



NUUSLETTER

of the Unitarian Universalist Church of the Monterey Peninsula

May Theme: **Renewal**

Sunday Services begin at 10:30 a.m. via Zoom, online meeting app

May 3

“Flower Communion”

Annual Meeting 11:30 a.m.

Rev. Axel Gehrmann & W.A. Sue Ellen Stringer

The Flower Communion is an annual tradition observed in countless UU congregations in Spring. On this Sunday, every worshipper is invited to bring a cut flower along to church. The flowers are placed in large baskets, and then distributed to all present. Though we will be worshipping from the comfort of our homes, we invite you to bring a flower, nevertheless, which you can share visually via your camera.

This morning’s service will include a Recognition of New Members who have joined the church this past year. Our worship will be shorter than usual and will be followed by our Annual Meeting. We encourage all our members to participate in this brief, but important gathering.

May 10

“Preaching From the Housetops”

Balazs scholar Rev. Előd Szabó

& Rev. Elaine Gehrmann

The fiddler on the roof is a well-known symbol for the desire to find joy and happiness in very uncertain times such as we are now experiencing. Likewise, a preacher on the housetop is a person who always remembers who sent him/her and the message to his/her people. How do Transylvanian Unitarians try to take the challenge and speak out? (About Rev. Előd Szabó, see page 3.)

May 17

“Planting Peace”

Rev. Axel Gehrmann & DRE Erin Forstein

So much of what we do today, we do hoping to help create a better tomorrow. We plant seeds, we tend our gardens - mindful of sunshine, earth, and rain - and pray good things will grow. This morning we will

be celebrating this year’s Religious Exploration program: the children, youth, and adults who have participated. We will also be honoring those among us, who are graduating from high school this year, in a Bridging Ceremony.

May 24

“The Circle of Life”

Camille Hatton & W.A. Bob Sadler

Come join us for a special virtual Music Sunday. We will explore what music means for us as Unitarian Universalists in this congregation. The choir will perform *The Circle of Life* and *Creation of Peace*. Our musicians include Rick Chelew, Patty Pai, Lucy Faridany, the UUCMP Community Choir, and the Children’s Choir.

May 31

“Spring Cleaning”

Rev. Elaine Gehrmann & W.A. Katie Hamilton

This spring did not turn out quite as anyone had planned, but it still seems like a good time to take stock, consider what we can discard or spiff up, and what we can tidy up in order to achieve a sense of renewed clarity, of space and mind and spirit.

In This Issue . . .

Page	
2	Minister’s Column
3	Annual Meeting
3	Balazs scholar Rev. Előd Szabó
3	Scheduled Events
4	President’s Corner
5	Religious Exploration
6	Nurturing Community
7	Stay Connected
8	Shared Plate Recipient
8	Let’s Connect
9	Art News
10	Grapevine
11	Musical Offerings
12	Men’s Breakfast
12	Worship Associates Needed
12	Equal Exchange
12	Women’s Discussion Group
12	Friday Night at the Movies
12	Publication Deadlines
13	Life Enrichment
13	Book Discussion
13	Mission Statement
13	Affinity Groups
13	Building Options Committee
14	Social Justice
15	Undocumented Workers
	See the calendar at
	www.uucmp.org



Ministers' Message

Rev. Elaine Gehrman

May is, among other things, National Asparagus Month, National Strawberry Month, and National Salsa Month. It is also National Mental Health Awareness Month, National Foster Care Month, and Older Americans Month. And it is Correct Your Posture Month, National Dental Care Awareness Month, and National Get Caught Reading Month. And don't forget National Photography Month, and Date Your Mate Month. It is also Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage Month.

This May is also the third month of our ongoing confinement. We have been watching the arrival of spring mostly from the comfort of our homes. The asparagus and strawberries are in the stores, but many of us are not. We long to return to normalcy, and yet we also hope for a new and better normal. The not-knowing is perhaps the hardest part. When will it be safe, when can we go back to work, to restaurants and concerts, to community events, to church?

Living with not-knowing is something we must do throughout our lives, but much of the time we are able to push it to the back of our minds, focusing on the tasks before us, the daily duties and pleasures, occupying our minds, distracting our thoughts from the bigger existential not-knowings. But with many of our daily routines disrupted, there is more time and space for those larger life questions to arise, most of which do not have any clear answers.

This can generate much anxiety and worry, and it can be an opportunity—a chance to consider our priorities, our goals, our dreams and visions. Big questions like, what do I hope to accomplish in this life, what legacy do I want to leave, what is most important to me, what do I need to say to the people I love? This time of not-knowing is

different, and yet it is revealing much of the not-knowing that we live with always but don't stop to pay attention to, to wrestle with, to converse with, to puzzle with.

It can feel overwhelming, and we don't have to tackle it all at once, but this could be a real opportunity for reflection, for contemplation, for growth. Not like the pressure-filled unrealistic expectations to learn a new language or create an art masterpiece, but the simple practice of spending time with your spirit, gently, quietly, inquiringly -- getting in touch with your deepest convictions, your core principles and beliefs, your goals and desires, your beliefs and commitments.

Did I mention that May is also National Recommitment Month? Perhaps May could also be the national month of re-alignment, re-restoration, rejuvenation of our spirits. Perhaps the slowing down of the busyness of our lives can allow new insights to emerge, new priorities to sprout, new aspirations to blossom.

Wishing you a month of new green shoots, and deepened roots, all tended with love and care,

See you in (virtual) church,

Elaine



UUCMP Annual Meeting

On Sunday, May 3, at 11:30 a.m., following the 10:30 a.m. worship service, we will hold our Annual Congregational Meeting via Zoom. Members, please plan to join us for this important exer-



cise of the democratic process, as we elect new Trustees, approve the 2020-2021 operating budget, and hear from the Building Options Committee. A meeting agenda, the proposed budget, information about our nominees, as well as reports from our staff, officers and committees are all included in our 2020 Annual Report, which you can find on our church website, or by clicking on [this link](#).

SCHEDULED EVENTS

Anti-Racism Book Discussion Group Tuesday, May 5, 7 p.m. via Zoom. See page 13.

Anti-Racism Film Group will not meet in May.

Board of Trustees meets Wednesday, May 20, at 5:30 p.m. via Zoom.

Buddhist Sangha is every Wednesday at 7 p.m. Sheltered in Place. See page 13.

Community Choir meets Mondays at 5:30 and Thursdays at 7 p.m. via Zoom.

Dances of Universal Peace will not meet in May.

Equal Exchange will not be available in May.

Friday Night at the Movies is going virtual! See page 13.

I-HELP for Men and I-HELP for Women will be supported for now by financial donations to UUCMP, as the I-HELP directors want all food prepared in certified kitchens. We will still continue to provide monthly meals. If you can help, please consider sending a check to the church or clicking the DONATE button on the UUCMP website and indicating that the donation is for I-HELP.

Membership Committee meets Wednesday, May 27, 5:30 p.m. via Zoom.

Men's Breakfast will not meet in May. See page 12.

Music Committee meets Wednesday, May 6, 5:30 p.m. via Zoom.

NUUsletter deadline for the June issue is Saturday, May 16.

Program Council is Tuesday, May 5, 12:30 p.m., via Zoom. For Zoom information contact Lauren Keenan programcouncil@uucmp.org

Sing Along will meet on Wednesday, May 13, 5:45 p.m. via Zoom.

Social Justice meets Sunday, May 10, 12:00 p.m., via Zoom.

Stewardship meets Wednesday, May 6, 2:30 p.m. via Zoom.

Women's Discussion Group meets May 14 and May 28, 2 p.m. via Zoom. See page 12.

Előd Szabó (Balazs Scholar 2019-2020)



Rev. Előd Szabó, was born in Kolozsvár (Cluj), Transylvania. He has many ministers among his ancestors. His grandfather was bishop of the Hungarian Unitarian Church for twenty years between the 1970's and the 1990's. Előd served as an assistant minister in the little town of Székelyudvarhely. In 2007 he moved to Ürmös to serve the Unitarian Church there. He met his wife, Katalin [Kata] in Ürmös. They married in 2012. Kata is a nursery school teacher, but now stays home with their two sons, Magor who is seven and Rego who is four.

President's Corner — Page Galloway



Loving What Is

Hello, Gentlepeople,

I have been somewhat stymied on what to write for this month's message. To be candid, so much has happened and I have had many conflicting feelings about it. So, I did what I usually do when I am perplexed. I made tea. I drank the tea sitting quietly on my porch watching hummingbirds. I watched the leaves shift in the wind and the clouds move overhead. I listened to the wings of birds and the occasional sound of a passing car, and, I thought for a while. I realized I had to embrace that nothing has gone as envisioned for the last month or so, and that I had to find a way to be okay with that. I had to love what is. Then I went in and pulled out some of my books on philosophy to read.

I am trying to approach these days with the concept of *wabi sabi* in mind, or to quote Byron Katie, to love what is. I won't delve into Ms Katie's work as I don't feel up to that task, but I did see its connection to *wabi sabi*. The concept flows out of the seven principles of aesthetics in Zen, but it prizes authenticity, and acknowledges three simple truths: nothing lasts, nothing is finished, and nothing is perfect. And that is exactly as it should be. It invites us to take a breath and focus on the blessings in our daily life, to celebrate the way things are, rather than stress over the way things "should" be. In Japanese art and craftsmanship one example of embracing this concept is in *kintsugi*, the art of filling and fixing cracked pottery with gold dusted

lacquer that highlights the beauty of the age and the damage rather than hiding it. It draws attention to the cracks in the pottery that are part of the beauty of the object. It invites us to pause and slow down. It gives us permission to be ourselves and embrace the perfection of being imperfectly ourselves. It invites us to love what is.

I didn't want to stay home. I wanted to keep volunteering, going to my office, and generally keep living my day to day life as I have done for the last number of years. The universe clearly had other plans. So, I looked at the cracked and broken teacup of my life: the things I want to be doing, the people I wish I could be visiting with, holding hands, sharing a meal. And, I have had to piece these things together again in different ways. I focus on my work differently. I do not take any conversation I have with anyone I love for granted. I cherish the ability to sit on my porch and drink tea and watch hummingbirds, to go for a walk around the neighborhood and watch flowers bloom. It isn't what I had planned, but I find that in accepting things as they are right now I have a bit more peace. It allows me to see how much I have and encourages me to share those gifts with others, whether it is by donating to a variety of causes or by calling someone and letting them know they are in my thoughts and my heart.

I hope when this finds you things will be changing again. I also hope that the lessons taken from this time will stay with me. Meanwhile, I make some more tea and embrace what is.

All the best,
Page

RELIGIOUS EXPLORATION



Hope

As we head toward the end of the school year, we are reminded daily of the changes in our children's lives. School is online for the foreseeable future with all previously scheduled activities canceled. Senior trips, prom, graduation, vacations and other important events like field trips and May Fairs are now just dreams of a not-so-distant past. We are not even sure of what the fall will bring.

Is this time of Sheltering-in-Place like a cocoon to emerge from when the world rids itself of the virus? Is this a chance to renew our lives and our Earth by working and going to school remotely, and simply staying home? The earth really is healing. There might not be dolphins in the Venice canals, but the water is clearer. The air quality over busy cities across our planet has gotten noticeably better in just the last couple of months. Animals and nature are flourishing throughout our entire planet. How can we maintain these wonderful changes yet also go back to how we used to be? Is it even possible? Maybe we have to choose.

How do we reconnect as people, as family, as friends, as a community without damaging the earth again? How do we balance reconnecting socially with healing the earth? Humans tend to be very social animals, and it is difficult for a lot of us right now to be isolated in our homes. It is also very difficult for the children. Thank goodness for Zoom, Facetime, simple phone calls and even texts! Maybe we can continue life in a similar way when we do emerge. Maybe by being careful with our actions, we can prolong the life of our planet.

How will this affect our children? Will they learn to get used to online school, even grow to like it? Will virtual playdates become more popular, either on a Zoom or Facetime format, or through a videogame like Minecraft or Animal Crossing? Our children feel the changes just as we as adults do. But there is hope in them. They tend to be more flexible than we are as adults, and are able to more easily adapt to change. They also have the power to see changes and decide if it is something that should be sustained or not in their lifetimes.

In other words, children have hope.

I shall leave you now with the sound of Hope, the sound of our UUCMP choir singing with four smaller voices rising out high and clear as bells:

“Give us hope!
My voice is calling.
Can you see?
Look in my eyes.
Can you feel?
My hand is reaching.
Give us hope and we'll show you the way.”

Thank you,
Erin Forstein

Acting Director of Religious Exploration





Nurturing Community

In addition to being a community that nurtures each other, we are a generous community!

Twenty one stewards helped on the UUCMP's *Nurturing Community* Operating Fund Campaign for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2020:

Carl Christensen, Carol Collin, Fran Gaver, Rev. Axel Gehrman, Peggy Hansen, Sarah Hardgrave, Lee Hulquist, Ann Jacobson, Paul Jessen, Lauren Keenan, Mibs McCarthy, Gregg McKee, Maren Martin, Carol Meyer, Konny Murray, Harry Nagel, Lynne Powers, Bob & Sharon Sadler, Darold Skerritt, and Gale Weir. They each reached out to 5 or 6 congregants or friends of UUCMP, asking their views on what is happening at UUCMP. Harry concentrated on the Board and Program Council. Konny concentrated on stewards.

The committee also mailed pledging packets to all members and friends. We earnestly followed up with those who had not responded by phone, email and snail mail.

Thanks to the efforts of our stewards and the generosity of our congregation, we have had a successful campaign. We had 20 new pledgers this time (a new pledger is defined as one who did not pledge for the 19/20 fiscal year). We are awaiting four more pledge cards from folks who have pledged regularly but have not submitted a card for this campaign yet. (Some of last year's pledgers are no longer with us or have moved out of the area.) These numbers could change a little in future weeks.

Here are the statistics from our esteemed treasurer, Harry Nagel:

UUCMP 2020-2021 CANVASS STATUS REPORT 4.19.20

Annual Canvass	2019-2020	2020-2021 to date
Number of Pledges	115	121
Pledge Total	\$351,473	\$363,830
Average Pledge	\$3,056	\$3,007
Median Pledge	\$2,000	\$1,600
New Pledges	11	20

Thanks to all for being part of our Nurturing Community. Thanks for all you give in time and effort to support our church. Thanks to the efforts of our stewards. Thank **you** for being generous.

Your Stewardship Committee:

Carol Collin, Fran Gaver, Judy Lind, Konny Murray, Harry Nagel, and Lynne Powers.
Special appreciation to our Committee Minister Rev. Axel Gehrman

Staying connected during the quarantine — solving the puzzle.



During this challenging time when we are all sheltering in place, the UUCMP building is closed, but there is definitely a lot going on! Do you receive the electronic UUCMP Weekly News? It is sent out on Wednesdays, with lists of events, and on Fridays, with links for the Sunday service and for a Friday social time. If you are not receiving these emails, please contact the church office at 831-624-7404 or send an email to office@uucmp.org and request that you be added to the email list. Then you can read about all the great things we are still doing.

Sunday services and other meetings are accessed through Zoom, an electronic meeting program. It is not difficult to use. **To join a Zoom meeting:**

- ◆ Click on the Zoom Meeting address given. If you have not already downloaded Zoom, you will be prompted to download and install Zoom. After that you click to join the meeting.
- ◆ Be sure your speakers are on and the volume is high enough for you to hear. This is adjusted under your computer's settings. Some people like using headphones to get better audio sound.
- ◆ You may also join a Zoom Meeting by phone. This is done by dialing one of the phone numbers provided in the invitation and then entering the **Meeting ID** number. (Some meetings may also require a Password number. A Participant ID is not needed.)
- ◆ Please use the mute button when you are not speaking to minimize background noise. The mute icon is in the lower left-hand corner of your screen. Next to the mute icon is the icon for video, you can keep it on or off.
- ◆ Further to the right side is a chat bubble icon. There might be times in the service where you'll be invited to share in the chat.

Accessing the UUCMP Sunday Worship Services, 10:30 a.m. Pacific Time (US and Canada)

To join the Sunday service electronically please click here.

Meeting ID: 763 641 438

Password: Sunday (NOTE: Password is case sensitive)

To join via phone, simply call: 1-669-900-6833 (San Jose)

When prompted, provide the Meeting ID: 763 641 438.

(Participant ID is not required.)

If you have questions, we are here to help. Please contact the ministers for any needed assistance. See you on Zoom!!





May Shared Plate Recipient

Monterey Peninsula Pride

Monterey Peninsula Pride works to support the social climate in and around Monterey, California, so LGBTQ+ people and communities can thrive and feel safe in their relationships with friends, family and allies.

We are a group of multi-generational volunteers who come together to create LGBTQ+ friendly spaces and events such as the Monterey Peninsula Pride Parade and Celebration, and educational outreach like sensitivity training and speaking engagements.

Monterey Peninsula Pride is made of artists, writers, business owners and other integral community members. Funding helps us further our work to build up equality and inclusivity in Monterey County.

We want to help build up an intersectional community where all genders and sexualities are equally welcomed and celebrated, where LGBTQ+ children are nurtured, elders are honored and people with disabilities and the deaf and hard of hearing community are embraced completely with love and support.

Through working with other community groups throughout the region, Monterey Peninsula Pride is working to weave LGBTQ+ safety and education into the socio-political fabric of society and in which our voices and perspectives are heard in schools, board rooms, city halls, faith communities, town halls, sports arenas and media.

Please give generously to this worthwhile organization.



During this period of Sheltering In Place the Membership Committee wants to support and encourage members to stay connected in alternative ways. Options include Zoom (video) meetings, group emails, and 1:1 phone chats. What topics would you like to connect around? Anyone can come up with an idea for an affinity or special interest group (SIG); some ideas to consider include:

- ◆ Movies you've watched
- ◆ Recipe sharing
- ◆ Zoom tutorial
- ◆ Books you've enjoyed or are currently reading
- ◆ Gardening
- ◆ Baking

- ◆ Spirituality
- ◆ Politics or current events
- ◆ Ideas for contradicting isolation during SIP
- ◆ Sharing practical ideas for eliminating plastics from your home
- ◆ Netflix recommendations
- ◆ Music
- ◆ Earth-Friendly Households Group
- ◆ New places to walk that you've discovered
- ◆ Favorite take-out places you've discovered
- ◆ New hobbies you've tried
- ◆ UU Messages/Posts - General Interest

Members of the Membership Committee will offer support in assisting congregants in initiating and facilitating such connections, whether by offering logistical help or in helping you think of ideas. You may contact [Maren Martin](#) or [Lee Hultquist](#) with your interests. Details can then be arranged as to venue, time, date, etc.

ART NEWS



LAYERS BY KAREN HUNTING PENDING

Living near the coast in Carmel, California, Karen Hunting has been a recognized artist in one form or another all her life. From her earliest days, light, color, shape, texture and movement were the focal points of her artistic endeavors as she was designing her own story books, teaching herself to play the piano, and choreographing dances.

A degree in Graphic Design from Michigan State University, professional work as a graphic designer and art director and years with her own graphic design and wordsmithing studio provided the groundwork for her style to flourish. Once in California Karen began winning awards for some of her more whimsical three-dimensional work in clay, collage and paper construction. She counts calligraphy and abstract acrylics among her creative toolbox skills.



Along the way she applied her innate creativity with her inventive techniques in abstract acrylics. Ms. Hunting's art is as she envisioned more than a decade ago when she wrote her creative credo:



It will be full of color, or delicate in color, and rich in textures.
It will be tactile and eye-filling.
It will be pleasing and evocative.
It doesn't need to be startling, just enough to evoke an "ahhh . . ."
It will bring great satisfaction to me to produce it.
I will glow from the knowledge of its intrinsic worth
and from what the work brings to the beholder.

Tactile texture intertwined with eye-filling color, bold and delicate, washes over, surrounds and surprises the beholder of Karen Hunting's abstract acrylic works painted and assembled on heavyweight pressed paper.



Just as a full orchestra evokes an "ahhh . . ." when the audience is drawn into the multi-layered dimensions of the music's pleasing ebb and flow, so are the viewers of Ms. Hunting's art so entranced.



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

-Peggy Olsen



Joan Cobb Hopkins, long-time UUCMP member, passed away peacefully at her home in Carmel Valley on April 5. She was born in New York City in 1932 to music composer parents, Ida Bostelmann and Scribner Cobb. At age 16, when her father became terminally ill, she left high school to work full time as a secretary at the Australian Consulate. After 3-1/2 years as a Manhattan secretary, Joan attended Pomona College and then Barnard College, graduating in 1956, after which she studied for a year at the Hochschule fur Musik in Munich, Germany.

In 1958 she married photographer Peter Hopkins (1918-2004) of Princeton, New Jersey, and in 1962, they drove out to California with their two young children and settled in Carmel Valley. Joan worked as a piano teacher for decades and like her parents, loved to write music. In 1975 her musical, "Dear Earthlings," was produced by Monterey Peninsula College and subsequently by Fitch Middle School where her musical, "Tooth Rock," was also produced. Over the years, Joan wrote several hundred songs, often with themes of peace and the environment. In 2009, her CD, "Songs to Heal Our Planet," was produced by savethewhales.org.

Joan was very passionate about and developed her own theories regarding the healing qualities of music. As a spiritual healer, she would compose 'songfirmations' for her clients based on their home tone which Joan would determine with muscle testing. She was devoted to Indian spirituality and New Age mysticism and was a follower of Amma, the hugging saint of India who gave Joan her spiritual name, *Durgama*.

Joan will be dearly missed but always remembered as a very joyful, generous and positive person. She is survived by her son, Chris Hopkins of Los Angeles, her daughter, Pamela of Carmel Valley, her

grandson, Peter Mellinger, and her brother, Edward Cobb of Racine, Wisconsin. A virtual celebration of her life will be held in the near future.



Ann and Brian Jacobson are delighted to share that their daughter Zoe Jacobson, who grew up going to UUCMP, gave birth to a healthy, beautiful daughter, Rowan Frances Petrass, on April 1. They eagerly look forward to seeing Zoe, her wife Jess, and baby Rowan at their home in Los Angeles as soon as the virus pandemic is behind us.



Rowan Petrass



Salem and James

Carol Galginaitis and Gregg McKee have just welcomed a new granddaughter, Salem Barrett, born on March 30. Salem joins her big brother James, age three, and her parents, Carol's son Jake Barrett and his wife Liz Shivers, in San Francisco.



Carol and Salem

Grapevine is one project of the Caring Network, a group whose mission is to increase and strengthen the sense of community at UUCMP. If you or someone you know is in need of assistance or has something to share, please contact the steering committee at caringnetwork@uucmp.org

Musical Offerings

Want to be involved in making music during this time of shelter-in-place? We have a few options for you!

Our Adult Community Choir is open to everyone, members and nonmembers alike, to explore singing together. As an ensemble, we prepare special music for various Sunday services per month. This month we are singing "Great Trees," "The Circle of Life," and "Creation of Peace," for online services. We meet every Monday from 5:30-7 p.m. and every Thursday from 7-9 p.m. This month we will be meeting via Zoom for rehearsals. No experience nor commitment necessary!

Our Children's Choir is also open to all children. While it is geared towards children in 1st-5th, all are welcome. This month we are singing "The Circle of Life" and "Free to Be You and Me." We meet every Sunday from 12-12:30 p.m. However, we will not meet on Sunday, May 3, due to the annual church meeting.

Finally, if you are looking to just join other voices in a cacophonous karaoke style sing-along, then you are in for a treat. Sing Along with Shawn will be available in a fun, interactive manner via Zoom and YouTube. We will meet on Wednesday, May 13, from 5:45 p.m. - 7:15 p.m.

All music meetings will convene via this Zoom link:

Join from PC, Mac, Linux, iOS or Android:
<https://cccconfer.zoom.us/j/8287611715>
Or iPhone one-tap (US Toll): +16699006833,8287611715# or +13462487799,8287611715#
Or Telephone: Dial: +1 669 900 6833 (US Toll)
Meeting ID: 828 761 1715
Password: music (case sensitive)



Unfortunately, our other ensembles will be on hold until we can resume in person. However, if you like to sing or play an instrument and are willing to try some technological experiments, I am open to hearing from you.



Men's Breakfast Group

Not meeting in May



We hope to resume the group some time in the coming months. Please send an email to Marsh Pitman with your current phone number, so I can check in with you. Please take care of yourselves.

— Marsh Pitman

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, contact the ministers.

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 from 2-3:30 p.m. Because of the current shelter-in-place restrictions, we're attempting to meet via Zoom. This requires that our topics be restricted to those not requiring videos, charts or any objects that must be passed around the room, so we've had to change some of our Spring calendar. We plan to hold the following discussions in May:

On May 14th, Nancy Baker Jacobs will lead a discussion of "Curiosity," based on a 2018 speech by Atul Gawande.

On May 28th, Susan Hillier will lead a discussion of "After the Fall—Stress and Coping."

Watch for the emailed notices for these events. They will contain the Zoom links and passwords.

—Nancy Baker Jacobs, Facilitator

FRIDAY NIGHT AT THE MOVIES

UUCMP Movie Night will be going Virtual Friday May 8. Look for more details in the May 6 weekly e-News.

EQUAL EXCHANGE PRODUCTS

Will not be available in May.



Fair trade, organic coffee, tea, chocolate and olive oil will not be available in May.

Janet Shing

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

Given the Shelter in Place order recently begun, there will be no new Life Enrichment catalog for Spring.

Contact Carol Greenstreet, who is the LE Committee Chair.

Life Enrichment Programs Affinity Groups:

No groups will meet face-to-face in May. Some will meet via Zoom.

Anti-Racism Book Group First Tuesdays, 7-9 p.m. via Zoom

Anti-Racism Film Group
Will not meet in May.

Men's Group Breakfast
Will not meet in May.
Contact: Marsh Pitman See page 11.

Women's Discussion Group
Second and fourth Thursdays, 2 –3:30 p.m. via Zoom Contact: Nancy Baker Jacobs See page 11.

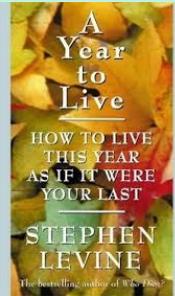
T'ai Chi Chih No meetings in May.

Sangha will continue in place on Wednesday evenings, 7 to 8:30 p.m. Contact: Rev. Dennis Hamilton

Friday Night at the Movies Contact: John Freeman for any questions.

Dances of Universal Peace
Will not meet in May. Contact: Barbara Bullock-Wilson if you have any questions.

Book Discussion *A Year to Live* by Stephen Levine



Dates: 2nd and 4th Tuesdays, May 12 & 26

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

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 continues to lead the discussion on how Levine's ideas can help us live with greater mindfulness and clarity.

Sessions will provide opportunities for large and small group discussion, as well as individual writing and reflection. Please contact Rev. Axel (minister@uucmp.org) if you have questions or plan to attend.

Suggested donation: \$5.00 per session

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.

Building Options Committee Report



Our Building Options Committee (Steve Johnson, Chair, Judy Lind, Ken Turgen, Kent Weinstein, Rev.

Elaine) has been hard at work these past months gathering congregational input and ideas on next steps for our ongoing Building Campaign, and has developed a new, exciting proposal. Please see the relevant pages in our 2020 Annual Report, and join our Annual Meeting on May 3, at 11:30 a.m. to learn more.

SOCIAL JUSTICE

COPA Actions

Call on Governor Newsom to Do More to Support Undocumented Workers



Please consider [signing the petition](#) addressed to Governor Newsom that supports California IAF's positions on support for undocumented workers and which has been endorsed by COPA. Also endorsing are a coalition of organizations including One LA-IAF, the Inland Communities Organizing Network, and the California Catholic bishops, which last week criticized Newsom's announcement of assistance to undocumented workers as a "half-measure."

[Read the letter sent by religious leaders to the Governor supporting COPA and Southwest IAF positions.](#)

Specifically, the petition supports California IAF's call for the following policies:

- Permanently expand the California Earned Income Tax Credit (CalEITC) to include any tax filer who uses an Individual Taxpayer Identification Number (ITIN).
- Send payments of \$1,200 to all Californians who qualified for CalEITC last year or this year, including any filer who used an ITIN and meets the same income levels as the CalEITC.
- Utilize State Disability Insurance (SDI) funds to assist any worker unemployed as a result of COVID-19, but ineligible for Unemployment Insurance (UI).
- Expand no cost or low cost hotel options to workers who are essential to maintaining California's food supply.
- Make more money available to food banks and school districts to expand their capacity to get food and information about new relief programs to families in need.
- Ensure that COVID-19 treatment and testing is covered under Medi-Cal for all Californians who meet the income requirements.

UUCMP Civic Academy on Covid-19 Resources

Join a Virtual Civic Academy via Zoom:

Subject: Local, State and Federal Resources During the Pandemic

Date and Time: May 11, 2020 @ 2:00 p.m. Pacific Time (US and Canada)



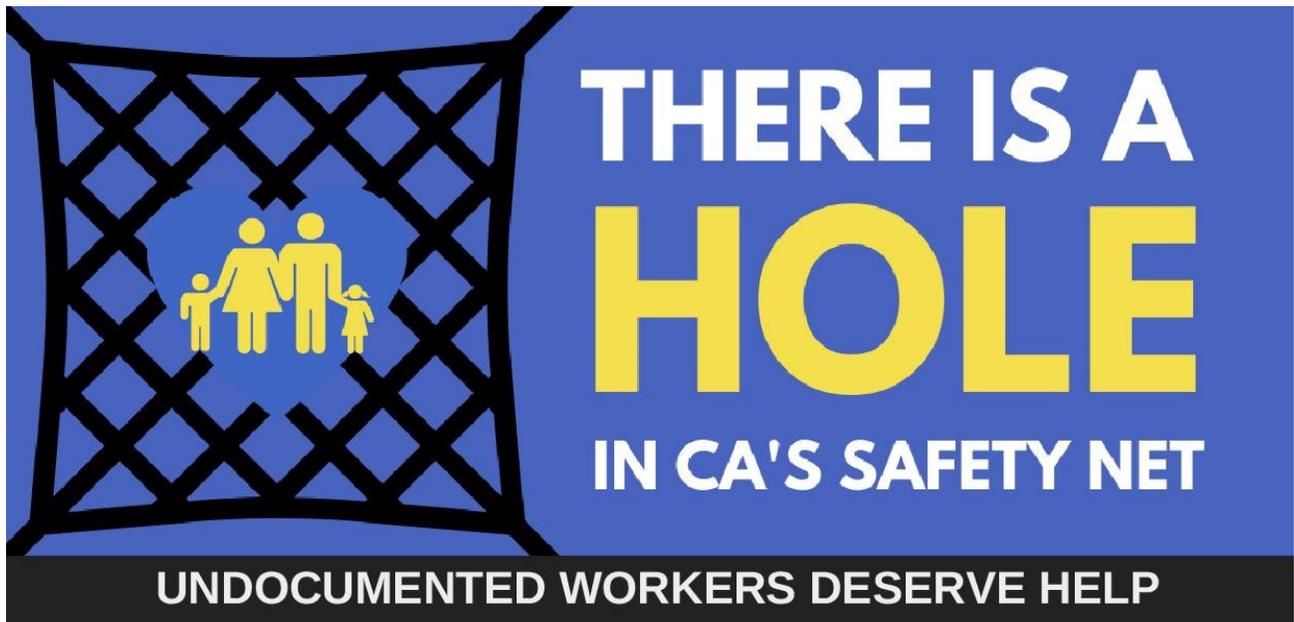
Over 30 COPA leaders from the tri-county area have worked together to assemble information on the impact here in the Central Coast Area of the \$2 trillion Coronavirus Relief Act (CARES). Join us for a review of local, State and Federal resources available during the pandemic to address unemployment, small business, housing, health testing and treatment, and the needs of the undocumented. A short PowerPoint presentation will be followed by a discussion of unmet needs during this time and suggestion for what more can be done. Please join us!

Register in advance for this meeting by clicking on the following link:

[Register to Attend the Civic Academy on Resources to Address the Pandemic](#)

After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the meeting.

Facilitators: Laura Nagel, Lauren Keenan and Elizabeth Granado



**JOIN CA IAF LEADERS FOR A
VIRTUAL STATEWIDE ACTION
TUESDAY MAY 5TH AT 5:45PM**

- **1 in 10** of CA's workers are undocumented
- Many are working during COVID-19 to support **CA's food supply chain**
- They **contributed \$3 billion** in local/state taxes last year
- They **do not** qualify for state/federal unemployment relief programs
- The governor's Disaster Relief Fund will help **fewer than 10%**.

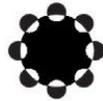
To register click the following link to the [Zoom Webinar](#) under institution put Unitarian Universalist Church of the Monterey Peninsula.

At the statewide action we will:

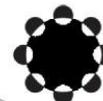
-  **SPEAK WITH ELECTED OFFICIALS**
-  **SHARE STORIES**
-  **ACT TOGETHER**



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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