



NUUSLETTER

of the Unitarian Universalist Church of the Monterey Peninsula

March Theme: **Courage**

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

March 1

“Constructive Conflict”

Rev. Elaine Gehrmann & W.A. Warren Finch

It sounds like an oxymoron, and yet getting better at constructive conflict is something we might want to consider, especially in our complicated world where conflicts and differing perspectives are inevitable. It takes courage and creativity, but can lead to much better, more collaborative results. This morning we will consider constructive ways to approach conflict, in our own lives, our community, and the larger world.

March 8

“Selma Sunday”

Drew Glover & W. A. Karen Brown & Katie Hamilton

55 years ago this month our minister Rev. Bob O’Brien, UU minister James Reeb, UU “housewife and mother” Viola Luizzo and others answered Dr. King’s call to join him on Edmund Pettus Bridge for the civil rights march from Selma to Montgomery. Reeb and Luizzo were killed there. This morning we will remember and be inspired by Selma 1965 with songs and words from the movement. Our guest speaker is Drew Glover, an activist and organizer with the Resource Center for Nonviolence and Cultural Exchange- Selma. He will explore the ethical, philosophical, and political power of nonviolence and the importance of intentional cultural exchange while connecting the past to our present.

March 15

“Faithing the Unknown”

Rev. Sofia Betancourt & Rev. Elaine Gehrmann

Unitarian Universalists are a values-centered people. In the best of times we experience this aspect of our movement as community, or even as a type of homecoming. In the face of uncertainty, our values forward movement through the world invites us to faithful audacity. Rev. Sofia Betancourt is privileged to serve as Assistant Professor for UU Theologies and Ethics at Starr King School for the Ministry.

March 22

“Courageous Cowardice and Foolhardy Courage”

Rev. Axel Gehrmann & W.A. Mary Kay Hamilton

Courage, Aristotle said long ago, is the highest of human virtues. At its best, however, it is practiced in moderation. An excess of courage can lead to foolishness; a lack of it is cowardice – and either of which turns virtue to vice. In order to meet the challenges of our time, what quantity or quality of courage is required of us?

March 29

“Courage and Struggle: Harnessing Your White Privilege and Putting It to Work ”

JT Mason and W.A. Robert Sadler

To understand what it means to be white in America and break the silences that surround it requires arduous, persistent, and soul-stretching work. Sadly, too many of us stop short of that deep work. We assume that our good intentions and eagerness to help are enough. We come into multiracial gatherings or organizations expecting to be liked and trusted. But trust isn’t something we are granted simply because we finally showed up. Trust has to be earned, again and again. Or better said, we need to become trustworthy white allies, people passionately committed to eliminating systems of oppression that unjustly benefit us. Our guest speaker is our own JT Mason. She will reflect on her experiences and guide us through a thicket of racial, economizing and cultural barriers shine a light on a path forward.

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.

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Ministers' Message

Rev. Elaine Gehrman

VISIBILITY - You've got to find a way to make people know you're there
--Nikki Giovanni

Our desired outcome number 1.1 of our most recently approved Strategic Plan says we want to “increase our visibility and outreach.” We know that there are many people in our community who have never heard of UUCMP. Sadly there are so many individuals and families that have no idea a progressive liberal non-creedal congregation like ours even exists.

Despite our convenient location right off of Route 1, our lovely forest setting sometimes contributes to our light being hidden under a bushel. We are working to change this, and striving to be more like a beacon on the hill. Our Communications Committee has been working hard on a number of fronts. We hope you have noticed the new sandwich board signs we have been putting out on Sunday mornings, and this past week we debuted a new 15 foot tall rainbow WELCOME feather flag! We are also continuing our underwriting promos on KAZU and considering other advertising venues.



(Locating a more permanent sign down on HWY 68 has proved to be very challenging, but we haven't given up quite yet.)

Our best way of becoming more visible requires your help. Just as we believe that each of us has an important role to

play in welcoming people as they come in to the church, we also think we all have a crucial role in our outreach efforts. You can display your UUCMP bumper magnet, wear your UUCMP swag or carry your tote bag. You can invite your friends to church, carry brochures with you, get in the habit of mentioning UUCMP and its programs and activities. You can contribute your donations to KAZU through the church, “like” our Facebook page and posts, and use your social media platforms and community contacts to share info about UUCMP.

If you are glad that you found this amazing congregation, don't you want to give others the same opportunity? We do have good news to share, we believe that together we can make this world a more just, peaceful, and loving place, and we want more people to join us in this noble effort. Please consider how you can expand the reach of our life-affirming message—there are people who need to hear it, and we need them to help us achieve our dream of creating the beloved community.



Thank you for all you do to make our world a better place—

See you in church!

Elaine



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!

Join Our Church!



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

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

There is no one single, right path to membership. But here are a few options: participate in worship and other events; and consider attending one of the Orientations that are offered two or three times a year. Above all, familiarize yourself with our congregation.

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

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

Please join us!

- Revs. Elaine & Axel Gehrman

SCHEDULED EVENTS

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

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

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

Buddhist Sangha is every Wednesday at 7 p.m.

Community Choir meets Thursdays at 7 p.m. in the sanctuary.

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

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

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

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

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

Membership Committee meets Wednesday, March 25, 5:30 p.m. via Zoom.

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

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

NUU'sletter deadline for the April issue is Monday, March 16.

Program Council is Tuesday, March 3, 12:30 p.m., at UUCMP or via Zoom. For Zoom information contact Lauren Keenan programcouncil@uucmp.org

Sing Along is Wednesday, March 11, 5:45 -7:15 p.m. in the RE wing. See page 10 for details.

Social Justice meets Sunday, March 1, 12:45 p.m., in the Sanctuary.

Spring Potluck is Saturday, March 14, 5 to 7 p.m. See page 14 for details.

Stewardship meets Wednesday, March 4, 2:30 p.m.

Women's Discussion Group will meet on Thursdays, March 12 and 26, 2:00 p.m. See page 11 for details.

President's Corner — Page Galloway



Enter with a Beginner's Mind

Hello again, Gentlepeople:

I have been musing a lot lately on being open to new things and ideas. My brother and I have talked a lot about this topic over time. He recalled to me being in a class and having the teacher tell him that he was concerned Russ would be bored. Russ told me that he shook his head and smiled and told the teacher that his goal was to enter the class with a beginner's mind. I thought what a perfect way to approach tasks and ideas. One needs to be open to learning, to not see this revisiting as an obstacle, but an opportunity to broaden learning and deepen understanding. It is much like both the Buddhist and Stoic reminder to quiet the ego. If you don't, then you are resisting learning.

While mulling this over and trying to decide what I was going to write about I took a break, got some tea, and scrolled through my backlog of email. And I found a blog post talking about how to be proven wrong. The author writes for *The Daily Stoic*. In the article he discusses how two researchers met, and how they approached the fact that they took very different views on mastery of skills. The two researchers are Malcolm Gladwell and David Epstein. Gladwell posits in *Outliers: The Story of Success* that 10,000 hours of deliberate practice is needed to master any skill, and he argues that, impliedly, that success is a manifestation of specializing in a particular skill. If you want to be the best at something, you have to focus only on that thing. David Epstein disputed this rule in his book *The Sports Gene*. These two minds met and debated at MIT during the Sports Analytics Confer-

ence. Out of their debate was born a friendship. Their conversations, and arguments, spawned more research from each of them. But what is more important is how they approached each other. Epstein notes that he didn't view their ideas as being in "zero-sum competition," rather as an opportunity to have more discussion. They learned from each other. But, more importantly, they realized in their discussions, which at times were "politely antagonistic," they had a model of how to engage without entering that kind of competition. Their ideas weren't in competition, but an opportunity to learn.

As I read on, the article really resonated for me. The best I can do is quote it for you. "It's so easy today to close ourselves off at the first sight of an opposing view. On *all* points along the political spectrum, people are close-minded and sensitive to their perspectives being challenged. Let David Epstein and Malcolm Gladwell be your models today. Break out of your filter bubble. Prioritize speaking with someone you are likely to disagree with. Practice quieting your ego and opening yourself up to learning something new. Practice seeing things from someone else's point of view. Seeking the truth, keeping an open mind, having the humility to accept you might be wrong-this is how we grow."

For me, I see how this ties into our third and fourth principles: Acceptance of one another and encouragement to spiritual growth in our congregations; and, A free and responsible search for truth and meaning. It's one of the many things I like about this faith community: you don't have to agree, you are welcome to search and question. It invites you out of your filter bubble and encourages us all to open ourselves up to learning something new, keeping our minds open, and having humility so that we can all continue to grow, and to nurture that in others. I therefore wanted to thank you all for being part of my journey and letting me be part of yours.

All the best,
Page

RELIGIOUS EXPLORATION



Courage

According to the Oxford Dictionary, courage is the ability to do something that frightens one, and strength in the face of pain and grief.

When researching our Faith Rocket monthly theme of Courage, I began to wonder what the children of our Religious Exploration classes thought of the concept. Do they know what courage is? Would they be courageous and speak out when asked? What, really, is courage to a child? Is it all that different to an adult's concept of courage?

Courageously, I visited all of the classes and asked the facilitators and teachers if I could have a couple minutes of their class time to take a quick survey on the subject of courage. The answers were open, honest, and enlightening.

- Courage is doing the right thing in the face of fear.
- Courage is calling your mother when you know that she will be mad at you.
- Courage is leaving the toilet lid up, even when most of the people you live with are female.
- Courage is something that the Cowardly Lion desires in the Wizard of Oz.
- Courage is unwarranted confidence.
- Courage is when the crowd wants you to do one thing and you're tempted but you don't and you do what's right.
- Courage is doing something that seems scary but is worth doing.
- Courage is standing up for a friend.
- Courage is being kind to people and trying not to start wars.
- Courage is being brave, fighting a bear for a friend, standing up to a bully, traveling the world.

- Courage is being free to open up doors to discover different things.
- Courage is being kind to people.
- Courage is being free to play and do whatever you want, within the law.
- Courage is when people are trying to make you do stuff you don't want to and you don't.
- Courage is being brave.
- Courage is being kind.
- Courage is doing things you might not want for the common good.

Are these definitions of courage really all that different from our own? Let us see through the eyes of children yet again this month and practice their definitions of courage. Let us be free to play and go where we want! Let us be brave and stand up to bullies, bears, and a crowd of people telling us to do something even though we know it is not right! Let us do those difficult things that help out the common good! Let us be kind! Let us call our mothers knowing they will be mad, but that they love us all the same. Please though, please put the toilet seat down.

Thank you,
Erin Forstein

Acting Director of Religious Exploration

Get ready for a new RE monthly activity! Join fellow parents and families of the RE to a delicious lunch of pizza and salad! We will eat with our children in the RE Wing at 12:30 after the second service ends and the children have been collected. After eating, the children will go outside to play on our lovely playground while the adults discuss various ideas pertaining to the RE! Teen volunteers will be on hand to assist the children, and nursery care will also be provided. Please stay for lunch and conversation! \$5 per family should cover expenses. This month's lunch will be on March 22.





WHY IS THE *Nurturing Community* Operating Fund Canvass HAPPENING NOW?

Why so early in the year? Why before we know what our personal taxes will be? I've just made my charitable gifts in December. Now, I have to think about UUCMP for a period beginning July 1, 2020 before knowing my true financial situation for the year!

These are some questions stewards for our Operating Fund Drive are getting this year. Yes, folks are sharing how UUCMP nurtures them *and* they are wondering: **What's the rush?**

Well folks, the Finance Committee needs to have all the data in on what our pledges will be for our fiscal year that begins July 1, 2020 by the end of this March. The committee is required to present a budget to the Board at the Board's April meeting. If there are changes requested by the Board, the committee resubmits a revised budget at the May Board meeting. The congregation approves the budget in May. In fact, the Finance Committee recommends the date of the campaign kickoff – preferably coinciding with I-HELP that evening. This schedule forces us to begin our canvass in early February.

This means the Stewardship Committee must begin its work in October of the previous year – coming up with and designing the Canvass, deciding on a theme, preparing Canvass materials (letter, pledge card, brochure, posters), recruiting stewards to help, assigning contacts to the stewards, preparing record keeping sheets for the stewards for their contacts, holding orientation sessions for the stewards to review the plans and talk about how the Canvass will work, and then following up on non-pledgers so that pledges are all in by the end of March.

In late February, the Finance Committee asks all committees and staff to submit budget requests to be turned in by the middle of March. ((Note: Budget requests are due March 13.))

All this so that a budget can be put together using as much accurate information as is available. Whew!

Here's a timeline:

October – Stewardship begins plans for Canvass.

November – Campaign materials start to be prepared – finished in early January.

November, December – Steward recruiting and work on campaign materials.

January – Stewardship assigns contacts to stewards, holds steward orientation sessions, determines who will get what kinds of materials and mails them to everyone in the congregation by end of the month.

February – Stewardship holds campaign kickoff. Stewards make calls to their contacts. Finance asks committees and staff to submit budget requests.

March – Stewardship follows up with non-pledgers so we have an as accurate as possible idea of what may be coming in from pledgers during the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2020. Committees and staff submit budget requests, including estimates of monies coming in from non-pledge sources.

April - Finance presents budget to Board

May – Finance resubmits budget, if need be. Board approves. Congregation approves.

July 1 – New fiscal year begins using the new budget.

That's why we are doing the Operating Fund Drive so darned early.

Konny Murray, for the Stewardship Committee. Comments? Call me: 831-595-7853



March Shared Plate Recipient *Starr King School for the Ministry*

Our Social Justice committee selected Starr King School for the Ministry to be the recipient of our shared plate giving for March. Starr King is the only seminary in the western U.S. whose educational philosophy is rooted in Unitarian Universalist values. It opened its doors in 1904 as the Pacific Unitarian School for the Ministry. The school's founders identified the need for a liberal theological school in the West to teach ministers to focus on the practical realities of church life and to have a vision for serving the common good.

It is currently located in Berkeley but will soon be moving to Mills College in Oakland. Located on a sprawling 135-acre campus in East Oakland, Mills is a perfect mix of state-of-the-art facilities and the natural world. The new community is filled with opportunities to hone skills in social justice and sacred social change. The new location offers student housing on campus, which reduces the financial burden on students who otherwise must find their own housing in a competitive market.

The mission of Starr King is to educate people for Unitarian Universalist ministry and for progressive religious leadership in society. Its educational approach is rooted in our UU values of countering oppressions, cultivating multi-religious life and learning, and creating just and sustainable communities. Our ministers were educated there. Our most recent intern and the one coming next fiscal year were educated there.

Starr King emphasizes student-centered, holistic learning that cultivates habits for a successful minister and effective religious leadership. Students are asked to engage in three modes of learning: online, residential and immersion training. The programs offered are flexible and student centered.

The school strives to embody what we hope to see in the world – a just, loving humanity and community in which people are free to be themselves fully and without fear; a community where no one is exiled, silenced or exploited because of gender, gender expression, race, color, ethnic or national origin, religion, sexual/affective orientation, age, class, physical character, or disability.

We have several choices on where we give support of our denomination. We give to our local congregation, some of us give to the association or other groups within our faith. Few lay people give to our seminary. Yet, it continues to produce the best possible ministers for parish ministry, for minister of Religious Exploration, for those out in the world doing good. Our financial support of Starr King has a broad-based impact on what matters to us as UUs.

We need more of the kind of thinking in our world that is promoted by Starr King. Please be generous.

Konny Murray, Nominator of Starr King for Shared Plate



“Navigating Life’s Passages” Women’s Retreat on March 5 - 8, 2020

Our ever-changing lives may be currently blessed by calm waters or fraught with stormy seas. As we navigate empty nests, new relationships, retirement, death, changing careers, moving, etc. let us face these challenges with the support of our loving community of women. All self-

identified women are welcome to join a weekend of relaxation, deep sharing, singing, creative expression, thoughtful discussion, laughter, and tears. We’ll feast together at meals, participate in the Phases of Women’s Lives Ritual, worship together, and most especially make deep and lasting connections with other women sailing these 21st Century seas.

The varied workshops will include a discussion of the book *Pachinko*, by Min Jin Lee, which follows four generations of a Korean family spanning the 1920s to the 1980s in Korea and Japan. Hiking trails, a spa experience, boutique, book swap, and silent auction offer treasures waiting to be discovered. Come for the weekend – lodging included – or come for just the day on Saturday.

To learn more and register for our retreat, visit our website at www.womenandreligionpcd.org.

ART NEWS

GORDON MAYFIELD WATERCOLORS

BIG SUR AND THE BEYOND

FEBRUARY 26 to APRIL 13

I love painting in watercolor, it's translucent qualities and the changing relationship between water and paint, make the medium unpredictable and magical. I am entranced by the way paint and water move together in a spontaneous dance.



I have lived in Monterey County most of my life, for many years in the hills flanking Mt. Toro. I spent seven years living on the cliffs of Big Sur, caretaker of a ranch, where I still

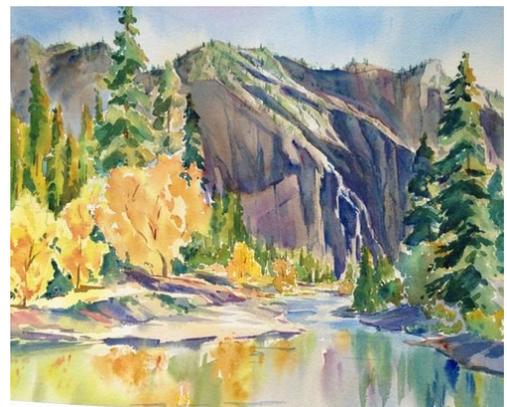


paint. Backpacking and hiking throughout the region and the West have always been a passion of mine. I used to take my watercolors backpacking with me to use as guides for my oils, but soon found myself painting exclusively in watercolor, which I have done for 20 years. My paintings may be found in many homes and businesses and are shown at the Venture Gallery in Monterey. They can also be seen at my website, www.gordonmayfieldart.com

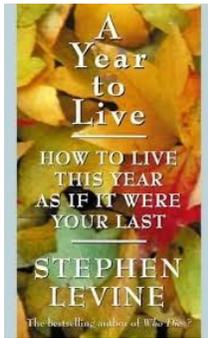
The places and scenes I paint have a transcendent nature to them—they speak to me. I hope you are enveloped by their spirit.

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

-Peggy Olsen



Book Discussion on *A Year to Live* by Stephen Levine



Dates: 2nd and 4th Tuesdays,
March 10 & 24, April 14 & 28,
May 12 & 26

Time: 7:00 to 8:30 p.m.
Location: Fireplace Room

In his short book *A Year to Live: How to Live this Year As if It Were Your Last*, the best-selling author Stephen Levine teaches us how to live each moment, each hour, each day mindfully - as if it were all that was left. On his deathbed, Socrates exhorted his followers to practice dying as the highest form of wisdom. Levine decided to live this way himself for a whole year,

and shares how such immediacy radically changes our view of the world and forces us to examine our priorities.

Rev. Axel will be leading a six-session discussion on how Levine's ideas can help us live with greater mindfulness and clarity. (Additionally, individuals may choose to use Levine's book as a year-long program with practical strategies to do this work.)

Sessions will provide opportunities for large and small group discussion, as well as individual writing and reflection. Please acquire the book and read Chapters 1-6 for our first meeting. Please contact Rev. Axel (minister@uucmp.org) if you have questions or plan to attend.

Suggested donation: \$5.00 per session

FIRST FRIDAY COFFEE WITH THE MINISTERS

Friday, March 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, MARCH 13, 7:00 P.M.

~ THE APARTMENT ~

Directed by Billy Wilder this 1960 American romantic comedy needs no introduction. At the 33rd Academy Awards, *The Apartment* was nominated for ten awards and won five, including Best Picture, Best Director, and Best Screenplay. Lemmon and MacLaine were Oscar-nominated and won Golden Globe Awards for their performances in the film. It provided the basis for *Promises, Promises*, a 1968 Broadway musical by Burt Bacharach, Hal David and Neil Simon. In the years since its release, *The Apartment* has come to be regarded as one of the greatest films ever made, appearing in lists by the American Film Institute and *Sight and Sound* magazine, and being selected by the United States Library of Congress for preservation in the National Film Registry.

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



and ukulele players develop their skills at any level. This group does not perform in services.

Finally, if you have other ways you wish to contribute to the music here at UUCMP, just let me know!

— Camille Hatton

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 are singing “Give Us Hope” in collaboration with the Children’s Choir on March 15th, and “Ella’s Song” on March 29th. We meet **every Thursday from 7-9 p.m. in the Sanctuary.**



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 first 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 typically meet **every**

2nd Wednesday each month from **5:45 p.m. to 7:15pm in the Fireplace Room.** This month we will meet on March 11. 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

Save the Date!

On Saturday, April 25, at 3 p.m., UUCMP and the Music Committee will host a benefit concert for the homeless and immigrant children sponsored by *Voices of Hope and Humanitarian Choir* and Instrumentalists. It will include works by Henry Mollicone and Joaquin Turina. There is a minimum suggested donation of \$20 all of which will go to help those in need.



Men's Breakfast Group

Saturday, March 14,
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 a.m. if you want to help.



EQUAL EXCHANGE PRODUCTS AVAILABLE MARCH 15th



Fair trade, organic coffee, tea, chocolate and olive oil will be available for purchase between the services on **March 15**. Support sustainable farmer coops 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 March 12th, Kathleen Craig will lead a discussion of "The Environmentally Friendly Households Project."

On March 26th, Joni Caldwell will lead a discussion of "Women of the World from a 2019 Issue of *National Geographic*."

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 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 have been published. Check out all the great groups, classes, 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, March 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.



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

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

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.

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.

UUCMP Building Options Status Update

In January, over five dozen members of our congregation spent time with the Building Options Committee (BOC) in a series of Cottage Meeting and Town Hall discussions. We asked for your thoughts about the two building concepts under consideration – “Sanctuary First” and “Interim Expansion” – and, WOW, did we get some great feedback! We heard lots of healthy discussion, and many requested features to include in the building design.

As a result of some creative suggestions, the BOC is reviewing a third building concept, something of a hybrid between the two earlier proposals. This is under review by our architect committee members. Over the next few weeks, they will evaluate technical feasibility and estimate construction cost for the new concept.

Once this information is available, the BOC will schedule another Town Hall to present the new concept to the congregation. Your responses to the new idea will be combined with prior comments from the January meetings, to help the BOC recommend a single approach to the UUCMP Board of Trustees. If the Board is satisfied with the recommendation, it will be presented for a formal congregational vote of acceptance during the Annual Meeting on May 5. Only upon congregation approval will we proceed to the next step, a Financial Feasibility Study.

Ten pages of summarized notes from the January meetings, along with related floor plans and diagrams, are available in electronic format (.pdf files). If you would like a copy, please send a request to Steve Johnson, chair of the Building Options Committee, email address jhnsn@att.net.



This is where we are in the Annual Canvass thus far. Every contribution matters to keep this wonderful community going and to spread love and justice to our community and to the world. Any ways you contribute with your time, finances, and talent help us to keep on.

UUCMP 2020-2021 CANVASS STATUS 2.24.20

Annual Canvass	2019-2020	2020-2021 to date
Number of Pledges	115	81
Pledge Total	\$351,473	\$271,122
Average Pledge	\$3,056	\$3,347
Median Pledge	\$2,000	\$2,100



UUCMP Spring Potluck! Saturday, March 14, 2020 5:00 – 7:00 p.m.

Let's plan to gather at 5:00 p.m. and begin eating around 5:15-ish. The kitchen will be open/available any time after 4:00 p.m.

Please RSVP! You may use the Meal Train link:

<https://mealtrain.com/nngv8o>

Or, you may sign up on the church bulletin board. We will also have the sign-up sheet after church services in the Welcome Hall.

Please Note: Regarding allergies or dietary restrictions, please create/provide a list of ingredients for your dish! Thank you!

Care and activities for young people will be provided by RE (Religious Exploration) staff and volunteers. Children are welcome! Contact Erin Forstein, RE Director, for information or suggestions: dre.erin@uucmp.org

The Spring and Fall church potlucks are organized by the Membership Committee.

Please contact Lee Hulquist, committee member, to make suggestions or for information: hulquist@redshift.com, 831-917-3179

SOCIAL JUSTICE

COPA Candidates Forum Sunday, February 16, 2020

The forum for the District 4 Monterey County Board of Supervisors race was packed with 176 COPA members and guests eager to hear from the candidates who will represent Marina, Seaside, South Salinas and Del Rey Oaks. The candidates in the photo are second from left Steve McShane, *Salinas Councilman/Businessperson*; Alex Miller, *Educator/Parent*; Wendy Root Askew, *School Board Member*; and Wini Chambliss, *Retired Monterey County Administrator*. The event was co-chaired by Canon Jesus Reyes, of the Episcopal Diocese of El Camino Real outside left and Rev. Vicky Elder of Unity Church in Monterey on the right.



There were 26 attendees from UUCMP! Thanks to all of you for your attendance and to all who helped with planning for this event, which began back in October and included over 20 COPA leaders meeting with all the candidates beforehand, setting-up the facility, the program itself, and small group meetings. It's been an interesting process in which we learned about county government, and local elections. COPA is non-partisan and does not endorse candidates. This was an opportunity to form relationships with the candidates and to inform them of COPA's priorities and to gain their commitment to work with

COPA in the future in these priority areas.

Many who attended from UUCMP reported how meaningful they found the small group meetings held at the outset in which all participants were asked to share a story about an issue that is putting pressure on them, their families, or people they care about. Carol Collin noted how well it fit with our Sunday Service earlier that day about listening. "It's very important for people to be heard particularly those who are in need. This was an opportunity for that, and I felt it was very important for all of us attending, including the candidates."



Four of these stories were then shared publicly. They were stories about COPA's top priority areas. Our own Paul Jessen spoke at this time about the need in California for more behavioral health services, particularly for youth. This is a priority area for COPA along with protecting undocumented immigrants, developing affordable housing and protecting renters' rights, and contributing General Funds to improve and expand Esperanza Care, Monterey County's health care program that serves undocumented and indigent in the county. We also had a teaching about the county, its functions and its budget.



The conversation with the candidates themselves was led by Maria Elena Manzo of Sacred Heart Catholic Church and Laura Nagel. The candidates were asked to respond to the stories they had heard and to answer specific questions that had been posed beforehand by COPA

leaders. All the candidates committed to building a relationship with COPA in the future and to improving County services in the priority areas. We concluded with a call to action to all the attendees to speak to 10 voters about what they heard at the forum and to encourage them to vote in the upcoming primary on March 3rd.

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

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

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

ARTICLES for the WEEKLY e-NEWS can be submitted to office@uucmp.org by Tuesday noon. Check the WEEKLY NEWS and website www.uucmp.org for news throughout the month.

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