college and married in 1975. While Alice attended graduate school for a Master's in public health from UC Berkeley, Michael began a civil service job. Finding that job too boring, he entered a machining apprentice program on a whim and discovered that he loved machining. Alice became a registered dietitian.

In 1978, the couple moved to seven acres near Kings Mountain, North Carolina, and built a passive-solar house with their own hands. They enjoyed getting "back to the land," raising two children and many critters in the country. Their son Neal is married and is a teacher in Bozeman, Montana. Their daughter Teresa is an advocate for abused women in Washington, DC. Michael spent 1980 to 2005 as a manufacturing engineer and/or CNC programmer in a number of machine shops and now writes manufacturing software at home and markets it online. He's a political independent/progressive and religious agnostic. Alice worked as a clinical dietitian and public health nutritionist for twenty-five years and is now teaching nutrition at Winthrop University and Converse College. As empty-nesters, they found that living "in the middle of nowhere" got too lonely, and they are now enjoying their life in Spartanburg.

WELCOME NEW GREETERS! Thank you to Jan Jerome, Lynnette Patrick, and Angie Shuman, who have volunteered to assist with greeting people as they arrive at church on Sunday mornings. We still have room on the schedule for additional greeters, if you'd like to volunteer for this fun job. Not much more is needed than a smile and a welcoming heart, but super-greeter Michael Wray trains new greeters on the particulars, and who wouldn't want the opportunity to hang out with him? If you can volunteer for one day a month (or more!), please contact Michael at 864-579-0199 or at jmw945@bellsouth.net.

FELLOWSHIP—Have you noticed that the Fellowship Hall is now available most Sunday mornings during the 10:00 hour for coffee and conversation? If you're not participating in one of the adult forums (that almost sounds naughty!), please feel free to join other members, friends, and visitors there. It's a great opportunity to get to know each other and strengthen the sense of community we cherish so much. Toward that end . . . we think the fellowship will be enhanced by having snacks available each week. P.K. Weiss has been contacting committees and other groups within the church to enlist their help in providing snacks. Individuals are also welcome to get in on the fun. Please contact P.K. at 864-576-3274 or pkweiss@bellsouth.net if you'd like to bring in something yummy a time or two a year.

Kathleen's Corner

In January, it was my privilege to travel with Karen McKenzie to represent our church at the Charleston Growth Summit. The UU Church in Charleston is one of the oldest churches in the country, and grand, with high arched ceilings, beautiful stained glass, heavy wooden doors, and a churchyard with graves dating back to the 1600's. The people there were so gracious and friendly; we truly felt welcomed, and the workshops we attended left us feeling grateful and inspired.

Here are five important things I learned:

A growing church must have a clear, strong sense of identity and purpose.

A church that wants to grow needs to make an explicit plan for growth, and be willing to commit time, energy, and resources to meet the challenges.

Plans for growth can and should consist of small, manageable steps that move the church toward "tipping points" when progress becomes evident. Growth plans have to be sustainable.

Growth must be a church-wide mission: a beautiful facility, a great minister, outstanding RE programs, a great website, friendly people, great follow-up strategies for visitors—all are important, but none can create needed change in isolation, or bear complete responsibility. Everyone needs to be involved.

A growing church must be willing to change.

During the opening activity, Annette Marquis and Sue Sinnamon, who led the meetings, read aloud some characteristics of different kinds of churches. We participants had to move to different parts of the room along a continuum that represented where we believed our congregation stood in relation to each characteristic. Then, they would tell us whether this characteristic represented a church that was likely to grow or likely to be in decline. Most of the time, I found myself standing right in the middle.

In the middle—that tells me that our church is on a cusp, that we do have choices, and decisions to make about which way we want to go as a congregation. It also tells me that we cannot NOT decide. This month we will be talking a lot about growth in our church, and what our priorities need to be. In the next few weeks, I encourage you to ponder several questions. *What are your personal priorities as a congregant—what does church need to be for you? What do you believe our mission and main concerns need to be in the next year or two years? What kind of place do we now have in Spartanburg, and what kind of presence do we need to become? What are some sustainable and cost effective steps we could take to meet our goals? Who needs to do it? What do we need to be doing that we're not doing now? Are there some things we are doing that we might need to rethink?* I encourage you to talk your ideas over with your friends, and to come to the discussion forums that will be offered to share your thoughts. Sue Sinnamon, Coordinator for Lifespan Faith Development for the Thomas Jefferson District, will be visiting with us for two days near the end of the month to discuss our church's programming and outreach. The meeting on Friday night, February 27, is an open one for anyone who wishes to share their joys and concerns about our church. Childcare is offered, along with great cake and drinks, so please do make plans to be there. Finding ways to grow, succeed, and make a difference is up to all of us. The year ahead is going to be an important one for this church, full of challenges and opportunities. What shall we do with them? —Kathleen Anderson

LFD Scheduling for February

Sunday, February 1

10:00 Adult Forums

Wake-up Calls: Sharing the Books that Changed Our Lives and Thinking with Margaret Schmidt (Classroom 5)

Cosmos with Carl Sagan—Science and Religion Discussion Group with Marion Tisdale (Classroom 6)

Coffee and Conversation—Fellowship Hall

10:00 Youth Forums

Children 6-10: Introduction to Islam with Susan Prestipino and Seher Kul, Garden Level, Classroom 1

Junior High Youth: Neighboring Faiths, with Cathy Matthews and Christie Matthews, Garden Level, Classroom 2

Senior High Youth: Hearing the Different Drummers—Interpreting the Personality Types of the Kiersey/Bates Temperament Sorter with Karen McKenzie, Teresa Hall, and Kathleen Anderson, Hatcher House

11:00 Worship Service, with Meg Barnhouse, Sermon: “How Hard I Tried to Be the Right Kind of Christian”

12:00 Coffee-Conversation-Discussion—Fellowship Hall

Exploring UU Faith—Classroom 5

7:00 PM: Facilitators Covenant Group with Meg Barnhouse

Sunday, February 8

9:00 Board of Trustees Meeting—Garden Level, Classroom 2

10:00 Adult Forums

Wake-up Calls: Sharing the Books that Changed Our Lives and Thinking with Margaret Schmidt (Classroom 5)

Cosmos with Carl Sagan—Science and Religion Discussion Group with Marion Tisdale (Classroom 6)

Coffee and Conversation—Fellowship Hall

10:00 Youth Forums

Children 6-10: Parable from Islam with Susan Prestipino / Seher Kul, Garden Level, Classroom 1

Junior High Youth: NO CLASS: Most of this group will be away at the Youth Con at The Mountain

Senior High Youth: UU Faith—How our faith informs our choices with Karen McKenzie, Teresa Hall, and Katie Ramsey.

11:00 Worship Service, In the Name of Love, the Rev. Melissa Mummert

6:30 Lanier/Hatchell Covenant Group—Fellowship Hall

Sunday, February 15

10:00 Adult Forums

Wake-up Calls: Sharing the Books that Changed Our Lives and Thinking with Margaret Schmidt (Classroom 5)

Cosmos with Carl Sagan—Science and Religion Discussion Group with Marion Tisdale (Classroom 6)

Coffee and Conversation—Fellowship Hall

10:00 Youth Forums

Children 6-10: Stories from Islam, Garden Level, Room 1

Junior High Youth: Neighboring Faiths, with Cathy Matthews and Christie Matthews, Garden Level, Classroom 2

Senior High Youth: Workshop with Youth and Parents to Plan for Coming of Age Program

11:00 Worship Service: Got Love? Meg Barnhouse.

Sunday, February 22

10:00 Adult Forum/High School Youth

Reports from the Charleston Growth Summit and Discussion, Led by Kathleen Anderson and Karen McKenzie, Garden Level, Main Hall (*EVERYONE INTERESTED IN THE FUTURE OF THIS CHURCH SHOULD PLAN TO ATTEND!*)

Coffee and Conversation—Fellowship Hall

10:00 Youth Forums

Children 6-10: Stories from Islam, RE Wing, Classroom 5

Junior High Youth: Neighboring Faiths, with Cathy Matthews and Christie Matthews, RE Wing, Classroom 6

1:00 Astrology Group with Jule Klotter and Rosemary Kramer—Fellowship Hall

Wonderful Wednesdays

Every Wednesday, 5:30 PM, POTLUCK SUPPER

Bring a dish to share

Cost is \$4.00 per person, or \$8.00 per family

Wednesday, February 4

6:30: Wild Tic-Tacs Rehearsal

7:00: Multi-Age Sing-Around with Kiya Heartwood—Fellowship Hall

Council on Committees with Rick Hahnenburg—Room 5

Book Club with Karen McKenzie—Classroom 6. (The next title for Book Club will be: *My Sister's Keeper* by Jodi Picoult. Contact Karen McKenzie at karakaz@aol.com for more information.)

Wednesday, February 11

6:30: Wild Tic-Tacs Rehearsal

7:00: Multi-Age Sing-Around with Kiya Heartwood—Fellowship Hall

Lost Christianities Study Group with Meg Barnhouse—Classroom 5

Wednesday, February 18

2:00-4:00 Senior Stories Group with Kathleen Anderson—Fellowship Hall

6:30: Wild Tic-Tacs Rehearsal

Stewardship Committee—Hatcher House

7:00: Multi-Age Sing-Around with Kiya Heartwood—Fellowship Hall

Coltrane Covenant Group—Room 5

Humanist Discussion Group—Room 6

Wednesday, February 25

6:30: Wild Tic-Tacs Rehearsal

7:00: Multi-Age Sing-Around with Kiya Heartwood—Fellowship Hall

Money Support Group with Jule Klotter—Classroom 5

Canvassers Orientation—Classroom 6

**Unitarian Universalist
Church of Spartanburg**

210 Henry Place
P.O. Box 1942
Spartanburg, SC 29304

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Return Service Requested

The Rev. Meg Barnhouse, Minister
 Worship Service: 11:00 a.m. Sundays
 Kiya Heartwood, Acting Music Director
 Kathleen Anderson, Acting DRE
 Penny Hatchell, Church Administrator
 Church Office: Monday-Thursday, 7:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

210 Henry Place (off South Converse Street by way of
 Hudson Barksdale) and on Wheeler Court
 Church Phone (864) 585-9230
 Website <http://www.uucs.org>.
 Regular e-mail: office@uucs.org
 Announcement for weekly e-mail: happenings@uucs.org

FEBRUARY 2009						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2 6:30 Yoga	3 7:00 Buddhist Meditation	4 5:30 Potluck Supper 7:00 Book Clb 7:00 CoC	5	6	7
8 12:00 Exploring UU 1:00 World Issues Group	9 6:30 Yoga	10 6:45 Rainbow Group 7:00 Buddhist	11 Tic Tacs, Sing Around. Lost Christianities	12	13	14
15	16 6:30 Yoga	17 7:00 Buddhist Meditation	18 2:00-4:00 Senior Stories 6:30 Tic Tacs; 7:00 Humanist	19	20	21
22 1:00 Astrology TOTAL Ministries	23 6:30 Yoga	24 7:00 Buddhist Meditation	25 Money Sup- port Group; Canvassers Orientation	26 Unison dead- line 7:30 Sierra Club	27 7:00-9:00 RE Workshop	28 9:00-4:00 RE Workshop Sierra Hike