



NUUSLETTER

of the Unitarian Universalist Church of the Monterey Peninsula

April Theme: Healing

April 7
“Dreams of Perfection”
Rev. Axel Gehrmann & Ann Johnson

We all aspire to be good people. We strive to change the world for the better, beginning with ourselves. Improvement and self-improvement is our ongoing endeavor. Religious exemplars, saints and sages, may serve as models of moral perfection. And yet perfectionism can also be our undoing. As Voltaire put it so well, “Perfection is the enemy of the good.”

April 14
“The Edict of Torda”
Rev. Lehel Molnár & Katie Hamilton

Guest minister Rev. Lehel Molnár, the Balazs Scholar at the Starr King School for Ministry, will speak to us about the Edict of Torda which proclaimed, “ . . . in every place the preachers shall preach and explain the Gospel each according to his understanding of it, and if the congregation like it, well. If not, no one shall compel them for their souls would not be satisfied, but they shall be permitted to keep a preacher whose teaching they approve.” This moment marked the beginning of what Unitarian Universalists understand to be a foundational right of our human existence: to believe as we wish, to worship accordingly and to practice our faith as we determine right and proper.

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.

Sunday Services begin at 9:30 and 11:15

April 21
“Rebirth and Renewal”
Rev. Elaine Gehrmann & Sue Ellen Stringer

As we celebrate Easter and Earth Day we are reminded of ancient stories and seasons and cycles: of cold and warmth, darkness and light, decay and renewal, death and rebirth. How might we help these ancient processes of healing and new life take shape, in our own lives and in the world, for our planet and all its creatures?

April 28
“When Our Hearts Need Healing”
Rev. Axel Gehrmann & Chris Kage

According to some religious teachings, the human heart is the seat of the soul. The heart is our source of courage, compassion and conviction. It is a place of deep feeling, which we can choose to open or to close. And sometimes the events of our lives can leave our hearts hardened, or even broken. It is often during trying times, that our hearts are in greatest need of healing.

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Ministers' Message

Rev. Axel
Gehrmann

“Connections are made slowly, sometimes they grow underground
You cannot tell always by looking what is happening . . .”

These are the opening lines of a poem by Marge Piercy. Do you know it? I have been thinking of this poem, as I look out the window at home and marvel at the remarkable jungle of weeds that has taken over our yard.

The other day I attempted to pull a few of them. A rich green tangle of long grasses, thin vines, and a bounty of bright yellow flowers. I was amazed at the jumbled assortment of flora. A thick, fertile carpet now hiding the succulents and the decorative rocks that used to be the defining feature of our front yard. I guess it's spring!

For me, spring is always a surprise. Though it arrives every year without fail, I am amazed, again and again, when new growth bursts forth in countless shades of green and all the colors of the rainbow. It's all beautiful: one person's weed is another's wildflower. Wherever I look there is abundant evidence of the miracle of life.

The plants and flowers, of course, have been here all along. Waiting patiently for just the right combination of sunshine, warmth and water. Roots running underground, resting unseen, growing invisibly, getting ready for the moment when buds burst. And the connections are there, too, growing deeper and more intricate with every passing day.

This church is a place devoted to making connections: the relationships between us create our church home. When I look across our sanctuary on

Sunday mornings, seeing familiar faces and first-time visitors, I am reminded of the deep and intricate connections between so many of our members and friends that have grown over the years. Children who have grown up here, and elders who have grown old here. Folks who have passed away or moved on, but who remain among us in the stories we tell about them. The impact of their lives continues to be felt.

Religion, you know, is all about connections. *Religare* is the Latin root, which is also found in the word ligament: a connective tissue between bones, but also a “bond of union.”

Religion grows amidst the connections between us – not only close family and long-time friends, but also the kind gesture toward a person you just met. Religion grows amidst acts of compassion, connections of hearts and hands. And religion grows strongest when we connect our deepest convictions to courageous action.

Marge Piercy's poem encourages us to make connections:

“Weave real connections, create real nodes,
build real houses.
Live a life you can endure: make love that is
loving.
Keep tangling and interweaving and taking
more in . . .”

In the coming days of spring, may the weeds and wildflowers inspire us. May we find ever-new ways to deepen the connections among us and within us, so that we ourselves may be beautiful embodiments of the miracle of life.

See you in church,

Axel



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!



Caring Network Steering Committee

Carol Collin, Chair. Phil Hawthorne, Mibs McCarthy, Gretchen Nicholas, Jean Mansfield, and Val Gottesman

SCHEDULED EVENTS

Anti-Racism Book Discussion Group, Tuesday, April 2, 7 p.m.

Anti-Racism Film Group, Thursday, April 18, 7 p.m.

Board of Trustees meets Wednesday, April 17, 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, April 21, 5-7 p.m. See page 15.

Equal Exchange Coffee and Chocolate are available on Sunday, April 7. See page 14.

Friday Night at the Movies is on April 12, 7 p.m. See page 10 for what's showing.

I-HELP for Men is Sunday, April 14, 5 p.m. Sign up on the bulletin board if you can help.

I-HELP for Women is Sunday, April 28, 4 p.m. Sign up on the bulletin board if you can help.

Membership Committee meets Wednesday, April 24, via Zoom.

Men's Breakfast is Saturday, April 13, 8 a.m. See page 14.

Music Committee meets Monday, April 15, 5:30 p.m. via Zoom.

NUUsletter deadline for the May issue is Tuesday, April 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 Wednesday, April 10, 6 –7 p.m. in the Fireplace Room. See page 13 for details.

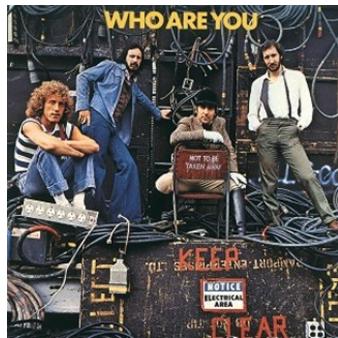
Social Justice meets Sunday, April 7, 12:30 p.m. in the Fireplace Room.

Women's Discussion Group will meet on Thursdays, April 11 and 25, at 2:00 p.m. See page 14 for details.

President's Corner: Don's Den

WHO Are We at UUCMP!!?

Life is what we make of it, and it is what we inspire others to make. At UUCMP we are all leaders in our various communities. And so the Board continues to lead and work on implementing the new Strategic Plan. The hard work will pay-off, if the whole congregation works hard together. I see so many



efforts paying off right now; Social Concerns, COPA, Membership, Building and Grounds. How do we measure success? Who are we at UUCMP? The American dream of having a house and family, and a dog and a cat and maybe

kids, **is not the metric**. In America and the UUCMP, the metric is: **hard work pays off**.

So what exactly is that metric? In February, the board agreed to establish a metric committee, a point-in-time demographic statement about who we are. Gosh that gets complicated! Is it a census? That's the path we started on. The board established a census subcommittee that drafted a questionnaire, but this gets personal and complicated. What does "we want to have a more diverse membership" mean? Do we need more of this and less of that? Well, say we only have three people who collect stamps. Less than 1%. We need more stamp collectors! Make sure we ask "have you ever collected stamps?" This begins to sound exclusive, like we may be scarily creeping toward "them" and "us." OUCH! We must maintain our inclusive nature.

I tried once to get a school board (of which I was an elected trustee) to implement the Restorative Justice System in the middle school with help from the Department of Justice. But the DOJ's presentation to the school board resulted in the same humiliating process. First we had to separate all of the students into categories to see what we had, then re-assemble them. The result was a flat rejection of Restorative

Justice. And so our UUCMP Board is considering a census at its March 20 meeting and will finalize it at the April meeting. What is a meaningful measurement?

Despite this backroom conversation, the Plan is moving forward. New ideas have been shared between a Board Subcommittee and the Membership Committee. Members of the Membership Committee joined the board at the March 20 Board Meeting to discuss strategies where the Board can work to help the committee enhance people's first visits to the UUCMP, and assure more return visits happen. It is a new goal to ask everyone in the church to consider themselves as ex-officio Membership Committee members. Who have you welcomed lately?

Thank you for being who we are, "because I really want to know, "Who are you, who, who?" (1978, Pete Townsend, *The Who*)

"Getting success in life is more or less similar to growing a Chinese bamboo tree in China. You have nothing to show for many years and the people around you begin to make fun of you. They call you fool, idiot and urge you to quit and I say Keep your faith in what you're growing, they are operating out of eye sight and cannot see what you can see. Your bamboo tree is expanding its root to sustain the impending stupendous growth that is bound to come. You will get that result sooner or later but you must believe in your bamboo tree."

Author Greg Bell "Watering the Bamboo"

Don Reynolds, President



A Note from the Intern

Amy Carlson

Our theme for this month is healing. There are many things which can help us in the healing process after heartache and loss. We can talk with friends, go for long beach walks, see a professional, join a group for support, exercise and move our body. And we can also sing. I don't consider myself much of a musician or singer, but there is something about singing, especially singing together which is primal and soothing. I think it's one of the primary ways we learn and receive comfort as children. I remember many a bedtime routine which contained a prayer and a song. Some of those songs will forever be in my memory.

One of the most comforting and restorative actions for me is when we sing together in church. The music, the togetherness, the beautiful lyrics and harmony. There's just something about singing together. Maybe this stems back to my childhood. I've been singing in church for a very long time now! My father was a pastor of a small non-denominational Christian church in rural Nebraska when I was a preschooler. I still have memories of him leading us in song from the pulpit. We would sing *A Mighty Fortress is our God* and *Amazing Grace* among other hymns, and while my theology has definitely changed, my love for singing in church has not.

There is something that actually changes in our brain chemistry when we sing together. When we sing, endorphins and oxytocin flood our system. Endorphins are the hormones which release the sense of pleasure, and oxytocin alleviates stress

and anxiety. Oxytocin is also the bonding hormone which is released with hugging and touching. In her Time article, *Singing Changes Your Brain*, Stacy Horn writes, "singing is like an infusion of the perfect tranquilizer, the kind that both soothes your nerves and elevates your spirits."

One of our UU hymns which gets me every time is hymn # 38, *Morning Has Broken*. I tear up every time I sing it in church. This hymn, made popular by Cat Stevens (and who doesn't love the Cat Steven's version?) was actually written by children's author Eleanor Farjeon who was commissioned in 1931 to write a hymn which would give thanks to each new day. I don't know if it's the old Gaelic tune of Bunessan or the beautiful lyrics about the miracle of each day, but either way, I'm so grateful for this song. It lifts me up. It reminds me to be on the lookout for the small miracles of our ordinary living. It reminds me of hope even when I don't feel very hopeful and reminds me that every morning is "God's re-creation of the new day."

I'm curious. What songs and hymns which we sing together lift you up? What tunes and lyrics bring comfort, hope, and healing to your soul? Flag me down and share your song story with me!

Warmly,
Amy





WE MADE IT MEANINGFUL!

THANK YOU!

Our *Make It Meaningful* Operating Fund Drive for the fiscal year

beginning July 1, 2019 officially ended on March 24. We accept pledges any time, of course. But it is the amount of pledges received by the middle of March that the Finance Committee uses to put together a budget.

Here's a report from our Treasurer (Harry Nagel) as of March 11 (close to press time):

We are doing well! We have 78 pledges totaling \$275K; avg \$3,531, median \$2,000; 76 of the 78 pledges so far pledged last year and have increased their avg pledge by \$362!

Last year totals (some of these pledges came in from new folks after the canvass officially closed): 124 pledges totaling \$336K; the average is \$2,711 and the median is \$1,740.

If the remaining 43 folks who pledged last year pledge this year at the same level that will bring

in an additional \$84K for a potential total of \$359K. If I discount those pledges by 10% that would still get us to \$351K. And if all of us pledge, imagine what we can do!

As of press time, we are still waiting to hear from some "pledging units." We'll have a more complete report next month.

This is all made possible by all of us pledgers and by the team of stewards who talked with many of you and listened to your thoughts and concerns. Please thank them for their efforts when you see them: Be Astengo, Carl Christensen, Carol Collin, Jon Czarnecki, Amy Carlson, Warren Finch, Fran Gaver, Rev. Axel Gehrman, Peggy Hansen, Sarah Hardgrave, Paul Jessen, Lauren Keenan, Molly Lewis, Mibs McCarthy, Carol Meyer, Konny Murray, Harry Nagel, Lynne Powers, Don Reynolds, Bob Sadler, Sharon Sadler, Darold Skerritt and Gale Weir. They helped to make the campaign meaningful for all of us!

We are a generous community. Thanks to all who have made a commitment. It is up to all of us to make it possible for UUCMP's programs and ministry to expand.

FIRST FRIDAY COFFEE WITH THE MINISTERS

Friday, April 5, 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.



RELIGIOUS EXPLORATION



April is when those of us in the religious exploration program must start thinking hard about the future. The activities and classes we started in the fall wind down with the school year and we look for new ideas that will excite our families this summer and throughout the church academic year that begins in September. The UU RE world is overflowing with creative new ways to tend to the spiritual development of our children, teens, and adults. The challenge is to decide what approach to take and how best to make it happen with the resources we have available. Here are some ideas I have encountered in the past few weeks:



UU MakerSpace

This is a hands-on program that puts all the emphasis on encouraging our kids' creativity and problem-solving skills. As one UU church describes it, during their "MakerSpace Sunday," adults are there as guides and helpers, yet allow kids to experiment and make mistakes. The basic instructions for the children are to (1) pick a challenge from the challenge table; (2) make a plan; (3) gather materials; (4) start making (with adult help only when requested); and (5) evaluate. To quote DRE Kathy Smith of the Unitarian Universalist Church of Baton Rouge, Louisiana, "UUs are like makers in 'real makerspace.' We ask questions, notice problems, work together, figure it out, fail sometimes, and try again." This is not your grandmother's Sunday School!

Spirit Play

This UU faith formation program is organized much like a Montessori classroom. The learning space is prepared so that children can choose from multiple types of activities after they have been engaged by a story and age-appropriate discussion. If a child wants to play dress up and act out an idea, that is fine. Or perhaps one is in the mood to build a sacred building with blocks, help with a church garden, read a book, or sit quietly after contributing to a child-sized alter. Children are encouraged to explore the topics in ways that are meaningful to them. This independence also means that a wider age range is able to share space and resources.

The Worship & Retreat Model

Definitely a work in progress, this concept is being developed by various UU congregations searching for new

ways to build community and grow children in the faith, despite busy family lives, sporadic attendance, and too few volunteers. One example is the UU Church of Morristown (New Jersey) that is planning a week-long camp at the end of summer for all ages during which kids have the time and opportunity to get to know each other, feel connected to the community, and get some particular learning accomplished. During the academic church year, children and youth will mostly attend worship services with their parents, as one of their two Sunday services will be designed to be child friendly. On some Sundays, the kids will have a program or activity separate from the regular worship service but, in order to strengthen and maintain the bonds that were formed during the summer camp, each age group will also have weekend retreats periodically throughout the year. Again, the focus is on building community and creating friendships while enjoying music, worship, stories, etc. Just like the adults.

These are just a few examples of creative ways to think about religious exploration for children and youth. We have a rich diversity of programs and curricula to choose from when it comes to deciding how best to make our church a loving, meaningful, happy home for all ages. Lacking dogma or strict rules from a controlling bureaucracy, UUs are free to create an environment and a program that we think best serves our families.

Considering these options and making these decisions is at the core of what our committee on family ministry does. We welcome you to join in on this conversation by attending a committee on family ministry meeting or just talking to a committee member about your interests and views. In fact, we really want to know what you think about the future of religious exploration and are planning an event for after church on Sunday, May 12 for anyone who is interested in these ideas. It is only a discussion, not an ongoing commitment, so when more information is posted about this in the weeks ahead, I hope you will consider sitting in. Please don't think that you have to have children in the program to be part of this. These children and their future in our movement is the business of all of us!

Of course, you can also stop me in the hall or send me an email if you have any questions or ideas that you wish to share.

Corey Brunson
Director of Religious Exploration

Upcoming Events and Opportunities



Facilitator training for our OWL program is being offered July 26-28 at the UU Church in Berkeley. If you might be interested in being part of this life-saving, comprehensive human sexuality course, please talk to the director of religious exploration, Corey Brunson, at your earliest convenience. Trainings this close to home are not that common and this one will surely fill up quickly.

Middle-school OWL is our most popular OWL class and draws in new families from the community. We will almost certainly fill the class with eager students if we can identify enough appropriate volunteers to complete the training and commit to facilitating throughout the coming school year. Please contact Corey (dre.corey@uucmp.org) if you are

interested in facilitating or just want more information about the program.

Saturday, May 25, at 3 p.m. Barbershop Fest!

Let the sweet sounds of barbershop a cappella harmony wash over you for a delightful afternoon. The Monterey Bay Belles, Cypressaires, Four on the Floor and Vocal Point are tuning up to sing for you and your family at this special event!



UU Songleaders Convergence

July 24 – 28, Denver, Colorado



It is a gathering for songleaders, musicians, and singers of all kinds to share skills, best practices, wisdom, and of course, songs. We'll gather for a week of learning and networking, to nurture a deeper culture of community singing in our congregations and wider community. We're inviting all those who love community singing to converge for what promises to be a transformative gathering of resonance, harmony, and rhythm.

Sessions will explore:

- Confident & invitational songleading
- Songleading for worship and in the streets.
- Deepening cultural context, story, worship, and preaching through songleading.
- Harmony singing, vocal technique, circle songs, threshold choirs, and more!

Who's invited?

Religious educators, choir members and singers 'only-in-the-shower,' musicians both professional and amateur are invited. It's a place for anyone leading or wanting to lead songs in worship, around the dinner table, at the board meeting, or in the streets. Come join the musical fun and explore your connection to music and singing.

Interested? Contact Camille Hatton for more details.

ART NEWS

APRIL 4 to May 27



Youth Arts Collective (YAC) Presents Elders' Portrait Project

In today's world, we live in an ageist culture where teens and elders are somehow relegated to the sidelines. In this outreach project, a YACster is paired with an elder from our community who is/has been an artist and/or activist.



Through a unique portraits project, they both reach across generations for a glimpse into each other's life and perhaps each other's generation. They meet for an extended conversation about their lives. Candid photos are taken for reference. About a month later, the YACster emerges with two portraits - one of the elder, and the other, a self-portrait.

Later as more portraits are done, they will be displayed in community exhibits, and on our blog and social media. And finally, both portraits will be presented to the elder and their families as a thank you for their friendship, and to honor them for contributing to our community's greater good, our cultural, and artistic heritage.

Youth Arts Collective serves 75-85 Monterey County young artists ages 14-22 from ten different area high schools, homeschoilers, and three local colleges. Additionally, YAC offers workshops for 20-30 Monterey County youth ages 8-13. They come from a variety of backgrounds, nationalities, races, religions, orientations, and socio-economic levels.

Mentorship is the heart and soul of Youth Arts Collective. YAC's goal is to provide a safe environment where YACsters build artistic skills and create art. Under the mentorship and hands-on instruction of professional teaching artists, Marcia Perry and Meg Biddle, YACsters gain skills in any medium of their choice. Four hours a day, six days a week, year-round! All YACsters are valued by our mentors and their peers for their differences and for their characters - for exactly who they are. They are encouraged to become their best selves.



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

-Peggy Olsen

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 5:45 a.m. until the course re-opens (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, APRIL 12, 7:00 P.M.
~ THE WONDER BOYS ~

Filmed in 2000 and directed by Curtis Hanson, this comedy-drama is an accurate portrayal of campus life. Michael Douglas, as the creative writing Professor Tripp, gives a great performance that is muted, gentle, and wondering. Suffering from writers block he tries to deal with the pressures of his complex love life and all the assorted problems of his troubled students. The film won the Golden Globe for best picture and best actor for Douglas .

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



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 world.

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 Meeting

Are you curious about Unitarian Universalism? Do you want to know what makes this congregation tick? The Membership Committee is offering a meeting 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.

This month we are offering a single session on Wednesday, April 10, from 7:00 - 9:00 pm. We'll have beverages and snacks at that event. We'll then engage in a conversation led by Rev. Axel Gehrmann.

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.



April Shared Plate Recipient Unitarian Universalist Service Committee UUSC

The Unitarian Universalist Service Committee (UUSC) is a nonprofit, nonsectarian organization advancing human rights together with an international community of grassroots partners and advocates. UUSC is associated with the UUA as a sibling – it is a stand alone organization that promotes human rights and social justice around the world through the lens of UUA principles. Their work is grounded in the belief that all people have inherent power and dignity, that local people understand best what they need, and that our Earth deserves respect and care. Half of the cash from our offering this April (Earth month), along with checks written to UUSC will support UUSC's **Climate Forced Displacement Work***.

A brief history: UUSC began its work in 1939 when the Rev. Waitstill and Martha Sharp took the extraordinary risk of traveling to Europe to help refugees escape Nazi persecution. The Unitarian Service Committee was established in 1940 to formalize this humanitarian service. The Universalist Service Committee was established in 1945, and in 1963 the two merged to form UUSC. In 2012, UUSC partnered with the UUA to establish the UU College of Social Justice to help UUs deepen and sustain the work of justice in our congregations and communities.

UUSC does amazing work both nationally and internationally to help those whose rights are being smothered or taken away. They have a deep moral belief that local grassroots organizations already understand what works. The amount of help they afford to their partners is much larger than a check. They offer connections to others doing the same work and act as a sounding board for innovative solutions to complex human rights abuse challenges.

They currently concentrate their efforts in three areas:

Crisis Response: UUSC responds to select natural and manmade disasters where there is an opportunity for it to leverage its strategic assets to address systemic inequities and further long-term **human rights goals**. They partner with those whose access to aid is most limited, supporting frontline communities as they rebuild lives on the way to a just recovery.

Central American Migrant Justice: UUSC's strategy uses a regional lens, aimed at three inextricably linked aspects of the issue:

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

Grant-making and partner support are focused on grassroots organizations working for systemic change. The belief is that connecting groups across the migrant trail from El Salvador to Mexico to the United States will create a strong movement centered on the rights of people, not borders.

***Climate Forced Displacement:** UUSC's Environmental Justice & Climate Action work focuses on advancing and protecting the rights of populations at risk of climate-forced displacement caused by slow-onset climate impacts. UUSC's program emboldens the principle of the right to self-determination by prioritizing building protections in place and when necessary and required by their partners, supporting communities to relocate with dignity.

In addition to directly supporting communities at risk, UUSC has a multi-pronged strategy that targets a range of stakeholders to assist communities as they advance their right to self-determination and develop strategies to respond to the spectrum of risks associated with climate-forced displacement. By centering the voices of communities and by upholding their right to self-determination, UUSC and partners are actively seeking a pathway to corrective justice—grappling with the exploitation of Indigenous bodies and lands and the forcible displacement that many have faced in the name of western modernization.

This is powerful, impactful stuff! You can learn more on the UUSC website: <https://www.uusc.org/> You can find a list of partners and much more detail there.

Konny Murray, UUCMP member and UUSC Stewardship Circle Member

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 **Wednesday, April 10, 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 grades 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 Earth Day/Easter. 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



Care about Social Justice and like to sing?

Join us Tuesday, April 16, 7 p.m. in the Sanctuary

We will be holding an introductory meeting about possibly forming a local Justice Choir chapter. Justice Choir began in Minnesota to encourage more group singing for social and environmental justice. They have created a Justice Choir Songbook, which includes 43 songs free for non-profit use, and their goal is a grassroots movement to engage in the empathetic, collaborative and collective power of singing together to create positive transformation on a personal, social, local, civic, and – hopefully – national level.

Some chapters use the Songbook as a springboard for empathetic community conversation, partner with other local organizations to bring singing into the movement, or mobilize “pop-up” style to lead group singing at marches, rallies, state buildings, vigils, or anywhere a marginalized sector might need a bigger voice.

More info at www.justicechoir.org. Questions? Speak with Camille Hatton.



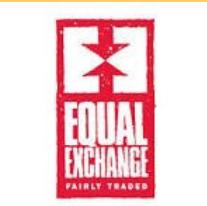
Men's Breakfast Group

Saturday, April 13,
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.

EQUAL EXCHANGE PRODUCTS AVAILABLE APRIL 7



Fair trade, organic coffee, tea, chocolate and olive oil will be available between services on April 7. Support sustainable farmer co-ops and UUCMP at the same time! Cash and checks accepted.

Contact: Janet Shing



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 April 11th, Sharon Miller will lead our discussion of "Women Leaders—Here and Abroad."

On April 25th, Maureen Brinkerhoff will lead our discussion of "Getting to Know a Native American Tribe: the Tubatulabals."

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

—Nancy Baker Jacobs, Facilitator

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 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 Spring 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 26, April 9 & 23, and May 14 (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 Gehrman (minister@uucmp.org)

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.

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

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, April 7, at 12:30 p.m. following the second worship service, in the Conference Room. Please speak with Revs. Axel or Elaine for more information.



In late January, Ken Cuneo was diagnosed with a urinary tract infection and had very low blood pressure. This combination weakened him, and when he had a fall at the Country Club Gate he was taken by ambulance to Community Hospital for treatment. They then discovered that he actually had a far more serious e coli infection.

They changed his medications in order to clear up the infection, but along with complications suffered from diabetes, he needed some rehab and physical therapy to regain enough strength to return home. Ken went to rehab at Cypress Ridge Care Center, which was a challenge because of the extremely dusty and noisy parking lot revisions that were going out right outside his room from early in the morning.

He was finally able to return home on March 12. His home has now been made more accessible, and he is receiving in-home care from Central Coast Senior Ser-

vices every day during the daytime hours. He gets Meals on Wheels every day. Ken says that because of diabetes therapy, he went from 256 pounds to 193 pounds, and is now selecting clothes from the far end of his clothes rack. He's going to maintain this weight and will soon be making donations to those in need. He will receive extra help with the inhouse therapy until he is able to be independent. The tragic outcome of his long convalescence is that he was forced to surrender his beloved dog Jemima to the SPCA, though she has been adopted. Ken, we are so very sorry about Jemima, who is such a great dog. We all hope that you will fully recover soon.

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

In Memory of

Jane Natalie Britton

Who died March 21, 2019



Celebration of Life Service

Saturday, May 18, 2 p.m.



Please remember to fill out a survey on hosting a transgender asylum seeker! Paper surveys are on the credenza in the hallway between the foyer and the welcome hall, or you may fill one out online. WE WANT TO HEAR FROM EVERYONE! <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/6NQGYCN>

SOCIAL JUSTICE

Update from COPA

Please mark your calendars to attend the Housing Civic Academy, Sunday, April 14 from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. at St. Francis Xavier Church in Seaside.

As reported last month, your COPA Core Team has been working with four other COPA churches on the Peninsula: St. Francis Xavier Catholic Church and La Iglesia de San Pablo Episcopal in Seaside, CA; St. Mary's Episcopal in Pacific Grove; and Unity Church in Monterey; to plan the upcoming Housing Civic Academy, the flyer for which is included here.



This is a great opportunity to meet our neighbors of different faiths from across the community, to learn about the particulars of housing in Monterey County and to meet with our local officials

on this issue. Discover our common housing issues and learn how we can help each other.

Housing Civic Academy Sunday, April 14, 2019 2 - 4 PM



Join COPA as we share stories about the challenges our families face related to housing. We will learn together about possible solutions to address these challenges. The meeting will be bilingual, with interpretation in English and Spanish. Refreshments provided.

Have you RSVP'd to your Core Team yet? Let us know you're coming. We can't wait to see you there. Contact your COPA Core Team at: ij@uucmp.org



Saint Francis Xavier Church
1475 La Salle Ave, Seaside, CA 93955

We are hoping for a large turnout of at least 20 people from UUCMP. Please let us know if you can attend by emailing the Core Team at: ij@uucmp.org. We are also to bring potluck to the meeting, so please let us know if you can bring finger food.

Thank you!

Laura Nagel, COPA Core Team

**Unitarian Universalist Church
of the Monterey Peninsula
490 Aguajito Road
Carmel, CA 93923**

Office Hours

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

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Return Service Requested



About UUCMP Publications

Please send NUUslettter 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