



NUUSLETTER

of the Unitarian Universalist Church of the Monterey Peninsula

May Theme: Creative Religion

Sunday Services begin at 9:30 and 11:15 (thru May 19)

May 5

9:30 a.m. "A Community of Personalities"

Amy Carlson & Bob Sadler

11:15 a.m. Annual Meeting

May 19

"Bread of Life"

Rev. Elaine Gehrmann, Ann Johnson,

Corey Brunson & UUCMP Youth

Do you consider yourself an introvert or an extrovert? A church community is full of both types of personalities as well as those who fall somewhere in between. How can introverts and extroverts be in community together and better understand one another? What specific gifts do these two personality types bring to our communal well-being? Our Annual Congregational Meeting will follow the 9:30 a.m. service, beginning at 11:15 a.m.

This is our annual Religious Exploration Sunday for all ages, where we recognize and honor youth and teachers, and celebrate growth and passages. Bread is like us: a complex result of different ingredients and influences, being worked on by others, and rising to the challenges of our environment. Join us as we celebrate the multiplying loaves, it's the yeast you can do!

May 12

"The Work of Art"

Rev. Axel Gehrmann & Sue Ellen Stringer

May 26

Return to one service at 10:30 a.m.

"The Threads of Life"

Karen Brown & Mary Kay Hamilton

Spiritual teachings are conveyed in sacred stories and scholarly texts, in the words and deeds of prophets and exemplars, and in the daily disciplines of religious practitioners. Drawing on our powers of imagination and intuition, through the use of color and texture, melody and music - in short, through the skills and sensibilities of the artist, we may discover entirely new sources of radical inspiration and action.

Join us as we explore how quilting, knitting, and other creative textile arts can act as spiritual practice. Hear stories of how art changes lives, experience the joy of music, and enjoy our pop-up art display. Come and be inspired! (Ann Johnson and Corey Brunson will lead a similar service that morning at the church camp-out.)

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.

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Staff Listing
See the Calendar at uucmp.org



Ministers' Message

Rev. Elaine Gehrman

Our recently approved Strategic Plan says that we want to increase the diversity of our membership. Diversity is generally defined as having a wide variety of demographic differences: age, gender, race, ethnicity, sexual orientation, socio-economic status, physical ability and more. I believe that a desire for more diversity reflects several of our hopes: that we will be more reflective of our wider community; that our differences will strengthen our flexibility and range; that we will be able to learn more from one another and grow in knowledge and understanding; that the religious values we share in common will be more important than any demographic similarities or differences.

I have to confess that I hope that we will become more diverse primarily because it will be evidence that we have actually become more inclusive. Inclusion to me is even more important than diversity, because it means that all kinds of people feel that they belong, that they feel valued and respected and appreciated for their unique combination of characteristics, not in spite of them. A more diverse congregation would show that we have successfully removed some of the “invisible barriers” that keep some people from feeling fully welcomed. In order to become more inclusive, we may need to do some more research into these barriers, to figure out what messages we might inadvertently be sending to people outside of our current dominant church culture. These barriers are often hard for some of us to see, as they aren't barriers for us . . . but that doesn't mean that they don't exist.

We might have to actually change a number of aspects of our current dominant church culture: to make it fit a broader range of backgrounds and experiences; to reflect wider ways of doing things; to move from monocultural to multicultural. To

make others more comfortable, we might need to become a little less comfortable, at least at first. Like any worthwhile relationships, communication and compromise, accommodations and adjustments, will be necessary, and worth the work.

Next time you're in church, look around and see what clues you can find that would indicate to someone that they belong, what messages are being sent about the kind of people that this church is set up for—try to figure out what our current dominant church culture looks like, sounds like, smells like . . . and to whom it feels welcoming, and to whom it might feel less so. And then think about what we might do to make some changes . . .

The Board of Trustees is working on a census form that we hope you will complete, to give us a sense of the current make-up of our congregation, a baseline by which to measure our progress. If we work on becoming more inclusive, we will likely become more diverse . . . but it probably won't happen without some real intention and effort on all our part. We hope you will join us gladly, as we work toward practicing what we preach, and creating the beloved community we all dream of.

See you in church!

Elaine

there is a significant difference between "all are welcome here" and "this was created with you in mind"

Source unknown

Celebration of Life Service

In honor of

Jane Natalie Britton



Saturday, May 18, 2 p.m.



We currently have four Chalice Circles (Covenant Groups or Small Group Ministries) 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!

Committee on Ministry



Bob Sadler, Dennis Hickman, Kerry Sisseem, Carol Galginitis (Chair), Randy May

SCHEDULED EVENTS

Annual Meeting, Sunday May 5, 11:15 a.m. See page 16.

Anti-Racism Book Discussion Group, No mtg this month.

Anti-Racism Film Group, Thursday, May 16, 7 p.m.

Board of Trustees meets Wednesday, May 15, 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, May 19, 5-7 p.m. See page 16.

Equal Exchange Coffee and Chocolate are available on Sunday, May 5. See page 15.

Friday Night at the Movies is on May 10, 7 p.m. See page 11 for what's showing.

I-HELP for Men is Sunday, May 12, 5 p.m. Sign up on the bulletin board if you can help.

I-HELP for Women is Sunday, May 26, 4 p.m. Sign up on the bulletin board if you can help.

Justice Choir meets Tuesday, May 21, 7 p.m. See page 14.

Membership Committee meets Wednesday, May 29, 5:30 p.m. via Zoom.

Men's Breakfast is Saturday, May 11, 8 a.m. See page 15.

Music Committee meets Monday, May 13, 5:30 p.m. via Zoom.

NUUsetter deadline for the June issue is Thursday, May 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, May 8. 6 –7 p.m. in the Fireplace Room. See page 13 for details.

Social Justice meets Sunday, May 5, 12:45 p.m. in the Fireplace Room.

Women's Discussion Group will meet on Thursdays, May 9 and 23, at 2:00 p.m. See page 15 for details.

President's Corner: Don's Den

“MAKING A WAY OUT OF NO WAY”

What can we do? What can we do?

Wait, we are doing it. We just need to be those people we call our “peeps.” OUR Peeps -- who are we?

Your Board of Trustees has recently taken steps toward implementing the Strategic Plan we adopted January 27. Board members are developing a church-wide census to determine who we are before we try to figure out how we will increase our diversity. They are also putting together a diversity task force. The new Communications

Committee has formed a Social Media Policy. And the board approved the proposed budget which includes expenses that will help implement the Strategic Plan. This will all be presented to you at the congregational meeting on May 5. I will be at my brother's wedding that day. My life is full, but my mind never leaves home.



My sons, 16 and 13, and are terrific

sponges for DC. After seeing the big museums, we visited the Holocaust and National Museum of African American History and Culture (NMAAHC) museums today. Heavy stuff going down in our brains tonight!

One of our Strategic Plan goals is to explore a more diverse congregation. But what does this mean? There is a religion section in the NMAAHC- the photo above shows what I learned. How many of our principles are in the quote? The main theme of this museum is “Making a Way Out of No Way.” Isn't that what we are trying to do?

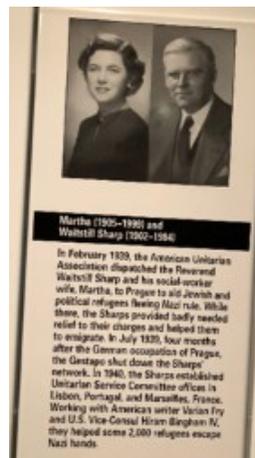
So, we are busy searching county records to re-start our new plan to build a new sanctuary. We are busy applying to Cal Trans for a visible sign at the front of our property that is really theirs. We are busy forming a new committee to explore the feasibility of a new fund raising campaign for our new sanctuary. We have talked to the UUA and have a UUA consultant in our sight.

I learned today about this guy, Reverend James Reeb (UU minister), who died in Selma. There were three marches in Selma, and Reverend Reeb was killed in the first march, March 7, 1965. This is what Martin Luther King



said about Reeb, “James Reeb symbolizes the forces of good will in our nation. He demonstrated the conscience of the nation. He was an attorney for the defense of the innocent in the court of world opinion. He was a witness to the truth that men of different races and classes might live, eat, and work together as brothers.”

These are our Peeps. It is fulfilling to know we cannot be questioning things right now. We are the right people in the right place. So, we need to build our sanctuary. We need to know if we can build it now.



Go a step further to the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum. Where are our Peeps in this mess? This tragic history sounds so much like today. How many conservative Germans didn't know Hitler had changed things so radically? How many liberal Germans didn't realize that he was for real?

We must stay on top of things federal and also keep an eye focused on local changes. Now in its 20th year, we heard a “First Person” testimony about the European/German Jewish experience today. Margit (Morawetz) Meissner (born 1922) described her escape from the Nazis and Innsbruck, Austria. She confessed that she was so naïve about the power of the war. She said repeatedly: “Don't be afraid of taking risks.” Well, as shown in the photo above, Waitstill and Martha Sharp were there for us. We were there, doing what we could. In this single case, these Unitarians saved 2,000 Jews.

So, we are growing our church and UUCMP. We are in a fight right in front of us, and we cannot be naive about it. This is very serious stuff. It is not propaganda. It is a truly ugly, realistic nightmare that we have to stand up to like our forefathers and mothers. The fight is on. Can we make our way out of no way? Are you up for it?

Don Reynolds
President



A Note from the Intern

Amy Carlson

On Sunday, May 6, of last year at the annual meeting, UUCMP voted to become a sanctuary congregation. And what exactly does that mean for us to be a sanctuary congregation?

There are typically four ways in which a church can demonstrate its commitment to sanctuary:

1. Advocacy - lobbying for local, state and national policies that protect immigrants and engaging in public action which helps shift the public discourse toward immigrants and refugees.
2. Accompaniment – helping immigrants with court date accompaniment, finding access to services, and providing emotional and/or financial support
3. Networks of Protection and Rapid Response – joining a rapid response network to respond to ICE workplace raids, home raids, and other enforcement activity.
4. Housing Hospitality - providing housing in case of various types of needs like short-term for someone released from detention to a newly arrived family seeking asylum.

As far as I know, our church has primarily been focusing its energy on the advocacy piece of sanctuary through our partnership with the wonderful work that COPA does. Advocacy work is so important to help address the root causes of our country's unjust immigration policy, and...it's equally important to look at the ways in which we can help those who are currently suffering under that unjust system.

A simple way we can walk alongside immigrants

and support them is by writing letters to those who are being detained by ICE. Receiving a letter from the outside can bring a tremendous sense of hope to someone who is isolated, separated from family and housed in prison. The social justice committee has been working on ways to connect our church community with those who are detained. One organization we are working with, the Interfaith Movement for Human Integrity, based in Oakland, runs a letter writing program called *Friends Afuera* which matches volunteers with detained immigrants. The other organization we are working with is the Santa Fe Dreamers Project which focuses on transgender asylum seekers.

So, starting Sunday, May 5, (and yes that's the date of this year's annual meeting) the social justice committee will launch our letter writing program to help support two detained immigrants. We'll have a table set up in the welcome hall for all to stop by to write short notes of support, love, and encouragement to the two detained asylum seekers we are connected with. Another important aspect of our relationship besides letter writing is providing a \$25 a month deposit in the detainees' commissary accounts. The social justice committee approved this amount and the deposit will come from the social justice committee's budget each month. The donation to the commissary account can provide much needed money to make phone calls to family members, to pay for stamps and envelopes, and to get toiletries and medicine.

Providing letters of support and a monthly donation can be a life line for someone held in a detention facility. Just to know that someone on the outside cares and is holding you in love gives an immense sense of hope and comfort. I look forward to seeing you at the letter writing table starting in May!

Warmly,
Amy

RELIGIOUS EXPLORATION



I love this picture from the church's September 2018 campout in Big Sur. What you see here is just a group of youths of various ages sitting on a tree. There was no program or planned activity. They were just hanging out.



That was the best thing about that campout, and probably all the church campouts that preceded it. We all just got to be together in a relaxed way, getting to know each other and each other's kids. Some of us felt so appreciative of that time, that discussions began before the tents were down on possibly adding a springtime campout to the church calendar.

As a result, on Memorial Day weekend we are hosting another campout for anyone in the church who would like to hang out with people of all ages. We have reserved use of the facilities at Camp

Piney Creek, at the far end of Carmel Valley Road. (Really, it's part of Arroyo Seco.) The camp belongs to a local foundation, *The White Stage Leadership Academy, Inc.*, and is being developed for their summer-camp programs. It's not exactly the redwood forests and rocky cliffs of Big Sur, but it is warm, woodsy, rustic, and free for us to use!

Ambitious hikers can enter the neighboring national forest, but most of us will enjoy low-key activities for all ages, community meals, and a Sunday-morning worship service in the outdoor amphitheater. You are welcome to be with us from Friday, May 24, through Monday, May 27 – or come down just for the day or days that work for you. (It's about an hour's drive from the Peninsula.)

Watch the R.E. bulletin board for more details and sign-up opportunities. If you have any questions about our campout or want to volunteer your help in any way, stop me in the halls on Sundays or send me a message at dre.corey@uucmp.org.

— Corey Brunson
Director of Religious Exploration



Arroyo Seco

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.

Barbershop Extravaganza!

Monterey Bay Belles
Women's Barbershop Chorus

Cypressaires
Men's Barbershop Chorus



Kristen Thompson
Director

Barbershop Extravaganza!

On **Saturday, May 25, at 3 p.m.**, get ready to attend a Barbershop Extravaganza at UUCMP. Let the sweet sounds of barbershop a cappella harmony wash over you for a delightful afternoon. The Monterey Bay Belles and the Cypressaires are tuning up to sing for you and your family at this special event.

Barbershop harmony is music in its purest form created with nothing but human voices coming together to create a rich and satisfying texture that is pleasing to the ears and invigorating to

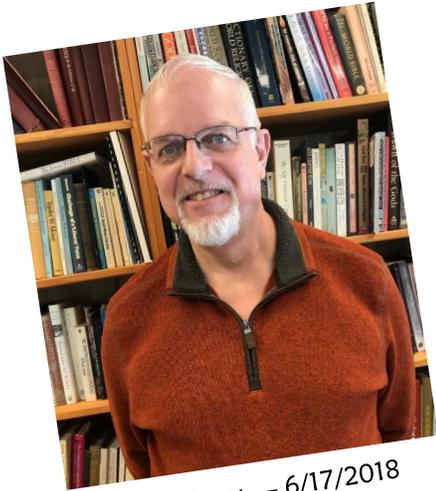
the soul. It's performed in four part harmony with each member assigned to singing a specific voice part including: tenor, lead, baritone and bass. Barbershoppers are always striving to ring each and every chord which signifies proper tuning and balanced vocal production.

Locally, the Monterey Bay Belles and Cypressaires are skillfully directed by accomplished musician, Kristen Thompson. She has a BA in Music Performance in Percussion and an MA in Choral Conducting, both from San Jose State University. She has served on the faculties of both public and private schools in Monterey, Santa Cruz and Santa Clara counties and currently teaches general music, choir and band at Buena Vista Middle School and Speckles Elementary in Salinas, California.

Tickets are available online through PayPal at uucmp.org, at Bookmark Music, or at the door: \$20 general admission; \$15 for seniors and students; children under 12 are free with a paying adult.

New Members at UUCMP

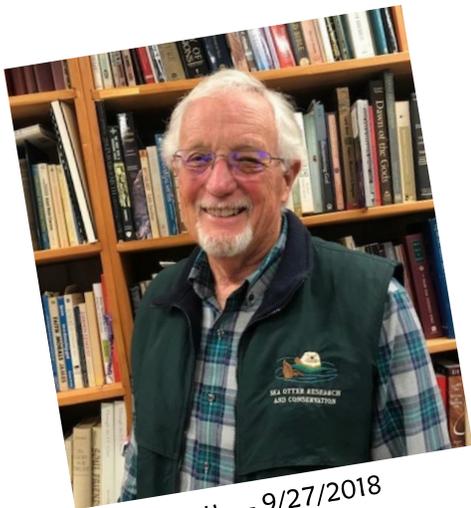
These folks joined UUCMP within the last year. Welcome them when you see them!



Scott Perry — 6/17/2018



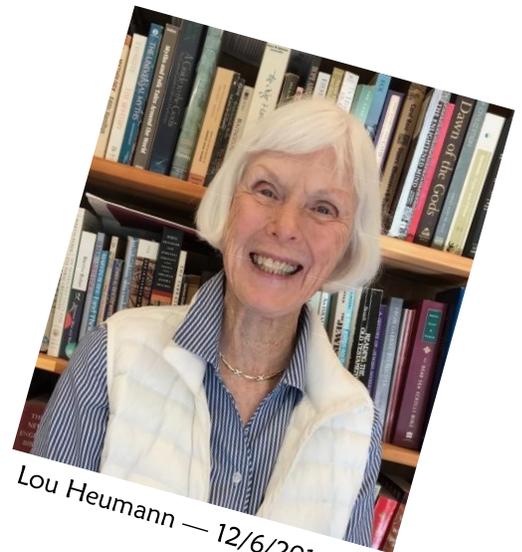
Virdette Brumm — 9/4/2018



Craig Scott — 9/27/2018



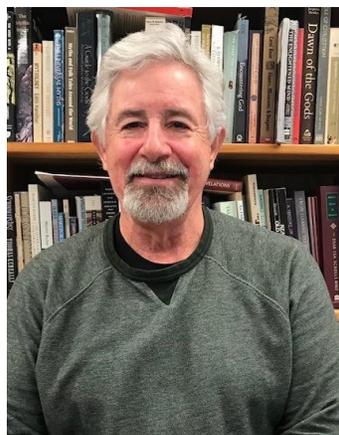
Chris Kage — 10/19/2018



Lou Heumann — 12/6/2018



Mariam Melendez — 2/17/2019



Ted Raabe — 11-29-2018



Walt Beam — 4/18/2019

ART NEWS

APRIL 4 to May 27



YOUTH ARTS COLLECTIVE

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, homeschoolers, 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

MARK YOUR CALENDAR: FAREWELL CELEBRATION FOR OUR INTERN – JUNE 9

Amy Carlson's internship at UUCMP is, sadly for us, coming to an end on June 15. We will fete her with strawberries and nibbles and say our farewells after worship on June 9, the last Sunday she will be with us.

We've been blessed with her sunny, compassionate presence since last August. She has participated in committees, given sermons, acted as a worship associate, taught two ALE classes, helped with RE, volunteered at fundraisers, visited house bound congregants, and otherwise shared her calm spirit and willing nature with us.

Phil Hawthorne, a member of the Intern Committee, will be at a table on Sundays to accept donations toward farewell gifts for Amy. He'll have a sign-up sheet for you to promise to bring some cookies for the gathering.

Phil will also have colorful sheets of paper for you to express your memories and comments about Amy. Photos welcome! We'll put them in a notebook and present them to her at our celebration, along with other farewell gifts.

Our wish is to honor Amy in the multiple ways she has served us. Let's send her off well on her continuing journey.

— Intern Committee



Talk to Us!

Have you noticed the new Committee on Ministry bulletin board hanging in the entry hall? If not, please take a look, especially if you:

- Are curious by nature
- Have a suggestion or idea that you would like the church to consider
- Want to thank a congregant, UUCMP friend, or staff person for something he or she has done

The Committee on Ministry will review any new posting and will pass it along to the appropriate person or committee. Any outcome(s) of the suggestion, idea, or thank you will be posted on the bulletin board as quickly as possible.

Only YOU can help us become all that we can be!



FRIDAY NIGHT AT THE MOVIES

FRIDAY, MAY 10, 7:00 P.M.
~ THE INTOUCHABLES ~

This 2012 French comedy-drama, directed by Olivier Nakache and Eric Toledano, is the story about a stuffy, Parisian aristocrat (also a quadriplegic) who hires an unlikely caregiver and finds his life is enriched by this wise, cheeky, and irreverent, black man from the Paris ghetto. The film was an enormous hit in France and won actor Omar Sy the Cesar award for best actor. It also won the NAACP Image Award, and was nominated at the Golden Globes and Academy Awards 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!

HELP NEEDED FOR OUR PIANO!!!

Our 100-year old Steinway grand piano needs some work (and likely most of us will need some work if we reach that ripe old age). This piano has been with us for many years, but If we want it to serve us for many more years it needs some refurbishing, and this is where you come in. The bad news is that the work that needs to be done will cost us about \$25,000. The good news is that, thanks to a generous bequest by Jane Crotser's mother, Marty Crotser, we have \$10,000 in hand. The rest is simple: we would like each and every member and friend to "adopt" one or more of the parts that make our piano sound so beautiful, especially at the hands of our wonderful pianist, Lucy Faridany. Here is our list of "adoptees:"



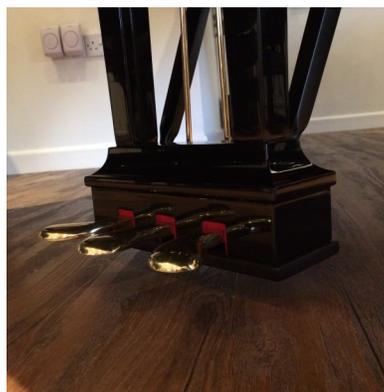
230 strings @ \$20 per string



88 keys @ \$100 per key



1 frame @ \$1000



3 pedals @ \$500 per pedal

As a special incentive, each and every adoptive "parent" will be invited to the fabulous reception and concert we will have next year inaugurating our newly refurbished piano with music provided by our own Lucy. Look for a date as soon as we have a better idea as to when the work will be completed.

To donate, send a check to UUCMP with word *Piano* and your "adoptive" part(s) in the memo line **by June 30**, or drop a check off on Sunday. Thank you for all that you do. We are all looking forward to many more years of beautiful music.

If you have any questions, please contact Harry Nagel, your Treasurer, at harrynagel@icloud.com.

May Shared Plate Recipient
Youth Arts Collective --
YAC



What YAC is

YAC is a nonprofit, after school art studio and mentorship program for high school and college artists - brilliant and struggling, confident and fringe, multi-ethnic, multi-tempered, and over 30% financially challenged. They learn art, job, and life skills, and gain a healthy dose of self-esteem and gratitude along the way. YACsters learn to believe in themselves, take creative risk, and give back. 100% graduate from high school. 95% of YACsters go on to university, college, and art college - many on scholarships. YAC is an incubator for some of our community's future creatives, whether they end up in the arts, education, business, or science. YAC provides supplies, studio space, art training, exhibition and commission opportunities, individual mentoring, and a community unlike any other. We're open 4 hours a day, 6 days a week, year-round.

Mission

Our mission is to inspire creativity, kindness, and confidence in our youth through artistic expression and mutual respect. Do art. Be kind.

Vision

YAC is a creative and social experiment that is clearly working. Our intention is to continue to grow and enrich our core program, while enhancing the surrounding community with a visual arts center based on the courage and innovation of youth. We also hope to share how to do this with other communities. In Congressman Sam Farr's words: "I think there should be a YAC in every city in America."

<https://yacstudios.org>

472 Calle Principal • Monterey, CA 93940 Telephone: (831) 375-9922

YAC Hours: Monday - Friday 3:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m. Saturday - 12:00 noon - 4:00 p.m.

Youth Arts Collective is making a difference in the lives of many young people and their families. Please give generously.

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 **every 2nd Wednesday each month from 6 - 7 p.m. in the Fireplace Room**. This month, we will meet on **May 8th**. This group is open to anyone with any instrument to play or 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 in June. Please ask me if you have any questions about this fun opportunity for our children.

In addition, we have a new Social Justice choir. We are also restarting the *WhUU Are UU Band*. Please see the article to the right for more information. If you would like to join, you may talk to me, Rev. Elaine or Shawn.

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

— Camille Hatton



Care about Social Justice and like to sing?

Tuesday, May 21, 7 p.m. in the Sanctuary

The newly formed **Justice Choir** will continue to meet on a monthly basis. We are using the Justice Choir songbook as well as other song sources, learning songs that can be used in a variety of settings. In the future, we hope to 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.

Join us and lend your voice!

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

Join Together with the WhUU Are UU Band



We are reviving the *WhUU Are UU Band* at UUCMP. Do you have an instrument you would like to play? Guitar, bass, drums, cajón, ukulele, banjo, keyboards? Let us know! We anticipate weekly rehearsals, and about one new song per month. Contact Camille Hatton or Shawn Kraut to express interest.

Men's Breakfast Group

Saturday, May 11,
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 May 9th, Diana Martinetto will lead our discussion of "NY Times Op-Ed: One Writer's Experience with Stay-at-Home Parenting."

On May 23rd, 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.

EQUAL EXCHANGE PRODUCTS AVAILABLE MAY 5



Fair trade, organic coffee, tea, chocolate and olive oil will be available between the service and the Annual Meeting on May 5. Support sustainable farmer coops and UUCMP at the same time! Cash and checks accepted.

Contact: Janet Shing



WE'RE LOOKING FOR A FEW GOOD WORSHIP ASSOCIATES!

We need talented, dedicated 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.

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

Save the Date!



Make sure you have marked your calendar to attend the **UUCMP Annual Meeting on Sunday, May 5**, at **11:15 a.m.**, during the second service time slot. We will review steps being taken on the Strategic Plan and vote on the budget for fiscal year 2019-2020, new board members and other elected positions. Be there and attend the meeting to learn what's happening, participate in the discussions, and to cast your vote on these important issues.

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.

Palestinian Film Series

The last film of the series will be shown on Tuesday, May 14.

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

We will watch the documentary "Flying Paper" and discuss it.

Everyone is welcome.

Contact: Elaine Gehrmann (minister@uucmp.org)

Suggested donation: \$5 per person

Grapevine



Jane Natalie Britton, a longtime member of UUCMP, died on March 21 after a battle with lung cancer; she was 73. She had smoked until 1989, not seeing the danger in it. When Jane first became ill, her friend Linda Chetlin became her health care director and contact, conveying messages to Jane's family and friends.

Jane was the fourth of five children born to Lowell William and Ruth Natalie Britton on September 12, 1945, in Dickinson, North Dakota. After going to local schools, Jane attended Cottey College in Missouri for two years. She went on to earn her BA at University of Redlands. After a career counselor suggested she take up speech therapy, she went on to earn a Masters in that field, also at Redlands. After graduation, she secured a job in 1968 with the Pacific Grove School District and worked there for 37 years. She loved the small-town atmosphere she found in PG.

Jane volunteered for several organizations. She was a docent at the Monterey Bay Aquarium and ushered and did other volunteer work at Pacific Repertory Theatre in Carmel. She ushered for the Symphony and other programs at Sunset Center, and for plays at MPC. She led various groups from the Carmel Foundation to see productions in San Francisco.

Jane also volunteered at the American Cancer Society Discovery Shop in Pacific Grove. She had a good eye for fine clothing and a strong fashion sense, helping her friends and other customers to make good purchases. Jane loved dressing up, even as a child. She loved bright colors in her own clothing and was always well turned out.

Reflecting her interest in politics, Jane was active in the Peace and Justice movement, joining the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom, marching against war and for civil rights, and attending the UU Women's Discussion group. She was a greeter for UUCMP and was active in the Unitarian Universalist Women in Religion Movement, attending

many functions with the late Rosemary Matson, who was a dear friend. Jane was a voracious reader, accumulating a library of thousands of books.

Jane loved to travel. Last year, she and her friend Linda Chetlin traveled to London to see a series of plays. She visited Kenya, South Africa, and many places in Europe as well as Australia and New Zealand. She made several trips to Cuba and also traveled to the Soviet Union, China, and more recently Iran, countries the State Department discouraged people visiting.

Jane enjoyed good food and was interested in the varied cuisines she discovered during her travels. She had the spirit of adventure; her motto was, "If I want to do it, I can do it." She proved that many times over in her lifetime. She was also very family oriented, often visiting her parents, who lived in the San Luis Obispo area, and attending family gatherings.

Jane enjoyed the many cultural events in the area. In addition to attending plays at Pacific Repertory Theatre, she had season tickets for plays at Hartnell College with her friend Virginia Lyon. She also attended the annual Shakespeare Festivals in Ashland, Oregon, with her Gentrain group, taking Gentrain classes here to help her enjoy the plays more. She also loved music and was quite a good piano player.

Jane was a strong feminist and progressive-minded person politically and culturally, accepting everyone right where they were. She got along well with people of all ages, from the youngest to the oldest. She always showed such joy in life, looking forward to the next adventure, to whatever was coming next. She was a good and caring friend to all who knew her, and she will be missed.

There will be a Celebration of Life service in Jane's honor on Saturday, May 18, at 2 p.m. at UUCMP.

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

SOCIAL JUSTICE

COPA Housing Civic Academy—A Great Success!



It was the first time that all six of the COPA member organizations worked together in two languages to plan an event. We thought we might have a good turnout but it exceeded even our wildest expectations. We planned for 130 but some estimates of the crowd were as high as 250, including 17 attendees from UUCMP. The COPA members were San Pablo Episcopal and St. Francis Xavier from Seaside, Unity Church from Monterey, St. Mary's Episcopal from PG, Sacred Heart Catholic Church from Salinas, the Central Coast Center for Independent Living, and UUCMP and we welcomed guests from the Monterey Bay Economic Partnership, Unite Here, LULAC and the United Methodist Church.

Also in attendance were local officials who included Jane Parker, the Monterey County Supervisor of the 4th District,



County Supervisor Jane Parker in small group

a long-time COPA advocate and UUCMP member; Superintendent PK Diffenbaugh of the MPUSD; Mayor Ian Oglesby of Seaside; Vice Mayor Dan Albert of Monterey; Mayor pro tem Robert Huitt of Pacific Grove; and Council members Jon Wizard of Seaside and Tyler Williamson of Monterey.

The program began with a presentation about housing conditions in Monterey County in both Spanish and English. Material for the presentation was developed in

cooperation with the Monterey Bay Economic Partnership which works to support housing development in the Central Coast area.

- We learned that our region has a housing emergency in that there is not enough housing to meet the needs of our communities.
- If we fail to address these needs our community will become less diverse in income, age and ethnicity, families will be spending more time commuting, there will be fewer young families, and we will have less economic vitality.



Vice Mayor Dan Albert of Monterey in small group with

- While cities and counties are required by law to plan to meet housing needs, they aren't actually required to build the housing.
- Of the more than 7,000 affordable units which county planners said were needed, only 572 have been produced in this, the fourth year of an eight-year plan.
- Since 2000, we have added nearly 1500 jobs per year in the county but produced less than 600 new homes.
- We are not producing the type of housing that is needed. Developer fees levied by local jurisdictions encourage development of single-family homes instead of multi-family housing for renters, fully half of all households.
- Housing is not affordable, as you need an annual income greater than \$100,000 to afford the average rent for a 2 bedroom apartment in the county.
- This problem affects us all on the Monterey Peninsula where 31,000 (85%) of workers commute to work, 60% of whom commute more than 10 miles per day which means they are commuting from outside the Peninsula.

In the second part of the program, we heard from three women whose personal housing stories had come to light in preparing for this meeting. We then broke into 20 small groups, each of which was bilingual and was led by trained facilitators including four from UUCMP: Amy Carlson, Rev. Elaine, Elizabeth Granado, and Rev. Craig Scott. As we shared our own housing stories, we were reminded that several members of our own congregation have struggled



Rev. Axel listening intently

with these same issues. We heard many stories from people in our community who have faced unfair treatment, often arbitrary, sometimes even because they have been good tenants. It leads us to question whether there can be justice and fairness in our society with such huge income inequality and a history of institutional racism.



Rev. Craig in training for small group leaders

Each of the local officials was then asked to address what they were doing in their respective jurisdictions and whether they would work with COPA in the future to develop affordable housing. Mayor Oglesby mentioned working for Accessible Dwelling Units, ADUs, which allow owners, often elderly, to convert a bedroom or two into a unit for themselves or a caregiver within the existing water budget for the unit. He spoke of the need for tenant protections against monthly rent increases. Vice Mayor Dan Albert said Monterey had a goal to build 650 affordable units from mixed-use developments proposed for

Garden Road and downtown. Mayor pro tem Huitt said Pacific Grove is talking about the development of affordable housing on a city-owned parcel and, Superintendent Diffenbaugh said MPUSD is exploring converting former schools into teacher housing. Supervisor Parker talked about the county's plans for two homeless shelters. She asked COPA to work to reverse the current standard of requiring only 20% affordable units to instead require 80% affordable units to confront the reality of our situation today in which we have no housing for teachers, police, firemen and other important community workers. She also advocated for greater renter protections, and advocated to change developer fees to provide incentives for smaller units and multi-family developments.



Amy Carlson as a group leader

Finally, she recommended regional planning that allows revenue sharing between jurisdictions to fund affordable housing.

Afterward, the planners from the five Peninsula churches went out for a beer and a wrap up session at a local restaurant and began hatching plans for our next Civic Academy. We talked of becoming YIMBY's (Yes In My Backyard) to promote the development of affordable housing. We spoke of the need to educate renters on their rights, including undocumented persons who are protected under new CA legislation, the Immigrant Protection Act (2017) from harassment by landlords reporting or even threatening to report their immigration status. We are excited about our new alliances with each other and local officials and the opportunities to affect important change in this area.

— Laura Nagel

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Monday-Thursday 10 a.m.-1 p.m.,
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MAY 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