



NUUSLETTER

of the Unitarian Universalist Church of the Monterey Peninsula

March Theme: First Principle

Sunday Services begin at 9:30 and 11:15

March 3
“God Within Us”

Rev. Elaine Gehrmann & Chris Kage

The idea of “divinity in humanity” has taken various forms in many religious traditions including Gnosticism, Christianity, Hinduism, and Transcendentalism. Is the divine a spark within us or does it permeate or even transcend our entire being? What might this look like for us today and how might it inform our actions?

March 10
“No Place Like Home”

Rev. Axel Gehrmann & Bob Sadler

What is a home? A place of shelter, of belonging, of welcome? Is a home an investment, a luxury, a necessity? Or was Robert Frost right: Home is the place where, when you have to go there, they have to take you in? For years, UUCMP has supported the local Interfaith Homeless Emergency Lodging Program, I-HELP. Is our church a home, and if so, whose home is it?

March 17
“Hospitality to the Stranger”

Amy Carlson & Mary Kay Hamilton

We as humans have the tendency to fear and to turn away from “the other.” And . . . we also have great capacity to open our hearts to our fellow human beings. All of our religious traditions have mandates and suggested spiritual practices to help us be hospitable to the stranger. What does it mean to offer hospitality to the stranger, and how can we begin to make this spiritual practice a habit?

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.

March 24

“Golden Rule in History”

Rev. Elaine Gehrmann & Robin Jensen

Many of us are familiar with the Golden Rule of “do unto others as you would have them do unto you.” It turns out that this principle transcends theology and time, having appeared in some form in almost all of the world's spiritual and religious traditions. This morning we will explore some of the Golden Rule's emanations and expressions, and consider how it might guide our actions in a world that is in great need of care and healing.

March 31

“Truth and Humanity”

Rev. Emily Hartlief & Katie Hamilton

Our first principle affirms the value of human life and goodness. And yet, we also know that humans can be shallow, difficult and even cruel. Religious and ethical traditions around the world share the value of telling the truth. What is important about truth and humanity? What about in situations where the truth is not always clear? Or easy? What does telling the truth make possible?

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Ministers' Message

Rev. Elaine
Gehrmann

I remember the summer our son's legs grew several inches (he's 6'1" now). He suffered the common symptoms of rapid leg growth -- he had what are often referred to as "growing pains." He would wake up in the night with excruciating cramps in both legs, thankfully not too often, but it was a clear sign that his body was changing and growing, and it wasn't always comfortable.

UUCMP has yet again made a commitment to itself, that it wants to grow. Grow in membership, attendance, and outreach, and grow in diversity: of age, race, ethnicity, class and more. To grow, not just for growth's sake, not for increased revenue, not for bragging rights, but for the benefit of those who have not yet found a religious community that fits. For the benefit of those who are where many of us were before we found UUCMP, searchers in seek of a community of shared values. The not-yet UUs, who are in need of a liberal religious home: to support their spiritual path; to deepen their ethical convictions; to broaden their worldview, and help them live out their faith in the world.

Will we have growing pains? Most likely. Change is not always comfortable, and if we really want to grow we will have to be willing to change. We will need to be open to meeting new people, in addition to catching up with our old friends; we will need to be receptive to new ideas, not just the way we've always done things; we will need to be willing to risk trying different ways of doing many things around the church, and adjusting to our changing world. Can we do it? If we really want to, I have no doubt we can. Will it always be comfortable? Probably not. Will there be unimagined benefits? Almost certainly.

One change we might start with is looking at our

current congregation. What kind of diversity do we already have in our midst? How much do you know about new members that have joined in the last few years, or longtime members that don't get out much? What opportunities do you take to get to know fellow UUs outside your close circle of friends? What openings do you offer to fellow church members you don't know well to share their lives with you? What are you willing to do to move beyond your comfort zone, to make the circle wider, to invite more people in, who may or may not become your close friend, but who most certainly can be your fellow congregant, helping to provide our liberal beacon for those who need our message of love, hope and justice.

Growing our congregation can be a personal growth opportunity for each of us also. Consider taking an LE class, joining a chalice circle, or starting a new interest group. Host a potluck, suggest a restaurant outing or a beach stroll for newcomers, volunteer in an RE class or with an I-Help dinner. Find ways to learn about and connect with your fellow UUs, to find what you share in common despite your differences.

A commitment to growth means being encouraged to stretch ourselves; to risk telling our stories; to embrace new perspectives; to widen our view of our neighbors and the world; to more fully live out our principles, putting our faith into action. Axel and I believe that not only are we all up to the task, but that we will all be the better for it, and that the rewards of growth are worth the growing pains, every time.

See you in church,

Elaine



We currently have three Chalice Circles (Covenant Groups or Small Group Ministry) providing a way to get to know others while exploring issues of UU importance in a comfortable setting. Contact Rev, Axel or Sharon Miller about joining an existing one or facilitating a new one---materials and mentoring available!



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, March 5, 7 p.m.

Anti-Racism Film Group, Thursday, March 17, 7 p.m.

Board of Trustees meets Wednesday, March 20, at 5:30 p.m.

Buddhist Sangha is every Wednesday at 7 p.m.

Community Choir meets Thursdays at 7 p.m.

Dances of Universal Peace is Sunday, February 17, 5-7 p.m. See page 14.

Equal Exchange Coffee and Chocolate are available on Sunday, March 3. See page 13.

Friday Night at the Movies is on March 8, 7 p.m. See page 9 for what's showing.

I-HELP for Men is Sundays, March 10 and 31, 5 p.m. Sign up on the bulletin board if you can help.

I-HELP for Women is Sunday, March 24, 4 p.m. Sign up on the bulletin board if you can help.

Membership Committee meets Wednesday, March 27, via Zoom.

Men's Breakfast is Saturday, March 9, 8 a.m. See page 13.

Music Committee meets Monday, March 11, 5:30 p.m. via Zoom.

NUUsletter deadline for the February issue is Saturday, March 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

Sing Along is Tuesday, March 12, 6 –7 p.m. in the Fireplace Room. See page 12 for details.

Social Justice meets Sunday, March 3, 12:30 p.m. in the Fireplace Room.

Women's Discussion Group will meet on Thursdays, March 14 & 28 at 2:00 p.m. See page 13 for details.

President's Corner: Don's Den

Faster than Molasses in the Wintertime

"Hello, this is President Trump, and I want to encourage you to support me in building the wall . . ." Wow, I could not believe that the President called me! Someone asked, "Where do you live?" I answered, "93908." Oh, well.

When things get cold, my blood tends to run slower and so do my feet! It was 35 degrees this morning when I started my 6-mile run. Fortunately, it was a holiday, and I started after the sun came up. What a beautiful frosty way to start the day. We can't let cold days slow us down. After all, we have a Plan, and this is our Big Opportunity!

If cold makes you lethargic like it can for me, I have to say that we simply don't have time to be lethargic. We have to hit the road anyway. We have to move in order to get warmed up! That's my reaction to the start of the new UUCMP year! Just a huge kick in the butt following the adoption of the Strategic Plan in mid-

January. It leaves my head spinning, (and behind it my butt seems to follow . . .) But I am warming up to the feeling of growth, and I am ready for the spring! I even pulled weeds today and planted a few wildflower seeds.

I want to say one more time, thank you to everyone who was able to attend the Congregational meeting on January 27, 2019 and participate in this lively discussion. And thank you for the humble reminder that we need to move forward with everyone's best interest in mind. A 79-11 vote is an honest reflection of the bold path we have chosen. At this time, our actions will prove our salt.

At the February 20, 2019, board meeting, the Board focused on the Strategic Plan Outline, pages 5- 8. As drafted, there are 5 goals to complete in February related to Outcome #1! (Grow this church, its membership, and diversity). Yes, in February!! Fortunately, the Plan allows a little more time for the exploration of building a new sanctuary.



But that being said, we need to enlist help to achieve all of these tasks. Two months ago, I shared this graphic and I wrote "that if approved, we will need an army to tackle the implementation of this Plan." That would be step #4- "Enlist." I prefer a voluntary army! The Board will be focusing on enabling an action plan. But also, I insist that we come to terms with how we measure success, and agree to some terms now, before we get too far ahead of ourselves. Goals 1 and 2 need to be measured.

Where do prospective new members live? Where do new members hear about our virtues? What is our story, and who are the heroes? Homelessness, for example, remains a huge issue. A few of us attended the city/county meeting in Seaside on February 13 addressing this topic,

Cont. on page 5

Don's Den, continued

We have lots of heroes. Did anyone of us at that meeting know UU's were in the room? We need to be UU's wherever we go and be proud of that! Objective #2 of our plan implements a three-year strategy growing our ministry and staff. We need to find \$90,000 in three years. Our operating funds have to increase by 20% from \$400,000 to \$500,000 per year. We can do this, but like anything, it needs to be monitored and measured to assure that we are making progress. It would be great to grow 10% per year for the next three years. That's where the Stewardship Committee's February 17th Stewardship Kick-off Fiesta came in. (I am very sorry I missed it- I was with my son at a gymnastics tournament in Portland.)

I have agreed again this year to be a canvasser. Watch out, the President is calling! (yes, I got a robo call from Trump!) Well, this is no robo call – it's the real thing. Our family has doubled its pledge since joining the church in 2014, and we increased it another 10% this year. Not everyone is as fortunate as we have been since moving to Salinas. I understand, but we need to show growth, because remember, 10% of the congregational vote doubted we could do it. Make it meaningful, make it matter. Everyone has a part to play.

So, put on your running shoes and prove them wrong. Let's "Just Do It!" together.

Submitted with hope, love and faith.



Don Reynolds



Oh, the Places
You'll Go!

Join Our Church!



Our church seeks to be a caring community and a welcoming place. We strive to deepen our religious lives and support the spiritual growth of all who join together here, working to build a better world beginning with ourselves.

If you find you are in sympathy with our principles and you are at least 16 years of age, then we invite you to sign our Membership Book.

There is no one single, right path to membership. But here are a few options: participate in worship and other events, consider attending one of the Orientation sessions that are offered a few times a year, or one of our "Q&A on UUism" sessions, on first Sundays of the month. Above all, familiarize yourself with our congregation.

Then fill out a Membership Form, which you can find at our Welcome Table in the lobby or in the church office. The form asks for your contact information and provides some information about UUCMP's purpose. After you return the completed form to the church office, you will be contacted by one of the ministers, or someone from our Membership Committee, to set up a time for you to receive additional information about the church, share your thoughts about church involvement, and sign the Book.

Joining the church entitles you to vote at congregational meetings, at which we adopt budgets, elect officers, and direct the course of church programming. Above and beyond that, membership is a personal and public expression of your support of this religious community, the ideals it stands for, and the work it does.

Please join us!



A Note from the Intern

Amy Carlson

Rev. Elaine and I, along with other UU minister colleagues, recently participated in a conference call with Paula Cole Jones, co-author of the proposed 8th Principle. The UUA currently has 7 principles and there is a growing movement to add an 8th. Here is the current text:

“We the member congregations of the Unitarian Universalist Association, covenant to affirm and promote: journeying toward spiritual wholeness by working to build a diverse multicultural Beloved Community by our actions that accountably dismantle racism and other oppressions in ourselves and our institutions.”

I felt very fortunate to be on the call with Paula Cole Jones and to learn from her wisdom. She is an African-American lay leader and member of All Souls UU Congregation in Washington, D.C., who often consults on issues of anti-racism and multiculturalism in UU circles. One of the things that really struck me during the conversation was Jones’ statement that she believes that as an institution we do not have a philosophy of equality. We do not have a *philosophy* of equality. I found that hard to hear. How could that be? Aren’t our principles based on equality? But if we really did have this philosophy there wouldn’t be a need for the 8th principle. From a position of privilege and power things look equal, but from a position of those marginalized, from the viewpoint of people of color, it is not equal at all.

Jones stated that UUs are good at “language equality.” We have many words and

can talk about it, but to really breathe and live equality, that’s a different reality. It only makes sense that UU churches would be reflective of the larger society. We have founding documents as a nation that point to equality and language, but our society is still steeped in patterns of racism. And so it is with Unitarian Universalism. We have founding documents that point to equality, but our culture is still stuck in patterns of racism and patriarchy.

Paula Cole Jones doesn’t see the 8th principle as the answer to the problem, but she does see it as a starting point and as a *link* to building Beloved Community because it helps keep us accountable to doing the work of dismantling racism in ourselves, our congregations, and our institution.

From time to time folks at the church ask me where the 8th principle is in the process of being adopted by the denomination. From what I understand, it is not up for a vote this General Assembly in Spokane. But Jones was all for adopting the 8th principle at the local level, as a congregation. That’s the beautiful thing about congregational polity. We can decide things at a congregational level.

I wonder if The Unitarian Universalist Church of the Monterey Peninsula is ready to adopt the 8th principle. The UUA has many resources to help congregations who really want to do the work of anti-oppression and anti-racism. We need to ask ourselves – are we ready as a faith community to embark on this journey? Are we ready to do the heavy lifting work of dismantling racism and building multi-cultural community right here at UUCMP? Your co-ministers and intern minister are ready to help with these efforts. Our future as a vital, relevant religious institution might depend on it.

Warmly,
Amy

ART NEWS

January 30 to March 25 The Land That Sustains Us oil paintings by Paola Fiorelle Berthoin



ABOUT PAOLA

Paola's deep commitment to living in the Carmel Valley over the past fifty-four years and tending the land she has lived on for the past thirty-five years has infused her painting, writing, and advocacy for all watersheds of the Earth.

Paola's art encompasses a dedication to protecting what she can, through active caring for the land and through expressing her imagination through creative endeavors. The oil paintings in this show range from the Carmel River Watershed to the Fort Ord National Monument. They have all been painted onsite.

Paola created and designed the book, *Passion for Place: Community Reflections on the Carmel River Watershed*, which features stories, poems, essays and interviews from many community members as well paintings by Paola and drawings by Pamela Takigawa and Anne Greene. It received a prestigious IPPY (Independent Book Publisher) bronze medal for best regional non-fiction for the Pacific Region.



Paola says, "This project is about inspiration and the possibility of cultural change, understanding what ecological integrity means, and knowing that we are a part of that integrity."

When we live together with a watershed consciousness, we come to understand more clearly how our actions affect the greater whole. Imagine how life and business could be different if more and more people around the world became immersed in their home watershed in this way!

The creative life is not only about making art objects, but about how we as a culture can bring more imagination into all our lives to solve challenges, whether they are social, environmental, or political. Being an artist is about keeping open the creative channels with which we are all born so change can happen in beautiful and constructive ways."



Born in London, England, Paola came to Carmel Valley in 1965 with her mother and three sisters. She is a graduate of Carmel High School and California College of the Arts, where she specialized in printmaking, handmade paper and animal drawing.

Paola's work is in collections nationally and internationally and has won many awards.

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

-Peggy Olsen

RELIGIOUS EXPLORATION



I love this poem, which came to my attention through the magic of Facebook. Having spent a significant portion of the past 23 years of my life tending to the needs of my two sons, I love the way this piece links the mundane experiences of childhood to the important responsibilities of adulthood.

of Sunday School) there are three factors that influence whether a child will remain active in a faith tradition in adulthood: Sunday school, participation in congregational worship, and parental influence. Of these three, Sunday school has the least impact! However, Sweeney states that R.E. – with its emphasis on targeted programming for specific developmental stages – remains vitally important for faith formation. It just can't do everything without the other two factors.

“Participation in whole congregation worship” really means “knowing and being known by people of all ages in the congregation.” We don't want youth to graduate from Sunday school with no feeling of connection to the rest of the church, as that is how we lose them. There are many ways to build those connections. Social action projects that empower all ages. Adults volunteering in R.E. classrooms. Child-friendly worship. All-church outings and social events.

There is a reason our church commits so much of its time and treasure to religious exploration for children and youth. Its not just because we love these children and want them to have meaningful experiences while they are with us, although that is certainly true. Our hope for the children and youth in our program is that they will find their voices and be the ones to create a future that is better than our present or our past.

Bottom line: consider how you can build connections with the young people at UUCMP. We always need volunteers in the nursery, to help in classes, to teach a craft, or tell a story. Attend our multi-generational worship services and participate fully and enthusiastically. Model for the next generation what it means to be UU.

And wouldn't it be lovely if they also carried forward their UU identity and heritage?

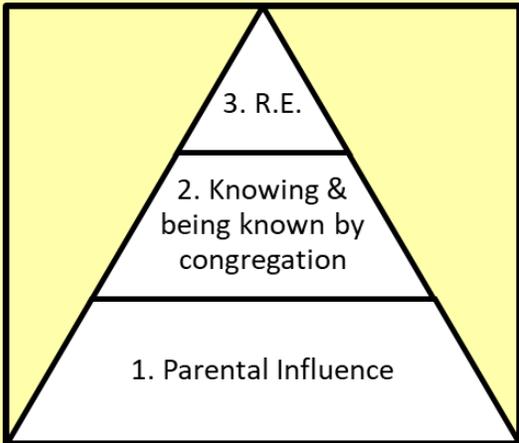
Corey Brunson
Director of Religious Education

Unfortunately, the statistics are not good. According to some sources, only 12% of those who grow up in a UU congregation choose to be active UUs as adults. That is a dismal record. Compare it to the United Church of Christ (a progressive denomination that is considered by many to be close kin of Unitarians and Universalists) where closer to 50% of their youth are retained. Other traditions keep much higher percentages.

Factors that influence retention

UUs are fond of quipping about how many UUs are out there who don't yet know they're UU, but it certainly would be easier to reach them if we were not constantly losing the UUs we already have!

“Participation in whole congregation worship” really means “knowing and being known by people of all ages in the congregation.”



According to UU church consultant Kimberly Sweeney (see last month's NUUsletter about her paper, *The Death*

HELP WITH BIG SUR MARATHON AND DO SOME GOOD FOR UUCMP

Want to help with a 4 for 1 good deed? The Big Sur Marathon (BSM) is happening on Sunday, April 28. The BSM needs volunteer groups to work many different tasks; in exchange, the group gets some grant money for their favorite cause. We don't get to pick the task — the BSM assigns a task based upon availability and size of the volunteer group. UUCMP has the task of directing traffic in the Carmel Crossroads as convoys come and go.



The benefit? 1. Earn some grant money which could go to UUCMP's RE or Social Justice program; 2. Increase UUCMP's presence in the community; 3. Form closer relationships with fellow UUCMP volunteers; and 4. Help the BSM to provide a great time for participants and a lot of grant money for the broad Peninsula community. Plus volunteers get a cool t-shirt!

The coordinator for this task describes it as "we direct the traffic for the convoys entering and leaving the course. I need seven volunteers at a time (two to police each parking area and then three for directing the convoys and ensuring that vehicles do not block or park in the convoy traffic lanes and bus holding areas). You can do this in two shifts or however you want to schedule your volunteers (I like to cycle them through the stations during the shift so no one gets too bored), but I will need people on station from 5:45a.m. until the course reopens (which is usually about 1:00 p.m. or so). This is a great event to be a part of, and I am glad you and the UUCMP members are helping us!"

I suggest that we work in 2 shifts - one from 5:45 a.m. to 10:00 a.m. and one from 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. People who work the early shift could still make the later service at church. If you want to help, please sign up using the directions below. The times and directions on the sign up isn't quite right. We're working on that, but for now, trust this message! If you have questions, please contact Karen Judkins at kljudkins84@yahoo.com or 270 401 -2605.

1. Go to: http://bigsurinternationalmarathon.volunteerlocal.com/volunteer/?start_over&id=35272
2. Enter team password: Inherent Dignity
3. Click on appropriate shift(s)
4. Enter Birthdate (Month, Year then Day) and fill out contact info.
5. Click "Join Your Team!" button at bottom of page.

FRIDAY NIGHT AT THE MOVIES

FRIDAY, March 8, 7:00 P.M.
~ LACOMBE LUCIEN ~

Filmed in 1974, this French art house drama is directed by Louis Malle and has a great musical score by Django Reinhardt. Based on his own experience in France during the German occupation, Malle's film does not paint a pretty picture of the French resistance. He tells the tale of a young boy who wants to join the resistance but is shunned because of his youth. After being arrested by the Gestapo he joins them. Unfortunately, he falls in love with a Jewish girl. Push comes to shove and he suddenly has the unsympathetic Resistance and Gestapo hot on his trail. It won the 1975 Oscar and Golden Globe for Best Foreign Film.

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!

Stipends for Spokane

The UUCMP Leadership Development committee has funds available to assist UUCMP



UUA GENERAL ASSEMBLY

members to attend General Assembly. General Assembly (GA) is the annual meeting of the Unitarian Universalist Association, the UUA, attended by several thousand UUs from around the nation.

This year's General Assembly will take place in Spokane, Washington, June 19-23. The theme this year is "The Power of We." From the UUA-GA website: "In a time of great challenge and heartbreak in our world, what does our faith demand from us? At this year's General Assembly, we will explore the power, possibility, purpose, struggle and joy of finding the path forward together as Unitarian Universalists. Attendees will leave inspired, with the tools needed to carry on the work into their own congregations and communities. Join us as we work for collective liberation inside and outside our faith."

UUCMP members who have attended a General Assembly find it transformative and energizing. Some members apply to serve as delegates at GA, attending the business meetings and representing our congregation as they vote on important issues. Opportunities abound for everyone in the family during the 5-day gathering.

If you are interested in inquiring about "Stipends for Spokane," please contact Gretchen Hausmann (grethaus@comcast.net)



Orientation Meetings

Are you curious about Unitarian Universalism? Do you want to know what makes this congregation tick? The Membership Committee offers these meetings for newcomers or anyone who would like to know more about UU and this congregation. You are very welcome whether or not you're interested in officially joining the congregation.

We are offering this single session at two different dates and times. The first will be after the second service on Sunday, March 24, when we will be serving a light lunch from 12:30 p.m. — 1:00 pm. We'll then engage in a conversation led by Rev. Axel Gehrman from 1:00 p.m.- 2:45 p.m.

The other option will be held on Wednesday, April 10, from 7:00 - 9:00 pm. We'll have beverages and snacks at that event. Rev. Axel will lead this meeting as well. Bring your questions and come ready to participate in a casual and interesting discussion.

Contact Sharon Sadler at membership@uucmp.org to reserve a place. It helps us to plan for food and the appropriate set up. To arrange childcare and accommodate any dietary restrictions, we need to know at least a week ahead.



March Shared Plate Recipient Rainbow Speakers and Friends

Rainbow Speakers and Friends is a volunteer group that presents representative panels of the LGBTQI community. They share personal stories and experiences in order to break down stereotypes and educate to create a safer world. You may recall, they brought a panel to our church as part of our Welcoming Congregation renewal. Often the panel visits college and high school classes. Like us, they are active in Pride, as well. We'll be hearing more about their work in a little introduction at each service on March 3. Then they'll be ready to meet you, provide further information, and answer questions during the coffee hour all month. We are happy to be able to support their important work.



Stewardship Matters: MAKE IT MEANINGFUL UPDATE

Thank you to the 65 or so UUCMPers who helped us celebrate our community at the *Make It Meaningful* operating fund drive Kick-Off on Feb. 17. Yummy lunch and 54 pledges were turned in that day! Pledgers received a chocolate heart and a magnetic bumper sticker with the UUCMP logo on it!



We are waiting for the rest of you to get your pledges in, the sooner the better so that the Finance Committee has a good idea of what the budget for the next fiscal year will look like. The Stewardship Committee will have a table in the welcome hall between services every Sunday up until March 24 where you can turn in your pledge card or you can mail it in to the office. Early pledgers will receive one of the bumper stickers along with a dark or milk chocolate heart.

You can pledge online! It's straight-forward to do so. Go to the UUCMP web site (uucmp.org) and look for the word **donate** along the top of the page. Click on **donate** and follow instructions to the pledge form. Or click on *News and Events* and look for the Pledge Form listing to click on.



Thanks for your stewardship of our community through your financial and volunteer commitments.

FIRST FRIDAY COFFEE WITH THE MINISTERS

Friday, March 1, 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 CELEBRATION



Taelen Thomas



Tara Ragsdale-Cronin



Shannon Warty

On Saturday, March 16, 2019, at 3 p.m. come and celebrate St. Patrick's Day with *Celtic Celebration*, a rousing and spirited performance of songs, music, Irish poetry, and the tale of St. Patrick, at UUCMP.

This wonderful concert features:

Taelen Thomas, renowned bard and storyteller of Carmel Bay;

Shannon Warty, redheaded, Irish-blooded, natural-born Celtic songbird;

Tara Ragsdale-Cronin, delightful and talented harpist.

Know that, "When Irish eyes are smiling, they're probably up to something." Come see what they are up to on March 16!

Tickets can be purchased at Bookmark Music, online at uucmp.org, or at the door.

Admission is \$20, \$15 (for seniors, military, and students); children under 12 are free when accompanied by an adult.



Musical Offerings



This month we continue to make a joyful noise throughout the music department. We want you to join us for the journey.

Currently, the Adult Community Choir meets **every Thursday from 7-9 p.m. in the Sanctuary**. This choir is open to everyone, members and nonmembers alike, to explore singing together. We are currently preparing for two services per month and a special Music Sunday in June.

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 **Tuesday, March 12, from 6-7 p.m. in the Fireplace Room**. This group is open to anyone with any instrument to play or who wants to sing along. You can bring music or use the music other people bring. Shawn also helps guitar and ukulele players develop their skills at any level. This group does not perform in services.

Our children's choir continues to sing and play together **every Sunday between services**. Students grade 1-5 are encouraged to come out and sing. We meet directly after the first service until 11am in the RE Wing. Currently, we are preparing for a special song in April. Please ask me if you have any questions about this fun opportunity for our children.

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

— Camille Hatton



Men's Breakfast Group

Saturday, March 9,
8:00 a.m.



All men are invited to the monthly Men's Breakfast Group. Please let Marsh Pitman (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.

On March 14th, Maureen Brinkerhoff will lead our discussion of "Empathy and Compassion."

On March 28th, Betty Semple will lead our discussion of "My Best Vacation—Why?" Bring some photos to share if you have them.

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

—Nancy Baker Jacobs, Facilitator

EQUAL EXCHANGE PRODUCTS AVAILABLE MARCH 3



Fair trade, organic coffee, tea, chocolate and olive oil will be available between services on March 3. Support sustainable farmer co-ops 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 are due by 9 a.m. on Wednesdays.

ARTICLES for THE WEEKLY NEWS email are due by noon, Tuesdays.

Life Enrichment

The Winter Life Enrichment booklets have been published. Check out all the great groups and activities.

Contact Carol Greenstreet, who is the LE Committee Chair.

Palestinian Film Series

Dates: March 12 & 26, April 9 & 23 (4 Tuesdays)

Time: 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. Location: Sanctuary

Each evening we will watch a film about Palestinian issues and discuss it. The films include:

"Disturbing the Peace"

"The Insult"

"The Occupation of the American Mind"

"Flying Paper"

Everyone is welcome.

Contact: Elaine Gehrmann (minister@uucmp.org)

Suggested Donation: \$5 per person

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.
in the Fireplace Room

Men's Group Breakfast

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

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.

Questions and Answers on UUism

Would you like to learn more about Unitarian Universalism and this church? Please join our informal Q&A session, designed to answer your questions, whatever they may be.

Our next meeting will be on Sunday, March 3, at 12:30 p.m. following the second worship service, in the Conference Room. Please speak with Revs. Axel or Elaine for more information.



Grapevine



Louise Heflin Stuart, a longtime member of UUCMP, died peacefully in her sleep on January 28th at her home at Canterbury Woods at the age of 101.

Having lived in Illinois, New Mexico, Washington, D.C., Colorado, and Penn-

sylvania, Louise called the Monterey Peninsula home for a period of eight decades – raising children and grandchildren in Carmel. In addition to being an active member of the church, she volunteered at the Harrison Memorial Library, served with the League of Women Voters, and was a docent at Point Lobos State Natural Reserve.

Louise was born in Streator, Illinois, to Paul Heflin and Florence Rothermel Heflin on April 5, 1917. Her mother died in the influenza epidemic when Louise was three. Her father remarried when Louise was thirteen, and she went to Albuquerque to live with her grandmother. She graduated from Albuquerque High School in 1934 and earned a bachelor's degree with honors from Wells College in 1938. After college, Louise was a missionary worker for the American Friends Service Committee at the Delta Cooperative Farm, a racially integrated project in Mississippi created to bring work and relief to displaced sharecroppers and their families.

While pursuing a master's degree in Social Economics at American University in Washington, D.C., Louise worked as staff to a Congressional subcommittee investigating poverty and interstate migration. On Capitol Hill, she met her future husband, Arthur Stuart, whom she wed in 1941. While Art served overseas in the Office of Strategic Services, Louise moved to Carmel, California, with their first child, Paul, to live during World War II

with Art's parents. At the conclusion of the war, Louise and Paul joined Art in D.C., where Hanson, Daniel and Margaret were born. After returning to Carmel in the 1950s, the family subsequently moved to Denver, Colorado, and then Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania.

After Art's death in 1968, Louise earned a Library Science degree from the University of Pittsburgh and began working at Citizens Library in Washington, Pennsylvania. She became the Director of the Library, where she served until her retirement in 1984.

Louise returned to her home on Dolores Street in Carmel, and came back to the church, where she served as RE director for about a year and a half. Throughout her life she continued to be very busy, spending her retirement years volunteering, reading voraciously, travelling the world, participating actively as a member of UUCMP, and working in her garden. She volunteered at the Harrison Memorial Library, was a docent at Point Lobos State Natural Reserve for 28 years, attended classes at Monterey Peninsula College, and was a member of the League of Women Voters. In 2014 she moved to Pacific Grove to join the Canterbury Woods community.

Louise has eight grandchildren and six great-grandchildren. She will long be remembered by all who knew her for her caring nature, her wit and wisdom, and her ability to enjoy life.

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

SOCIAL JUSTICE



On behalf of the Social Justice Committee I would like our community to consider how we can help transgender asylum seekers. When most asylum seekers reach our border, they are only in detention for a short time, as they are quickly sponsored by family and organizations within the US. Unfortunately transgender asylum seekers are typically rejected by their family and faith, and so languish in detention facilities until their court date arrives - often years. Though by law they are supposed to be in segregated facilities, many end up housed in the facility of their assigned birth gender, putting them at great risk for abuse.



Many of you will have heard the story of Roxsana Hernandez Rodriguez, 33, a transgender asylum seeker who was killed while in detention waiting for her case to be heard. Autopsy results showed that her death resulted from a severe beating. This story broke my heart. A few weeks after reading it, I saw an article by The Santa Fe Dreamers Project, which detailed the grim situation of transgender asylum seekers and how organizations around the country are working together to help them.

The Santa Fe Dreamers Project is coordinating the placement of transgender asylum seekers with individuals and communities who are able to sponsor them while they await their court date. I would like our community to consider how we can help transgender asylum seekers. There are many possible ways we can support them, from simply letter-writing to those in detention, to adding money to their commissary accounts so they can purchase toiletries and phone calls. Most significantly, we can sponsor one or more individuals to come to the Monterey Peninsula to be part of our community,

while they adjust to life in the US and wait for their court date. The Santa Fe Dreamers Project coordinating this effort offers them legal representation, and helps communities connect them with healthcare, housing, mental health support, and eventually permission for employment. There is a link to a survey at the end of this article. Please fill it out, indicating what you as an individual can offer to a transgender asylum seeker, and how you feel that we are best able to serve their needs as a community. This survey is not a commitment to action, but is rather a way of assessing our interest and capacity both as individuals and as a community.

It is my belief that through the Caring Network and our individual relationships we already offer the support, community, and sense of belonging which would allow a transgender asylum seeker to begin a new life of safety and freedom in the US. I look forward to reading your survey results and opinions. Printed copies of the survey will also be available beginning Sunday, March 3, for several weeks.

— Altaira Hatton

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/6NQGVCN>



SOCIAL JUSTICE



Please Mark Your Calendars!
UUCMP Working with COPA to Host a Civic Academy on Housing at St. Francis Xavier Catholic Church, 1475 La Salle Ave, Seaside, CA 93955 2:00 – 4:00 PM, Sunday, April 14, 2019

Your COPA Core Team members have been attending meetings in the past month to help prepare for a Civic Academy on Housing issues that we are facing here on the Monterey Peninsula. This is an important opportunity for us to get to know our neighbors and to hear firsthand about the issues, to learn from experts about housing plans and goals, and to come together to advocate for what we want for the future. We already know that across California there is a critical need for affordable housing. School teachers and other people critical to our community cannot afford to live here and, as a result, endure extra strains on their families as they must commute over a transportation system already clogged with commuters at peak hours.

To plan this event, we are working with other COPA institutional members including Unity Church and St. Mary's Episcopal of Monterey; and St. Francis Xavier in Seaside; the Central Coast Center for Independent Living (CCCIL); CHISPA, Community Housing Improvement Systems and Planning Association, Inc., the largest private, nonprofit housing developer based in Monterey County; and the Monterey Bay Central Labor Council. Also working to help plan this event are San Pablo Episcopal in Seaside, LULAC, and the Monterey United Methodist Church.

We would like as many members from UUCMP as possible to attend the Civic Academy, and to get involved in helping to plan it. In this way we get to know folks firsthand and to work with them to plan this event. Please mark your calendars and be in touch if you would like to work on this. Our Core Team includes Amy Carlson, Elizabeth Granado, Dennis Hickman, Lauren Keenan, Molly Lewis, Bill Melendez, Laura Nagel, and Rev. Craig Scott. Please email us at ij@uucmp.org

Update on Last Month's Delegates Assembly

On Saturday January 26, COPA delegates met at the Moss Landing Research Labs with over 70 attendees representing most of the 28 institutional members from across Santa Cruz, San Benito, and Monterey Counties.

There was a new institutional member from Soledad, in south Monterey County. UUCMP had the largest delegation with nine persons including Rev. Elaine. We received updates on what actions have taken place in the four priority areas since the September Convention in Salinas, at which 22 members of UUCMP were present:



On Housing, Although Measure H failed to pass in Santa Cruz County even with a majority of the votes cast in favor, because housing bonds, according to state law, need a super majority. Supporters of the issue have coalesced, and COPA is represented on the team. They are working closely with the County CEO to take advantage of state funds as soon as they become available.

On Behavioral Health, Measure G passed in Santa Cruz County with a one-half cent sales tax increase. This will fund mental health services, affordable housing, and programs to alleviate homelessness. In Monterey County CHOMP is planning a major new Behavioral Health Program.

On Health, in Monterey County COPA was successful in getting the county to allocate an additional \$2 million to Esperanza Health Care to provide health care for 3500 undocumented persons on the waiting list. At the convention, COPA was asked by Supervisor Jane Parker to help educate residents on the county budgeting process. COPA is planning a research meeting with hospital administrators and those caring for the undocumented.

On Immigration, COPA held a meeting with ICE in January and also met with Sheriff Bernal to discuss their participation in the U Visa Program as a way to assist and protect undocumented persons. At the end of February, COPA plans to hold a meeting with Congressman Panetta.

In addition to these updates, we also made plans for regular monthly trainings to be offered to help upcoming leaders. The training will be provided by COPA staff, and UUCMP offered to host a training for our area.

**Unitarian Universalist Church
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Carmel, CA 93923**

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Monday-Thursday 10 a.m.-1 p.m.,
or call for an appointment. Closed Friday.

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Return Service Requested



March 2019

About UUCMP Publications

Please send NUUsletter submissions as an email attachment by the 16th to **newsletter@uucmp.org**, and indicate UUCMP NUUSLETTER in the subject line.

Please send submissions for WEEKLY NEWS, the weekly announcements, to **office@uucmp.org** by Tuesday noon.

Check the WEEKLY NEWS and website for news throughout the month.

If you have any questions, call the office, 624-7404, or e-mail us at **office@uucmp.org**