



# NUUSLETTER

of the Unitarian Universalist Church of the Monterey Peninsula

May Theme: Union

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

May 2

“Circles of Synergy”

(Followed by Annual Meeting at 12 noon)

Rev. Elaine Gehrmann & W.A. Ann Jacobson

This morning we will consider the many ways we combine our unique gifts and our common efforts, to create circles of synergy that ripple out into the world. We will also welcome our new members who have joined in the past year. Following the service will be our Annual Meeting.

May 9

”Saving Our Souls ”

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

Throughout these trying times, coping with COVID 19 has affected our lives on many different levels—whether medical, psychological, social, or political. We have needed to adjust our routines and attend to important practical matters of the world around us. However, our survival also depends on spiritual matters, on the world within us - the health of our souls.

May 16

“Love of Pets, Blessing of Animals ”

Susan Panttaja & W.A. Kathleen Craig

For many of us, life would not be complete without animal companions, be they pampered fur persons, beloved feather babies or fish, devoted therapy and service animals, or the wild critters who frequent your yard. Today we will celebrate the blessings of “all creatures great and small.”

## Religious Exploration

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

May 23

“The Journey of Our Lives”

Rev. Axel Gehrmann & Erin Forstein

What a journey this past year has been! In this religious community that spans all ages, we have all learned a lot, and each of us has grown one year older. This morning we will be recalling the past and looking to the future, as we celebrate this year’s Religious Exploration program: the children, youth, and adults who have participated. We will also be honoring those among us who are graduating from high school this year in a Bridging Ceremony.

May 30

“Our Lives Flow On in Endless Song”

Camille Hatton, Music Director, and Susan Panttaja, Intern Minister

Music has a way of drawing us into collaboration. We find ourselves singing or humming along, tapping out the rhythm, or moving our bodies together, in a collective response. While we can’t yet gather in one place, we can make music together, unified by rhythm and melody. On this Music Sunday service, you are encouraged to join in! Bring your own homemade/ found percussion instruments and a spirit of participation. Let’s all take part in the flow of endless song!

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## Ministers' Message

Rev. Elaine Gehrman

Governor Newsom announced that as of June 15, California businesses “can return to usual operations with common-sense risk reduction measures.”

So, when can we come back to church? This is a question on many of our minds, and the answers at this point are unclear —“We don’t know . . .” “It’s complicated . . .” “There are a lot of factors to consider . . .” These answers are not very satisfying and yet they are true. What are the particular “common sense risk reduction measures” we need to implement? And what would church gatherings look like . . . as we practice appropriate masking, distancing, disinfecting, vaccinating and more? How can we ensure that everyone is welcome AND everyone is safe?

The Unitarian Universalist Association urges congregations “to move slowly, with caution and our deepest values at the center . . . to move with care and humility, and a willingness to reverse course if things aren’t working, or if the virus resurges.”

Our Reopening Task Force is working hard to consider all of the safety issues involved. We are looking at possible ways to improve our ventilation, to establish safe numerical protocols for gathering, to ensure adequate cleaning, and more. It is very likely that small groups will be able to gather at church before larger groups, and that we will need some sort of reservation system for Sunday mornings. We will still need to wear masks and physically distance, and we don’t know yet about the safety of congregational singing, children’s RE classes, or coffee hour, or potlucks, or hugs.

Some people have wondered if we can’t hold worship outside on the concrete foundation, and yet the setup logistics (and accessibility and amplification and projection issues) all make it seem pretty impractical and inadequate.

We know that some of our members have not been able or interested to participate in our virtual worship services, and we know many of them are anxious to gather in person again. We have also heard from members and friends who say they enjoy not having to leave their house (or even get dressed) in order to experience our virtual worship. How can we design

our activities so that they best address our diverse needs and desires? Your ministers (Elaine, Axel & Susan) are considering various scenarios, transitional phases and timelines, but there are still too many uncertainties to set any firm plans or dates, but you can rest assured there are many conversations happening behind the scenes.

We miss being together, and yet there are still risks involved. Many of us are vaccinated, but not all of us. Vaccinations greatly reduce the risks but do not eliminate them. Most children will not be vaccinated for some time. Every scenario we try to envision for gathering together again involves benefits for some and risks for others. None of these decisions should be made too quickly or too thoughtlessly, there is too much at stake.

UUA President Rev. Susan Frederick-Gray highlighted four principles in planning re-gathering in her April 15 letter to UU congregations (<https://www.uua.org/pressroom/press-releases/planning-multiplatform>):

- 1) As a faith community, we root our decisions in the values of inclusion and consent.
- 2) Follow the science.
- 3) Go slow and be flexible.
- 4) Be humane and realistic with expectations of ourselves and others.

We miss you, and we want to see you, and we want you to be safe and healthy. And there’s a lot we don’t know, and it’s complicated, and there are a lot of factors to consider. Please know that we are working on knowing more, and addressing complications, and considering many factors, and we will let you know more as we know more.

Please share with us your thoughts, your concerns, your questions, and your suggestions. You can reach us by phone or email, and we will be sure to include your thoughts in our many conversations on these issues.

See you in church?

*Elaine*

## Life Enrichment

The 2021 Spring 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, May 8, 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, May 4, 7 p.m. via Zoom. See page 10.

**Board of Trustees** meets Wednesday, May 19, 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, May 26, 5:30 p.m. via Zoom.

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

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

**NUUsletter deadline** for the June issue is Sunday, May 16.

**Program Council** is Tuesday, May 4, 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, May 12, 5:30 p.m. via Zoom.

**Social Justice** will not meet in May.

**Stewardship** will meet Wednesday May 5, 1 p.m. via Zoom.

**Women’s Discussion Group** meets May 13 and 27, 2 p.m. via Zoom. See page 14.

**Zumba** meets Tuesdays at 5:00 p.m. and Thursdays at 5:30 p.m. via Zoom.

## President's Corner — Jon Czarnecki



### Budget!

Our church is blessed with a wonderful group of people who work together as the Board of Trustees. I write these words not to extol an organization of which I am president, but to invite you, dear congregants, to appreciate the work they do on behalf of our church. They have now presented you with the most important document of the church year, our annual budget. In itself, the budget is a remarkable accomplishment of the Finance Committee and Friends, ably chaired by Robert Brunson. Robert and his friends passed the budget to the board for review, discussion, and a vote to commend it to you, our beloved community.

Some of you will take one look at this technical document, have eyes glazed over, and say "Fine. If you say it's OK, then it's OK with me." I do hope that at least some of you will do more than glance at it and see it for what it is: a Budget of Hope, a Budget of Dreams becoming Vision becoming Reality. We are growing, which is far more than just surviving. We are following our mission, providing opportunities to change ourselves as we go about the difficult unending work of changing the world. We are following our vision, visible and active in our community, laughing and learning as a sanctuary of love. Personally, I truly love that phrase, a sanctuary of



love. It expresses a place that is within the physical space of 490 Aguajito and within each individual and all of our collective hearts. According to our budget, that place is going to grow some 8 percent in the coming year, mostly because of our increased pledging during the recent canvass. In an era of reduced church participation across America, that growth really does say something worth crowing about.

If you do read the budget, you will learn how our church works, especially the seemingly autonomic system that keeps the lights on (or perhaps nowadays, keeps the Zoom sessions up), and our worship lively and relevant. You will learn that though there is no such thing as a free lunch, we at UUCMP have one of the most efficient and benevolent churches around. And please keep in mind that we do this all ourselves; there are no higher church organizations that provide us funds. We are our community.



I have spent this much time writing about our budget because too often we have the perfectly human tendency to brush off numbers as . . . too detailed. We tend to forget that budgets are merely numerical expressions of what we aspire and want to do with ourselves and our communities. When you vote on this document at the annual meeting in May, please remember that.

Peace be with you.

Jon



## A Message from the Intern

Perhaps the one activity I have missed the most during the pandemic is singing with others. I love the whole-body sensation of voices joined in song, especially when the vocal blend is just right. I have many memories of interwoven harmonies forming a river of music, that lifted and carried me. Those experiences felt sacred. More recently, before the pandemic prevented such things, I sang folk music with a couple of friends. We call ourselves “Stone Soup” because each of our contributions make our combined music richer. (You remember the story of the traveler who offers to create soup from only a stone and water, but invites the townspeople to contribute a bit of something they have to season it *just right*. The result is a yummy, convivial meal.) I miss our jam sessions, where we often share more laughter than music! I am looking forward to getting my final “jab” so I can venture out to sing with them again.

Although we are moving toward a day when we can meet in person, the coronavirus will still be with us. Caution is and will continue to

be the word of the day, as we remain united in our commitment to protect one another’s health. I am grateful to all of you for your patience as we assess how to resume in-person worship safely.

Meanwhile, we maintain our congregation virtually, in many ways. Sunday services foster that connection, through wise words, stories, post-worship conversation, and song. If my camera were on during worship, you would see me singing along with every hymn. I do this without fail, adding my voice to those of our song leaders, community choir, and children’s choir. I hope you do, too! I hope you experience that beautiful feeling of blended sound that both fills and surrounds you, the feeling you get from being one among a rich chorus of many voices.

During the Music Sunday service on May 30, we will celebrate the experience of sharing music together. I hope you will join in as we create uplifting and unifying sound from wherever we are. Like a good stone soup, we jointly create a delicious mix to nourish us, body and soul!

Yours in Faith,

Susan

## Virtual Blessing of the Animals!

On May 16, our worship service will include a virtual blessing of the animals and an animal parade! Please email photos of the beloved pets or other animals in your life to Susan Panttaja, [intern@uucmp.org](mailto:intern@uucmp.org). In your email,

please include your pet's name and age. You are welcome to include beloved pets who are no longer with us. Please submit your photos by Sunday, May 9.



## Recap on the Proposed Next Phase of Construction at UUCMP



In January of 2020, we had a Town Hall meeting, to discuss the possible directions of the next phase of construction at our campus, **as part of our Strategic Planning process.** After much discussion of the two proposals put forth by the Building Options Committee (BOC), our membership enthusiastically discussed a new hybrid suggestion, which was dubbed, 'The Sanctuary Plus.' The hybrid plan was roughly described as follows: Construct the full Sanctuary as envisioned in the Sanctuary First concept, and go ahead and complete the external walls and roof for both upper and lower levels at the same time. This would include an elevator, the required restrooms, a comfort room and nursery, mostly as originally laid out in the original 2003 plan. The BOC later met to fine-tune a cost estimate for this Sanctuary Plus approach with detailed input and numbers from the architects. The congregation also seemed to support considering a mortgage-type loan, to cover part of the construction costs.

After much review, research, and pencil sharpening, it was determined that The Sanctuary Plus proposal, could likely be completed (at current costs), for around \$2.99 million.

This proposal was well received, when presented to the Board of Trustees on April 15, 2020. **A full report was presented in the UUCMP Annual Report and a brief summary presented at the Annual Meeting on May 3, 2020, was again well-received.** Of course, by then, we were in full lockdown by the pandemic, and it became clear that our plans would need to be tabled for the time being.

At this current time, many of us are beginning to see a glint of light at the end of the Covid Tunnel. We are very much looking forward to continuing on with the planning process. In the meantime, the board, the BOC, our fundraising adviser Kay Crider, and architects Safwat Malik and Ken Turgen, are on standby, anxious to get the process rolling again. **The next step would be a feasibility study to determine the amount of money we can expect to raise from our membership. We are pleased that primarily because of some generous bequests, our current capital account has over \$500,000 already. Stay tuned for future developments! Questions? Contact members of the Building Options Committee—Steve Johnson, Kent Weinstein, Ken Turgen or Rev. Elaine.**

— Kent Weinstein

## UUCMP Annual Meeting

On Sunday, May 2, at 12 noon, 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, approve the 2021 – 2022 operating budget, and consider adopting the 8th principle. The 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.



## RELIGIOUS EXPLORATION



### Union

Hello, my wonderful RE family, and all of our fabulous friends throughout the church! The year has somehow made it back to May, and while I'm not quite sure how we managed to get here, (and so quickly!) I am so pleased that we did.

May is the month of RE Sunday, the day we celebrate *Everything RE!* Our families have worked so hard this year getting their children to their RE classes, taking pictures and videos for the different multigenerational services we put together, and for the chalice lighting. Our families have also become teachers as they worked so tirelessly helping their children do schoolwork from home, as many of them also had their own jobs. I can relate. While I am thrilled with the flexibility that comes with a 20-hour work week, it's not always just 20 . . . Add in the job of Learning Coach to my youngest and the normal job of helping to take care of our property, life is seriously a balancing act. I imagine that a lot of families right now are feeling quite the same way.

However, regardless of the balancing and juggling, spinning plates on poles as we tiptoe across the high wire, life seems pretty good. Before this past year, Micah would leave for work around 5:30am for a 2 hour commute up to Fremont, and I would leave with the children no later than 7:10am in order to drop everyone off at school on time, as my commute down to PG would take close to an hour. If Monterey Bay Charter School wasn't the most excellent Waldorf charter school I would not have done that.

But it was, so I did. Micah and I drove a lot, and didn't see each other much during the week, as he would regularly get home after I had gone to bed. Now though, we have coffee together every morning. We have come together in a way that I didn't think would happen until the elusive retirement. While we are juggling more, it has been worth it. I would rather juggle a few more things (like three simultaneous zoom meetings in our house for work and school), and then be able to come back together for meals, or to take a hike down to the mailbox, or give and receive a hug while passing in the hallway. Those little things are just so beautiful.

So, take a moment, if you will, and think back on this past year. Have your struggles and amazing acts of juggling been worth it? Have you spent this past year with children that in normal times would have spent the majority of the day in a classroom, and then possibly be carted to different extracurricular activities? For many of us, this is not a "lost year." For many of us, it has been a year of union, of family. And yes, with that came the crazy circus show that working parents and virtual learning created. I also know that not every family has been so lucky. Many have lost loved ones. Many have lost jobs. Many have lost homes. Remember this. And if you are one of the lucky ones that just has to deal with the crazy home circus, be as grateful as I am. Hold your loved ones close. Celebrate them. Love them. Time is short.

"It's the same story the crow told me, it's the only one he knows.

Like the morning sun you come, and like the wind you go.

Ain't no time to hate. Barely time to wait. Woah-oh, what I want to know, where does the time go?"

-Garcia/Hunter

*Uncle John's Band*

Erin Forstein

Director of Religious Exploration



## May Shared Plate Recipient

### *Home Match Monterey (Covia)*

**Share your home, find your home with Home Match!** Home Match connects people with available rooms in their homes (homeowners and renters are welcome!) with people seeking affordable housing. Those with homes benefit from extra income, companionship, or even help around the house. Those who live, work, or study in Monterey County are able to find affordable homes in the community they love. Our thorough process - background checks, interviews, references, assistance with a Living Together Agreements - continues even after moving in with mediation and counseling to ensure a compatible arrangement for all parties. We are a free service!



Meet our first match in Monterey,  
Omaira and Marianne

During our first match in Monterey County, 72-year-old Marianne could not have imagined that her surgery for bone cancer would result in losing her housing. Prior to surgery, Marianne needed a stair lift to reach her second-floor bedroom. When her landlord threatened to remove the lift, Marianne was forced to

leave her home. Relying on Social Security for income, however, Marianne was soon shocked by the increasingly expensive rentals in Monterey County. Reluctant to leave her long-time community, Marianne's last resort was moving in with her brother in Florida.

That's when Marianne found Home Match Monterey. She felt safe in her interactions with Doris Beckman, Program Manager, and appreciated the program's professionalism and diligence. Doris introduced Marianne to Omaira, a 77-year-old retired caretaker and homeowner in Seaside. Omaira, also on a fixed income of Social Security, joined Home Match so she could afford to stay in her home of 25 years, which needed critical repairs. Now, Marianne and Omaira—plus Angel, the cat!—are happily sharing the mutual security that home-sharing has provided them.

For more information, contact Doris Beckman at 831-760-5529, by email at [DBeckman@covia.org](mailto:DBeckman@covia.org), or visit Home Match's website for more information: <http://www.covia.org/services/home-match> or [click here](#) to see the list of currently available rooms.

Please donate generously to this worthy organization. To donate, mail a check made out to UUCMP with *Covia* in the memo line. You can also donate on the UUCMP website designating *Covia* in the memo. Or you can use the text giving outlined on page 13.

# 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 May 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!



Song leaders Mibs McCarthy and Laura Nagel

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 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.**



Camille Hatton rocking it on!

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.



Joanna Wallfish

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 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 May. 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 May. Contact: John Freeman for any questions.

**Dances of Universal Peace**  
Will not meet in May. 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.

## Environmental Justice Group

“Biodiversity is all the different kinds of life you’ll find in one area—the variety of animals, plants, fungi, and even microorganisms like bacteria that make up our natural world.” – World Wildlife Fund

In any given area, a broad variety of critters work together in an intricate balance to support each other. That description reminds us of the interdependent web of life named in our 7<sup>th</sup> Principle! The loss of any species impacts the entire web of life, and thus, we need to protect and encourage biodiversity.

In 2019, the UU Ministry for Earth issued a “call to arts” before the UUA General Assembly in Spokane, WA, to call attention to the loss of species (the “Anthropocene Extinction”) occurring largely as a result of pollution, climate change, and habitat loss. They invited congregations to create representational art for a Procession of the Species. You can see photos from that procession on the UUMFE’s website: <https://www.uumfe.org/2019/07/02/climate-justice-highlights-from-general-assembly-2019/>. This year, because GA will be held virtually, the Procession of Species will also be virtual. We are invited to create a **Biodiversity/Endangered Species Art Project** that will be part of the procession.

The Environmental Justice group and our Religious Exploration program are joining forces to create an art piece about **California sea otters** (*Enhydra lutris nereis*). Sea otters are essential for maintaining the healthy and biodiverse ecosystem of the Monterey Bay. Although there are healthy populations here, they are considered endangered because of their limited range and proximity to humans.

**The whole congregation is welcome to participate!** We invite everyone to create a sea otter for our grand sea otter “raft” (the term for a group of otters resting together). First, each

person will make an otter. The RE children will be making theirs out of Play Doh, but you can use any medium you like. Then take



a photo of your otter and send it to [intern@uucmp.org](mailto:intern@uucmp.org). Photos are due on June 4. We will then create a photomosaic of our otters that will be included in the Procession of Species at UUA General Assembly, June 23 -27 (specific date and time TBA). If you enjoy graphic design, we welcome help with creating the photomosaic.

### **Come join in our UUCMP sea otter raft!!**

The environmental Justice Group meets on the second Tuesday of each month via Zoom. Our next meeting is Tuesday, May 11, at 2:30 pm. All are welcome!

### **ANNOUNCING CONGREGATIONAL ART PROJECT: SEA OTTER RAFT**

#### **Directions:**

1. Create a sea otter drawing, painting, sculpture, photo, etc.
2. Send a photo of your creation to [INTERN@UUCMP.ORG](mailto:INTERN@UUCMP.ORG)

**Deadline: Friday, June 4, 2021**

Join us in celebrating Biodiversity Day on May 22. See page 14.

## The Planetarium of Night

the planetarium of night has ascended  
its zenith ethereally clinging  
to the tops of high maples  
ghost green  
shimmering  
under the fluorescent lamps

lost among those whirling  
beacons of stellar wonder  
i wander  
wonder

how Vincent first saw the  
stars  
before they dizzied his canvas  
in maddening ambiguities

now

the intoxicating incense  
of awakening lilacs  
blithely arouses my desire  
for.....whom?  
wonder?

i can still laugh  
at the futility  
of impossible questions

sipping this vintage darkness  
i consume this simple ecstasy:  
it is a May evening  
in northern latitudes  
a sparkling mosaic  
of life at birth  
that is enough

jon czarnecki  
from Delmar NY, 1982 (modified since then)



## Found Percussion

The Music Sunday Service on May 30, "Our Lives Flows On in Endless Song," led by Music Director Camille Hatton and Intern Susan Panttaja, will explore the many ways music has an influence on our lives.

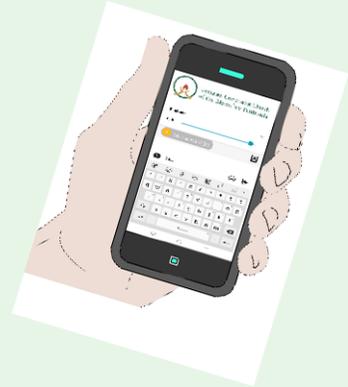
The choir will perform several pieces, but everyone is invited to take part in making music together, helping all of our lives flow forward in song. We will not be together in person, but when you log in from your own separate corner of the world, you are invited to join in, especially in one part of the service.

Bring your own found or homemade percussion instruments and take part in the endless song flowing onward! Here are a few choir members demonstrating their percussive finds.



## Text Giving Has Arrived at UUCMP!

You can now TEXT your donation, contribution, offering, or pledge payment to the church via **KINDRID**, our new giving platform. It's easy! Here is how it works:



1. Text the word **GIVE** (or **Give** or **give**) to **(831) 534-3577**.
2. You will immediately receive a text reply from that number with a web link.
3. Click on that web link to set up your donor account. You can give with a bank account, a credit card, a debit card. (**NOTE:** You will only have to do this set up step once to register your donor account. You will **NOT** have to register and enter all your account information each time once you have a donor account.)
4. Type in the amount you want to give. If you type the number **10**, you will have donated \$10. If you type the number **100**, you will have donated \$100. (All sensitive financial information is stored using 128-bit SSL encryption, the highest bank-level security.)
5. You will receive a reply text message confirming your transaction and thanking you for your donation.
6. Any giving or donation after that will only require a dollar amount texted to the church's giving number listed above.

The amount of your donation is recorded by the church and will appear on your next statement.

*Stuck? Confused?* Text or call Robert Brunson at (214) 395-1706 or send an email message to [finance@uucmp.org](mailto:finance@uucmp.org) for technical support.

### Best Ways To Give

**Set Up Recurring Transactions** – Choosing this option helps you stay consistent with your giving. Your gift is processed on a schedule you choose.

**Use Your Bank Account** – Withdrawing from a bank account substantially lowers the processing fee our church is charged, so while we do also accept credit and debit cards, we encourage you to select “ACH - Bank Account” when possible. In addition, however you choose to make your donation or payment, there is an option to increase your donation slightly to cover this processing fee if you wish to do so.

**Don't Go Into Debt!** – We do not wish to see anyone go into debt by giving with a credit card.

Please be on the lookout for more details and information about the various new ways you can donate or contribute to UUCMP.

**Thank you in advance for your continued support and generosity!**

## Intern News



Since joining us last year, our intern Susan Panttaja, has blessed us with her talents, compassion and warmth. She has taken up many roles and has been very engaged in multiple aspects of our church life.

She has been with us for nearly ten months of a most challenging and memorable year. We would like to inform you that Susan will be completing her role as intern in these Carmel woods on June 15th.

To celebrate the end of her internship, we would like to bestow on her a gift, in appreciation of the attention and presence she has giv-

en our church community. If you would like to donate toward this gift, please contribute by check, made out to UUCMP. Be sure to include "gift for Susan P" in the memo line. Alternatively, you may use the donate function on the UUCMP website. Add a notation that the donation is for Susan P's gift.

We are also planning a celebration (on Zoom) after Sunday's service on June 13 to acknowledge and celebrate Susan and her time with us before she transitions out of her internship. Please plan to join us at 11:30 to share your appreciations.

-- Paul Berezovsky on behalf of the Intern Committee.

## 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 near future. We plan to hold the following discussions in May:

On May 13<sup>th</sup>, Diana Martinetto will lead our discussion of "Sleep."

On May 27<sup>th</sup>, Illia Thompson will lead our discussion of "Short Recipes for Long Days."

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

—Nancy Baker Jacobs, Facilitator



**22 MAY 2021**  
**BIODIVERSITY DAY**  
We're part of the solution #ForNature

The United Nations has declared May 22 "Biodiversity Day."  
(<https://www.cbd.int/ldb/>)

Let's all be a part of the solution!

# SOCIAL JUSTICE



## COPA Happenings

Hello Again from the COPA Team!

Can you *believe* that it has been over a year since the COVID-19 shut down began? Well, COPA leaders have been working harder than ever because the pandemic has amplified the already *huge* need for justice in our community. We have welcomed a new Lead Organizer, Arturo Aguila, whom many of you have met through our Civic Academies. We are proud of both ourselves and our community for the diligent work we have embraced this past year.

### *Did you know?*

**COPA's power** relies on what we call *relational meetings*. These are in person, one-on-one meetings between community leaders in which each person shares their story so as to build a relationship and understand each other. The use of Zoom for these meetings has expanded our impact. I personally have been able to meet so many other leaders from Santa Cruz county that I may not have had the chance to meet without Zoom. I am also able to learn about what's going on in South county with farmworker families. How We Organize: [https://www.swiaf.org/organizing\\_process](https://www.swiaf.org/organizing_process)

**COPA counties** include Monterey, Santa Cruz, and San Benito counties. We have no leaders or member institutions from San Benito County. Arturo Aguila has worked to recruit new institutions in Monterey County and is now building relationships with community members from San Benito county.

**COPA meetings** are held quarterly by our COPA Regional Strategy Team (RST). The ten leaders on this team represent the three counties mentioned above, and they include our very own Laura Nagel! RST is focused on

addressing COPA's budget matters and key priorities for growth. This year, RST has taken a step back from its usual quarterly schedule to prioritize relational meetings with other COPA leaders in light of the pandemic.



**We are offering a five-day training** (via Zoom) through Southwest Industrial Areas Foundation (SWIAF) for key clergy, staff and laity of member congregations. Training is also offered to those who work for non-profit organizations that would like to build an IAF organization in their area.

### **SWIAF includes twenty-nine organizations!**

This includes COPA throughout California, Nevada, Arizona, New Mexico, Oklahoma, Texas, Louisiana, Mississippi, Nebraska and Iowa. We are the oldest community based organizing network in the U.S. All these acronyms make my head spin, but I hope this link can help you understand what SWIAF is.

<https://www.swiaf.org/about>

Thank you for taking the time to read about our updates. As we find connection we also gain momentum toward working on issues that affect our lives.

Elizabeth Granado  
Co-Chair, COPA Core Team

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May 2021

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