



# NUUSLETTER

of the Unitarian Universalist Church of the Monterey Peninsula

December Theme: Awareness

Sunday Services begin at 9:30 and 11:15

**December 2**  
**"Mindfulness for the Monkey Mind"**  
**Amy Carlson & Chris Kage**

Part of being human is having what the Buddha calls a monkey mind. We constantly have thoughts running through our head. Thoughts of loss, thoughts of hope, thoughts of fear, thoughts of self-judgment, and the list goes on and on. What are some different tools and exercises we can try to help calm and tame our overactive mind? How might we become friends with our monkey mind?

**December 9**  
**"Little Drummers"**  
**Rev. Elaine Gehrmann, Camille Hatton,**  
**Corey Brunson & Amy Carlson**

This multigenerational holiday service will incorporate a number of songs and stories illustrating the values of generosity, diversity, affirmation, and making a joyful noise unto the world! Please bring a drum of your own (or other instrument) if you wish and be prepared to participate in a rhythmic celebration of the season!

**December 16**  
**"A Ceremony of Carols"**  
**Rev. Elaine Gehrmann, Camille Hatton,**  
**and the UUCMP Community Choir**

Our annual pre-Christmas music service this year will feature Benjamin Britten's wonderful choral piece "A Ceremony of Carols, Op. 28," performed by our own UUCMP choir. Don't miss this lovely and moving opportunity for beautiful music, reflection and celebration.

## Religious Exploration for Children and Youth

is offered during the second service for  
kids, preschool and older.  
Quality nursery care is available  
during the services.

**December 23**  
**"The Promise of Joy"**  
**Rev. Axel Gehrmann & Bob Sadler**

A multitude of ancient observances – both sacred and secular - cluster around the winter solstice. Holidays and holy days are celebrated by young and old to mark a celestial turning point: the rebirth of the sun. For many of us, these days are full of meaning, memories, and mixed emotions. A recurring theme of the season is that even in the midst of our darkest days, we can find a new light. And even when we least expect it, our wintry hearts can be illuminated by joy.

**December 24**  
**Christmas Eve Candlelight Service -**  
**One Service 7:00 p.m.**  
**Revs. Elaine & Axel Gehrmann,**  
**Ray Krise, & Robin Jensen**

Join us for stories of the season, carols, and candlelight. Please bring a plate of cookies to share.

**December 30**  
**"Being Aware in the Present Moment"**  
**Rev. Craig Scott, retired UU minister,**  
**Mary Kay Hamilton & Ann Johnson**

Centuries ago the Buddha taught that we can experience moments of being fully awake to the miracle of our existence. His teachings can help us to find moments of calm in a troubled and turbulent world.

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## Ministers' Message

Rev. Axel  
Gehrman

What are your hopes for the holidays?

We each bring our own personal histories and our own religious sensibilities to these December days. We each enter the season with our own emotional needs, our own intellectual rationales and rationalizations, our own pet peeves and treasured traditions.

Some of us see the trappings of the holidays and feel the spirit of Scrooge take shape within us, barely able to restrain the impulse to perpetually mutter “Bah humbug” under our breath.

Some of us are flooded with memories of times long past – of childhoods that were happy or sad, of beloved friends and family members now gone – and grapple, once again, with the question how to honor these memories and complicated emotions.

Some of us are attuned to the changes in the natural world, as we move from autumn to winter, as the sun’s path across the sky shifts, as daylight hours disappear and return, and deep-seated circadian rhythms invariably affect our psyche, body and soul.

Some of us find inspiration in religious stories that speak of hope in the midst of despair, and the presence of something precious and holy hidden in the midst of our lives.

And some of us are happy to ignore the holidays altogether.

Actually, though, I don’t think we can be neatly divided up in separate camps, according to clearly defined intellectual and spiritual criteria. And – truth be told – I find myself moving back and forth between various states of heart and mind. Some of them feel more enlightened than others. But I strive to acknowledge them all.

I find comfort and inspiration in the familiar words of

my now-deceased colleague and poet, Max Coots. Max was minister and then minister emeritus at the UU Church in Canton, New York. He served that congregation for 34 years, and retired just as Elaine and I were starting out our co-ministry, down the road in Watertown, NY. He wrote:

When love is felt or fear is known,  
When holidays and holy days and such times come,  
When anniversaries arrive by calendar or  
consciousness,  
When seasons come, as seasons do, old and known,  
but somehow new,  
When lives are born and people die,  
When something sacred’s sensed in soil and sky,  
Mark the time.  
Respond with thought or prayer or smile or grief,  
Let nothing living slip between the fingers of the  
mind,  
For all of these are holy things we will not, cannot,  
find again.

We live in complicated times. In many respects, we are moving through very dark days. That’s why I remain grateful for this church and its people.

We each hold pieces to the puzzle of life, fragments of sacred truth, each of us an exemplar, each of us working diligently to make a difference – striving to change ourselves and change the world – accomplishing and learning vastly more together, than we could ever hope to achieve alone.

My hope for the holidays, is that we each might discover something holy in our lives . . . and that, in our enlightened words and deeds, we might provide one another ever-new inspiration in the days to come.

See you in church,

*Axel*



**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.

**UUCMP Sermon Broadcasts:**

AMP Media (Channel 24 on Comcast)

Tuesday 8:30 a.m.

Thursday 8:00 p.m.

Sunday 12:00 a.m. (Saturday midnight)

Sunday 12:00 (noon)

Monday 10:00 a.m.

**SCHEDULED EVENTS**

**Anti-Racism Book Discussion Group**, Tuesday,  
December 4, 7 p.m.

**Anti-Racism Film Group**, Thursday, December 20,  
7 p.m.

**Board of Trustees** meets Wednesday, December 19, at  
5:30 p.m.

**Book Discussion *Being Mortal***, Tuesday, December 11,  
7 p.m. See page 13.

**Buddhist Sangha** is every Wednesday at 7 p.m.

**Community Choir** meets Thursdays at 7 p.m.

**Dances of Universal Peace** is Sunday, December 16,  
5-7 p.m. See page 13.

**Equal Exchange** Coffee and Chocolate are  
available on Sunday, December 2. See page 12.

**Friday Night at the Movies** is on December 14. 7 p.m.  
See page 14 for what's showing.

**I-HELP for Men** is Sundays, December 9 and 30, 5  
p.m. Sign up on the bulletin board if you can help.

**I-HELP for Women** is Sunday, December 23, 4 p.m.  
Sign up on the bulletin board if you can help.

**Membership Committee** does not meet in December.

**Men's Breakfast** is Saturday, December 8, 8 a.m. See  
page 12.

**Music Committee** meets Monday, December 10,  
5:30 p.m. via Zoom.

**NUU'sletter deadline** for the January issue is  
Sunday, December 16.

**Program Council** is every first Tuesday, 12:30 p.m. at  
UUCMP or via Zoom. For Zoom information contact  
Lauren Keenan [programcouncil@uucmp.org](mailto:programcouncil@uucmp.org)

**Sing Along** is Wednesday, December 19, 6 –7 p.m. in  
the Fireplace Room. See page 10 for details.

**Social Justice** meets Sunday, December 23, 12:45 p.m.

**Women's Discussion Group** will meet on Thursday,  
December 13, at 2:00 p.m. See page 12 for details.

## President's Corner: Don's Den

I'm not very good at the details required to build technical things like coding and websites. So with sincere gratitude, I want to take this time to send out a giant thank you to trustee Fred Hamilton and to Rev. Elaine for their dedicated work completing our new website. After months of hard work and fine tuning, we can celebrate an effective way to share our identity with other curious seekers. At this link, <https://uucmp.org/about-us/> we can learn about us.

*"We are brave, curious, and compassionate thinkers and doers. We are diverse in faith, ethnicity, history and spirituality, but aligned in our desire to make a difference for the good. We have a track record of standing on the side of love, justice, and peace."*

This is the true origin of the "Provocative Proposal" published as the basis for the draft three-year Strategic Plan in last month's newsletter. If we continue down this path, it will take **"Brave, compassionate thinkers, and doers . . ."**

But let's think this through. Before the Space Shuttle is towed to the launching pad, there is much work to be done. This is the work I do. This is what I am good at. In 2017, I "launched" \$112 million in capital improvements for the City of Salinas, including \$71 million for a new police headquarters and a new branch library. All the hard work occurs getting the "Space Shuttle" to the launch pad . . . building the project is fun. I am relieved to say that after breaking ground in September, Salinas is having "fun" now. So at UUCMP, how do we get this proposal to the drawing board and off the ground? Our democratic principles require the Provocative Proposal to be vetted by everyone, so please do not miss any opportunity to voice your opinion about this draft statement. Please come and be part of the collective dialogue. We all need to own the final Proposal. Your feedback is a critical part of the intentional self-assessment needed to sell this plan to everyone involved.

The UUCMP self-assessment will also require not only sound fiscal policies, practices and bank account balances, but the ability to share meaningful facts with those from whom we seek the support to finance it. We need to assess our current earning capacity before we get to the "launch pad." I traveled to Standard and Poors (Wall Street) twice in the past year and helped Salinas gain a favorable bond rating to lower the cost of the city's borrowing. We need the best credit rating we can get. Some of us recall the effort to finance the last capital project. Even with a great track

record, lenders don't always favor churches. It takes hard work and dedication on our behalf.

Some might refer to this self-assessment as a feasibility study. This is how I built a new library and a new police headquarters. We studied and found these projects to be feasible, then proceeded with confidence both to assure our intimate partners the projects are feasible, and then in one giant unified voice, convinced the rest of the community (financial community as well). This is what may be interpreted to be "strengthening connections between our members, better caring for one another, deepening our bonds and community, and inspiring new people with our vision." These tasks are listed under the words *launching a capital campaign*. The UUA can help us with consulting services and other support to see us through a brief but thorough feasibility study. You can explore further at this link: <https://stewardshipforum.com/capital-campaigns-and-combined-campaigns/>

*"A capital campaign is often a once-in-a-generation opportunity for a congregation to come together and invest in the future. It invites members to dream big about what is possible for Unitarian Universalism in their community and in the world. Capital campaigns are usually conducted in support of a major building program, although some portion of campaign proceeds may be used as seed money for new program initiatives. A capital campaign requires a collective leap of faith on behalf of the members — in one another and in a future in which Unitarian Universalism and their congregation thrive and grow in mission and impact."*

Maybe this is your second or third once in a generation opportunity. It will be my first. I agree that **Implementing the Provocative Proposal requires a leap of faith, but with managed risk.** *"We are brave, curious, and compassionate thinkers and doers. We are diverse in faith, ethnicity, history and spirituality, but aligned in our desire to make a difference for the good. We have a track record of standing on the side of love, justice, and peace." There is a line between brave and careless, so let's not be careless. We are on this path together, so here we go . . ."*

Submitted with Love, Courage, and Respect,  
Happy Holidays to everyone,

Don Reynolds



## A Note from the Intern

Amy Carlson

Do you have a Unitarian Universalist elevator speech? Do you know how you would answer the question, “What do UUs believe?” Can you answer in a clear, succinct way?

I’ve been thinking about this a lot lately. Now that I’ve been here for three months, I’ve started to branch out and build community outside of UUCMP. At social events, inevitably, the question comes up, “So what do you do?” I must admit sometimes I have the temptation to make something up or to evade the question all together. The minute I say the word *minister* a lot gets projected my way. All of a sudden people want to apologize for swearing and drinking. Often they just don’t know what to say and offer me a blank stare. Once they get over the initial confusion, they might ask me some variation of the question, “So what religion are you?”

Hmmm. Where to begin. Do I start with the seven principles and six sources? Do I talk about deeds not creeds? Do I talk about a community based on covenant and not on what we believe? Do I talk about our history and what the words *Unitarian* and *Universalist* mean?

I think I answer the question differently each time someone asks me. I bumble my way through, saying this and saying that, hoping the person will ask questions for clarification. Apparently, having a Master’s of Divinity doesn’t mean a thing in answering

such a simple question.

But more than anything, I think what’s most important is our willingness to share about our faith. Even if we explain it awkwardly and ramble on for a bit, that’s okay. Each time I share about Unitarian Universalism, I’m reminded of why it is important to me. I get the chance to clarify what I hold dear, and it might just be the good news someone else has been waiting to hear. The good news of the existence a spiritual community which accepts you no matter where you are on your spiritual journey. That it’s okay to come with all of who you are, your questions, your doubts, and your musings.

I like what Rev. Kathleen McTigue, director of the Unitarian Universalist College of Social Justice, says about our faith:

If you hunger for spirituality without dogma . . .

If you long to put yourself to work healing a suffering world . . .

If you want a faith community that helps you deepen into life’s questions even when there are no final answers . . .

Unitarian Universalism may be your religious home.

Maybe, just maybe, the person you’re sharing Unitarian Universalism with is looking for their religious home. And maybe, just maybe, that home is waiting for them through our very own church doors.

Warmly,  
Amy



# ART NEWS

## Majestic Trees of Monterey County by Cheryl Kampe December 6 to January 28



Fall in Garland Park

### ABOUT CHERYL

Cheryl Kampe found an early interest in art from a joy and fascination with interpreting a visual scene onto paper. Twelve years ago, she finally had the chance to devote herself to her art and began systematically to learn the techniques of watercolor. She studied with several leading artists in the Bay Area, while at the same time painting daily and developing a personal style and increasing expertise with the medium.

After moving to Pacific Grove, she was inspired by the local landscape and wildlife. A series of trees captured the distinctive sense of the local Peninsula forest. Most recently, Cheryl has been studying oils and plein air painting. In a sense, it is a return to the classic elements of painting – form, values, and color based on traditional techniques. The plein air process provides the additional challenge of changing conditions and light, especially along our central California coast. She finds the coast area once more the source of inspiration for her work.

Cheryl has had many solo shows at Pacific Grove Art Center and has had many awards. You can learn more by going to [www.cherylkampe.com](http://www.cherylkampe.com) and by going to Venture Gallery.

### ABOUT MAJESTIC TREES



Carmel Valley Hillside

"This series has been a part of my life for over ten years. It all began when a friend sent me a wonderful photo of "Old Veteran" at Point Lobos. Using watercolor on heavy paper, I begin painting an abstract underpainting to establish some darks and lights. When it is completely dry, I draw the image to the paper. I try to translate the beauty I see onto the paper by eliminating or adding details to the composition. I love the way watercolor blends wet into wet to get wonderful abstract touches to the painting."

The Comments Book is now in the Welcome Hall just outside the sanctuary doors.

-Peggy Olsen



Eucalyptus



## December Shared Plate Recipient Partners for Peace

Our shared plate recipient for December is *Partners for Peace*. The mission of *Partners for Peace* is to build strong families for a peaceful community. It provides communication and problem-solving skills for families. Results include reduced alcohol/drug use, truancy and violence in the home. Classes are available in English and Spanish. "I have learned how to fight for my child, how to control my anger and how to speak with him. Showing that we love them; that we love our children and how to fight for things that we love. The moral support from this program is very important." – K. Sandoval.

Please give generously.

## CELTIC CHRISTMAS CONCERT



Taelen Thomas



Amy Krupski



Shannon Warty

On Saturday, December 15, at 3 p.m., celebrate the holidays at UUCMP with a rousing and spirited performance of songs, music, poetry, and tales of the season, featuring Amy Krupski, virtuoso Celtic harpist; Shannon Warty, redheaded, Irish-blooded, natural-born Celtic songbird; and Taelen Thomas, renowned bard and storyteller of Carmel Bay. Taelen will perform selections from Dylan Thomas's masterpiece, *A Child's Christmas in Wales*, along with stirring renditions of the stories behind other holiday classics, and Amy and Shannon will delight the audience with beautiful Celtic music and special songs of the season!

Admission is \$20 for adults, \$15 for seniors, military, and students, children under 12, free. Tickets can be purchased at Bookmark Music, online at [uucmp.org](http://uucmp.org), or at the door. Don't miss this wonderful event!

## RELIGIOUS EXPLORATION



### We Have a Real Library!

A nearly secret project has been happening in the R.E. wing that deserves celebration.

Karen Brown has been sorting, filtering,

categorizing, and displaying our substantial collection of religious exploration books for children and youth. The end result is – we now have a REAL R.E. LIBRARY!

The purpose of this library is to serve the needs of our classes and worship services. It includes children's fiction and nonfiction – everything from picture books to reference books. Because our first principle is about respecting the worth and dignity of each individual, diversity is valued and careful attention is paid to issues of racism, sexism, ableism, and heterosexism.

Individuals and families are invited to borrow books from the R.E. library for their own use. The library is located in the R.E.

Lobby at the eastern end of the building. Simply use the “check-out” sheet hanging on the wall and feel free to physically browse the collection any time.



*Karen Brown*

However – and here's the most exciting part – you can also browse the collection from your phone or computer! Yes, this is a REAL LIBRARY!

Go to [librarything.com](http://librarything.com)

Rather than creating an individual account, sign in as

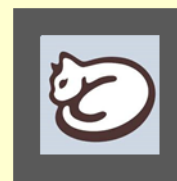
Name: *uucmp*

Password: *library*

Once in, you can search our collection for what you need. (Look for the cat icon shown below to go to a simple search page.) For example, searching for “trees” yields seven books. Even better, searching for “P4” (representing the fourth UU principle, “We believe that each person must be free to search for what is true and right in life.”) yields 14 books!

Karen and her team of librarian volunteers (particular appreciation goes to Nellie Ryder for her skilled assistance) have created a UUCMP categorization system! Books are tagged and shelved according to our seven principles and six sources. There are also sections for particular R.E. programs such as OWL and resources for world religions.

There is still much to be done to keep our new library in peak condition! We will be developing plans for how to accept and process donations (this library is very limited in scope and has particular values to represent, so not every book – no matter how excellent in its own right – is appropriate), seeking volunteers for its maintenance, and considering ways to promote this resource to teachers, worship leaders, children & youth, and the whole congregation. If books are your thing, talk to Karen Brown or me about how you can help.



Corey Brunson  
Director of Religious Exploration





## IMPRESSIVE GENEROSITY

*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.*



That is UUCMP's mission statement. It says a lot about us.

And from a Stewardship perspective, perhaps it needs to include the word **generous** somewhere. You can say that the basis of our seven UU principles is generosity in all we do for the church, our community, and our world with our time, our talents and, frankly, our treasure.

We are, indeed, a generous people. In this fiscal year's operating fund drive, we increased our total pledged giving by an impressive 3%. Of 108 who were "repeat pledgers," 52 people increased their pledges by an average of 22%! Our median pledge increased by 13% and the average pledge increased by 5%.\* Impressive!

On top of all that, several of our members increased their pledges to 5% of their income or have indicated they are working towards that goal. Impressive!

The Revs. Gehrman introduced "Share the Plate" to the congregation a couple of years ago. Each month, we share the cash receipts from our offering plate with a nonprofit, as selected through our Social Justice Committee. The take from our offering plate helps fulfill the church's monetary needs. Some persons were concerned that the amount of the offering going to the church would decline, but that has not been the case. We are generous to the charities *and* to ourselves. Impressive!

Thanks to all of us for being a generous, loving, open minded people. Generous in the time we give to projects and committees and worship. Generous in the talents we share. Generous in our pledging. Impressive!

Konny Murray  
For the Stewardship Committee

\*Numbers provided by our bean counter Treasurer Harry Nagel – he has even more numbers for those who like to know these things . . . ask him.



## Come A-Caroling!



Do you like to sing holiday songs? On Sunday, December 2, we will visit Gateway Center and Canterbury Woods Medical Center in Pacific Grove to share Christmas Carols with the residents. We will meet at the church at about 2:00 p.m. to warm up and will leave in a carpool to each location. We should return to the church by around 4:30 p.m. All are welcome; please join us for this festive holiday event.



## Musical Offerings



This month we are presenting a lot of special music. Join us for drumming on December 9. Then enjoy the choir's presentation of Benjamin Britten's *Ceremony of Carols*. At both services on December 16.

Currently, the Adult Community Choir meets every Thursday from 7-9pm in the Sanctuary. Our Adult Community Choir is open to everyone, members and nonmembers alike, to explore singing together. We are currently preparing for two services per month. We will begin January with two fun choral works.

If you want to have fun with folk songs and popular tunes, come check out our monthly sing along with Shawn Kraut! We are scheduled to meet Wednesday, December 19, from 6-7 p.m. in the Emerson Room. This group is open to anyone with any instrument to play or sing along. You can bring music or use the music other people have brought. Shawn also helps guitar and ukulele players develop their skills at any level. This group does not perform in services.

This month, our children's choir continues to sing and prepare for the winter season. Students grade 1-5 are encouraged to come out and sing. We meet directly after the first service until 11 a.m. in the RE Wing. Currently, we are preparing for a special song for our December 9 service. Please ask me if you have any questions about this fun opportunity for our children.

If you have any other ways your wish to contribute to the music department, please feel free to contact me. We would love your involvement in this fun program.

— Camille Hatton

## Service Auction 2018: Tour Along the Nile



*Special Drama Dare Ye Camel Us?  
Sphinx-like Bjorn Nilson won't tell who, while Librarian  
Be Astengo researches question in ancient papyrus scrolls*



*Carol Collin wants a ride; camel demurs!*

auction, check out, planning & communications, auctioneers, tabulators, runners and decorators extraordinaire! The only glitch in the decorations was a last-minute papier-mâché camel failure, but then we had a special visitor at the auction! (See photos!)



Lauren Keenan offers binoculars to nearly blind camel.

UUCMP had a very successful Service Auction on Saturday, Oct 20. We raised \$16,744. After expenses net proceeds were \$14,505. Our participation was great at 104 persons, which included 20 children and youth. This year there were 68 bidders and 80 donors, up from last year, who gave us 150 items for sale up from 130 last year. Our biggest donors were Revs. Elaine and Axel Gehrman! The largest single bidder was Brian Jacobson, whose wife Ann vows never to leave town again on auction night. There were 45 volunteers organized in six teams. The kitchen crew orchestrated a fantastic meal planned by our own Kerry Sisseem. They worked for days preparing a wonderfully tasty dinner of Middle Eastern cuisine: dolma, falafel with tahini sauce, cheeses with figs, nuts and apricots, fresh vegetables and dill dip; and a dinner of eggplant casserole, and a lentil and green salad, with bread and butter. Dessert was fresh strawberries with whipped cream and home-baked chocolate chip cookies. Special thanks also to our beverage connoisseurs who gave us a full selection of wines, beers, and other assorted sodas, all served up by our bartender in his white dinner jacket, Carl Christiansen. We had other teams of folks who organized the Silent



*Don Reynolds, Christina Zaro &  
Christian as a lemon tree.*

## Men's Breakfast Group

Saturday, December 8,  
8:00 a.m.



All men are invited to the monthly Men's Breakfast Group. Please let Marsh Pitman ([marshpitman@gmail.com](mailto:marshpitman@gmail.com)) know if you will attend so we can plan for enough food. Come as early as 7:30 if you want to help.

## 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. However, because of the Christmas and New Year holidays, WDG will meet only once during December.

On December 13<sup>th</sup>, Maureen Brinkerhoff will lead our discussion of "Old Family Photos." Feel free to bring a photo or two to share with the group.

Please join us from **2-3:30 p.m.** in the Fireplace Room.

—Nancy Baker Jacobs, Facilitator

## EQUAL EXCHANGE PRODUCTS AVAILABLE DECEMBER



Fair trade, organic coffee, tea, chocolate and olive oil will be available between services December 2. Support sustainable farmer coops and UUCMP at the same time! Cash and checks accepted.

Contact: Janet Shing



## WE'RE LOOKING FOR A FEW GOOD WORSHIP ASSOCIATES!

We need talented, dedicated UUers 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 fill out the WA form that can be found digitally at the UUCMP website (under members only) or physically in our foyer, or speak to the ministers.

## PUBLICATION DEADLINES

ANNOUNCEMENTS for SUNDAYS in the Order of Service or verbal Welcome and Announcements from the pulpit is 9 a.m. on Wednesdays.

ARTICLES for THE WEEKLY NEWS email is noon, Tuesdays.

## Life Enrichment

The Fall Life Enrichment booklets have been published. Check on line or at church for yours today!

Contact Carol Greenstreet, who is the LE Committee Chair.

### Book Discussion on *Being Mortal*

Continues 2nd and 4th Tuesdays, at 7:00 p.m. (The final sessions will be 12/11, 1/8, 1/22)

What does it mean to live well and to die well? This question lies at the heart of our thoughts and feelings surrounding the mortality of loved ones, as well as our own mortality.

Rev. Axel will lead 3 more sessions of discussion of *Being Mortal: Medicine and What Matters the Most in the End* by bestselling author and surgeon Atul Gawande. An excerpt from the description of the book: "Medicine has triumphed in modern times, transforming the dangers of childbirth, injury, and disease from harrowing to manageable. But when it comes to the inescapable realities of aging and death, what medicine can do often runs counter to what it should. Through eye-opening research and gripping stories of his own patients and family, Gawande reveals the suffering this dynamic has produced . . . Riveting, honest, humane, *Being Mortal* shows how the ultimate goal is not a good death but a good life - all the way to the end."

Please contact Rev. Axel ([minister@uucmp.org](mailto:minister@uucmp.org)) if you have questions, or plan to attend.

Suggested donation: \$5.00 per session.

## Life Enrichment Programs Affinity Groups:

### Anti-Racism Book Group

First Tuesdays, 7-9 p.m.

### Anti-Racism Film Group

Third Thursdays, 7-9 p.m. (no film in Dec.)  
in the Fireplace Room

### Men's Group Breakfasts

Second Saturdays, 8 a.m.

Contact: Marsh Pitman

### Women's Discussion Group

Second and fourth Thursdays, 2 –3:30 p.m.

Contact: Nancy Baker Jacobs

### T'ai Chi Chih Wednesdays

5:30-6:30 p.m.

Contact: Ruth Smith or Jim Eagle

### Sangha continues on Wednesday

evenings, 7 to 8:30 p.m.

### Friday Night at the Movies is second

Fridays, 7 p.m. All are welcome.

Contact: John Freeman

### Dances of Universal Peace

Third Sundays, 5-7 p.m. in the sanctuary

Contact: Barbara Bullock-Wilson





## Grapevine



The Grapevine column, published by the Caring Network in every month's Nuusletter, usually has details of events in the lives of people in our congregation. In past months this year we have read about several people who have finished the journeys of their life on Earth. We have heard about those who have received honors and accolades, (Cassidy Hausmann-Mason made the Provost's List, Lois Varner was named Woman of the Year for the 29th Assembly District for her help with those in need). We've seen stories of those who have celebrated major life changes (Sarah Hardgrave married Josh Plant, Jordan Fernandez married Brittney Sorrenti), there is a new grandchild for Bob and Linda Delcambre. But this month is a time to celebrate the community that this network has created over the last year. People signed cards for others at the Sunday table, for a birthday (eighty years old or older), a get well, a congratulatory card or a sympathy card. Folks gave rides to church services, medical appointments, and other places. Congregants came forward to help at memorial service receptions (seven of them this year – for Don Lindsay, Darby Moss Worth, Jane Crotser, Don Gaver,

Dorothy Jacobson, Tim Wilson and Helen Hastings), arranging flowers, baking cookies, making food platters, serving the refreshments, cleaning up afterwards, singing in the services, and moving chairs in the sanctuary so that other groups could use the space afterwards. Some of us made phone calls, delivered meals, or simply sat and listened to somebody who needed to talk. And some of us were able to receive help, encouragement, or a sharing of joys or sorrows. We are a sharing, caring community, reaching out to others in joy or sorrow or need. We know we can depend on this wonderful community when we need assistance. In a sometimes troubled and weary world, it's heartening to know that we have created a village where people truly care about one another, where folks know they can ask for help when they need it. And where we celebrate people's joys.

*Grapevine is one project of the Caring Network, a group whose mission is to increase and strengthen the sense of community at UUCMP. If you or someone you know is in need of assistance or has something to share, please contact the steering committee at [caringnetwork@uucmp.org](mailto:caringnetwork@uucmp.org)*

### FIRST FRIDAY COFFEE WITH THE MINISTERS

Friday, December 7, 2:30 – 4:00 p.m

Would you enjoy a cup of coffee or tea, and the opportunity to chat with the ministers, as well as a few other members and friends of UUCMP? If so, be sure to join our First Friday Coffee. Revs. Elaine and Axel will host a gathering for members and friends in the Canterbury Room of Canterbury Woods, 651 Sinex Avenue, Pacific Grove. Whether you are a resident there, or live elsewhere, please join us for a hot beverage and friendly conversation.



# CELTIC CHRISTMAS CONCERT

Saturday, December 15<sup>th</sup>, 3:00 pm  
to benefit the

Unitarian Universalist Church of the Monterey Peninsula  
490 Aguajito Road, Carmel – 831.624.7404

Tickets are available online through PayPal at [uucmp.org](http://uucmp.org),  
at Bookmark Music, or at the door

\$20, \$15 for seniors, military, and students, kids under 12 are free with a paying adult



Taelen Thomas



Amy Krupski



Shannon Warty

Come and celebrate the holidays with this rousing and spirited performance of seasonal songs, music, and tales featuring:

**Amy Krupski**, virtuoso Celtic harpist

**Shannon Warty**, red-headed, Irish-blooded, natural-born Celtic songbird

**Taelen Thomas**, renowned bard and storyteller of Carmel Bay

\*\*\*\*\*

Taelen will perform selections from Dylan Thomas' masterpiece, A CHILD'S CHRISTMAS IN WALES, along with stirring tellings of the stories behind other Holiday classics and Amy and Shannon will delight audiences with beautiful Celtic music and songs of the season!

Contact: [shannon.e.warty@gmail.com](mailto:shannon.e.warty@gmail.com)



## JUSTICE ACROSS BORDERS: UUSC's Guest at Your Table 2018-19

*Guest at Your Table*, UUSC's (Unitarian Universalist Service Committee) longest-standing fundraising and education program for congregations, has been an important part of the UUSC and of UU culture since 1975. It is an intergenerational program to raise support and awareness about key human rights issues.

On December 2, the Social Justice Committee (SJC) will have a table in the Welcome Hall for handing out collection boxes for us to keep at the dinner table (or another gathering space in our homes) for collecting loose change and bills during the month of December. Besides being a collection point, the boxes serve as a reminder of the work UUSC and its partners do to defend human rights around the world.

This year, the donations will be used by UUSC to take aim at three aspects of the migrant challenges for Central Americans:

- The right to safety in Central America
- The right to safety on the migrant trail
- Human rights and the U.S. immigration system.

This year's theme *Justice Across Borders*, puts a spotlight on the plight of migrants from Central America who are fleeing violence, gender-based assault, and increase militarization. From the Northern Triangle of Central America, to deserts of Mexico and Arizona, to detention centers in the United States, the road away from danger is paved with injustices. Partnering with grassroots allies along the Central American migration trail, UUSC addresses root causes of violence, supports migrants in transit and protects the right to seek asylum.

Please return filled boxes to church in early January. Some of you may prefer to write a check payable to UUSC. The SJC will have remit envelopes for UUSC. You can also drop a check in our weekly collection baskets. *Please note that Guest at Your Table gifts of \$125 or more are eligible to be matched dollar for dollar by the UU Congregation at Shelter Rock. This includes monthly donations that total \$125 or more.* Dropping spare change daily in the collection box is a good way to keep the plight of these people in our hearts.

### FRIDAY NIGHT AT THE MOVIES

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 14, 7:00 P.M.

~ 2001: A SPACE ODYSSEY ~

This epic 1968 fantasy, Sci-fi film is directed by Stanley Kubrick and written by Arthur Clark. It's regarded as one of the most influential films of all time – and one of the most controversial. As the story goes: when Dr. Dave Bowman and other astronauts are sent on a mysterious mission, their ship's computer system, HAL, begins to display increasingly strange behavior, leading up to a tense showdown between man and machine that results in a mind-bending trek through space and time. It's the **50-year anniversary** of this masterpiece of a film that made us feel wonderfully small!

Doors open at 6:45 p.m. It's free. Family and friends are welcome. Refreshments available for a small fee. See you at the movies!



# SOCIAL JUSTICE

## Immigration Justice Leadership @ UUCMP

As a way to deepen its involvement on local issues and increase our involvement with other area churches, UUCMP joined COPA last year. Immigration specifically and other issues of daily living that confront undocumented are all top priorities for COPA. Below is a list of upcoming COPA meetings, notes on the training I attended in Nov and thoughts on next steps for our Immigration Justice Leadership Team at UUCMP.

**Please mark your calendars to attend the COPA Delegates Assembly - 1/26, Location & Time TBD, at which all member institutions will set the 2019 COPA strategy**

The following upcoming COPA meetings are open to anyone from UUCMP who is interested:

Healthcare Team - 11/27, 6:30 PM, Sargent House, 154 Central Ave., Salinas

Santa Cruz County Housing Team - 12/3, 6:30 PM, Location TBD

Mental Health Team - 12/12, 6:30 PM, Calvary Episcopal, 352 Center St., Santa Cruz

## Next Steps at UUCMP

- UUCMP's Social Justice Committee, at its October meeting approved the use of the church for free meeting space for **LULAC**, which would like to begin meeting here, under the aegis of Bill Melendez.
- **Deb Clifford of the Immigration Task Force of Indivisible** will attend the UUCMP Social Justice Committee Meeting on Sun, Dec 2nd at 12:30 to talk about how UUCMP may serve as a **Temporary Shelter for Undocumented Persons** in case of an emergency or natural disaster.
- I will attend national training by the Industrial Areas Foundation, COPA's parent organization, in Phoenix from Nov 26 - Nov 30.
- **UUCMP is planning to hold a Civic Academy on Immigration this spring.** Jack Herbig of COPA will assist us as he planned such a civic academy for St. Mary's earlier this year in conjunction with the San Pablo and St. Xavier

congregations in Seaside.

- Tim McManus, COPA's Lead Organizer has suggested that we help Jan Lindenthal of Unity Church to prepare **the next Monterey County Civic Academy on Housing** in early 2019 in which St. Xavier and San Pablo churches in Seaside will also participate. The next planning meeting will be Jan 7 at 7 p.m. location in Seaside TBA.
- I nominated **COPA to be a beneficiary of the shared plate collection for 2019** (<https://drive.google.com/open?id=0BwWV3T6fwnkYWmc2NU5KbHBZbUtjSDAORDIDWVlxdjB3c0F3> to view nomination form). The Social Justice Committee will determine shared plate offerings at its Dec meeting.

## Notes from COPA Training, Saturday, November 10, Watsonville

House Meetings:

- We simulated a House Meeting and then practiced ourselves conducting and participating in one.
- The purpose of these meetings is for participants to tell about the issues their family is dealing with and to identify future leaders for the core team.
- The intention of the house meeting is to share stories in a safe and personal environment.
- Stories are very powerful, and we all have them if we are willing to open ourselves to share our problems.
- The meeting takes just one hour. It keeps away from abstract ideas and giving advice. It asks participants to get involved in building solutions.

Please email me at [ij@uucmp.org](mailto:ij@uucmp.org) if you have suggestions, questions, concerns, comments, etc.

— Laura Nagel

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Monday-Thursday 10 a.m.-1 p.m.,  
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December 2018

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