



# NUUSLETTER

of the Unitarian Universalist Church of the Monterey Peninsula

April Theme: Grace

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

April 4

“The Grace of Ordinary Things”

Rev. Elaine Gehrmann & Micah Forstein

The holidays of Passover and Easter both celebrate liberation: finding new life after being enslaved or entombed. How might we celebrate new life in the familiar, find rejuvenation in the ordinary, and how might we discover resurrection and grace without leaving home?

April 11

“A Clumsy Person’s Guide to Grace”

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

It is a joy to watch a graceful dancer perform on stage. Beautiful, flowing movements seem effortless. Witnessing such grace is inspiring. The dancer makes it look easy. We want to get up and simply join in. But in the course of our rough and tumble lives grace often seems elusive. What is a clumsy person to do?



## Religious Exploration

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

April 18

“The Saving Grace of Humor”

Rev. Elaine Gehrmann & W.A. Natalie Fryberger

While there is much to be anxious about in our world, it is important to remember to take time to appreciate the humorous side of life – the joy that shared amusement can bring to our lives is not to be underestimated.

April 25

“Walking the Soul Back Home”

Ken Peterson, Brian Jacobson & W.A. Ray Krise

Nature has the power to heal – healing we’ve needed in abundance during the past 12 challenging months. Our seventh principle calls us to respect the interdependent web of existence, of which we are all a part. That interdependent web, in turn, nurtures us in so many ways, as we’ve discovered during a time of social isolation. How can we tap into experiences with nature that lift our spirits, whether we travel far afield or just explore our own homes and neighborhoods?

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## Ministers' Message

Rev. Axel Gehrman

### Breaking Ground by Lynn Ungar

Living in the violence of spring  
Living in a time  
where shells are cracking  
and shapes alter  
Who can afford to risk  
forgetting the danger  
forgetting the moment  
The crocus bulb breaks ground  
Never knowing whether  
snow or sun or ice  
awaits in warm or jagged welcome

There is no safety in  
this restless season  
Even the sheltering ground  
rejects its own,  
thrusting the life it held  
into the untrustworthy  
and insufficient care  
of air and weather

There are no choices here  
No careful path or  
reasoned way  
No holding in reserve for  
some more settled,  
more propitious time  
But only the unconsidered  
faith of the crocus  
whose saffron petals echo  
or demand the sun

It's been well over twenty years since my colleague Lynn Ungar wrote her poem. Its timeless themes strike me as strangely timely this year, as I watch intently and impatiently for signs of spring.

Here, on the Monterey Peninsula, we aren't likely to find crocuses. Among the lush weeds and colorful wildflowers appearing everywhere, my favorite is the lupine, with its bright purple blossoms poking out of big bushes and pointing to the sky. Beautiful.

This spring, more than most, I feel a pressing need for a



seasonal message of hope and growth and rebirth. Stories of miraculous resurrection and reincarnation, of descent into the underworld followed by a triumphant return to the earth, stories of resilience and the unimagined unfolding of new life, strike a chord.

Even though I don't generally believe in miracles, this year I find myself hoping for a miracle nevertheless. Part of me is praying for some sort of divine intervention, and that everything that has been challenging this past year could be suddenly resolved, and our world return to "normal."

But, of course, I know better. We can't turn the clock back. And, honestly, I don't really want to. We are living in extraordinary times. The world is changing all around us. Yes, we are grappling with unprecedented challenges. But we are also being presented with amazing opportunities.

This past year has provided abundant evidence of our capacity to rise to even the most daunting challenges, to persevere, and in so doing, reveal our collective resilience, drawing from spiritual resources we didn't know we had.

Yes, this year I feel a desperate need for Spring. Thank goodness for this season. Thank goodness for harbingers of hope, unfolding beautifully, wonderfully, and inevitably - arriving slowly but surely.

And thank goodness for this congregation, that remains a place of comfort and support, a place of challenge, inspiration, and learning. Thank goodness for this caring community we create together - a unique place of hope.



Whatever our favorite wildflower may be - whether lupine or crocus or poppy or daisy - may we each find signs of hope in the days ahead. Sharing our lives, our hopes and dreams, may we join together and help fulfill the promise of spring.

See you in (virtual) church,

*Axel*

## Life Enrichment

The 2021 Winter Life Enrichment booklet has been published online at [uucmp.org](http://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, April 10, 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 or Rev. Axel ([minister@uucmp.org](mailto:minister@uucmp.org)) know if you will attend.

Our Zoom Meeting ID is: 975 5961 1965. Passcode: 408070 You can join via phone (call 669-900-9128), or via computer - simply click on this link: <https://zoom.us/j/97559611965>

## 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, April 6, 7 p.m. via Zoom. See page 10.

**Board of Trustees** meets Wednesday, April 21, at 5:45 p.m. via Zoom.

**Buddhist Sangha** is every Wednesday at 7 p.m. via Zoom. See page 10.

**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, April 28, 5:30 p.m. via Zoom.

**Men’s Breakfast Group** meets Saturday, April 10, 8:30 a.m. via Zoom. See article to the left.

**Music Committee** meets Wednesday, April 7, 5:00 p.m. via Zoom.

**NUUsletter deadline** for the May issue is Friday, April 16.

**Program Council** is Tuesday, April 6, 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, April 14, 5:30 p.m. via Zoom.

**Social Justice** meets Sunday, April 4, 12:00 p.m., via Zoom.

**Stewardship** will meet Wednesday, April 7, 1 p.m. via Zoom.

**Women’s Discussion Group** meets April 8 and 22, 2 p.m. via Zoom. See page 14.

## President's Corner — Jon Czarnecki



### Open it up?

I gradually realized that something was *off* when I began the search of my accumulated sea of experience for writing this column, and found nothing; a calm, glassy ocean of emptiness had engulfed me. I had a blank piece of digital paper in front of me. No tempest of outrage. No ideational tsunami threatening to swamp my existence or more importantly here, the health of our congregation. The great Sword of Damocles hanging over each of us, COVID, is in retreat; the old cretinous, craven and corrupt president that tormented our country is now gone to where the goblins go, below to Mar-a-Lago. Normalcy, or as close as we have experienced in over a year, beckons.



Welcoming entryway

So, in this joyfully vacuous state, I share with you the Board's decision to re-charge the Re-opening Task Force to begin the necessarily protracted process of exploring how to best and most safely reopen our beloved church to physical worship. The process will take months; we must all remember that our deadly virus companion has not left; it lurks waiting to pounce on our pent-up exuberance and desire to commune in person. But we have faith and hope that it will happen.



Sharing a meal together

April can be the cruelest month for poets and playwrights; it can also be the brightest and most fragrant with burgeoning life. Let us embrace the latter with the humanness and reason that mark our faith. Stay tuned for Task Force updates in our weekly and monthly newsletters.

As transformed astronaut Dave from *2010: The Year We Made Contact* would tell HAL-8000, we are about to experience "something wonderful." It will just take a little time.

Peace be with you.

Jon



The doves await our return.



## A Message from the Intern

When I was a child, if I asked my father what kind of bird we were looking at, he would answer, "It's an Oregon junco." It didn't take me long to figure out that he was pulling my leg. I remember a camping trip when I was 12 years old, I said to him, "No, Dad, I think that's a Steller's Jay!" He replied, barely glancing up, a smile dancing around his eyes, "It's an Oregon junco." Such was Dad's sense of humor.

Of course, there really are birds called Oregon juncos. A subspecies of dark eyed junco, these little sparrows are somber in black and dark brown, except for the white streaks in their tails that flash when they fly. They are ordinary, everyday birds that nonetheless always make me think of my father.

You can imagine my delight in finding that Oregon juncos are year-round residents of 490 Aguajito Road and the surrounding area. I greet these little birds like neighbors



every time I go out for a walk. I wonder if they think of me as a neighbor, too. Sometimes it seems like they seek me out, to say hello and lift my spirits. They probably just think of me as a thing to avoid. No matter. They are dear to me, because they remind of the everyday grace of ordinary things, the grace that lifts me out of my pressing concerns, the grace that makes me pause for a moment to take in the beauty that hides right in the open, right in front of me.

In her poem "Ah," Corlene Van Sluizer says:

I want to find joy  
In each moment  
Something good to say  
About the smallest thing.

These juncos remind me to do just that.

It is all too easy to get caught up in the concerns of our daily life. In the midst of it all, may you find grace in the brilliant, ordinary things of spring. May you find joy in the smallest, commonest thing. May you find moments that make you say, "ah!," moments that alert you to the beauty hidden right in front of you each day. And may *they* find *you*, too.

Yours in Faith,  
Susan

## UUCMP Annual Meeting Coming Up

On Sunday, May 2, 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 exercise of the democratic process, as we elect new Trustees and approve the 2021 – 2022 operating budget. Please watch for 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 2021 Annual Report, which you will find on our church website at the end of April.



## RELIGIOUS EXPLORATION



### Grace Under Pressure

I was talking with Micah the other day about something or other, and he mentioned that I was a shining example of “grace under pressure.” What a fascinating term! I might say it differently, maybe procrastination with style. I think I might have even perfected this form of art. Here are some tips on how to do this:

1. Start with the idea of a calendar, it doesn't have to be an actual calendar, it could be just a general knowledge of the year and that an event or project is coming up sometime in the future.
2. Let the idea of that specific event or project swirl about in your mind. Give it space to breathe. Make a mental note to remember to make an actual list of ideas and steps that need to be taken.
3. Go ahead and make that list on your iPad's notes app.
4. Congratulations! You are practically done! All is well! All is good! Now on to other things in life. Don't forget to make lots and lots of other entries into your notes app, pushing the first list farther and farther down the visible page of notes until it disappears from view. Really. This is an important step!
5. Notice on your real actual calendar, or perhaps in an email, or something comes up in conversation and BOOM! You are suddenly

reminded that something is due in just 2 days!!

6. Now is the time to show the grace under pressure, or the procrastination with style. One might think that just because you weren't working on a specific project, it wasn't being processed. That is just not true! You were processing it in your sleep, letting it percolate a bit, remembering it from time to time when you were busy and in the middle of other things like driving, practicing your violin, or battling dragons. Feel that welcome wash of adrenaline surge through your blood as you search for a quiet place in your office/classroom/pet sanctuary/playground that used to simply be just home.

7. Pick up your pencil or turn on your computer.

8. Let the ideas flow like fresh crystal-clear spring water, bubbling down the mountainside of your mind, to rest peacefully and content on your finished document.

9. Turn in the document with a dazzling smile and a wink.

And here you have it! Just 9 easy steps on perfecting Grace Under Pressure, or Procrastination With Style. There were no tears. Maybe a little sweat, but we can pretend there wasn't. The project was completed without one hair out of place, makeup immaculate, and not one wrinkle in your dress. (And while maybe you were still in your pajamas with your hair in a messy bun, the world at large just doesn't need to know this.)

Erin Forstein  
Director of Religious Exploration





# UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST MINISTRY FOR EARTH

*Respect Life. Restore Earth. Renew Spirit.*

## April Shared Plate Recipient

### *Unitarian Universalist Ministry for Earth*

The mission of the UU Ministry for Earth is to be a wellspring of spiritual and educational grounding and practical support for bold, accountable action for environmental justice, climate justice, and the flourishing of all life.

Their vision is a world in which reverence, gratitude, and care for each other and for the living Earth are central to the lives of all people.



Their values are grounded in faith and spirituality. They affirm and promote the seven principles of Unitarian Universalism as well as the proposed 8th principle of Unitarian Universalism, and they understand climate justice to be a moral imperative.

This ministry is grounded in environmental justice. They affirm and promote the framework of race- and class-informed environmental justice and strive to center the leadership and needs of

frontline communities. They are grounded in partnership and collective action, and know that individual consumption choices are not enough; it is only through partnership and collective action that we can save our biosphere.

The website: [www.uumfe.org](http://www.uumfe.org) lists action resources and activist circles such as Create Climate Justice, the UU Climate Action Network, and more. These circles provide connections to coalitions and campaigns from pipelines to plastics. Check out their calendar for actions that interest you. The UU Ministry for Earth works closely with our UU Justice Ministry of California and



our UU Service Committee.

Please donate generously to this worthy group by sending a check to UUCMP with UUMFE in the memo line, or donate on the UUCMP website noting UUMFE. Thank you.

### Communications Committee

Some say there are many people around us who are UU's but don't know it yet. Are you interested in helping UUCMP to reach out to our neighbors? In our online presence, media contacts, signs and banners? Or helping with meetings on this wide-open topic? The *Communications Committee* might be a good spot for you! Contact Karen Brown, [karenb1115@yahoo.com](mailto:karenb1115@yahoo.com), 917-2042, or just stay on after church on the third Sunday to sample a one-hour monthly meeting.



## Join Our Church!

Even in these pandemic times - especially, in this time - 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 April. 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 14.

**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 April. Contact: John Freeman for any questions.

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

### THE MISSION STATEMENT OF THE UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CHURCH OF THE MONTE- REY 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.

# Musical Offerings

Come check out the fun and exciting activities from our music department.

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.** In March 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 Thursday from 3:30-4:00 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 the **2nd Wednesday of the month from 5:30-7:00 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.

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





## UUCMP Growing Stronger Together Finale?

What you pledge determines what we can do as a community. The final Operating Fund figures are not yet complete, but we have had a good pledge drive for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2021. You will vote on a budget based on pledges at the Annual Congregational Meeting on May 2.

Thank you to everyone who has pledged. We are waiting for another couple dozen folks who usually pledge but have not pledged this time. It is never too late to pledge. Pledges let us plan what we can do.

Pledging online is remarkably easy: click on **DONATE** on the website's opening page and then scroll down to the pledging paragraph. Or you can simply mail in your pledge card to the UUCMP office. As of this writing, thirty-three of you had pledged online. If you have misplaced your pledge card and want to pledge by mail, please tell Konny Murray by phone message or text (831-595-7853). She will send you another.

Stewards report that many of you are wishing to be able to return to our church property for worship and other gatherings. So are the stewards. So is your Stewardship Committee. There is a task force

currently working on how and when we can reopen safely.

Thanks are in order for the hardworking stewards: Celia Barbarena, Simona Bartl, Carl Christensen, Carol Collin, Jon Czarnecki, Warren Finch, Fran Gaver, Rev. Axel Gehrmann, Peggy Hansen, Sarah Hardgrave, Gretchen Hausmann, Lee Hulquist, Ann Jacobson, Lauren Keenan, Maren Martin, Mibs McCarthy, Gregg McKee, Konny Murray, Harry Nagel, Susan Panttaja, Don Reynolds, Bob Sadler, Sharon Sadler, Darold Skerritt, and Gale Weir (it takes a village). They report enjoying conversations with you. And they wish that everyone who has not soon makes a pledge!

When we can meet again at church, the Stewardship Committee plans to sponsor a celebratory lunch to honor our generosity and our return to "in person" community.

Your Stewardship Committee: Konny Murray, Chair; Carol Collin, Fran Gaver, Gretchen Hausmann, Steve Johnson, Judy Lind, Harry Nagel, Jo Ann Novoson, with ministerial support from Rev. Axel Gehrmann and Intern Susan Panttaja



### Unitarian Universalist Church of the Monterey Peninsula Virtual Service Auction - 2021

Kick-off April 25, 12 noon  
Online Auction April 25 - May 1  
Grand Finale: May 1

To donate, bid, or otherwise participate, see pages 14, 15 & 16.

## Environmental Justice Group

“Sustainability means living within the ecological limits of the Earth’s ability to regenerate, meeting the needs of the present without compromising the needs of future generations. Pollution, overconsumption, poverty, escalating inequality, habitat loss and biodiversity decline, and climate change all make our current global society fundamentally unsustainable.” – from the UU Ministry for Earth

The 7<sup>th</sup> principle of Unitarian Universalism, “Respect for the interdependent web of all existence of which we are a part,” reminds us that our actions have an impact far beyond the people and places we interact with directly. Respect for the interdependent web is demonstrated through making choices in our daily lives that minimize our impacts and share resources equitably. As Rev. Forrest Gilmore says, “Our seventh Principle, respect for the interdependent web of all existence, is a glorious statement. Yet we make a profound mistake when we limit it to merely an environmental idea. It is so much more. It is our response to the great dangers of both individualism and oppression. It is our solution to the seeming conflict between the individual and the group.”

Creating a sustainable way of life for all means making large-scale changes at many levels: individual, local communities and institutions, and national/international. Yet even small, everyday steps we take in our homes and churches have a significant impact.

We are fortunate that our neighbors at Communities for Sustainable Monterey County (CSMC) have created a checklist which we can all use to help us improve our sustainability awareness. The checklist categorizes the areas for potential improvement in our homes into seven topics: electricity, natural gas, gasoline, plastic, water, food waste and consumer items. Additionally, there are three categories for thinking about what we do outside our homes.



We each take steps now to reduce our carbon footprint in our daily lives: whether it is using fewer plastic bags, turning down the thermostat in our homes or buying locally produced organic food. By using the CSMC Earth-friendly Households Checklist we can increase the impact of our environmental awareness in our homes.

You can download the Earth-friendly Households checklist from the CSMC website. <http://www.sustainablemontereycounty.org/join-us-as-an-earth-friendly-household/>. While there you will also find the groups in your town who are addressing local and regional issues of sustainability. Check it out. We can make a difference, even during the pandemic quarantine.

What steps do you take to make your home more Earth friendly? Let us know by email: contact [environmental-justice@uucmp.org](mailto:environmental-justice@uucmp.org).

The Environmental Justice group meets twice a month. For more information, please visit [www.UUCMP.org/justice-overview/social-justice/](http://www.UUCMP.org/justice-overview/social-justice/)

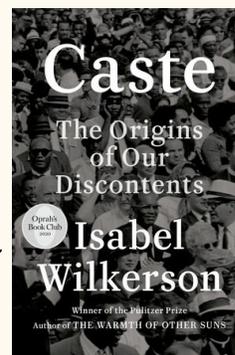
To participate, contact [environmental-justice@uucmp.org](mailto:environmental-justice@uucmp.org).



## 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.



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](mailto: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. and Thursday at  
5:30 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

## UU's Got Talent

We all have talent! Want to show yours? Cooking, singing, dance moves, magic, comedy, gymnastics, recitation, or whatever.

A talent show will be part of the grand finale of the 2021 virtual service auction on May 1.

Interested? Let us know by April 5.

Send in your home video (suggested 3 minute max) by April 19.

Kateyrae and Karen Brown  
[karenb1115@yahoo.com](mailto:karenb1115@yahoo.com) 831-917-2042



## 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 March:

On April 8th, Stella Perea will lead our discussion of “My Obituary: How I Want to Be Remembered.”

On April 22<sup>nd</sup>, Maureen Brinkerhoff will lead our discussion of “Understanding Mental Illness.”

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

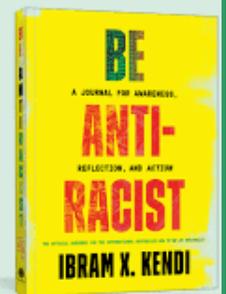
—Nancy Baker Jacobs, Facilitator

## “Be Antiracist” Working Group

The anti-racism working group will be using the workbook *Be Antiracist* by Ibram X. Kendi. 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](mailto:rev.elaine@uucmp.org)



# SOCIAL JUSTICE



## COPA Happenings



Hi Everyone,

I am happy to bring you COPA news and updates this month. Our UUCMP COPA core team has been hard at work. Our core team includes Co-Chairs Laura Nagel and Elizabeth Granado, Lauren Keenan, Rev. Craig Scott, Karen Judkins, Rev. Elaine Gehrmann, Mibs McCarthy, and our ministerial intern Susan Pantajja. Here are some of the things we've been up to. You can also click on the link for a video update on COPA happenings this past month.

### Listening Sessions with Wendy Root Askew and Monterey County officials

- ◆ On February 17th and March 3rd many of the COPA member institutions gathered via Zoom and held a house meeting with over 100 people from around the county. Most importantly we had over 20 county officials in attendance.
- ◆ During our meeting we split up into small groups of 5 people, each with one county official. Our point was to help inform the board of supervisors and other appointed officials by sharing stories of how COVID-19 has affected each of our lives.
- ◆ UUCMP core team members have all been trained on how to facilitate house meetings so each of us was a group facilitator. Since all COPA events are bilingual we also had a translator in each of our groups to help with interpretation.
- ◆ A large event like this takes a lot of organization so our core team attended several planning meetings. Laura and Elizabeth were part of the logistics team. We helped gather group facilitators and all the interpreters. We also work behind the scenes

during the meeting spotlighting speakers, muting, managing comments, admitting participants, preparing the group leaders and interpreters as well as the officials. Laura was also part of the agenda team.

- ◆ Events like these are hard work, but we are making our appointed officials listen to our stories. It is especially necessary for officials to listen to the stories of Monterey County's farmworker and undocumented population. Many of these essential workers have made sure we are all provided with food in our homes during COVID. They have helped to keep each of us safe but yet they are also the ones with the greatest need.



Wendy Root Askew

We would love to share some of these stories with you. We also want to share our core team's personal reactions and experience to the listening sessions. Video link [HERE](#).

Elizabeth Granado  
Co-Chair, COPA Core Team

## “Hope Springs Eternal” at our ANNUAL UUCMP AUCTION, DETAILS!

We now have a virtual auction site, and we need YOUR DONATIONS to make our garden of giving bloom.



\*It's up to you **HOW** you want to donate. Use the donation form, last page of this newsletter, and email or mail it to church. OR skip the paperwork and donate online at [charityauction.bid/uucmp2021](http://charityauction.bid/uucmp2021). OR you can call Steve “Catalog Guy” Johnson at [jhnsn@att.net](mailto:jhnsn@att.net) or 831 402-7601 with the details about your donated item(s.)

\***WHAT** can you donate? Just about anything – your best pie, a geology talk-and-walk, a dog grooming, a dinner, a ride in your best friend's sailboat, etc. If you have **IDEAS** about what you hope other people will donate, drop your hint [here](#).

\***WHEN** to donate? **NOW** would be good, or sometime soon. The catalog will be available for your review around April 15,

\* **WHO** can donate or bid or just observe the virtual auction? Anyone who is registered in the auction database. Go to [charityauction.bid/uucmp2021](http://charityauction.bid/uucmp2021) and click on register. Try it now. If you have challenges or questions, contact Steve Johnson or Fred Hamilton. Remember that you can still participate, even if you have technology concerns. You can donate by calling or mailing in the donation, and you can have someone else bid for you.

\***WHY** donate? So we can share our talents, build our community, and raise some money for the church. We've got a goal of \$15,000.00 – that sounds like a lot, but we've raised that amount before.

\*Will it be **FUN**, even if you don't donate or bid

a lot? Heck yeah! There will a **TALENT SHOW** on **the evening of May 1** via Zoom evening gathering showcasing some of our **great UUCMP talent**. The evening event will include a **live auction** of a **few items**, the end of the **silent auction**, and some **great door prizes**. All who attend the talent show/live auction are entered to win the door prizes.

Next steps:

Contact KAREN BROWN , [karen-b1115@yahoo.com](mailto:karen-b1115@yahoo.com) or 831-917-2042, by April 5 to participate in the **TALENT SHOW**. Provide a **VIDEO** of your talent (suggested 3 minute maximum) to her by April 19.

**DONATE** your items or services. Contact STEVE JOHNSON if you want help entering your donations into the catalog. Contact KAREN ARAUJO, [karaujo93901@gmail.com](mailto:karaujo93901@gmail.com) or 831-601-4564, if you want ideas of what to donate. Don't let **DELIVERY** be an obstacle – we can help get your donation to the winner.

**SAVE THE DATES** to participate in the fun; the silent auction begins after church on **April 25**. Bid the “buy now” price, or just outbid your neighbors, a bit at a time. The Talent Show/Live Auction is on **May 1**. You can also ask **someone to bid for you** in the auction.

We're looking forward to sharing some fun time with each other, virtually, rejoicing in the variety of talents we have in UUCMP, and raising some money to support the great things UUCMP does.

**Questions?** Not sure if you understand the **technology?** Talk to Fred Hamilton, [fred@yonkitime.com](mailto:fred@yonkitime.com) or 831-241-2224. Want to **volunteer**, generally? Talk to Lauren Keenan, [bill.lauren.keenan@gmail.com](mailto:bill.lauren.keenan@gmail.com), 831-595-8295.

It's going to be **fun** – be part of it!



# Hope Springs Eternal Auction Donation form

<b>ITEM TITLE</b>	
<b>ITEM DESCRIPTION</b> (if this is an event, include date(s), time(s) and location)	
<b>QUANTITY</b> (for instance, number of seats)	<b>MARKET VALUE</b> (per each item, if more than one)
<b>MAY QUANTITY BE INCREASED if demand is high?</b> Circle one: YES* / NO (*Upper limit into Notes)	<b>CAN YOU PROVIDE A DIGITAL PHOTO OR IMAGE?</b> Circle one: YES* / NO (*Expect email contact)
<b>SPECIAL TERMS AND CONDITIONS, AND/OR NOTES</b>	
<b>UUCMP REPRESENTATIVE WHO REQUESTED DONATION</b> (if any)	
<b>DONOR NAME(S)</b>	
<b>CONTACT PERSON</b> (if different, or if there are multiple donors)	
<b>MY ADDRESS AND CONTACT INFO IS CURRENT IN THE UUCMP DIRECTORY, FALL 2020</b> Circle one: YES / NO / NOT SURE IF "NO" OR UNCERTAIN, PLEASE COMPLETE <u>-ALL OF THE FOLLOWING:</u>	
<b>ADDRESS</b> (street or P.O. Box)	
<b>CITY, STATE/PROVICE AND ZIP/POSTAL CODE</b>	
<b>TELEPHONE</b>	<b>EMAIL ADDRESS</b>
<b>BUSINESS WEBSITE</b> (if any)	

Return completed form **before April 5, 2021** by (a) scanned image, via email to: [admin@uucmp.org](mailto:admin@uucmp.org)  
OR (b) U.S. mail to: UUCMP, Attn: Auction 2021, 490 Aguajito Rd, Carmel, CA 93923

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

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Closed for April.  
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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](mailto:office@uucmp.org)