



# NUUSLETTER

of the Unitarian Universalist Church of the Monterey Peninsula

December Theme: Signs and Wonders

Sunday Services begin at 9:30 a.m. and 11:15 a.m.

## December 1

“Day Language, Night Language”

Rev. Dennis Hamilton & W.A. Katie Hamilton

In my humble opinion, believing literally in the Bible or Koran or other “sacred scripture” is a form of religiously conditioned ignorance, of willing insanity. But reading the scriptures with historical grounding, intelligence, humor and an open mind can be quite rewarding. The parables and miracles and stories become metaphors for love and forgiveness and for the humane treatment of the poor and infirm, not literal fact. Our job is to separate the truth from the metaphor, not just the historical truth but the emotional truth as well. Today we will distinguish between scientific language and the language of art.

## December 8

“A World of Winter Lights”

Rev. Elaine Gehrmann and DRE Erin Forstein

Join us for our multigenerational holiday pageant featuring the children and youth of our Religious Exploration program. We will celebrate the signs, symbols and stories from a number of religious traditions, which feature illumination and inspiration found in the darkest nights of the year.

## December 15

“Human Attention and Divine Intervention”

Rev. Axel Gehrmann & W.A. Bob Sadler

In the northern hemisphere we are approaching the darkest days of the year. Some of us may hardly notice. For others, winter evokes a somber or melancholy mood. Religious traditions, however, seek to celebrate the subtle changes in our natural and spiritual world. They speak of extraordinary encounters between the human and the holy . . . How do you cope (or find hope) in the holiday season?

### Religious Exploration for Children and Youth

is offered during the second service for kids,  
preschool and older.

Quality nursery care is available at each service.

## December 22

“Musical Fantasy Sunday”

Rev. Elaine Gehrmann, Camille Hatton, & UUCMP Choir

Our annual pre-Christmas music service this year will feature a festive and eclectic variety of inspirational music performed by our own UUCMP choir. Don't miss this lovely and moving opportunity for beautiful music, reflection and celebration.

## December 24

“Christmas Eve Candlelight Service”

One Service 5:00 p.m.

Revs. Elaine & Axel Gehrmann, Ray Krise & Robin Jensen

Join us for stories of the season, carols and candlelight. All ages are welcome! And please bring a plate of cookies to share.

## December 29

“Question Box”

Rev. Dennis Hamilton & W.A. Mary Kay Hamilton

The four-year-old boy stood up on his chair in the restaurant, turned to the gathered throng and said, “You never know what is going to happen next.” That’s for sure. And this Sunday, Rev. Hamilton will come with no preparation, except for his decades in the ministry. You will have a chance to submit your questions on religion, theology, existential questions at the beginning of the service and Dennis will give you an answer, or, in rabbinical fashion, a clever question in reply. He will bring his guitar.

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## Ministers' Message

Rev. Axel Gehrman

As Unitarian Universalists, we are vividly aware of the fact that different people hold different religious beliefs, perspectives and opinions. And more than that: our diversity isn't merely something to be quietly or grudgingly tolerated. We celebrate it!

As we head into the holiday season and into the darkest days of the year, I am struck by how different this experience is for each of us.

This is our fifth December on the Monterey Peninsula. Elaine and I have lived most of our lives further east, in Illinois, Pennsylvania, New York, and Germany, places with four distinct seasons: wet spring, hot summer, colorful autumn, and an unmistakably snowy winter. I find myself still acclimating to the unique seasonal experience of the California coast. It still feels different.

We each have our own holiday traditions. Maybe sending greeting cards or annual newsletters, maybe baking favorite cookies and treats, maybe listening to certain seasonal songs, maybe reading stories or watching movies, maybe mailing packages to faraway friends.

One of my favorite holiday rituals is retrieving several large cardboard boxes labeled "Xmas" from our home storage spaces, and looking on as Elaine takes charge of our annual home decoration. Each box is filled with ornaments, keepsakes, and memorabilia. Though the boxes are relatively light, and easy to lift, the items they contain are very weighty. Every object filled with memories and meaning.

For any objective observer, our holiday decorations may not look like much: many of them old and slightly worn, some home-made, some falling apart. But from our subjective perspective,

these things are precious. They touch into timeless feelings of hope and joy and love.

Religious solstice observances are ancient and, in a sense, timeless. And yet, every year is different.

Our children are a year older now, perhaps a bit more grown up. Our elders have grown older, perhaps a bit more frail. Some have passed away. And each of us is one year further along on our life journey. We are all in different places this year. And the world itself is a different place – politically, environmentally, culturally.

December is filled with a multitude of holiday observances. They invite us, and challenge us to do just that: observe. Pay attention. Notice what is happening in the world around us, and within us. Recognize precious meaning.

We each have different insights. May we honor our unique experiences, and share our stories, so that together we may find a new a spirit of hope and joy and love.

See you in church!

*Axel*





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!



## SCHEDULED EVENTS

**Anti-Racism Book Discussion Group** Tuesday, December 3, 7 p.m. See page 12.

**Anti-Racism Film Group** Thursday, December 19, 7 p.m. See page 12.

**Board of Trustees** meets Wednesday, December 18, at 5:30 p.m.

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

**Community Choir** meets Thursdays at 7 p.m. No choir on December 26.

**Dances of Universal Peace** is on Sunday, December 15, 5 p.m. See page 12.

**Equal Exchange** Coffee and Chocolate are available on Sunday, December 15. See page 11.

**Friday Night at the Movies** is on December 13, 7 p.m. See page 9 for what's showing.

**I-HELP for Men** is Sundays, December 8 and 29, 5 p.m. Sign up on the bulletin board if you can help.

**I-HELP for Women** is Sunday, December 22, 4 p.m. Sign up on the bulletin board if you can help.

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

**Men's Breakfast** is Saturday, December 14, 8 a.m. See page 11.

**Music Committee** meets Wednesday, December 4, 5:30 p.m. via ZOOM.

**NUUsletter deadline** for the January issue is Monday, December 16.

**Program Council** is Tuesday, December 3, 12:30 p.m., at UUCMP or via Zoom. For Zoom information contact Lauren Keenan [programcouncil@uucmp.org](mailto:programcouncil@uucmp.org)

**Sing Along** is Wednesday, December 11, 6 – 7 p.m. in the Fireplace Room. See page 10 for details.

**Social Justice** meets Sunday, December 8, 12:45 p.m., in the Conference Room.

**Women's Discussion Group** will meet on Thursday, December 12, 2:00 p.m. See page 11 for details.

## President's Corner — Page Galloway



### On Thanksgiving:

Hello, Gentlepersons.

As we approach this holiday season I've been thinking a lot about thankfulness and thanksgiving. As we move through uncertain times, as we watch this nation struggle with the paroxysm of impeachment hearings, live in the awareness of rising tides, global warming, warfare, and the looming possibility of economic uncertainty, one must wonder, are we just giving lip service to thankfulness? With all of this going on, what is there to be truly thankful for? What is there to really give thanks for? I have always heard the old joke about a person detailing a life full of tribulations that would rival the story of Job to his neighbor who then sagely replies "at least you have your health." I didn't get the joke as a child, and perhaps I still don't. So, I've really been wrestling with the idea of being thankful and of thanksgiving.

I think for me it starts with looking to the small things that I have in my life that I appreciate more and more as time progresses and build outward. I am thankful at the end of a long work day that I have work to do and that I find the work fulfilling. I am thankful that it pays me well enough that I don't worry about keeping a roof over my head and food on my table. When it comes to food the dilemma is not whether I eat, but what I eat. I am fortunate enough to enjoy generally good health. I have friends who I care about and who care about me. I have family that I cherish and who loves me in return. I have a partner who I love and who loves me back. I haven't always been this fortunate. I spent many years of my life living from paycheck to paycheck, having to rely upon the kindness of friends, and at times strangers. It made me deeply appreciative of all that I have. More than that, it made thankfulness a practice in my life that moves beyond having "an attitude of

gratitude." It is that thankfulness that has made me more giving, of my resources, my time, and my heart. Thankfulness and thanksgiving has become an active thing.

When I feel thankful for all that I do have I am immediately reminded that I am one of the fortunate ones. While it is not within my personal power to steer the world such that we take better care of our environment, somehow steer the ship of state from my living room, or create peace in this restless world I am reminded of the words of the stoics: that each of us is only able to affect those things under our control, and what we control most of all is our response to events. The corollary is that when we face the obstacles of life, whether they be political, environmental, or systemic, these things require our actions. We don't stand idly by and say "well, at least you have your health," then turn away. I think about that old joke and wonder if in telling his tribulations to his friend what a different world it would be if his friend embraced him and said let me be here for you. Thankfulness isn't just gratitude for what we have, I think instead it is a practice of sharing it with others. It is about giving.

As a child I was taught that when we had plenty that to be truly thankful we had the obligation to share that bounty with others. I was taught, in short, to build a longer table and not a higher fence. This month as we gather around our thanksgiving tables, thankful for the good food before us to nourish our bodies and the fellowship around us to nourish our spirits, that we take the time to make thankfulness an active practice. Take the time to write or call your representatives in the government to not only thank them for their work but tell them to stretch more, that the table can be longer. Donate to food banks because the table can be longer. Give to charities whose mission you support because the table can be longer. Volunteer for work in the community because the table can be longer. Make this truly a season of thanks-GIVING.

All the best,  
Page

## RELIGIOUS EXPLORATION



I was doing laundry the other day and was presented with an entire overflowing basket of socks to match up and sort and find the right place for. It was daunting. It made me realize that we have an excessive amount of stuff in our house. Perhaps I should be like Marie Kondo and get rid of some stuff. I'll get back to you all on this, maybe in January!

As I was pondering the idea of getting rid of stuff as well as my overflowing basket of socks, I started to think of people just like me out in the world that for whatever reason did not have a lot of excessive stuff. Some people barely have anything, not even a place call their home. There are just so many people in need, and I wanted to help! I did some research and discovered that of all the items donated to people in need, socks were one of the most requested and least donated items. Not my old mismatched socks of course, but new socks. Don't we all love the feeling of slipping on a nice soft and warm pair of new socks?



Doesn't the thought just make your toes tingle and your heart happy? Now, imagine being cold with no socks, or the ones you have you've been wearing for longer than you can remember. Cold, thin, dirty old socks. It is a sad feeling.

The Religious Exploration classes are helping to plan an intergenerational social justice project to collect new (not used) socks to do-

nate to the United Way! We will have a tree set up in either the friendship hall or foyer with decorations on it listing a specific size of sock, toddler up to men's XL. Feel free to take a decoration to remind you of the size, and then bring back a pair of fuzzy new socks to hang on the tree in its place. If you would like to just bring in socks without using an ornament reminder, that is fine as well! We will collect all of the socks and take them to United Way the week after our December 15<sup>th</sup> service, so that they can be given out, and can warm some toes, before the holidays.



While every day should be the season of giving, it is even more important now that the weather is turning chilly and damp to help give these important items. Have a wonderful holiday season and thank you for your support!

Thank you,  
Erin Forstein

Acting Director of Religious Exploration



## Welcome to the Hall of Gratitude and Generosity



When you enter the foyer, immediately to your right you will find the Capital Column designed and built by a former member of the church Kris Anderson, who has since moved away. Each “brick” in the column represents a gift to one of our capital campaigns which have made possible expansions and improvements to our physical facility.

Straight ahead where the hallway leads to the Welcome Hall, you will see the Legacy Society board, also designed by Kris. Each brick celebrates a member who has left, or plans to leave, a bequest to the church.



On the wall close to the door to the sanctuary is a wooden board with a brass plaque recognizing either a gift or a bequest to the Endowment Fund of \$1000 or more. Some members have made both a gift and a bequest of \$1000 or more, and both are recognized with a plaque.



There soon will be an addition to each of these “gratitude” displays recognizing the generosity of Jane Britton who left part of her estate to the capital campaign at the church, Mary Beard, who has named the church as a beneficiary of her IRA, and a large donation by Dorothy Jacobson’s son George and his family to the Endowment Fund in honor of Dorothy.

While contributions of time, effort and treasure to the church each year provide the energy and resources necessary for the church to fulfill its mission, gifts to the Capital fund, the Endowment fund and bequests from estates symbolize and reinforce the underlying strength of our belief in our future.

## Do You Want to Do Something About Climate Change?

by Mibs McCarthy

I recently joined a new UU network called Create Climate Justice. This is a community organizing hub for UU climate activists. It provides coalition partners a valuable tool for education, collaboration, and organizing. You can join too by going to the website [CreateClimateJustice.net](http://CreateClimateJustice.net). You will be asked to state your connection with Unitarian Universalism and your interest in climate change. Easy, right? Once accepted, you will receive an email with further instructions.

Lauren Keenan and I recently participated in a webinar which gave a detailed tour of the website and instructions for joining as many of the groups as you want. You can join an upcoming Create Climate Justice Introductory Tour with Q and A on December 10 at 4:00 p.m. through a Zoom meeting: <https://zoom.us/j/529900948>. If you

can’t attend this webinar and you want to use the website you can explore by yourself or I can help you. As I understand it, you won’t actually be participating until you join one or more groups.

Today I asked to join three groups on behalf of UUCMP and our Social Justice Committee: UU Action Team of Citizens’ Climate Lobby, UU Climate Action Network of CA, and UU Justice Ministry of CA Environmental/Climate Justice Action Team. These were only three of about 30 available groups. I will let you know when I learn more about actions we can take or ways we can be part of creating climate justice. Please let me know if you want to be part of this.



National Coalition  
**NCBI**  
 Building Institute  
**INTERNATIONAL**

December Shared Plate Recipient  
*National Coalition Building Institute*  
 NCBI

National Coalition Building Institute, NCBI, develops principled leaders for diversity, equity and inclusion in schools and community organizations throughout Monterey County. Our programs address racism, sexism, homophobia, transphobia, classism, anti-Semitism, Islamophobia, ableism, and all other forms of discrimination and oppression. In schools, NCBI-trained student leaders impact their campuses by leading Diversity and Prejudice Reduction workshops for their peers, and by addressing issues of social equity when they arise. We also facilitate workshops for the community, including our successful Community Conversations series, and consult to public and private organizations on diversity and equity issues. We collaborate with other social justice organizations such as Whites for Racial Equity, LULAC, NAACP and Towards a Racially Equitable Monterey County.

“NCBI builds bridges in our community by facilitating conversations around [social] identity issues. NCBI’s work reminds us that understanding people’s complex experiences is a lifelong pursuit

and that we are better off when we try to empathize with people.” — Community Conversations participant

NCBI Monterey County is part of a network of community and campus chapters of NCBI International in cities in the U.S., Canada, and Europe. Since its beginning in 1993, NCBI Monterey Co. has reached over 20,000 individuals in hundreds of schools, businesses, government and non-profit agencies with Leadership, Welcoming Diversity and Conflict Resolution programs.



NCBI Community Conversation

**Grapevine**

What is the Caring Network, and what do we do? The steering committee identifies those who are in need, and attempts to find ways to help them. We also put out cards on Sundays for birthdays of those 80 and older or 19 and younger. Using the assistance of folks in the congregation, we provide a number of services on a short-term basis.

- ◆ Rides to and from church services or classes and meetings.
- ◆ Friendly visits at someone’s home or in the hospital.
- ◆ Doing errands or providing transportation to and from a store.

- ◆ Preparing and delivering meals.
- ◆ Short term child or pet care.
- ◆ Assistance with household chores.
- ◆ Transportation to and from appointments.
- ◆ Help with receptions at memorial services.

The Caring Network is comprised of all of us, contributing our efforts to create a greater sense of community. If you are in need or if you can provide any of the services mentioned, please let us know.

You can contact us at [caringnetwork@uucmp.org](mailto:caringnetwork@uucmp.org)

# ART NEWS

ART NEWS  
SEASCAPES (MOSTLY)  
OIL PAINTINGS BY THOMAS HAWLEY  
December 12 through January 26



Thomas Hart Hawley's oil paintings of our coastline in all seasons and times of day is our new exhibit.

A recently retired Carmel estate planning attorney, Thomas Hawley lives in Carmel Valley where he, along with his wife, Marijke, ran a small vineyard and winery. Raised on an apricot farm in Los Altos Hills, he attended Palo Alto Unitarian Church from kindergarten to when he left home for college in the east. After going to Wesleyan and Stanford Universities and Stanford law school, he became an attorney in Carmel.

Hawley's love for the early California impressionists drew him to oil painting fifteen years ago and since then he has won numerous juried awards in art competitions. He has studied for over 10 years with Guido Frick, a German Expressionist, and has been guided by his admiration for such California artists as S.C. Yuan, William Ritschel, Joseph Raphael, and Armin Hansen.



Hawley says, "When my daughters were young, we spent many happy hours on the Carmel beach. Our greatest joy was to go at night during the winter storms that back then seemed to roar in every few days. It is from this experience that I developed my passion for painting seascapes, often stormy, depicting the grandeur of nature juxtaposed with the smallness and relative isolation of man . . .

Art is (or should be), at least in part, an exploration of the artist's subconscious. This exploration can only take place if the artist is willing to abdicate, to some extent, control over the process of creation so as to let an element of the irrational or the unintended inform the work. The sea, with its ever-changing colors, shapes and contrasts, gives the artist the freedom to ignore artistic convention thus allowing for the unexpected to happen."

Hawley's work can also be seen at the Monterey Peninsula Art Foundation on Cannery Row, the Carmel Valley Art Association in the village, Artisan Gallery in Santa Cruz and online at [www.thoshawleyart.com](http://www.thoshawleyart.com).

He has generously offered to donate fifty percent of any sales to the church.

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

-Peggy Olsen

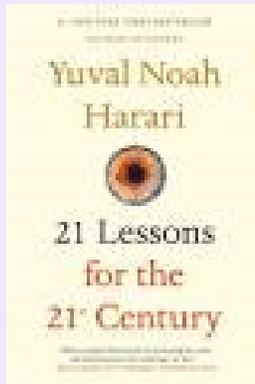
## Book Discussion on *21 Lessons for the 21st Century*

Dates: 1st and 3rd Tuesdays, 12/3, 12/17

Time: 7:00 to 8:30 p.m.

Location: Fireplace Room

Are nations and religions still relevant? Why is liberal democracy in crisis? How do we deal with the epidemic of fake news? What should we teach our children?



Bestselling author Yuval Noah Harari's *21 Lessons for the 21st Century* is a probing investigation into today's most urgent issues as we move into the uncharted territory of the future. An excerpt about the book: "As technology advances faster than our

understanding of it, hacking becomes a tactic of war, and the world feels more polarized than ever, Harari addresses the challenge of navigating life in the face of constant and disorienting change and raises important questions we need to ask ourselves in order to survive."

Rev. Axel will continue leading the discussion of *21 Lessons for the 21st Century*, exploring how Harari's ideas and insights are relevant for our lives. Sessions will provide opportunities for large and small group discussion, as well as individual writing and reflection.

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

Suggested donation: \$5.00 per session

## FIRST FRIDAY COFFEE WITH THE MINISTERS

Friday, December 6, 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.



## FRIDAY NIGHT AT THE MOVIES

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 13, 7:00 P.M.

~ CASABLANCA ~

This immensely appealing film is full of love, honor, thrills, wisecracks, stylish direction, and cinema's most romantic couple in Bogey and Bergman. It is probably the most famous Hollywood movie ever made! Rick Blaine (Humphrey Bogart), who owns a nightclub in the titular Moroccan city of Casablanca and makes it a practice never to get involved with anyone, finds his life is turned upside down when he discovers his old flame Ilsa (Ingrid Bergman) is in town with her husband, Victor Laszlo (Paul Henreid). Laszlo is a famed rebel, and with Germans on his tail, Ilsa knows Rick can help them get out of the country. In 1943 it won the Academy Award for Best Picture, Best Director (Michael Curtiz), and Best Adapted Screenplay. It's a legend!

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!

# Musical Offerings



Our Adult Community Choir is open to everyone, members and nonmembers alike, to explore singing together. As an ensemble, we prepare special music for two Sunday services per month. This month we will hold **Music Sunday December 22nd**. We will present “Jabberwocky,” “Great Trees,” and “Beethoven’s Choral Fantasy” featuring Lucy Faridany. We meet **every Thursday from 7-9 p.m. in the Sanctuary.**



Our Children’s Choir will sing “Here in My House” on December 8th, and then will break until January. Our children’s choir is designed for children grades K-5; however, I am flexible if a child wants to participate and is not in that age range. Our children explore a variety of simple musical concepts, vocal techniques, and engagement with service music. We meet **every Sunday after the 1st service until 11 a.m. in the RE Wing.**

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 **December 11th**. 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.

If you want to join Shawn in bringing this kind of music to the service, he is starting the WhUU are UU band back up again! We have a couple of participants, but are in need of a drummer, bassist, and more vocalists in order to start the group. Contact either myself or Shawn for more information.



Finally, if you have other ways you wish to contribute to the music here at UUCMP, just let me know. Music lifts the heart and soul and provides a tapestry behind the seasons of the year, and of life.

— Camille Hatton



## Men's Breakfast Group

Saturday, December 14,  
8:00 a.m.



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

## WOMEN'S DISCUSSION GROUP

Unitarian Universalist Church  
Of the Monterey Peninsula

We welcome all women to our twice monthly meetings—the second and fourth Thursdays. However, because of the Christmas holiday, WDG will meet only once during December.

On December 12th, Diana Martinetto will lead our discussion of "A Juror's Reflections on the Death Penalty."

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

— Nancy Baker Jacobs, Facilitator

## EQUAL EXCHANGE PRODUCTS AVAILABLE DECEMBER 15th



Fair trade, organic coffee, tea, chocolate and olive oil will be available for purchase between the services on **December 15**. 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 speak to the ministers.

## PUBLICATION DEADLINES

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

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

## Life Enrichment

The Winter Life Enrichment booklets will be published in late December. Check out all the great groups and activities.

Contact Carol Greenstreet, who is the LE Committee Chair.

## 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, December 1, at 12:30 p.m. following the second worship service, in the Conference Room. Please speak with Revs. Axel or Elaine for more information.



## 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. in the Fireplace Room

**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. Contact: Rev. Dennis Hamilton

**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

## Super Flea Family Market



The UUCMP Super Flea rummage sale will be Friday and Saturday, April 17-18, 2020, with set-up Tuesday through Thursday, April 13-16. Start setting aside your best items. For more information, please contact

Mibs McCarthy.

# CELTIC CHRISTMAS CONCERT

Sunday, December 8<sup>th</sup>, 2:00 pm

to benefit the

Unitarian Universalist Church of the Monterey Peninsula

490 Agujito Road, Carmel – 831.624.7404

Tickets are available online through PayPal at [uucmp.org](http://uucmp.org),

at Bookmark Music, at the church, or at the door

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



Taelen Thomas



Amy Krupski



Shannon Wardo

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

**Amy Krupski**, virtuoso Celtic harpist

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

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

\*\*\*\*\*

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

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

## UUCMP BUILDING — NEXT STEPS, CONTINUED



How shall we proceed with the concrete slab?

During her presentation on September 8, Kay Crider, our consultant from Stewardship for Us, recommended that UUCMP perform “some additional discernment for building options.” Your Building Options Committee has devised a conceptual alternative to the “Phase IIIa – Sanctuary First” discussion focus of that Next Steps Weekend. With approval from the Board of Trustees, we will schedule a series of small group discussions and Town Hall meetings after the first of the year, to review in detail the new “Interim Expansion” concept and compare it with “Sanctuary First.”

Starting in mid-December, please watch for the schedule of these meetings. We will ask that people sign up to attend a small-group meeting, so that at each one, participants will have ample

opportunity to ask questions and identify points the Building Options Committee needs to consider in refining building plans. Meetings will be scheduled on various days of the week and times, to accommodate as best possible the personal schedules of all UUCMP members. Town Hall meetings for broader discussion within the congregation will be scheduled around Sunday services.

The Building Options Committee will use the comments from UUCMP members to recommend one building approach. Our intent is to present this to the Board of Trustees at their March 18, 2020 meeting, for a subsequent congregational vote to begin the feasibility study for the Capital Campaign.

Thank you for participating!

## Save the Date!

Save the afternoon of Saturday, January 25, at 3 p.m., for a wonderful concert welcoming our newly refurbished grand piano back home again. The concert will feature Lucy Faridany on the piano, Linda Mehrabian on cello, and sopranos Patty Pai and Jody Lee. Don't miss this magical music-filled afternoon. Details to follow.



# SOCIAL JUSTICE

## COPA Supports and Seaside City Council Unanimously Passes City Ordinance for Renter Protections



On Nov 13, COPA Core Team member **Elizabeth Granado** attended a City Council hearing in Seaside in support of a Seaside Urgency Ordinance for Renter Protections for tenants until

the new provisions of the Tenant Protection Act of 2019 (State Assembly Bill 1482) take effect on Jan 1st of 2020. COPA members turned out and were cited by City Council members several times in their decision to unanimously adopt the ordinance, following suit with other cities in California. We talked about Elizabeth's experience and here is an edited version of our conversation.

### Why did you attend Seaside City Council hearing this past Wednesday?

Because I wanted to make sure we had representation for the Renters' Urgent Support. We needed to have enough representation to make sure that it passed. It was last minute, but the turnout was quite good. I was surprised. Only two people spoke against it. The City Council mentioned COPA several times. Councilmember Alissa Kispersky said she had received several emails from COPA members. This is a stop gap measure for 45 days until the new California Renter Protection Act goes into effect on January 1st. COPA leaders told of how already landlords were trying to impose rent increases that would not be allowed under the new ordinance. COPA leader Maria Rendon said that it especially affects the lives of young families and people who are having to work three jobs to pay their rent.

### What difference in your life has being involved in COPA made?

A sense of responsibility for others who don't have certain privileges. Showing up to COPA assures that peoples' voices are heard, particularly those who don't have those same privileges. It's important for their voices to be heard because their lives are deeply affected.

### What have you learned from working with COPA?

I have learned that when we are all together, we do affect people who have power. For example, Councilmember John Wizard said that he had attended the Housing Civic Academy and it had a big impact on him. The training that I have had through COPA has facilitated my connections with community members and made me feel like I have a voice and am an important part of the process. At the Civic Academy I led a house meeting in Spanish. I was an important part because there weren't that many facilitators who were bi-lingual, and I was making a difference. People who had stories could be heard. It has been a good way for me to meet my neighbors. Everyone there was from Seaside, which is where I have lived since I lost my apartment in Monterey because the landlord imposed a 13% increase in my rent.

### Do you feel that COPA is making a difference? How?

It helps people stay informed about problems in our community. And it helps us to understand what problems people are having and how working together we can act.

Look for the COPA Information table on Sundays after service starting in December!



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ANNOUNCEMENTS for SUNDAYS Order of Service or Welcome and Announcements from the pulpit are due by 9 a.m. on Wednesday. Submit to: [admin@uucmp.org](mailto:admin@uucmp.org).

ARTICLES for the WEEKLY e-NEWS can be submitted to [office@uucmp.org](mailto:office@uucmp.org) by Tuesday noon.

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

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