



NUUSLETTER

of the Unitarian Universalist Church of the Monterey Peninsula

August Theme: UU Sources & Spiritual Practices

Sunday Service begins at 10:30 a.m. via Zoom

August 2

**Sources of Our Living Tradition: Earth-Centered
"Sixth Source"**

Sue Ellen Stringer & W.A. Natalie Fryberger

Spiritual teachings of Earth-centered traditions which celebrate the sacred circle of life and instruct us to live in harmony with the rhythms of nature. There are different belief systems and practices that identify as "Pagan" or "Earth-centered" within Unitarian Universalism. Broadly stated, we place a special emphasis in our spiritual lives on the feminine aspect of divinity, the cycles of nature, the honoring of the ancestors and the inherent divine and creative potential in all people.

August 9

**Sources of Our Living Tradition:
Science and Humanism**

**"Humanism vs. Idolatry: Addressing Climate Change
with Reason and Science"**

Mike Clancy & W.As. Bob Sadler & Kathleen Craig

The fifth source in Unitarian Universalism is, "Humanist teachings, which counsel us to heed the guidance of reason and the results of science and warn us against idolatries of the mind and spirit." Idolatry is the extreme admiration and worship of craven images and ideas. Two major idolatries overtly resist reason and science, Wall Street, focused on quarterly profit, and religious fundamentalism, focused on a literal interpretation of ancient texts. Evolutionary science threatens literal interpretations of religious texts. Environmental science threatens short-term profits worshiped by Wall Street. And what about addressing Climate Science? To address this issue our service will feature as guest speaker climate scientist Mike Clancy. For background about the topic and about Mike, please see page 4.

Religious Exploration

is available via Zoom for children (pre K – 11)
at 10 a.m. and for teens (12 – 18) at 12 p.m.

August 16

"Water Rites"

Revs. Elaine & Axel Gehrman

Every year we kick off our new church year with a water communion ritual. While we will not be able to join our waters in our sanctuary as usual, we will still practice some water rituals and share them virtually. Have your cup of water ready!

August 23

"To Whom it May Concern"

Rev. Axel Gehrman & W.A. Robin Jensen

There's an old joke that Unitarian Universalists begin their prayers with the words "To Whom It May Concern." Of course, this isn't actually true. But the joke points to an important truth about us, and our beliefs. According to an informal survey Rev. Elaine conducted during a worship service in June, some of us say we are Atheists and some of us say we are Theists. But most of us are Agnostics. Given our uncertainty about potential recipients, how do we direct our prayers?

August 30

"Practicing Joy"

Rev. Elaine Gehrman & W.A. Sue Ellen Stringer

The spiritual practice of joy is one that may not come naturally to you, especially in challenging times, but there is much to be gained by intentionally welcoming more joy into your life. Smiling, dancing, singing and service are all ways to bring more joy and satisfaction into your daily practice of joy-full living.

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Ministers' Message

Rev. Axel Gehrman

In the annual cycle of congregational and ministerial life, summer is traditionally a time of transition. It's a time to shift gears, to slow down, take a step back, and take a breath . . . before kicking off another busy church year.

For obvious reasons this has been, and continues to be, an unusual summer. We have been staying close to home, reading a few good books, tackling a few home and garden projects, and embarking on a few small road trips. (For instance, following up on a tip by one our members, we explored the amazing Lava Bed National Monument a few hours north, and enjoyed a stroll through Panther Meadow on Mount Shasta.)

As our newsletter deadline approaches we are still on summer hiatus, but our thoughts are increasingly turning to fall.

Mindful of the moment, and in anticipation of what our future may hold, these words by the poet Li-Young Lee strike a chord for me. And perhaps for you, too? (Lee was born in Jakarta, Indonesia, to Chinese parents. The family moved to the US when Li was seven.) He writes:

From Blossoms

*From blossoms comes
this brown paper bag of peaches
we bought from the boy
at the bend in the road where we turned
toward signs painted Peaches.*

*From laden boughs, from hands,
from sweet fellowship in the bins,
comes nectar at the roadside, succulent
peaches we devour, dusty skin and all,
comes the familiar dust of summer, dust we eat.*

O, to take what we love inside,

*to carry within us an orchard, to eat
not only the skin, but the shade,
not only the sugar, but the days, to hold
the fruit in our hands, adore it, then bite into
the round jubilation of peach.*

*There are days we live
as if death were nowhere
in the background; from joy
to joy to joy, from wing to wing,
from blossom to blossom to
impossible blossom, to sweet impossible blossom.*



However we may be spending our summer, I hope we each find moments to taste sweet joy, and hold what we love inside, so that in days to come our beloved community might blossom.

See you in (virtual) church,

Axel

President's Corner — Jon Czarnecki



5:34 A.M.

In the cacophony of our present lives, with the imposition of a deadly and dreaded disease hovering about us, an economic catastrophe rolling through our communities in slow motion, and a destructive culture conflict boiling within the many places in our country, I find the great quiet of my little town, Spreckels, in the early hours of morning, a blessing whose value is well nigh unsurpassed. Oh, there are murmurs of awakening giant agricultural machinery in the distance, but the effects are muted by the almost ever-present marine layer that blankets our valley. Precious blessings indeed. It is the time for morning reflection and meditation.

We live in a time of looming fear; nowhere and no one is immune to this insidious societal cancer. This fear threatens the very bonds of trust and amicability that make us a community. Fear makes us weak when we need to be strong; fear is powerful because it works from the inside out. There is no fear “out there.” Only in here, in our brain and in our heart. Fear is an invisible killer – of communities in a similar way that stress is an invisible killer of bodies. I recall an old “Twilight Zone” episode, “The Monsters Are Due on Maple Street,” which aptly captured the Cold War paranoia of the time. The story concerned the collapse of a small neighborhood because of a contagion of fear of an imagined invasion (ok, so it wasn't really imagined) of aliens. Rod Serling, the show's main writer, ended the episode with these words, “The tools of conquest do not necessarily come with bombs and explosions and fallout. There are weapons that are simply thoughts, attitudes, prejudices . . . to be found only in the minds of men. For the record, prejudices can kill, and suspicion can destroy . . . and a thoughtless, frightened search for a scapegoat has a fallout all of its own – for the children and the children yet unborn. And the pity of it is that these things cannot be confined to the Twilight Zone.” How well these words play out now, almost sixty years since they were spoken.

My Hispanic neighbors in Spreckels have a wonderful word in their native language that sharply defines the

counterbalance to fear: *esperanza* – a hope, promise, expectation borne by action. Not just the feeling, but the act. The good people of Maple Street failed because they lost hope, and fell amongst themselves. Building and holding close *esperanza* is what divides communities who would weather the wild insanities of our time, or would be crushed by them.

What is it that we, humble creatures of limited powers of reason and strength, can do in face of this terrific chaos? Should I even have to ask that question? We are Unitarian Universalists, people who proudly pronounce “deeds not creeds.” People leaning towards action, leaning into a soul-crushing gale of fear with a sure-handedness of the helm of social justice that would make our Yankee forebearers proud. Our little church in the woods swings a social action bat well above what our size would normally indicate. We have many opportunities - and we seek more - for each of us individually and collectively to build and maintain *esperanza* for ourselves, our community of faith, and our communities of people. Want to see what I mean? Just look at our Continuums of Commitment word cloud, which *we built* from scratch; yes, they are words, not deeds, but they grasp an essential truth about our community. That truth is this: we light a chalice of hope, of *esperanza*, and we keep it lit in the face of an encroaching fear. That, my friends, is no small thing.

There is a pleasantly cool and scented breeze blowing in from the ocean now, as a muted dawn light spreads across my town. Daily life is beginning again on our street, Fourth Street not Maple Street. And I begin my day with a sense of . . . *esperanza*. May you begin yours the same.



See you next time.

Jon



Mike Clancy

Addressing Climate Change

The idolatries of the world have been exploited, consolidated and polarized against the science that threatens them. The anti-science and anti-reason movement is flourishing at exactly the wrong moment in history, because we are facing two existential threats. The Covid-19 virus has killed more people in America, per capita, than in any other country. That devastation is nothing compared to the devastation that we're facing with current and oncoming global climate events. We need to listen to our humanists. We need to use reason, think ahead and be guided by science and take actions. What about Climate Science? It's getting lost. We need to know what science is saying about climate change today. Why is this not normal global climate change? How hot is it now? How hot is it going to get? What's causing it? Who's causing it? How much time to we have? What can we do?

Mike Clancy is the former Technical and Scientific Director of the U.S. Navy's Fleet Numerical Meteorology and Oceanography Center; on August 9 he will present a talk on the science underpinning our understanding of climate change. The Greenhouse Effect, and its impact on the surface temperature of the Earth, has been known for over a century. Long before there were satellites, computer models or even computers, scientists understood that the huge increase in the burning of fossil fuels that began with the Industrial Revolution would lead to a warming Earth and a changing climate. Yet now, even as the science has become much more definitive, specific, and alarming, governments around the world have failed to act decisively to address this problem, and human-induced climate change has progressed to the point of crisis.

These groups are not convening and are not available in August:

- Equal Exchange products (Janet Shing)
- Friday Night at the Movies (John Freeman)
- Men's Breakfast (Marsh Pitman)

SCHEDULED EVENTS

Anti-Racism Book Discussion Group Tuesday, August 4, 7 p.m. via Zoom. See page 12.

Anti-Racism Film Group Thursday, August 20, 7 p.m. via Zoom. See page 12.

Board of Trustees meets Wednesday, August 19, at 5:30 p.m. via Zoom.

Buddhist Sangha is every Wednesday at 7 p.m. Sheltered in Place. See page 12.

Community Choir meets Thursdays beginning August 6 at 7 p.m. via Zoom-C. See page 10.

Dances of Universal Peace will not meet in August.

Equal Exchange will not be available in August.

Friday Night at the Movies will not meet in August.

I-HELP for Men and I-HELP for Women will be supported for now by financial donations to UUCMP, as the I-HELP directors want all food prepared in certified kitchens. We will still continue to provide monthly meals. If you can help, please consider sending a check to the church or clicking the DONATE button on the UUCMP website and indicating that the donation is for I-HELP.

Membership Committee meets Wednesday, August 26, 5:30 p.m. via Zoom.

Men's Breakfast will not meet in August.

Music Committee meets Wednesday, August 5, 5:30 p.m. via Zoom.

NUUsletter deadline for the September issue is Sunday, August 16.

Program Council is Tuesday, August 4, 12:30 p.m., via Zoom. For Zoom information contact Lauren Keenan programcouncil@uucmp.org

Sing Along will meet on Wednesday, August 12, 5:30 p.m. via Zoom.

Social Justice meets Sunday, August 2, 12:00 p.m., via Zoom.

Stewardship does not meet in August.

Women's Discussion Group meets August 13 and August 27, 2 p.m. via Zoom. See page 11.

Please Welcome Our New Intern Minister – Susan Panttaja



describes in her greeting to us, her professional life has been as a geologic scientist. Her work has focused on remediating contaminated soil and groundwater. Her passion for the care of the Earth is evident in her work and in her writing. She has also been an adjunct instructor at a local junior college for 12 years, so sharing her knowledge and being a teacher is also part of her calling.

We are very excited that Susan Panttaja (pronounced PanTAYuh) will be joining us on August 15, 2020 to begin her 10-month internship with UUCMP. Our congregation has both a commitment to and a positive reputation for being a teaching congregation. Given the unique circumstances of Covid-19, we will have to explore new ways to accomplish the positive experiences we have had with our prior intern ministers. But, I know we can do it and that we will all grow and learn together, as we always do.

Like others of us, Susan found her way to a UU church when she was searching for a source for religious education for her children. She has grown into an active member of UU Santa Rosa over the past 20 years, being involved as a choir member, becoming Music Coordinator, participating as Worship Associate, and working with the middle and high school youth groups. Clearly, Susan has been a dedicated church member, even while continuing her professional work.

The Intern Committee will act as the bridge between the congregation and Susan, giving her support and encouragement to accomplish the goals she will be establishing for her internship. Yet we can only be successful with input from all of you! So you will be hearing from us about how you might assist. We have not yet determined how to best “celebrate” Susan’s arrival, but please plan to participate in some virtual activity on Sunday, August 16.

Susan closed the personal statement of her application describing the kinds of activities she hopes to contribute to and grow from. These include “preparing and engaging in worship services, hands on experience in church administration, pastoral care, and justice work in the community.” These experiences, and our active engagement with Susan in the learning process, will bring us all added “light and warmth.” Please feel free to reach out to me, or the other members of the Intern Committee if you have ideas of ways we can make this the best experience we can for Susan Panttaja.

Susan has sent us a “hello” greeting message (see next page) that tells you a bit about herself. You will get a sense of her “voice” when you read it and I think it will entice you to want to get to know her better. I will share a bit more of what we learned about Susan when Reverend Elaine and the Intern Committee reviewed applications and interviewed candidates last winter. As Susan

Susan Hocevar, Chair; with Intern Committee members: Lauren Keenan, Laurie Bulgier, JT Mason, Paul Berezovsky, and Val Gottesman,

PUBLICATION DEADLINES

ANNOUNCEMENTS for SUNDAYS in the Order of Service or Welcome and Announcements from the pulpit are due by 9 a.m. on Wednesdays. ARTICLES for THE WEEKLY NEWS email are due by noon, Tuesdays.



A Message from the Intern

Dear Members and Friends of UUCMP,

I am so excited to meet you and begin our journey together!

Last week, I thought of you as I visited Point Reyes National Seashore. Pt. Reyes, just 20 miles southwest of my home in Petaluma, has always been a special place for me. As an Earth scientist, I am fascinated by the Pt. Reyes' peninsula's geologic history, which began near what is now Los Angeles and involved a long, porpoising journey northward along the San Andreas Fault Zone. It may sound silly, but when I am at the shore there, I often turn to the north, wind in my face, and try to feel the land mass's inextricable glide up the California coast (at rip-roaring 50 millimeters a year). It never fails to evoke a sense of wonder in me, at the place where my science and my theology meet.

On my most recent visit, I reflected on my imminent connection with you, the UU Church of the Monterey Peninsula, and how our lands were once conjoined, some 16 million years ago, before Earth's ineluctable dynamics sent Pt. Reyes northward. Evidence of their connection remains: the same conglomerate rock formations can be seen near the Pt. Reyes lighthouse and at Whalers Cove in the Pt. Lobos State Natural Preserve.

Just like the geology beneath us, we are connected with one another – you, dear members of UUCMP, and I. I thank you for allowing me the opportunity to serve you as your ministeri-

al intern. I am looking forward to “questioning, reflecting, learning, leading” with you, and I welcome the process of changing and being changed together.

I come to you at the end of my career as a consulting geologist, yes, but also in the midst of my path toward UU ministry. As a 20-year member of the Unitarian Universalist Congregation, Santa Rosa, I have served primarily as a Worship Associate and Music Coordinator, with a more recent foray into Youth ministry. As a student at Starr King School for the Ministry and the Graduate Theological Union, I have studied a wide range of topics, including UU, Christian, and Islamic theologies, ethics, congregational administration, worship and ritual skills, and the intersections of faith and public policy. Woven into everything is a focus on understanding my racial and social contexts and working to counter oppression. This latter focus was eye-opening to this white, middle-class, middle-aged cis-woman from the suburbs. I hope my ongoing efforts to “do the work” will benefit us all as we implement recommendations from the UUA Commission on Institutional Change (coming out this summer). I look forward to taking this journey with you. I can feel the wind in my face already!

Yours,
Susan Panttaja
(pan-TAY-uh)

P.S. Beginning in mid-August, I will be living in the studio on the UUCMP campus. I hope to see many of you in person, as safety permits. Periodically, I will commute back home to Petaluma, where my husband of 25 years, David Templeton, will be holding down the fort. Helping him will be our cat, Dickens, and our adult children, Jaye and Andy, who live nearby.

RELIGIOUS EXPLORATION



To Extinguish the Chalice

At the end of each service here at the UUCMP, we recite the following words:

“We extinguish this chalice, but take its light into our lives: to be the presence of love in the midst of fear, the voice of hope in the face of despair, and the hands of justice restoring a world worthy of our children.”

Try as we might to be all of the things we say, the presence of love, the voice of hope, and the hands of justice, lately it has been HARD. Some of us are dealing with tremendous amounts of stress, so much that we might lose sleep trying to figure out how to be the voice of hope when our friends and family members are contracting the virus and getting sick, or worse. How can we be the voice of hope? Does putting on the “calm and happy mask” and faking it really work? Or does it cause more damage? We can pretend, and sometimes it works.

There is science behind faking it. If you’re sad, I’ve read and been told to smile anyway. Eventually, just by smiling, you teach your brain that things aren’t as bad as you made them out to be and you begin to feel better. It doesn’t always work, but a lot of times it does.

We can also be the hands of justice, as the world REALLY needs us to be that right now, as always. But protesting in crowds is just not safe for anyone with the virus numbers climbing higher each day.

Perhaps it would be better to focus on one of these three things at a time. We can strive to do all three, but maybe right now it just isn’t feasible. We are stretched thin to breaking. So for today, for now, let us focus on the first part, to be the presence of love in the midst of fear. Love might not conquer

all, but it can sure help a lot of situations. By spreading love we can help the injustices of the world, and perhaps also even be the voice of hope.

We are dealing with so much right now! Some of us might not have a job and are worrying about feeding our families and providing beds to sleep in. I imagine all of us are worried about our friends and family members not having equal rights. Some of us have family members that are sick. Some of us are terrified about sending our children back to school. Some of us are terrified of our adult children going back to school to teach. We, as a nation, are pretty scared right now.

In the midst of all of this fear, DESPITE all of this fear, can we try to be the presence of love? Love can conquer so much. I asked some of the children what they thought love could conquer, and their answers were refreshing:

Love conquers all.
Love conquers despair, and always will.
Love conquers war.
Love conquers hate.
Love conquers evil.
Love conquers greed.
Love doesn’t conquer. Love creates. If you create, there’s no need to conquer.

How can you be the presence of love in the midst of fear? What can you do to help create a loving world?



Erin Forstein

Director of Religious Exploration



August Shared Plate Recipient

Palenke Arts

Palenke Arts was founded in 2015 by a committed group of artists, educators and community members who recognized the urgent need for multicultural arts, music programs and events focusing on youth. Their mission is to educate and inspire the community through the arts. Their vision is to create a vibrant and inclusive multicultural arts center in the City of Seaside, offering courses and performances in a multitude of art forms.

Under the fiscal sponsorship of the Action Council of Monterey County, Palenke Arts started offering classes and events at their site within the Martin Luther King School of the Arts campus in October of 2016. On July 15, 2019 they filed for 501c3 tax exempt status as a nonprofit corporation to the IRS.

Palenke Arts provides a space that does not exist elsewhere in Seaside. It is a dedicated multicultural arts center offering free and low-cost, arts-based classes and events to many families who would not traditionally be able to afford them. They aim to address the issue of inequity in the arts with culturally relevant offerings that are accessible for everyone.

Each year, they offer weekly classes in beginning

orchestra, beginning band, choral singing, Latin jazz, hip hop dance, visual arts, Afro Cuban drumming, West African drumming, piano, guitar, violin, cinematic arts, audio production, and Latin dance. They hosted a summer art camps for local students; held monthly community events and performances including a World music series featuring performers from Morocco, Veracruz, Oaxaca (Mexico), Japan, Nicaragua, Spain and the United States; as well as the annual **Palenke Arts Festival**, a free outdoor event featuring professional and touring bands as well as student ensembles, family art activities, and local nonprofits assisted by over 40 volunteers.



Palenke Arts is a sanctuary for thoughtful, joyful adults and children who demonstrate the goal of healing, vibrant, thriving communities through the Arts.

Website: <https://www.palenkearts.com/>

Please give generously to this worthy organization.

WOMEN'S DISCUSSION GROUP

Unitarian Universalist Church of the Monterey Peninsula

We welcome all women to our twice monthly meetings—the second and fourth Thursdays from 2-3:30 p.m. Because of the current shelter-in-place restrictions, we're meeting via Zoom. We plan to hold the following discussions in August:

On August 13th, Maureen Brinkerhoff will lead our discussion of "Anxiety."

On August 27th, Kathleen Craig will lead our discussion of "Earth Friendly Households."

Watch for the emailed notices for these events. They will contain the Zoom link and password.

—Nancy Baker Jacobs, Facilitator

Artist of the Month

Illustrating My Storytellers' Points in Time and Points of View

By N J Taylor

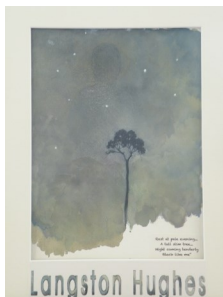
For her show at the Pacific Grove Art Center in June of 2019 titled "Illustrating My Storytellers' Points in Time and Points of View," N J Taylor chose six writers who wrote about their time and experiences on the Peninsula. The authors are Robert Louis Stevenson, Robinson Jeffers, John Steinbeck, Langston Hughes, Henry Miller and Jack Kerouac. Each author had three original watercolor illustrations that accompanied quotes by each of the writers.

N J Taylor is a professional artist of long standing. She studied art in NYC as a scholarship student and began exhibiting her work in NYC in the 1960s. Taylor had her own Taylor Gallery in Provincetown on Cape Cod in the 1970s.

Most of her work since moving to the Monterey Peninsula in the 1980s has been as a contract artist for numerous clients. She has illustrated 14 education books and has work in the collections of the Edinburgh Writer's Museum, the City of Carmel, Monterey History and Art Association and the Silverado RLS Museum.

She has received a number of scholarships and awards over the years and has been an artist in residence for numerous peninsula school districts and in Missoula, MT.

"My work is done with the content of the piece as inspiration and not restricted by medium. I use different mediums for different pieces. A reproduction of one of my pieces contracted by California Monterey State Historic Parks shows Robert Louis Stevenson and Jules Simoneau playing chess in 1879 at his restaurant which is now Simoneau Plaza. The original is a pastel and part of five commissioned pieces for the Stevenson House in Monterey, California.



Quotes from my writers:

"Rest at pale evening
A tall slim tree
Night coming tenderly
Black Like Me" — Langston Hughes

"The tides are in our veins, we still mirror the stars, life is your child, but there is in me older and harder than life and more impartial, the eye that watched before there was an ocean." — Robinson Jeffers

"The trees and the muscled mountains are the world - but not the world apart from man - the one inseparable unit man and his environment. Why they should ever have been understood as being separate I do not know." — John Steinbeck



We hope to have a show of N J's work when UUCMP opens back up again.

-Peggy Olsen

Musical Offerings



Want to make some socially-distanced music together? We have a few options for you!



Our Adult Community Choir is open to everyone, members and nonmembers alike, to explore singing together. As an ensemble, we prepare special music for various Sunday services per month. This month we are jumping back into rehearsals after our summer break. We meet **every Thursday from 7-9 p.m.** This month we will be meeting via **Zoom** for rehearsals. No experience nor commitment necessary! We will hold our first rehearsal on Thursday, August 6.

Our Children's Choir is also open to all children. While it is geared toward children in 1st-5th, all are welcome. If you are interested in having your child sing with us, contact me today.



Finally, if you are looking to just join other voices in a cacophonous karaoke style sing-along, then you are in for a treat. Sing Along with Shawn will be available in a fun, interactive manner via Zoom and YouTube. We will meet on **Wednesday, August 12, from 5:30-7:00 p.m.**

All music meetings will convene via this Zoom link:

Join from PC, Mac, Linux, iOS or Android: <https://cccconfer.zoom.us/j/8287611715>

Or iPhone one-tap (US

Toll): +16699006833,8287611715# or +13462487799,8287611715#

Or Telephone: Dial: +1 669 900 6833 (US Toll)

Meeting ID: 828 761 1715

Password: music (case sensitive)

Unfortunately our other ensembles will be on hold until we can resume in person. However, if you like to sing or play an instrument and are willing to try some technological experiments, I am open to hearing from you.

Finally, if you have other ways you wish to contribute to the music here at UUCMP, just let me know! music@uucmp.org

— Camille Hatton

Hello Dolly!

It was late afternoon on Friday, July 10, when a band of masked men approached the seemingly abandoned UUCMP building. They were on a mission and would not let anyone or anything stand in their way. Once getting past the coded lock, they entered the building. It was deathly quiet and the air was stale. It was obvious that no one had been in the building in quite some time. They made their way through another set of doors and found themselves in the inner sanctum. And there they beheld their prize. An electric organ sitting by itself in a corner gathering dust. This magnificent instrument was seldom used but, in the right hands, was capable of producing awe-inspiring sounds. And soon, with the help of this small band of brothers, it would be mounted on wheels and be able to be transported anywhere (at least anywhere in the building), freeing up space and allowing for more flexibility in the use of the room.



That's right. The organ dolly had finally arrived and these men were there to take on the task of removing the pieces from the carrier, assembling them and then, and here's where the real work was to take place, lifting the organ onto the dolly. It would take four strong men to do the job (we asked but no women offered to come forward) and we had volunteers Michael Grimmer, Kent Weinstein (with moral support from son Robin) and Harry Nagel (with photographic support from wife Laura) along with Jim Swihart from Northern California Music Company which had supplied the dolly.

After the task was done and the sweat wiped from their eyes, they tossed out the thought that this would be an excellent time to go out and celebrate with a frosty glass or two of a malted beverage. But these were not ordinary times. These were the days of Covid and the bars were closed. And, as these men were all adhering, more or less, to the rules regarding sheltering in place and the like, they decided instead to head back to the safety of their own homes and raise their mugs in splendid isolation. And we, in appreciation of their efforts, should consider raising a glass in their honor. (Enter the deity or non-deity of your choice) bless you, gallant UU men!

— Harry Nagel



THE MISSION STATEMENT OF THE UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CHURCH OF THE MONTEREY PENINSULA

Welcoming all, we worship together with loving hearts and open minds,
promoting peace, equality, and respect for the Earth. Questioning, reflecting,
learning, leading ... we change ourselves
as we change the world.



SAVE THE DATE UUSC Social Justice Workshop

On Saturday, September 19, 9 am - 12 noon, we will have a Faith in Action virtual workshop for our congregation, facilitated by a UUSC/UU College of Social Justice denominational leader. Please mark your calendars!

Waiting in Line



When you listen you reach
into dark corners and
pull out your wonders.

When you listen your
ideas come in and out
like they were waiting in line.

Your ears don't always listen.
It can be your brain, your
fingers, your toes.

You can listen anywhere.
Your mind might not want to go.

If you can listen you can find
answers to questions you didn't know.

If you have listened, truly
listened, you don't find your
self alone.

Nick Penna, age 10

Life Enrichment Programs Affinity Groups:

No groups will meet face-to-face in August. Some will meet via Zoom.

Anti-Racism Book Group First Tuesdays, 7-9 p.m. via Zoom

Anti-Racism Film Group Third Thursdays, 7-9 p.m. via Zoom

Men's Group Breakfast

Will not meet in August. Contact: Marsh Pitman

Women's Discussion Group

Second and fourth Thursdays, 2 – 3:30 p.m. via Zoom. Contact: Nancy Baker Jacobs. See page 8.

T'ai Chi Chih No meetings in August

Sangha will continue via Zoom on Wednesday evenings, 7 to 8:30 p.m. Contact: Rev. Dennis Hamilton

Friday Night at the Movies will not meet in August. Contact: John Freeman for any questions.

Dances of Universal Peace

Will not meet in August. Contact: Barbara Bullock-Wilson if you have any questions.

WE'RE LOOKING FOR A FEW GOOD WORSHIP ASSOCIATES!

We need talented, dedicated UUs who want to contribute to the quality of our worship services. Worship Associates support all Sunday services and sometimes provide leadership at those services as well. If you think you'd like to try your hand at this vital part of church life, please contact the ministers.

SOCIAL JUSTICE



COPA Delegates Assembly, Saturday, June 27, via Zoom

Thanks to all 14 UUCMP members and friends who attended the COPA Delegates Assembly: Doris Beckman, Paul Berezovsky, Audrey Doocy, Carol Galginaitis, Elizabeth Granado, Altaira and Camille Hatton, Becky Hetter, Lee Hulquist, Lauren Keenan, Laura Nagel, Wanda Parrott, Rev. Craig Scott, and Bud Smith. In all there were 136 delegates from 24 institutions across the Central Coast.

Stories

We heard individual stories about the economic impact of Covid-19; the need to extend rent moratoriums beyond July; the importance of testing and contact tracing for essential workers; the lack of supported isolation for family members who are exposed and have nowhere to quarantine without putting the rest of their crowded household at risk; and the anxiety families are facing over the uncertainty of school starting this fall and how they will provide child care to students not in school full time.

Successful Actions:

Monterey County's Esperanza Health Care which annually serves 3500 poor and undocumented persons will be fully funded in this year's budget at \$2 million.

Governor Newsom approved **expansion of the CA Earned Income Tax Credit to benefit undocumented households** who pay State income taxes and who have children under the age of six living at home.

California IAF Declares a Victory for Essential Workers



COPA Priority Action Areas for the Coming Year:

- Testing, Tracing and Supportive Isolation in response to Covid-19;
- Extending rent moratoriums; and
- Developing a strategy for improved police/community relations.

Budget and Election. Attendees voted to approve the COPA Budget of \$378,000 and to elect Laura Nagel to the Regional Strategy Team.

— Laura Nagel

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