



# NUUSLETTER

of the Unitarian Universalist Church of the Monterey Peninsula

November Theme: Possibilities

Sunday Service begins at 10:30 a.m. via Zoom online meeting app

**November 1**

**“I Think I Can, I Think I Can”**

**Rev. Elaine Gehrmann & W.A. Bob Sadler**

**REMINDER: Set your clocks back an hour.**

Are our abilities and potentials fixed and innate? Or are they malleable and unlimited? How are our life possibilities determined? And how can we affect these possible outcomes? This morning we will explore how we might influence our destinies, and how our mindsets may have a much greater effect on our actions and achievements than we had previously realized.

**November 8**

**“The Possibility of Peace”**

**Intern Susan Panttaja & W.A. Ken Cuneo**

Violence, armed conflict, political division – we see them in the news every day. Yet we UUs keep working toward our 6<sup>th</sup> Principle goal of world community with peace, liberty, and justice for all. How do we maintain hope that conflict can be resolved with good will and respect? Where do we find faith that peace is possible? Today, we lift up the seeds of peace in our neighborhoods, our country, and the world.

**November 15**

**“Credo: This I Believe”**

**Rev. Elaine Gehrmann & W.A. Karen Brown  
& members of the "Creating Our Credo" class**

In Unitarian Universalism, we do not all believe the same things. We do not recite a common creed or hold one book as sacred. We do affirm a free and responsible search for truth and meaning, and we support one another on our individual spiritual paths. This morning we will consider several credo statements from our members, which might inspire you to reflect further on what you believe.

## Religious Exploration

is available via Zoom for children (pre K – 11) at 10 a.m. and for teens (12 – 18) at 12 p.m.

**November 22**

**“The World We Dream Of”**

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

Our congregation’s mission statement says we strive to “change ourselves as we change the world.” With loving hearts and open minds, we seek change not simply for change’s sake – we hope to change the world for the better. So here is my question for you: if you had the power to transform the world with a snap of your fingers, what would your perfect world look like? How do you envision heaven on earth?

**November 29**

**“Climate and the Environment”**

**Dan Fernandez & W.A. Robin Jensen**

Humanity and our planet face the existential challenge of induced climate change that we are responsible for. This represents what is most likely our greatest test as a species to date. In light of our current political, social, racial, and COVID struggles, how can we grapple with this pervasive threat and yet remain open to the possibility of hope and optimism? Daniel Fernandez, accompanied by Robin Jensen, will share his thoughts on this matter and reflect back to his first sermon, on this very topic, that he gave over 11 years ago.

## In This Issue . . .

Page

2 Ministers’ Message	7 Book Discussion
3 Women’s Discussion Group	8 Musical Offerings
3 Welcome the Office Assistant	9 Join Our Church
3 Shared Offering Nominations	9 Mission Statement
3 Scheduled Events	9 Affinity Groups
3 Publication Deadlines	9 Worship Associates Needed
4 President’s Corner	10 Social Justice COPA
5 A Message from the Intern	11 Social Justice COPA cont.
5 Worship Topic Suggestions	
6 Religious Exploration	
7 Shared Plate November	

See the calendar [www.uucmp.org](http://www.uucmp.org)



## Ministers' Message

Rev. Elaine Gehrman

*Because you are alive, everything is possible.*  
Thich Nhat Hanh

On a recent sunny Sunday afternoon, Axel and I headed up to Hollister to check out a Pumpkin Patch I'd read about. Wearing our masks, we stood in a socially-distanced line with families of different shapes and sizes. We entered and headed for the Giant Corn Path (no corn maze this year because of Covid), and strolled through what felt like millions of tall emerald green stalks, sprouting huge golden-tasseled cobs. With the blue sky overhead, surrounded by lush verdant growth towering around us, and the occasional young child darting by, it was peaceful and so full of life.

But the best was yet to come. After climbing the steep stairs to the platform overlooking the Corn Path—we turned and saw below us on the other side, a field of sunflowers. We headed over just to take a look, and found ourselves walking up and down every aisle, discovering more sunflower colors, shapes, sizes and configurations than we had known were possible! They were yellow and orange and white and scarlet and rust-colored, with huge heads and medium heads and small multiple heads, and tall and short and mid-sized, and in various states of bloom and decay. As we kept walking, we kept discovering new varieties to admire. (I took about 300 photos, a few of which are here.)

I had no idea that such a marvelous place existed, just a short drive from our home, and that the beauty and pleasure it offered us were in no way diminished by Covid or politics or anxiety, or any other worries.



Our worship theme for November is *Possibilities*. As we are on the brink of a national election upon which so much rests, as we are still bound by so many Covid restrictions, and as we are heading into the darker days of the earth's rotation around the sun, we may be more focused on gloomier possibilities. And yet, there are many uplifting possibilities also awaiting us—numerous important issues and local candidates on the ballot that may improve the quality of our lives; medical research and progress in learning about and working to prevent more Covid infections; and the possibility of spring and summer, which require fall and winter for rest and rejuvenation. And the sunflowers, which can remind us of still-to-be-discovered miracles, waiting to astonish and delight us, if we dare to be open to them.

See you in (virtual) church,

*Elaine*



## 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 Thanksgiving holiday, however, we will meet only once during November. Also, due to the current shelter-in-place restrictions, we're meeting via Zoom. We plan to hold the following discussion in November:

On November 12th, Peggy Hansen will lead our discussion of "What We're Watching and Reading During the Shut-down."

Watch for the emailed notices for these events. They will contain the Zoom link and password.

—Nancy Baker Jacobs, Facilitator

## Welcome the New Office Assistant

Please extend a warm welcome to the new UUCMP office assistant, Karina Briseno. She has taken over the office, website and weekly e-news related work. She will work closely with Revs. Axel and Elaine to fulfill any essential needs of the congregation. She is very excited to be a part of the UUCMP community and is eager to help others. If you'd like to know more or have any questions, please feel free to contact her at ([office@uucmp.org](mailto:office@uucmp.org))



## Shared Offering Nominations for 2021

Each month, half of our cash collection and designated checks go to support a worthy non-profit organization.

The Social Justice Committee (SJC) is now soliciting nominations for the Shared Offering recipients of 2021. Please use the form at this link-- <https://forms.gle/>

Submissions are due by November 29, and all nominees will be discussed and voted upon at the December 6 meeting of the SJC.

Please attend the meeting to put in a good word for your organization and to vote!

## SCHEDULED EVENTS

**Anti-Racism Book and Film Discussion Group** meets the first Tuesday of every month (This time only—Thursday November 5) from 7 p.m.—9 p.m. via Zoom.

**Board of Trustees** meets Wednesday, November 18, at 5:45 p.m. via Zoom.

**Buddhist Sangha** is every Wednesday at 7 p.m. via Zoom. See page 9.

**Community Choir** meets Thursdays at 7 p.m. via Zoom.

**I-HELP for Men and I-HELP for Women** is supported 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, November 25, 5:30 p.m. via Zoom.

**Music Committee** meets Wednesday, November 4, 5:00 p.m. via Zoom.

**NUUsletter deadline** for the November issue is Monday, November 16.

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

**Sing Along** will meet on Wednesday, November 11, 5:30 p.m. via Zoom.

**Social Justice** meets Sunday, November 1, 12:00 p.m. via Zoom.

**Stewardship** meets Wednesday, November 4, 1:30 p.m., via Zoom.

**Women's Discussion Group** meets November 12, 2 p.m. via Zoom. See article to the left.

## 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.

## President's Corner — Jon Czarnecki



### The New World

One of my new favorite historians is Jill Lepore. Her book, *These Truths*, is a history of ideas about our country, related in a chronological manner, a most ingenious narrative construction. But it is her magnificent writing that makes reading her words a stimulating and pleasurable experience. I only recently finished her work, all 789 pages of it. And she saved the best for last. Lepore uses the metaphor that our country is a ship, a ship of state, that is floundering because liberals and conservatives have neglected the vessel; liberals not tending to its navigation, allowing the ship to wander off course, conservatives by trying to tear out the old deck planks and masts of truth in a rage of frustration, as if deliberately trying to sink the ship. It is a metaphor that wears well with my own state of mind these days. I find myself swinging from extreme hopefulness to extreme despair at least daily, and sometimes several times in a single day. What kind of country is it I live in that cares so little for truth? For equality? For lives? For plain common sense? I know I am hardly alone in this exhausting emotional dance.

Ah, Lepore leaves us not with a ship in deep distress, though. When I read her closing words, I feel an almost meditative calm enfold me. Here is what she writes:

“It would fall to a new generation of Americans, reckoning what their forebears had wrought, to fathom the depths of the doom-black sea. If they meant to repair the tattered ship, they would need to fell the most majestic pine in a deer-haunted forest and raise a new mast that could pierce the clouded sky. With sharpened adzes, they would have to hew timbers of cedar and oak into planks, straight and true. They would need to drive home nails with the untiring swing of mighty arms and, with needles held tenderly in nimble fingers stitch new sails out of the rugged canvas of their goodwill. Knowing that heat and sparks and hammers and anvils are not enough, they would have to forge a new anchor in the glowing fire of their ideals. And to steer that ship through wind and wave, they would need to learn an ancient and nearly forgotten art: how to navigate by the stars.”

The old must give way to the young, especially given how the old have almost wrecked that ship of state. A Green New Deal taken in whole may appear quite unworkable and hopelessly naïve, but look more closely, more carefully and see the architecture of the future. Black Lives Matter gets in our face, causing a reflexive recoil, but take the moment to breathe in its air of freedom, justice and equality, allowing all of us to move forward in a dance of all races and genders towards that dream Rev. King shared with us so long ago. Only it's a bigger dream than even he imagined.

How can we Unitarian Universalists assist our new generations in making the necessary repairs to our ship, in correcting our course anchored with the fire of their ideals, in steering our ship by the stars? Where or what is our compass? Our sextant?

I say they are our sense of righteous action and commitment grounded in our principles and values. We find inspiration in our hymn's words:

“When the fire of commitment sets our mind and soul a blaze  
When our hunger and our passion meet to call us on our way  
When we live with deep assurance of the flame that burns within,  
Then our promise finds fulfillment and our future can begin.”

On November 3<sup>rd</sup>, we will act to create a new beginning, regardless of electoral outcome. No mere political party can stop a determined generation driven by ideals, when that generation is supported by those who have preceded them with their own acts and commitment. Our fiery chalice may burn small, but its core is the heat of a thousand suns. Our passion and reason, persistence and love can and will move this world, this Mother Earth we share with one another.

I, for one, do hold this truth to be self-evident.

Go in peace, and for goodness sake, vote!

Jon



## A Message from the Intern

“Weave and spin, weave and spin  
This is how our work begins.  
Mend and heal, mend and heal  
Take a dream and make it real.”  
- Starhawk

The need for weaving and spinning, mending and healing is all around us. All those needs can be overwhelming! How do we mend and heal injustices in ways that do not deplete us, but rather keep us resilient and hopeful?

I found the inspiration I needed in the terrific “Faith in Action: Organizing Effective Justice Ministry Teams” presentation by the UU College of Social Justice. The presentation offered a clear framework for creating impactful and sustainable teams for social justice work. The framework has six elements:

- ◆ Grounding ourselves in our UU faith
- ◆ Grassroots partnerships – working with and supporting those who are directly impacted
- ◆ Modes of Action – choosing appropriate, effective actions for the cause and the group
- ◆ Capacity – establishing a large enough team to share the load
- ◆ Achievable goals – choosing goals that make sense given the team’s capacity
- ◆ Reflection – learning from our actions

This framework describes a way of being involved that would help participants feel resilient and hopeful.

I emerged from the presentation with a vision of establishing an interest group here at UUCMP that will apply this framework to environmental justice work.

The call to work for environmental justice arises from our Seven Principles. The seventh principle affirms respect and care for all of Earth’s inhabitants. The second principle affirms that all people deserve equitable access to basic needs like clean air and water. Further, the proposed eighth principle calls us to end racism and other oppressions that have resulted in systemic inequity in resource management institutions.

I know many of you are passionate about environmental issues. You are working with a number of environmental organizations and campaigns. I believe a church-based environmental justice interest group would be able to harness that passion, facilitate organized responses to environmental justice needs, and create stronger partnerships between UUCMP and existing community organizations.

I am looking for five to seven people to help get this environmental justice interest group off the ground. If you are interested in being part of this group, please contact me at [intern@UUCMP.org](mailto:intern@UUCMP.org).



May we do the holy work of weaving and spinning together, to mend and heal our corner of the interdependent web.

Yours in faith,  
Susan

## Suggestions for Worship Topics

Would you like to provide ideas and input for our upcoming worship services? Our Worship Associates team will be meeting on Saturday, November 7, to plan the next 6 months of topics for our worship services. The monthly themes will include: *Balance, Risk, Covenant, Grace, Union, Embodiment, and Creativity*. Please submit your topic suggestions or other ideas to Molly Lewis or the co-ministers by November 6 if you would like them to be considered. Thank you!

## RELIGIOUS EXPLORATION



### Imagination

Let's all take a moment and meditate back on what you wanted to be when you grew up. When the possibilities were endless and as wide open as the clear blue sky. Where every door was waiting to be opened. Where every window was waiting to be gazed through, ready to show us the glory of NEW right outside. What did you see in your future?

I had several dreams! I had a dream of being a circus performer. More specifically, I wanted to balance on the back of a beautiful pony with ribbons braided into its flowing mane and tail, and do acrobatic tricks as she trotted around the ring. I also wanted to be a paleontologist, and hunt for undetected dinosaur bones, painstakingly digging and brushing away little bits of dirt and sand with a tiny paintbrush. And I wanted to be a teacher! I spent many hours of my childhood setting up classrooms for my stuffed animals and dolls, creating lessons and dreaming of one day having a real classroom of my own.

I did not become a circus performer, and eventually becoming a teacher won over becoming a paleontologist. It was a wise choice, as I don't particularly enjoy writing grants, and rather prefer teaching and spending school holidays with my children, than living in a tent in a dusty desert somewhere for months on end. However, my love of circus performers and paleontology live on. I couldn't count the number of circuses that

I've been to, both with and without animals. And my dream of finding dinosaurs has not faded in the slightest. I enjoy going to as many natural history museums, and dinosaur fossil sites that I can find and sharing the joy and majesty of the dinosaurs with my children, all of whom find the natural world at least as interesting as I do. As a teacher though, I can help my children find windows to look out of, and doors to go through. I can help kindle the fire in their imaginations that slowly begin to smolder and give warmth and color to their ideas.

It doesn't matter if you are young, old, or somewhere in the middle, your dreams are as important now as they ever were. What do you imagine when you close your eyes? Where do you see yourself? Performing tricks on the back of a beautiful pony? Mapping the stars, and finding something new up there? Visiting archeological sites to bask in the majesty of ancient civilizations? Painting a masterpiece with a perfectly placed brush and a rainbow of pretty paint pots? Discovering the amazing world of the ocean, as you snorkel or go scuba diving in clear blue waters? It is never too late to begin a new journey.

Our possibilities are endless. Use your imagination. It is 2020 after all.

I will leave you once again with the wonderful words of Shel Silverstein:

"Listen to the mustn'ts, child.  
Listen to the don'ts.  
Listen to the shouldn'ts, the impossibles, the won'ts.  
Listen to the never haves, then listen close to me...  
Anything can happen, child.  
Anything can be."  
-S. Silverstein

Erin Forstein  
Director of Religious Exploration

As we await the results of the election, many of us are grappling with a chasm that dominates our culture: what we believe about reality is now dependent on where we get our news. We have learned to live with “alternative facts” and accusations of “fake news.” Never has the importance of professional, unbiased journalism been more obvious than it is today, even as corporate consolidation has severely reduced the reach, influence, and independence of local media outlets.

Voices of Monterey Bay (VOMB) was launched as a nonprofit in 2017 by a local team of veteran journalists to fill the void created by the economic changes that have negatively impacted newsrooms all across the country.

Serving Monterey and Santa Cruz counties, VOMB provides an outlet for covering important issues that the traditional media no longer can. Published in Spanish and English, VOMB editors work to ensure that the stories of often underserved communities, such as people of color and LGBTQ, are told.

In addition to reporting on local issues, 2020 is the third year that VOMB offered the Young Voices Media Project, AKA “journalism boot camp,” for teens in the Salinas Valley. For two full weeks,

teens learn the ins and outs of journalism and meet local community leaders. This year, holding the journalism boot camp mostly by Zoom meant that Salinas Valley students were also able to interact with journalists from across the country who shared their enthusiasm for their important work.

A statement on the VOMB website -- [voicesof-montereybay.org](http://voicesof-montereybay.org) -- says it all. “The result [of VOMB’s work] will be an improved public understanding of critical issues in the region that will inspire effective community advocacy for social progress and bridge distinct cultural and socioeconomic gaps.” The goals of VOMB truly do align with our values as Unitarian Universalists.

Checks should be made out to “Institute for Non-profit News,” with “Voices of Monterey Bay” in the memo space. During November and December, every dollar given to VOMB by individuals will be matched by the Knight Foundation, The Democracy Fund, and others, so please give generously, knowing your contribution will go twice as far!

Please give generously to this worthy organization.

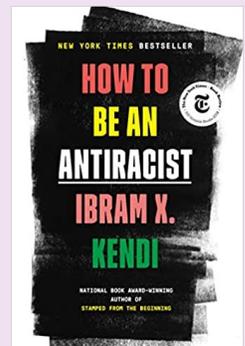
### Book Discussion on How to Be a Unitarian Universalist in 2020

Dates: 1st and 3rd Tuesdays (November 3 & 17, December 1, & 15)

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

We are living in extraordinary times. The current pandemic, a heightened awareness of racial and economic disparities, and an increasingly polarized political climate provide an abundance of social and personal challenges. What kind of religious response can Unitarian Universalism provide? Please join Rev. Axel as we continue the book discussion of the current New York Times bestseller *How to Be an Antiracist* by Ibram X. Kendi, grappling with these important questions.

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



# Musical Offerings

Let us explore the possibilities of virtual music making together.

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 each month. We meet **every Thursday from 7-9 p.m.** This month we will again be meeting via **Zoom** for rehearsals. No experience nor commitment necessary! We look forward to Zooming with you.

Our Children's Choir is also open to all children. While it is geared toward children in 1st-8th grades, all are welcome. We meet every Monday from 3-3:30pm in the music Zoom room.

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.



In addition, 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, November 11, from 5:30-7:00 p.m.**

Finally, if you have other ways you wish to contribute to the music here at UUCMP, just let me know! [music@uucmp.org](mailto:music@uucmp.org)

— Camille Hatton

## Join Our Church!

Even in these pandemic times - especially, in this times - 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.



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.

If you are interested in becoming an “official” member of UUCMP, contact the ministers ([minister@uucmp.org](mailto:minister@uucmp.org)).

Please join us!

## Life Enrichment Programs Affinity Groups:

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

**Anti-Racism Book and Film Discussion Group** meets the first Tuesday of every month, from 7 p.m.—9 p.m. via Zoom.

**Men’s Group Breakfast**  
Will not meet in November.  
Contact: Marsh Pitman

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

**Buddhist Sangha** will continue via Zoom on Wednesday evenings, 7 to 8:30 p.m. Contact: Rev. Dennis Hamilton

**Friday Night at the Movies** will not meet in November. Contact: John Freeman for any questions.

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

### 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.

## 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 contact the ministers.

# SOCIAL JUSTICE



## COPA Accountability Session Supervisor Candidates for Monterey and Santa Cruz Counties Sunday, October 4<sup>th</sup>



*Elizabeth Granado  
Led the Roll Call of COPA Institutions*

The Candidates' Forum drew over 210 attendees from across two counties, including 20 from UUCMP. The forum began with a teaching from the final chapter of the Hebrew Bible about Nehemiah who, after four generations of exile in Babylonia, leads the last of three groups of Jews back to Jerusalem to restore their community. This is a favorite IAF teaching because Nehemiah is a lay leader, and it embraces the IRON RULE of organizing “**never do for someone what they can do for themselves.**” Together they organize, identify the problem, and rebuild.

This was also COPA's story of the last six months, during this time of the novel Coronavirus, when we have adapted and changed to meet new circumstances but stayed committed to building relationships, listening to stories, identifying and assessing the most pressing issues. It was the first time Santa Cruz and Monterey came together to talk to our candidates about our shared issues.

### COVID 19



*Candidate Steve McShane,  
Monterey County District 4*

In March COPA committed to meeting twice a week with each other to share what we were learning about the virus and its impact on families. We organized a series of civic academies dedicated to *Breaking the Chain of Infection*; these reached hundreds of persons. In addition we contacted 1,500 persons across the south county, many of them essential workers in agriculture. We, along with IAF leaders from across the country, received training from a national expert on controlling the outbreak of the virus, Dr. Danielle Allen of Harvard. We have also met with IAF leaders across California working in their respective counties to halt the spread of the disease. We held a series of meetings with Monterey County Health officials to identify how the system is failing our citizens and what we can do to bring the county out of the highest infection rate in the State. **COVID testing, tracing and supported isolation** are the three legs of an effective system to halve the spread of COVID-19.

At present, the three components are not operating together as evidenced by the vast disparity in infection rates between jurisdictions in the county from a low of two persons per 1,000 in Pacific Grove to over 10 times that amount in Salinas. The two candidates from Monterey County running in District 4 are Wendy Root Askew and Steve McShane who were asked the first question: what further steps can the county take to limit the spread of the virus? They were also asked if within two weeks of the election they would meet with COPA to discuss how we can work together to address this issue in their current capacities as civic and business leaders.



*Candidate Wendy Root Askew,  
Monterey County District 4*

### Rent Moratorium in Santa Cruz County

We heard a story from Santa Cruz from Luis Llanos who has lost his job and cannot pay his rent and about the organizing work COPA pursued with Santa Cruz county supervisors to get them to enact a moratorium on evictions.

# SOCIAL JUSTICE



*Candidate Matthew Koenig, Santa Cruz County District 1*

In addition, COPA organized to secure \$1.1 million in CARES Act funding in Santa Cruz County for a rental assistance program. COPA is working with tenants and landlords by teaching them how to apply. They have offered workshops to tenants and landlords to educate about Assembly Bill 3088 which gives tenants protection from eviction until February 1st. Unfortunately, the bill does not protect small landlords who rely on rent as a form of income and means to pay mortgages. COPA is advocating to secure additional funding for rental assistance and creating a payback period to help tenants and protect landlords facing foreclosure. As well, COPA continues to advocate for additional affordable and below market rate housing in Santa Cruz County. **Both Santa Cruz Candidates Mathew Koenig and John Leopold** agreed to allocate more

funding for rental assistance and to develop plans to protect landlords and tenants and to engage state legislative leaders in long-term solutions. They also agreed to support development of additional affordable housing.

## **Behavioral Health and the Kaiser Project in Live Oak, District 1, Santa Cruz**

We heard a personal story from Rev. Jim Lapp of St. Stephens Lutheran Church in Santa Cruz about the scourge of addiction and the toll it can take on a family. When they first learned of Kaiser's plan to build a four-story health clinic in Live Oak two years ago, they began their meetings both with Kaiser and County Public Health leaders. COPA lobbied successfully with the county to update agreements with the major health care providers to strengthen commitments for the provision of behavioral health services. They have also succeeded in getting Kaiser to include behavioral health services in the new clinic along with providing 102 units of affordable housing as workforce housing on the site for Kaiser employees. Both District 1 Candidates agreed to work with COPA to achieve these goals.

## **Healthcare Access in Monterey County**

In 2015 COPA secured the creation of Esperanza Care, a \$2 million health care program funded by Monterey County that provides primary care and prescription drugs to 3,500 undocumented participants who do not qualify for any other health insurance. We heard from Adriana Santana, a field worker from Monterey County, a single mother from Castroville who is a member of Mujeres en Accion, a COPA member, whose only source of access to medical care for herself and her young children is through Esperanza Care. Both Monterey County supervisor candidates Askew and McShane agreed to support a \$1 million dollar increase in funding for this program and to increase enrollment to 6,000 persons since we are aware that per person costs have been reduced due to economies of scale. This program further reduces county costs for emergency services at Natividad by providing preventive care to patients.

## **Broadband Access in Monterey and Santa Cruz Counties**

We heard stories from teachers and parents about the difficulties students and families were facing because of the lack of broadband accessibility across our communities. The digital divide was evident in the final months of the Spring of 2020 when schools were forced to close due to the pandemic. Many families were unable to connect to online learning which put their children at a disadvantage in school. It is particularly a challenge with more than one student and their parents unable to participate in program and meetings offered by the schools through Zoom and Google classrooms. Many students are even counted as truant when through no fault of their own they are unable to connect because they do not have high speed internet. All candidates across both counties committed to working with COPA to increase public sector investment using county, state and federal funding sources.



*Candidate John Leopold, Santa Cruz County District 1*

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

**Office Hours**

Closed for November.  
Email to [office@uucmp.org](mailto:office@uucmp.org)

**Co-Ministers**

the Revs. Elaine and Axel Gehrman  
[minister@uucmp.org](mailto:minister@uucmp.org)

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