



NUUSLETTER

of the Unitarian Universalist Church of the Monterey Peninsula

February Theme: Risk

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

February 7

“Make Good Trouble”

Rev. Elaine Gehrman & W.A. Bjorn Nilson

Representative John Lewis said, “When you see something that is not right, not fair, not just, you have to speak up. You have to say something; you have to do something.” He called this "making good trouble." We can see many aspects of our current society that seem not right, not fair and not just. What might we be willing to risk "making good trouble" about?

February 14

“Of Love, Loaves, and Fishes ”

Rev. Axel Gehrman & W.A. Ray Krise

This Sunday marks the kickoff of our annual Stewardship campaign. (Please see page 10 for more information.) Appropriately, it falls on Valentine’s Day – a holiday devoted to love. But what is love? Is love something found at first sight? Is it unconditional? Or do we fall into it? Religious scriptures say love has both divine origins and ethical implications. Does love break or gently open our hearts? Both poets and prophets agree love is risky because it has the potential to transform our lives.

Religious Exploration

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

February 21

“Living Authentically, Pursuing Our Dreams ”

Susan Panttaja & Celia Barbarena & W.A. Natalie Fryberger

Sometimes we have to take risks to continue to grow or to achieve a dream. We may risk our security, our privacy, our tranquility. Yet we know that continuing with what is known and comfortable is not an option. Today we will consider the joys of growing into our authentic selves.

February 28

“Stretching Our Comfort Zone and Our Beloved Community”

Karen Brown & W.A. Sue Ellen Stringer

What do you and I risk/gain if we stay where it’s “safe?” What do we risk/gain if we move beyond our fear into what makes us uncomfortable? Some people say that Whites are too fragile to speak up and to hear about racism - and to really “promote” our UU principles. The UUA has a plan to help - the Beloved Conversations program and an 8th Principle. Karen Brown and Sue Ellen Stringer will share personal stories and more.

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Ministers' Message

Rev. Axel
Gehrman

January was quite a month! The run-off election in Georgia, the contested electoral college vote, the violence in Washington that day, the inauguration two weeks later and peaceful transition of power – and everything in the shadow of the current pandemic.

On the one hand, these national political events on the other side of the country seem far removed from our everyday lives here on the beautiful Monterey Peninsula. And yet, on the other hand, I know they intimately affect all of us – and each of us in different ways.

I confess, I have been struggling to wrap my mind around the meaning of it all, trying to figure out how to make sense of what's happening, and how I am called to respond.

And I have found myself, once again, deeply grateful for this congregation, and everything we do here together: our conversations and classes, our worship and music, our hands-on service to the homeless and our community organizing through COPA – and the countless small ways we support one another and help those in need. I am grateful for the ways you inspire me to put the principles of our faith into practice, encouraging me to build a better world beginning with myself.

Our seven principles begin with an affirmation of the inherent worth and dignity of every person, and end with support of the interdependent web of all existence of which we are a part. As some of you know, there has been an initiative within our larger UU movement to add an eighth principle that explicitly calls us to “accountably dismantle racism and other oppressions.” Our Board voted to bring this proposed principle to the congregation for study, discussion, and a possible vote at a congregational meeting.

This effort “to build a diverse and multicultural Beloved Community” is very timely. And it dovetails closely with several of our current classes and social justice initiatives, as well as with goals outlined in our current Strategic Plan. We encourage you to read up on this issue (www.8thprincipleuu.org), and join one of the forums we will be offering after two worship services in February. (See page 11.)

I am grateful for UUCMP, because this place helps me see how my individual concerns are intricately bound up with our universal concerns, and how we are stronger together.

Growing Stronger Together, as it happens, is also the theme of our Stewardship Campaign this year. Our Stewardship Team (Konny Murray, Chair, Carol Collin, Fran Gaver, Gretchen Hausmann, Steve Johnson, Judy Lind, Harry Nagel, Jo Ann Novoson) has been working hard to figure out how best to reach out to all of you, to hear about what UUCMP means to you, and how you hope to support it financially. (Elaine and I will continue our “UU Tithe” practice, pledging 5% of our income to UUCMP, and 5% to other worthy causes.) Please keep your eyes open for their mailings and communications, and respond thoughtfully. And join our Zoom Kickoff on February 14th! (See page 10.)

The pandemic that has upended our lives these past months is likely to remain with us for months to come. Coping will continue to be a challenge for all of us. Nevertheless, or perhaps especially because of this, I feel ever more grateful for countless blessings I no longer take for granted. Near the top of my list is this church, and every one of you. Thank you for being here!

See you in (virtual) church,

Axel

Life Enrichment

The 2021 Winter Life Enrichment booklet has been published online at uucmp.org. To access it from the web site, click on the *Learning* tab and scroll down to “Adult Programs — Life Enrichment.” Check out all the great groups, classes, and activities that are available via Zoom.

For questions, please contact Carol Greenstreet, who is the LE Committee Chair.

Men’s Breakfast Group

Saturday, February 13, at 8:30 a.m.

All men are invited to the monthly Men’s Breakfast Group via Zoom. We encourage you to settle in at your computer or phone with a cup of coffee and/or breakfast food and join our conversation.



Please let Marsh Pitman and Rev. Axel (minister@uucmp.org) know if you will attend.

Our Zoom Meeting ID is: 966 8868 2550. You can join via phone (call 669-900-9128), or via computer - simply click on this link: <https://zoom.us/j/96688682550>

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.

SCHEDULED EVENTS

Anti-Racism Book & Film Discussion Group Tuesday, February 2, 7 p.m. via Zoom. See page 9.

Board of Trustees meets Wednesday, February 17, 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. 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, February 24, 5:30 p.m. via Zoom.

Men’s Breakfast Group meets Saturday, February 13, 8:30 a.m. via Zoom. See article to the left.

Music Committee meets Wednesday, February 3, 5:00 p.m. via Zoom.

NUUsletter deadline for the March issue is Tuesday, February 16.

Program Council is Tuesday, February 2, 12:30 p.m. via Zoom. For Zoom information contact Lauren Keenan programcouncil@uucmp.org

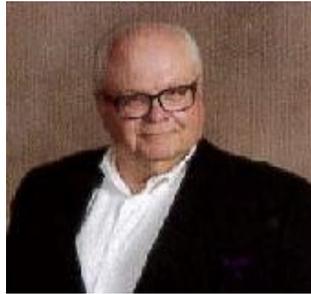
Sing Along will meet on Wednesday, February 10, 5:30 p.m. via Zoom.

Social Justice meets Sunday, February 7, 12:00 p.m., via Zoom.

Stewardship does not meet in February.

Women’s Discussion Group meets February, 11 and 25, 2 p.m. via Zoom. See on article page 15.

President's Corner — Jon Czarnecki



Leap of Faith

At one time or another, we must all take a leap of faith. Something defying logic and even common sense. It is our nature as human beings.



February is the most appropriate month for taking such leaps. It is our leap month in leap years. It is the month in which our quaint holiday, Valentine's Day, celebrates the insanity of romance, which itself is a terrific leap of faith.

This year, I took a February leap of faith in December when I obtained for my darling spouse an experiential Christmas gift, a long weekend at the Ahwahnee Hotel in Yosemite, over Valentine's Day weekend (which incidentally is also Presidents' Day weekend.) Right now, with the oppressive persistence of COVID-19, that leap is looking more and more like a fall. As our former President might tweet: Sad!

I refuse to be so.

I will be more like the snowdrops and crocuses of my former homes in Alaska and upstate New York, which take incredible leaps of faith in late February; they have the nerve to point their small green tips through an often ice and snow-pocked landscape in search of a warming sun. I will follow the lead of our new President and take a leap of faith for my poor, damaged country and its confused, demoralized citizenry. We are "e pluribus unum" – out of many, one. We

are a people who take many leaps of faith, some for the good, some for the not-so-good. We are a people of hope *in the face of despair*. And there has been plenty to despair about lately, hasn't there?

We at UUCMP are using February as our leap of faith as well. It marks the beginning of our annual funding effort, our Pledge Drive. This year in particular our dedication to our community through our pocketbooks is an especially large leap. We mostly haven't met or hugged or shaken hands or just plain physically greeted each other for ten months. We haven't been able to visit our haven of faith, our church and sanctuary, for the same amount of time. Our bonds of community are tested and will continue to be tested for at least a foreseeable future, though it is a future that looks to have an end in sight. If there ever is to be a time to question our personal logic, our dedication – devotion? – to our religious community and faith, certainly it is now.

Dear congregants, I invite you to join me in shedding the logic of introversion and loss, and the common sense of self-interest. It is time for snowdrops and crocuses. It is time for faith and hope and charity. It is time for opened wallets and checkbooks, and PayPal accounts. Let's join our virtual hands across the Zoom ocean and commit ourselves to the community of love and joy we call our church. It's time for our leap of faith.



Jon



A Message from the Intern

Recently, as I pulled up to a stoplight in Pacific Grove, I glanced in my rearview mirror at the truck stopping behind me. The driver caught my eye and gave me a decisive thumbs down sign. Interesting! I hadn't been driving erratically, so I guessed his displeasure was directed at my bumper sticker, which proclaimed "Black Lives Matter."

I will never know if I guessed correctly. But the incident reminded me of another time, back in early 2017, when a pickup truck paced me for a while on the freeway, a colorful "Trump" flag held out the passenger side window. It suddenly dawned on me that the truck's occupants were signaling their disapproval of BLM.

Such are the times we are living in. A bumper sticker is such a tiny gesture on my part, something I had always considered a safe way of expressing an opinion. Yet these days, expressing opinions in any form can be rather risky. If I am now nervous about putting a simple statement on the back of my car, how can I possibly be willing to express my views directly with family or strangers who disagree?

Speaking up for my convictions, declaring my opposition to systemic racism, classism – all the isms that maintain societal inequity – is nonetheless a risk I must take. It is not enough for me to simply think good thoughts and trust that everything will work out OK.

In January, I finished working through the book *Me and White Supremacy* by Layla Saad. In the final chapter, Saad asks readers to write down our commitments to antiracism work. My commitment statement starts with this:

I am committed to this lifelong antiracism work for dignity and worth of all. Because the current, oppressive white supremacist system can only be dismantled by white people like me, it is my responsibility to join the work to end social norms based on cruelty, lies, and exploitation. It is my honor to help create a system where *all* people can breathe free.

My statement, like my efforts, is a work in progress, but I know this much: I must actively place my hands on the moral arc, must lend my strength to make sure it bends toward justice. A bumper sticker is just the tip of the iceberg.



Yours in Faith,

Susan

Zoom Karaoke Party!!

On Saturday, February 13, 6 p.m. to 9 p.m., there will be a virtual *Zoom Karaoke Party* to benefit UUCMP. There is a suggested donation of \$10 for adults and \$15 for families who wish to attend. Please check the *Events* section of the UUCMP website for the concert link. (<https://uucmp.org/congregation-news/events/>)

This will be a rollicking multigenerational celebration with the amazing professional KJ Dana Morigan, who has over 15,000 songs of all styles and genres. All ages will enjoy it; bring your friends, your kids, and your own individual style. Log in and join the fun!



RELIGIOUS EXPLORATION



Taking a Risk

Growing up, I took a lot of risks! I climbed every tree that I possibly could. I explored the forests with my brother when we were 5 and 6 without parents; sometimes I went by myself as well, and would even swing on vines! I was a “latchkey” kid, though we never actually locked the front door. I rode my bike all over, explored a bit with a skateboard until I ripped a fingernail off and decided a bike was just a better and more practical fit.



I even hiked down into the Grand Canyon by myself when I was 12, as my mom and uncle were going at a different pace and I wanted to explore the paths by myself. I was hit by a car, fell out of several trees and crashed my bike a few times. I galloped on a horse and dove from the high dive!

Yes, I took a lot of risks. More than I am comfortable with my children taking, to be quite honest. But taking risks is what helps us to grow. And if this is true, that taking risks helps us grow, what is the pandemic doing to our minds? My risk taking, adventurous self is now scared of dine-in restaurants. What is it doing to our children? Most are having school at home in one way or another, and social development is now being learned over zoom and through video games. And while I am constantly thankful for the technology so that we are able to

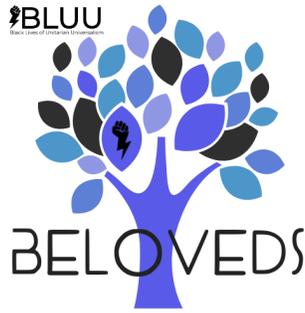
communicate, work, learn, and play throughout the pandemic, I do wonder how we will emerge on the other side.

We are living in a period of risk. It surrounds us in the very air we breathe. Even doing something as simple as walking out of the front doors of our houses are now presenting us with a long list of risks that need to be overcome, taken care of, or pushed to the backs of our minds so that we can continue to go about our lives. A year ago, I wouldn't have thought twice about going to my favorite Starbucks on David Avenue and sitting down to do a bit of work, perhaps write a newsletter article on my laptop as I sipped my coffee and talked to friends. I feel a little differently about doing this now.

I have hope though. Humans have an amazing capacity to cope with change. And we will cope with this, we will deal with our daily risks, and eventually we will come to a day when we realize that the risks are no longer as big as they seem now, or even much of anything at all.

We need to work on separating the risks into dangerous (going out without a mask, eating inside restaurants, large crowds) to the acceptable (normal risks that children take in order for their minds to grow). So as far as our children go, let's take the time to encourage them to take these risks in a safe environment! Recess is at home now. There are no longer children running in packs on the playground, climbing up slides, hanging from the monkey bars, and flying on the swings. It is up to us to perhaps demonstrate a few of these feats. Come on moms and dads! Climb a tree, hike in the woods, dance in the waves, roller skate, sing out loud, and fly on the swings! With learning happening at home, it really is up to us.

Erin Forstein
Director of Religious Exploration



February Shared Plate Recipient

Black Lives of UU (BLUU)

Black Lives of Unitarian Universalism (BLUU) formed out of several conversations among Black UUs at the July 2015 Movement for Black Lives Convening in Cleveland, Ohio. The BLUU Organizing Collective works to provide support, information & resources for Black Unitarian Universalists. We also work to expand the role and visibility of Black UUs within our faith.

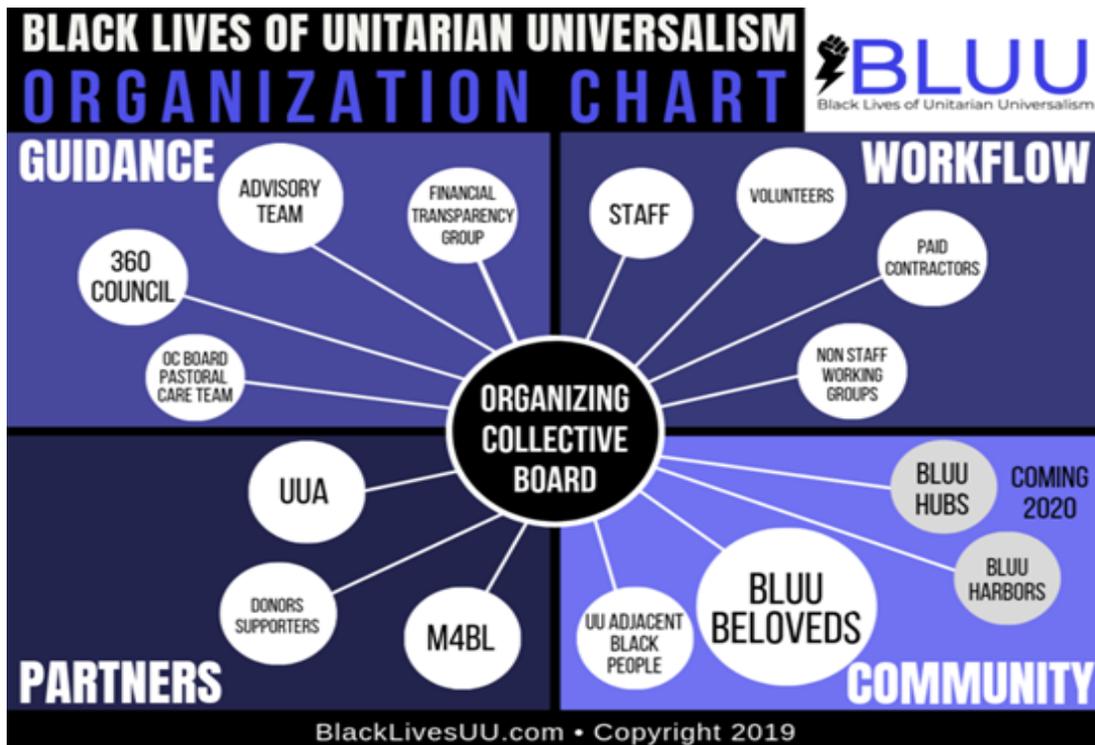
We work in a collaborative structure of decision making and in consultation with a closed Facebook group of more than 500 Black UUs. We are led, as movements for Black liberation have always been in this country, by black women and queer black folks in particular. Within our collaborative decision-making construct, a full-time Executive Director position was established

to maintain collective operations, vision, and management of resources as BLUU's lead employee. Lena K. Gardner is the inaugural Executive Director for the collective. And Rev. Mykal Slack is our first Community Minister.

The BLUU Organizing Collective is committed to:

- ◆ Expanding the power & capacity of Black UUs within our faith
- ◆ Providing support, information & resources for Black Unitarian Universalists.
- ◆ Justice-making and liberation through our faith

Please give generously to this worthy organization.



Musical Offerings

Come join the music department for another fun year of music and merriment.

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



If you would like to be a song leader for hymns, let me know!

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

Also, 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



2nd Wednesday of the month from 5:30-7:00 p.m. This month we meet on February 10.

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.

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

music@uucmp.org



— Camille Hatton

Join Our Church!

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

Please join us!

Life Enrichment Programs Affinity Groups:

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

Anti-Racism Book and Film Discussion First Tuesdays, 7-9 p.m. via Zoom

Men’s Breakfast Group meets second Saturdays 8:30 a.m. via Zoom
Contact: Marsh Pitman or Rev. Axel

Women’s Discussion Group Second and fourth Thursdays, 2 – 3:30 p.m. via Zoom.
Contact: Nancy Baker Jacobs. See page 12.

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 February. Contact: John Freeman for any questions.

Dances of Universal Peace
Will not meet in February. 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.



UUCMP: GROWING STRONGER TOGETHER

Save the date – Sunday, February 14

Celebrate Valentine's Day with people who care about you, each other, and this wonderful planet that sustains us.

The Unitarian Universalist Church of the Monterey Peninsula is a rare voice for creed-free spirituality, showing us how the variety of humanity's contemplative traditions support our personal growth and collective action.

Our annual fund-drive kickoff during the church service on February 14 will offer reminders about what this community-of-the-inquisitive means to each of us. Find out how you can help this community continue to thrive and continue to foster positive change in our shared world.

Please plan to attend!

Your Stewardship Committee

Konny Murray (chair), Carol Collin, Fran Gaver, Gretchen Hausmann, Steve Johnson, Judy Lind, Harry Nagel, and Jo Ann Novoson, with staff support from Rev. Axel Gehrman and Intern Susan Panttaja

Women & Religion PCD VIRTUAL Retreat Saturday, March 13, 8:30 a.m. to 8 p.m. on Zoom Theme: HANGING IN, HANGING ON

We will share our lives in an opening orientation, touch groups (affinity circles), learning sessions (workshops), a scavenger hunt in your home, Suffragist bingo, a memorial for lost members (Liz Fisher and Meg Bowman in 2020), and a closing session.

Registration is \$25. Net proceeds will be split between Women & Religion Continental and International Women's Convocation.

To be added to the retreat email list, send a blank email to: PCDUUwoman+subscribe@groups.io. We will email you when registration is open.



Forums on the Proposed UU 8th Principle

Sunday, February 7th, and Sunday, February 28th, at 12 noon (following the church services)

At their October meeting, the board approved this motion brought by the Social Justice Committee:

“We, the Board of Trustees of UUCMP, encourage members of the congregation to participate in study and discussion of the proposed UU 8th principle, culminating in a possible vote for adoption at a congregational meeting.”



The UU Principles were designed to be dynamic, not a fixed creed. It means we want to always continue to be educating ourselves, exploring truth, and raising our consciousness. When we get to a new level of understanding and clarity, our structure makes it possible to reflect that. UU is perhaps the only religion that intentionally builds in that flexibility to acknowledge the importance of ongoing revealed truth. This happened when environmental awareness reached a critical mass and got added as a 7th Principle. We are approaching a similar critical mass level of awareness with the systemic nature of racism and other oppressions. (<https://www.8thprincipleuu.org>)

The movement for an 8th Principle came from the realization that we need something to renew our commitment to the work of dismantling white supremacy and other systemic oppressions, to hold ourselves accountable, and to fulfill the potential of our existing principles. Our existing 7 principles imply this 8th principle, but do not explicitly hold us accountable for addressing these oppressions directly, especially at the systemic level. Dismantling racism, white supremacy, and other oppressions requires work at the personal and institutional levels.

The proposed 8th principle states:



“We, the member congregations of the Unitarian Universalist Association, covenant to affirm and promote: journeying toward spiritual wholeness by working to build a diverse multicultural Beloved Community by our actions that accountably dismantle racism and other oppressions in ourselves and our institutions.”

Please come to the Zoom forums with your questions, perspectives and a willingness to listen to and learn from each other.



Endowment Fund 2020



Our UUCMP Endowment Fund has been valuable in supporting the capital improvements to our facility through the years, including the addition of the entryway and meeting room next to the kitchen and the first and second phases of the comprehensive expansion of the church. The Fund will undoubtedly be an important resource as we approach the third and final phase of the overall plan, including the completion of the new sanctuary.

The UUCMP Endowment Fund has grown substantially in 2020, thanks primarily to bequests from the estates of Louise Stuart, Darby Worth, and Peg and Doug Chandler, for a total of \$56,072.95. We also received memorial and honorific gifts totaling \$12,610.42.

As of November 30, 2020, the most recent information available, the total value of our investment in the UUCEF was \$636,102.76. In addition, as of December 30, 2020, the Fund had \$11,370 in the bank ready for investment.

The Endowment Fund is invested with the UU Common Endowment Fund in Boston, which is overseen by the UU Investment Committee and managed by a group of professional managers. The UUCEF is invested to the greatest extent possible in socially responsible investments with a portion dedicated to community level investments.

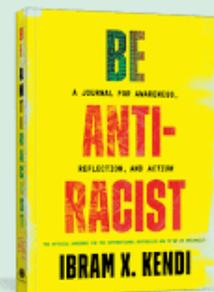
The UUCMP Endowment Fund is overseen by three committee members appointed by the Board of Trustees. Two of our long-term members, Marsh Pitman and Peggy Hansen, resigned in 2020, and were replaced by Steve Johnson and Gregg McKee. Fran Gaver will remain for a final year to facilitate the transition to the new committee.

“Be Antiracist” Working Group Starting February 10

A new anti-racism working group will be using the workbook *Be Antiracist* by Ibram X. Kendi, beginning on Wednesday February 10. We will meet on the second and fourth Wednesdays from 7 p.m. - 8:30 p.m. via Zoom and will use the Circle Way Shared Leadership model.

While we will meet on the 2nd and 4th Wednesdays, we each will complete two prompts each week in the workbook. When we meet, we'll have 4 (or occasionally 6) prompts to discuss.

For more information contact Rev. Elaine at rev.elaine@uucmp.org



Grapevine



Marlys Thane Maher, a longtime member of UUCMP, died peacefully in her sleep in July of 2020. She was born on October 26, 1928, in Lordsburg, New Mexico to Andrew and Florence Thane. She shared her birthday with her sister, Joann, born in 1931. Her father held many jobs, including Chief Engineer in the Merchant Marine/Navy in WW2; her mother taught school.

Marlys excelled in high school, receiving national honors in scientific studies, and competed in a team chemistry competition. One of her proudest moments was when she played violin with the L.A. Symphony. Marlys graduated from U.C. Berkeley where she met and married Delbert Scott Maher. They had three children: Eric, Stephen and Karen. She completed her Master's degree in Library Science at University of Washington,

Marlys was best known for her passion for libraries. She served as the director of the library at Hartnell College and Library Commissioner. She was actively involved with Friends of the Salinas Public Libraries. In addition, Marlys and other dedicated volunteers "worked tirelessly on the preliminary formation and planning stages of the new charitable organization," when Monterey County Free Libraries was founded.

Marlys spearheaded many improvement projects. She loved Salinas libraries, and was instrumental in the creation of the digital arts lab and homework center, and in the issuance of library cards to all students in Salinas schools. Once she recycled cans then used her earnings to donate the popcorn popper at Cesar Chavez Library (to help kids and the environment). She didn't want the kids to go without a snack or a book. Marlys was quoted in *Free Range Librarian* as saying, "We can live with the potholes. We can't live with ignorance and we

can't live with gangs."

Marlys was always involved in political activism and deeply committed to improving Salinas. She worked closely with many political leaders, including Salinas Mayors Anna Caballero, Dennis Donahue and Joe Gunter. In 2007, Mayor Dennis Donahue thanked her for "her passionate advocacy and exemplary efforts on behalf of Salinas' residents." She used her voice to speak out about many issues, from passing Measure V sales tax and keeping the libraries from closure, to her hands-on involvement in all aspects of city management. A very quiet and reserved congregant, she nonetheless worked hard to involve members of UUCMP in her work to keep the Salinas libraries open during budget cuts that closed many libraries with petitions and letter writing.

Marlys never missed city council meetings and used her two minutes of public comment time well. In 2011, City Councilman Steve McShane thanked her for "her tireless service to the City of Salinas and the entire community." She represented the city on the Transportation Agency for Monterey County Citizens' Advisory Committee. She volunteered for Salinas Bicycling/Pedestrian Committee, Sustainable Salinas and Salinas Recycling Committee. She was active in the League of Women Voters and assisted as needed, including precinct walking for political causes.

Marlys left her own children with happy memories of a great childhood, filled with explorations of books and libraries and adventures discovering the outdoor world. She is fondly remembered by all who knew her.

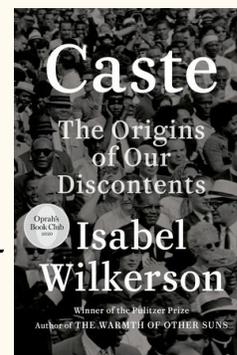
Grapevine is one project of the Caring Network, a group whose mission is to increase and strengthen the sense of community at UUCMP. If you or someone you know is in need of assistance or has something to share, please contact the steering committee at caringnetwork@uucmp.org

Unitarian Universalism for our Times - A Book Discussion of *Caste*

Dates: 2nd and 4th Tuesdays, (February 9 - May 25, 2021)

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

The First Principle of Unitarian Universalism affirms the “inherent worth and dignity of every person.” It sounds simple and straightforward, and yet seems maddeningly difficult to actually practice. We continue to live in extraordinary times. The current pandemic, our heightened awareness of racial and economic disparities, and an increasingly polarized political climate provide an abundance of challenges. How can we as Unitarian Universalists best understand and address these issues? Please join Rev. Axel for an 8-session reading and discussion of *Caste: The Origins of Our Discontents* by the Pulitzer Prize Winning author Isabel Wilkerson, as we grapple with these important questions.



Please acquire a copy of the book and read the introduction and Part One (p. 1-35) for our first session, on February 9.

From the book jacket: “In this brilliant book, Isabel Wilkerson gives us a masterful portrait of an unseen phenomenon in America, as she explores, through immersive, deeply researched narrative and stories about real people, how America today and throughout its history has been shaped by a hidden caste system, a rigid hierarchy of human rankings . . . Linking caste systems of America, India and Nazi Germany, Wilkerson explores eight pillars that underlie caste systems across civilizations, including divine will, bloodlines, and stigma . . . She points forward to ways America can move beyond artificial and destructive separations of human divisions, toward hope in our common humanity.”

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



Join Elizabeth for Zumba Livestream class every Tuesday at 5:00 p.m.

Check the UUCMP **Wednesday** E-News each week for the class link.

No experience needed! All fitness and dance levels are welcome. It's not about getting the right moves. It's about moving, having fun, and getting some exercise in. All moves can be modified and you're always welcome to take breaks. Many people enjoy Zumba while in their chair. Do what you can and most importantly get ready to have some FUN! Don't forget your water bottle and a towel for the sweat!

Benefits:

A total workout

Combining all elements of fitness – cardio, muscle conditioning, balance and flexibility

Boosted energy

A serious dose of awesome each time you leave class

“Hindsight, Humor, and Hope: Who, Me, an Elder?”

Meeting Dates: Six Mondays, from February 1 – April 12 (every two weeks)*

Meeting Time: 7:00 – 8:30 p.m.

Meeting Location: Zoom

Susan Panttaja, Intern Minister, will lead this six-part exploration of the journey into elderhood. Sometime after the age of sixty, adults start to have the sense of moving into “older folk territory.” The transition to being an elder often comes before we are emotionally prepared for it, and it can be quite unsettling! This new phase of life can bring up deeply personal questions, such as “Who am I now?” and “What will I do that is meaningful?”

This course is for those of us who have reached the threshold of elderhood, whatever chronological age you happen to be. In this program, we will prepare ourselves to step into our elder years with grace and grit, reimagining them as a time of relevance, reflection, and possibility. Through discussion, journaling, and creative arts, we will explore the positive side of being an elder. We will support each other to claim the inner wisdom, spiritual richness, and adventure of being an elder.

The course is a “Tapestry of Faith” curriculum offered by the Unitarian Universalist Association. The curriculum will be modified to fit the zoom format.

Materials: In addition to a journal of some type, please assemble a “Hindsight, Humor, and Hope toolkit:” pen, pencil, eraser, and color pencils or multicolor *washable* (not permanent) fine-line markers.

*Specific meeting dates:

February 1, February 15, March 1, March 15, March 29, April 12

If you would like to attend, or have questions, please contact Susan Panttaja : intern@uucmp.org.

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. Due to the current shelter-in-place restrictions, we’ll be meeting via Zoom for the next few months. We plan to hold the following discussions in February:

On February 11th, Sharon Miller will lead our discussion of “Conspiracy Theories: Why People Believe Them and What We Can Do About It.”

On February 25th, Karen Brown will lead our discussion of “Ancestor Research Surprises.”

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

—Nancy Baker Jacobs, Facilitator

Zoom Karaoke Party!

With professional Karaoke deejay Dana Morrigan

Saturday, February 13, 2021, 6 p.m. – 9 p.m.

A family-friendly event for all ages. Invite your friends to join us!

Please check the *Events* section of the UUCMP website for the concert link.

[\(https://uucmp.org/congregation-news/events/\)](https://uucmp.org/congregation-news/events/)

Suggested Donation: \$10 for adults, \$15 per family



Try your hand (and voice) at performing musical pieces.

Log in and join the fun!

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/6153453700>

SOCIAL JUSTICE



UUCMP to Assist New COPA Member Churches in the Salinas Valley



January Delegates Assembly

By the time you read this you may have taken the opportunity to attend COPA's Delegates' Assembly

on Saturday, January 30, to start the new year. The agenda included ratifying the annual budget, setting strategic goals, welcoming new members, and voting for leadership of the Regional Strategy Team. This has been a banner year for COPA culminating in the approval by the Monterey County Board of Supervisors of the \$4.9 million Breaking the Chain Program designed by COPA to halt the spread of the virus down the Salinas Valley particularly among farmworkers. Click here to view our [end-of-year appeal](#).

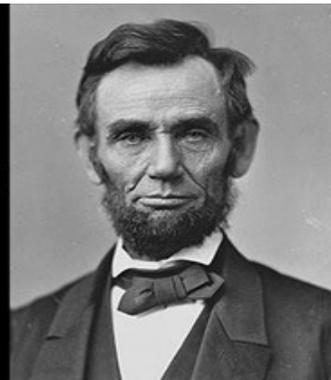
UUCMP Assistance Needed for House Meetings in Castroville, King City, Soledad and East Salinas

The newest member of the County Board of Supervisors, Wendy Root Askew, representing District 4 previously served for many years as the previous supervisor Jane Parker's Chief of staff. Every year the presidency of the Board of Supervisors rotates between Districts and, as luck would have it, Supervisor Askew is also the new president this year. She reached out to COPA, after having attended our UUCMP Civic Academy held Dec 13 on COVID-19 and how we could make better progress fighting the disease. She was very impressed by the house meetings we held in which people shared their first hand experiences of the disease. She ap-

proached COPA with her new Chief of Staff Yuri Anderson, to ask if we would set up house meetings that County Department heads could attend so that they could hear directly from the residents they serve about how they are experiencing county services. We have been working with COPA's new member churches in Castroville, East Salinas, Soledad and King City to schedule these house meetings in February.

How UUCMP Can Help. Because several of these churches are new to COPA, our UUCMP Core Team has supported our members in helping to support the new churches in this process. Many of you received training as house meeting facilitators prior to our December Civic Academy. Now we can help by serving as facilitators at these house meetings with the county department heads. By separating interpretation from facilitation, it makes both jobs easier. If you are interested and have not yet been trained, we can provide training. We also have folks who are experienced with Zoom and would appreciate anyone willing to help out in this area. You don't have to have expertise because our practice is to also break down the tasks to small manageable jobs such as admitting people to the meeting, or monitoring questions on chat, or muting or unmuting people as needed. If you are interested in helping, please get in touch with us at uucmp-copa@gmail.com. The meetings will be in February but there is no specific date yet.

Statement on the Assault on the U.S. Capitol



Click [here](#) to view the statement.

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Closed during February due to the pandemic.

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Return Service Requested



About UUCMP Publications

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

Please send submissions for WEEKLY NEWS, the weekly announcements, to office@uucmp.org by Tuesday noon.

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

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