



NUUSLETTER

of the Unitarian Universalist Church of the Monterey Peninsula

June Theme: Embodiment

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

June 6

“Observing the Sabbath”

Rev. Axel Gehrman & W.A. Ray Krise

According to Jewish teachings, the fourth commandment calls us to “remember the Sabbath day and keep it holy.” This idea takes on different shape in various Christian and Muslim traditions and has guided secular practices as well. (Your co-ministers’ upcoming sabbatical is an auspicious example.) The Sabbath asks us to pause and consider the question: Where can you find the Holy?

June 13

“Grandma’s Hands”

Rev. Elaine Gehrman & W.A. Ann Jacobson

There is both ancient wisdom and modern research telling us that we hold and transmit somatic experiences through the generations. What can our bodies tell us, and how can we work to resolve and heal generational trauma, and transmit strength and resilience?

June 20

“Each and Every Body”

Rev. Axel Gehrman & W.A. Micah Forstein

We say we are a welcoming congregation. We are "people of different ages, races, classes, religious and sexual orientations, gender identities and political views." We are also people of differing physical condition and ability. When it comes to physical variances, how well do our practices reflect the principles we profess?

June 27

“General Assembly Closing Service”

W.A. Lee Hulquist

This Sunday our virtual UUCMP worship service will allow us to join the closing service of the Unitarian Universalist Association's Annual General Assembly. This is an opportunity, through Zoom, to be in unity with our fellow UU's from around the world! A link for this Sunday service will be sent via email and Weekly News as usual. What is the UUA General Assembly? Please see the article on page 7.



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Religious Exploration

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



Ministers' Message

Rev. Axel
Gehrman

Looking ahead to summer and sabbatical...

The month of June marks the end of our 2020-2021 church year – and what a year it has been!

A year ago, we were only a few months into the first COVID-19 shutdown, with many hoping it would all blow over that summer, allowing us to return to our regular routines last fall.

That's not how things turned out. Instead, a second wave demanded even more serious restrictions throughout the winter months. And now, following the guidance of CDC and elected leaders, we are cautiously hopeful that we will be able to meet in-person, once again, though exactly when this will be possible for all of us - young and old, immunized or not - is unclear. But there seems to be light at the end of the tunnel!

Changes lie ahead, in how we conduct our lives, how we move through public spaces, and how we socialize with friends and neighbors. I imagine we will all have our share of awkward moments as we explore, experiment, and re-adjust our expectations in light of what medical science tells us is sensible and safe.

Changes also lie ahead in congregational life. As we do every year, Elaine and I will be attending the Unitarian Universalist General Assembly (June 23-27.) It's a valuable opportunity to connect with UUs across the country and around the world, and also gain a sense of where we – as a movement – are headed. Please consider attending all or part of this year's programs, which, for the second time now, will be a completely online "virtual" affair. (Please see page 7 for more information.) After General Assembly Elaine and I will be on vacation through July.

An additional change this year is that Elaine and I will be taking a six-month sabbatical from August

through January, 2022, during which time Susan Panttaja will be serving as Sabbatical Minister. (Please see pages 16-17 for more information.) It is hard to believe that we have been serving as your co-ministers for six years! The years have certainly flown by. They have also been filled with many moving experiences and memorable events at UUCMP!

Last month's service auction was a recent example of this congregation's joyful and generous spirit, as well as our collective vitality and resilience in the midst of an extraordinarily challenging year. Even though we couldn't meet in person, thanks to the hard work of our planning team, we had a remarkably fun, imaginative and engaging virtual gathering (and even exceeded our fundraising goals). Perhaps my favorite part of the evening was the slideshow of photos taken at past auctions. It was wonderful to see so many of us gathered at the elaborately decorated church, with plenty of food and drink, and an abundance of outlandish costumes and happy faces.

No one knows exactly how the coming months will shape up. There will likely continue to be ups and downs. We will each have our share of joys and concerns. In the midst of it all I remain grateful for this congregation of faithful friends. I find great comfort being a part of this caring community of life-long learners, each of us committed to helping build a better world.

Whatever the future holds, I know that, together, we can meet any challenge.

See you in "virtual" church,

Axel

Life Enrichment

The 2021 Spring 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, June 12, 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) 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, June 8, 7 p.m. via Zoom. See page 11.

Board of Trustees meets Wednesday, June 16, at 5:45 p.m. via Zoom.

Buddhist Sangha is every Wednesday at 7 p.m. via Zoom. See page 11.

Community Choir meets Thursdays at 7 p.m. via Zoom through June 17.

Environmental Justice Group meets Tuesday, June 8, at 2:30 p.m. via Zoom. Contact environmental-justice@uucmp.org

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, June 23, 5:30 p.m. via Zoom.

Men’s Breakfast Group meets Saturday, June 12, 8:30 a.m. via Zoom. See article to the left.

Music Committee meets Wednesday, June 2, 5:00 p.m. via Zoom.

NUUsletter deadline for the June issue is Wednesday, June 16.

Program Council is Tuesday, June 1, 12:30 p.m. via Zoom. For Zoom information contact Lauren Keenan programcouncil@uucmp.org

Sing Along will meet on Wednesday, June 9, 5:30 p.m. via Zoom.

Social Justice will meet June 6 at noon via Zoom.

Women’s Discussion Group meets June 10 and 24, 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



Swan Song

If you see me walkin' down the street
And I start to cry
Each time we meet,
Walk on by, just walk on by...
- Hal David

This is my swan song as your president of the board. As a certain music marks my generation and me, I will sing you the body electric one last time.

Imagine reaching the age of 73 and finding yourself in a pose marked by you in the May to June merry months, but in 1970, not 2021. For that is where I find myself as I reflect on the last year. This past year I have spent a good amount of time being a kind of cheerleader for us, encouraging us to light candles in the rain while political strife and pandemic pain bombarded us with a crushing anxiety that often seemed to never end. At times, country and world seemed hellbent on destroying themselves.

Our message has been consistent and focused: 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.

But somewhere on our journey through this tumult, I have diverged from this path.

We are of a faith based on love, belief in the goodness of our fellow human beings, and on the soundness of reason. Now, I find myself questioning that goodness, and I no longer believe that reason prevails in our world. The center has not held. The best may still have conviction, but they have been

overwhelmed by the worst with passionate intensity (apologies to W.B. Yeats.) I am of a mind where I was in May-June 1970. I had a crisis of faith then; I am having a crisis of faith now.

At this time in 1970, my world was collapsing about me. Torn between my fervent beliefs in love, peace and goodness, encapsulated by my fiancée who had reignited an idealism once lost in collegiate hedonism, and a deep, abiding belief in service to my community and my country. Torn between values of tolerance and a righteous order. Recognizing that seemingly every institution I had been brought up to have faith in had lied and manipulated not only truth, but my fellow citizens and me. Even the Peace Movement and Civil Rights Movement seemed indeed moving away from the virtues I thought were good. Kent State was my valedictory speech jarring my reality; Vietnam, my true graduate school.

Once again, my world appears collapsing about me. We are burning our planet. We refuse to recognize our fellow humanity. We pride ourselves on our inequality, and bow to celebrity and wealth. We do hate our next-door neighbor if he/she/they doesn't believe the same brand of politics as we do. We hate our next-door neighbor if he/she/they wear a mask designed to protect all of us from deadly disease. Experts who warn of the consequences of such practices are routinely pilloried. In the terms of my former profession, the military, we seem to be too stupid to live. I have no faith that the institutions to which I have dedicated my life and livelihood can or will demonstrate the necessary fortitude and wisdom to reverse this collapse; that is my crisis.

In fact, I believe reform seems far too small a concept and fit for our times. In this, there is a convergence between the black shirts of the Antifa and the Hawaiian shirts of the Boogaloo Bois: transformation, not adaptation. Rebellion, not reform: tearing down is necessary before we can build back up.

Continued on page 5

Swan Song cont.

1970 marked a turning point of sorts not only for my generation, but also for our music. Strong opinionated rock, soul, and folk songs dominated the airwaves. The term Progressive Rock defined the music being played. We of a certain age either took to the streets – got a revolution, got to revolution, or we went back to the land – to get our souls free. A few, like me, did both. We had to find our way through the uncharted waters of a diminished societal trust in a country that required trust and faith to work.

As I did back then, I must again. Find a path that fits, that works – Meher Baba lives again. In a month or so, I no longer will be a leader of this

congregation; that torch will be passed to Bud Smith. He will see us through the reopening of our physical church, and prayerfully, the beginning of the next phase of our capital campaign. And anything else that we must confront along our journey toward our vision.

I know I will survive this crisis of faith. But, if you see me walkin' down the street, first check out whether I'm wearing a bandolier or playing a harmonica, then walk on by . . .

Peace in your heart and in your spirit,

Jon

NOTICE TO ALL WHO DESIRE TO CONGREGATE IN OUR PHYSICAL FACILITY

In the spirit of inclusivity, our primary concern in any UUCMP group gathering needs to be protecting the safety of the most vulnerable among us. This is of special concern for those with existing health issues, and for unvaccinated children.

Therefore, we expect that, for the foreseeable future, any in-person activities will require ALL attendees to wear face masks for the duration of their time in the building, irrespective of standards set by the CDC, the State of California or the Monterey County Health Director. This policy would apply to all gatherings of more than 2 people in any part of our facility (hence, not applicable to staff working in the office, if fully vaccinated.)



Conduct of any in-building activities will depend on adequate space ventilation. The building's HVAC system capacity is currently under engineering review with a licensed architect and mechanical engineers. Even considering universal masking and upgraded HVAC capacity, prospects for choral activity (by either choir or congregation) remain under review. UUA and CDC guidelines are being closely considered. In summary, the proposed timeline for planning phased re-opening (starting with small groups) is dependent on our current church-sponsored residents finding alternative housing to the full-time use of our sanctuary, and implementing the installation of an effective ventilation system in the sanctuary.

— Jon Czarnecki



A Message from the Intern

As I write this, my last newsletter article as your ministerial intern, I am filled with gratitude for my time among you. UUCMP has offered me a wonderful opportunity to experience and embody parish ministry. Here, I have practiced leading worship, learned the details of church administration, offered pastoral care, and observed church life in action. Through my time with you, I have gained a deeper understanding of the way all the parts of ministry fit together, and developed my capacity to support the wellbeing of the church as a whole. In the process, I have confirmed that parish ministry is what I am called to do.

This learning was made possible because UUCMP is an enthusiastic and supportive teaching congregation. I have felt that enthusiasm and support with every step. I thank you for every conversation, for your generous feedback, for your participation in

each worship service or meeting or class I have led, and for your trust and encouragement. These gifts have formed me as a minister, and I will carry them with me always!

I want to especially thank the co-ministers, Revs. Axel and Elaine, for their willingness to share their pulpit with me and for teaching by example about effective and gracious ministry. Many thanks to Rev. Elaine for her supervision of my work here and for wonderful discussions about the many aspects of parish ministry. I also want to thank my awesome internship committee, Susan Hocevar (chair extraordinaire!), Paul Berezovsky, Laurie Bulgier, Lauren Keenan, and JT Mason, for their support and their kindness and their willingness to observe and collect feedback about my work.

My internship comes to a close on June 15. I am excited that on August 1 I will be back among you, as your sabbatical minister. I am looking forward to serving this church in a new way while Revs. Elaine and Axel are away.

I wish you all a peaceful, rejuvenating summer. See you in August!

Yours in Faith,

Susan

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 June:

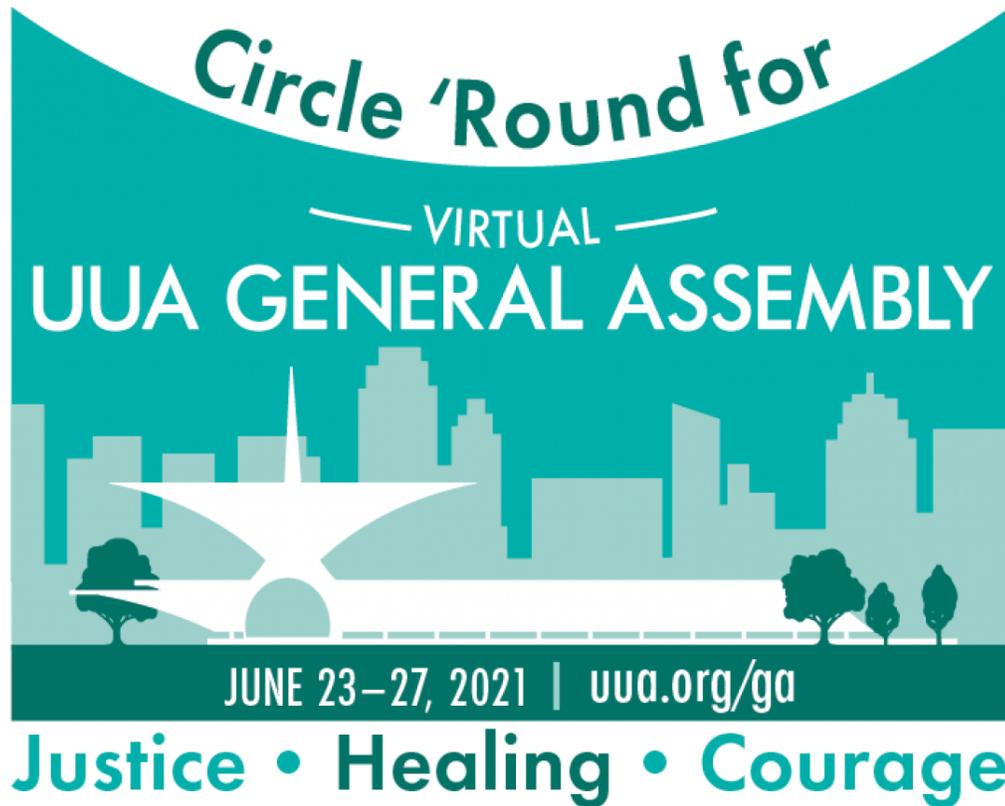
On June 10th, epidemiologist Simona Bartl, Ph.D. will lead our discussion of "COVID-19, Vaccinations and How We Can Stay Safe."

On June 24th, Kathleen Craig will lead our discussion of "Historic Gardens in Monterey—A Virtual Walking Tour."

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

—Nancy Baker Jacobs, Facilitator

Circle 'Round for Justice, Healing, Courage is the theme for General Assembly 2021 - All Virtual - June 23 - 27



Circle 'Round for Justice • Healing • Courage is the theme for General Assembly 2021.

General Assembly is a time to circle 'round in community. We circle 'round in care and healing; for liberation and justice; and for love and courage. We share stories of the work happening at our Association, and in our congregations. We study ways to implement and live into our mission. UUA GA 2021 will incorporate recommendations from the Commission on Institution Change report, "Widening the Circle of Concern" and dialogue with the Article II Commission about our Principles and Purposes. Through programs and workshops, professional and lay leaders will learn and develop skills to equip them with tools to continue the mission of our faith. Featured speakers will delve into theological analysis, work around organizing for liberation, and the ways we tend our spiritual resilience.

Honoring the myriad of communities within Unitarian Universalism, there will be more time for networking, meetups and caucusing over the span of our 5-days together. Finally, during GA 2021, we will preserve our connection to Milwaukee and the MidAmerica Region through special programming and activities. Get ready to Circle 'Round , , , More info at <https://www.uua.org/ga>.

RELIGIOUS EXPLORATION



Embodiment?

Our theme for the month of June is embodiment, and what could be a better embodiment of childhood than summer? Summer is the land where no one ages, where colds and sickness are just so last season. Summer is where the daylight stretches on almost forever into the firefly dotted dusk. Summer is the sound of laughter, water splashing, and the ice cream truck, the taste of lemonade, veggie dogs, and popsicles. Summer is the joy that encompasses all of our senses!

Oh, my goodness it is nearly summer!! The spring has brought back the flowers and plants that hibernated during cooler months, growing and blooming now in explosions of colors, and different shades of green. It has awakened the birds that now sing endlessly in the forest outside of my house. There are turkeys, rabbits, box turtles, deer, possums, and raccoons that wander across the yard, drinking from the pond and occasionally come up to the deck to see if anything of interest was left outside for them. They seem to be rejoicing in the warmth and verdant glory of the land. As am I. As are my children. As should we all.

Spring has awakened the hibernating hope that lives inside my mind, and the eve of summer whips that hope into a froth that bubbles over into my every waking moment! I don't just have hope anymore, I am hope! I embody the



hope, the joy, the strange juxtaposition that is excitability and relaxation at the same time. I am Summer.

Last summer was, well, so last year. Let's just not mention the strange 2020 . . . Ram Dass said to "Be here now," and it is the best advice. Let's open our windows wide and let in the delicious scent of the rain-washed trees, and the ocean breeze! Let's go outside and eat popsicles by the pool, whether it is big enough for people or just the right size for your child's nifty set of sea creatures. Let's play frisbee in the park, fly our kites at the beach, and relax under our favorite tree, with our favorite book.

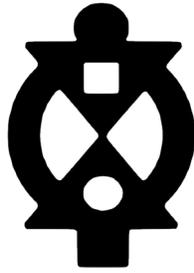


We still must be cautious, especially those of us with young children that cannot be vaccinated yet. We will still wear

our masks when we're around others when we are in public places. This might not end for a long time, but it is something that most of us are used to now. And I am more than ok with this. My mask is for your protection.

I love you all and wish you a very Merry Summer.

Erin Forstein
Director of Religious Exploration



June Shared Plate Recipient

The Village Project, Inc.

The Village Project, Inc. (TVPI) is a non-profit organization located in Seaside, whose mission is, "To help our communities reach a greater state of well-being by strengthening families through the delivery of community-based culturally-specific services."

The Village Project, Inc. was founded to help meet the needs of the under-served African American Community. Their services are based on community-defined practices. Prior to TVPI becoming a reality, focus groups were held with a myriad of community members, such as grandparents, social workers, therapists, relative caregivers, civic organizations, pastors and grassroots individuals. As a result of input from individuals in these focus groups, it was clear that the community wanted a place where Black people could go to work through the challenges they faced and do so with the help of trusted practitioners in the community who looked like them and understood their cultural dynamics.

While the agency was founded to help meet the needs of the under-served African American community, they provide services to any individual or family in need. Additionally, providing services from one's cultural identity is paramount to the philosophy of the agency's board of directors, staff, founders and clinicians.

The Village Project, Inc., partners with community organizations, schools, faith-based institutions, and other agencies in order to collectively support children and families of all cultures in the work they do.

A number of UUCMP members are already supporters of TVPI both financially and as volunteers.

Please join us in supporting this worthy organization.



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 given 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 and Susan Hocevar on behalf of the Intern Committee.

Musical Offerings

We have nearly come to the end of another yearly music season, but there are still activities going on. We were delighted to celebrate the Music Service on May 30. Come check out the fun and exciting activities from our music department for the month of June.

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 will meet **every Thursday from 7-9 p.m. through June 17** 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 toward children in 1st-8th grades, all are welcome. We meet **every Thursday from 3:30-4:00 p.m. until June 17** 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)

Our other ensembles will still 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 June. 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 6.

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 June. Contact: John Freeman for any questions.

Dances of Universal Peace
Will not meet in June. 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

Creating a Fire-Resilient Landscape

by Paola Berthoin, RisingLeaf Restoration Consulting

Caring about the land isn't just about the heart. Numbers tell us a lot. In 2005, we learned we have destroyed 60% of earth's ability to support us. Ninety-five percent of wildlife habitat across the United States has been lost due to human uses of one form or another. Sixty percent of water is used for lawns in the west. In 2019, it was reported there is a 41% insect species decline, with a two and half percent insect biomass loss every year. Close to three billion adult breeding birds, representing one in four birds, have been lost since 1970.

These numbers are staggering, but we can do something to right the ship. When we tend our gardens and our land for making our homes more fire safe, there are a variety of best fuel management principles to take into account.

1. Work from your home outwards. Harden your home as best you can. Bushes close to the home invite scorching, or worse, of your home.
2. Plant natives. Preserving biodiversity is in everyone's interest.
3. Thin and prune vegetation, don't clear.
4. Remove invasive plants.
5. Do vegetation management work at the right time of the year.
6. Creating a fire resilient landscape is a collaborative, community effort.

An excellent source for determining best plants for your native plant garden can be found on the CalScape/California Native Plant Society website. Some fire-wise California native plants to consider in your garden based on your location and soil are western columbine, sticky monkey flower, hummingbird sage, California sunflower, yerba buena, and wild strawberry for ground covers, California lilac, coffeeberry, yarrow, Douglas iris, California fuchsia, and scarlet bugler penstemon. You can use low-growing native grass for lawn areas. What is most important is hydration of plants and pruning, as needed, to keep the growth fresh. Native plants take less water than non-natives, generally. When tending your landscape outside your garden proper, thinning and pruning native plants is the best fuel management practice as well. If you remove all plants in the 30-70 foot zone, you are opening up the

soil for flashy, fire-prone invasives to come in, even in the first year. Wide open expanses allow embers to rush toward your home rather than landing in a tended plant along the way. Bare soil can cause erosion problems, especially on steep hillsides. This makes for expensive and time-sapping remediation. Generally, thinning and pruning should be done October through January when birds are not nesting. After January, you risk disturbing them.

When it comes to trimming oak trees, the best time is late summer or early fall for the health of the oaks and to not disturb nesting birds. When trimming oaks to meet the fuel management standards, trim only branches three inches in diameter or less to achieve the required six to eight foot uplift of branches. Large low hanging branches can be left as is, except for trimming the smaller branches that may be lying low to the ground. Overall pruning of oaks is highly discouraged as it opens the canopy allowing heat to beat down on the ground and encourages non-native plants to take root. Leaving oak leaves as mulch (2-3") is important for the health of the soil and the oak trees. Preserving the oak tree canopy provides a bounty of food for birds.

When we consider how we tend our land and help others to do the same, we can help restore the balance of the natural world that supports us, free of charge!

Some useful resources are:

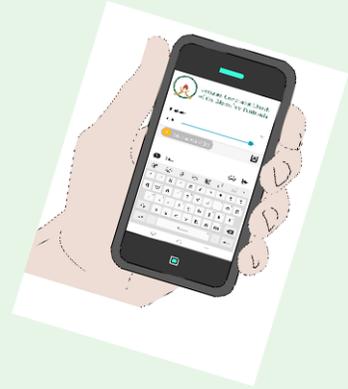
- *Santa Lucia Conservancy Fuel Management Handbook*
- *California Native Landscaping* by Greg Rubin and Lucy Warren
- *California Native Gardening: A Month-by-Month Guide* by Helen Popper
- *Nature's Best Hope* by Douglas Tallamy
- CalScape/California Native Plant Society
- Blue Moon Native Plant Nursery, Carmel Valley
- Rana Creek Nursery, Carmel Valley
- Las Pilitas Nursery, Santa Margarita Information about native plants

For more information about the UUCMP Environmental Justice group, contact

environmenta-ljustice@uucmp.org

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 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!

SOCIAL



JUSTICE



Formation of a New Central Valley Affiliate of the Industrial Areas Foundation. On April 29th over 100 people met via Zoom to announce the formation of a new Central Valley affiliate of the Industrial Areas Foundation, the oldest and largest broad-based community organizing institution in the country. They committed to organizing institutions and leaders in an initiative to use their collective power to identify community problems and then bring about change. The organization will be based in Fresno, with a population of approximately half a million, the city is near the geographic center of California and San Joaquin Valley.

Sponsoring Committee Formed. The sponsoring committee is comprised of institutions and leaders committed to providing training opportunities and building relationships among nascent leaders. The purpose of the meeting was to gain commitments and pledges for going forward. During the meeting they made commitments to contact 500 leaders this summer and to organize trainings and relational and house meetings. They met in small groups to form the following three action teams: 1) The Administrative Team working on the logistics of creating a new non-profit; 2) The Recruitment Team working on identifying and recruiting new institutions; and 3) The Money Team working on securing contributions towards the budget.

Over \$100,000 in funding commitments. Jeff Freitas, President of the California Federation of Teachers endorsed the initiative describing Fresno as one of the poorest areas in CA, one of the richest states in the country. Another endorsement came from Bishop Minerva Carcaño, of the California-Nevada Conference of the United Methodist Church who praised the launch and committed her organization to raise \$100,000 in support of the initiative. She expressed hope that Central Valley would become a place with good jobs paying fair wages, where all have access to health care and young children receive quality education.

Supporting Leaders and Organizations. Co-chairs of the meeting were Vicky Flores, president of the United Methodist Church New Plan Start and Keith Ford, president of State Center Federation of Teachers. Fr. Alex Gaitan from St. Anthony Mary Claret Catholic Church began with a focus statement about conditions he has experienced among his parishioners. Other central valley leaders shared their personal stories to explain why they wanted to create certain changes in the community.

Tim McManus, Senior IAF Organizer spoke about the distinctive aspects of an organization committed to broad based organizing. Many organizations were represented, including 21 local community unions, nonprofits, churches, and schools, and 10 national and regional groups including the seven established IAF organizations in CA.



PROTECT OUR FAMILIES AND NEIGHBORS

Join us Thursday, June 3 at 6:00pm

Because of the pandemic, more than a million CA households owe almost \$4B in back rent. While the Governor recently announced additional rent relief funds, **the state must make two critical changes in order for families to access this money in time to keep them housed.** Please join us in calling upon the Governor and state legislators to:

- **Extend the eviction moratorium until the end of 2021.** The moratorium expires on June 30, but by then families will have only received a small fraction of the rental assistance funds due to eligibility and ease of access. Unless we act now, a tsunami of evictions will make the homelessness crisis even worse.
- **Expand eligibility and allow more flexibility in distribution.** Right now, relief is only available to tenants who owe back rent *directly to their landlords*. Many renters (particularly those who are undocumented) borrowed from payday lenders, family, friends and others to keep their rent current. Others are also subtenants without a formal lease with which to apply for relief. To give these tenants the opportunity to get back to work and repay their massive debts, we are asking the legislature to give tenants the flexibility to use funds to prepay rent for at least 6 months, and to increase eligibility to tenants with a sublease.

Register in advance for this meeting. After registering, you will receive an email containing information about joining the meeting.

REGISTER

Register at:
bit.ly/Stop_Eviction

Point your camera
app here to visit
the website!



UUCMP SABBATICAL GUIDE

August 1, 2021 – January 31, 2022

Our Co-ministers, the Revs. Axel & Elaine Gehrmann, will be on sabbatical for 6 months, from August 1, 2021 to January 31, 2022.



What will they do?

Revs. Axel and Elaine plan to use their sabbatical for a combination of rest and renewal. They hope to visit other UU congregations, to travel, to rest, to read, and to feed their spirits.

Their travel hopes include U.S. roadtrips, and a visit to Germany, to visit extended family and religious relatives. They hope to refill their spiritual wells, and to return rejuvenated and refreshed.

What is a Sabbatical?

A sabbatical is an extended period of leave from one's usual work, especially for rest or renewal. The term has its roots in the Sabbath traditionally being a day of rest and in the practice of letting fields lay fallow for a season so that rejuvenation of the land can take place.

As part of their serving agreement, and as recommended by the UUA and UUMA, Revs. Elaine & Axel earn one month of sabbatical leave for each year served, not to exceed six months, to be taken after the fourth and before the seventh year. (The current 2020-21 year is their sixth year.)

What will UUCMP do for ministerial leadership?

Church life will continue. UUCMP will have a Sabbatical Minister who will lead worship, provide administrative and pastoral support, and help keep things running smoothly in the Co-ministers' absence.

Susan Panttaja, who is serving as our intern minister from August 15, 2020 through June 15, 2021, and who was a long time member at the UU congregation in Santa Rosa before going to seminary, will serve in this $\frac{1}{2}$ time role of Sabbatical minister. (Elaine & Axel each serve $\frac{1}{2}$ time, so this will be half of what our co-ministers provide). She knows our congregation well, and is well-liked and respected by our members, friends and staff.

What will UUCMP do for worship?

Sabbatical Minister Susan Panttaja will work with congregational staff and leaders to make sure that the core activities of worship, Religious Exploration, administration, music, and more, continue on course. Susan will not attend every committee and group meeting, but will be available as a resource, and will attend board and staff meetings, and other occasional meetings.

Susan will be responsible for the majority of the Sunday Worship services (either preaching herself or arranging for a guest preacher), in collaboration with the Worship Associates team. Worship Associates will continue to be responsible for one Sunday worship service a month.

What contact will we have with Revs. Axel and Elaine?

Their sabbatical will be a complete break from their duties as ministers, and they will not be available for direct communication from members. They will be notified of emergencies by the Sabbatical Minister or Board President.

If you see them around town, you may certainly greet them, however please refrain from discussing church business.

What will UUCMP do for pastoral care?

For pastoral care needs, we are very fortunate that Rev. Dennis Hamilton, a retired UU minister and long-time member of UUCMP, who has been working as a Pastoral Associate, will step up his role and be available for pastoral care calls and assistance, as Pastoral Care Coordinator.

The Caring Network, led by Carol Collin, will continue to serve as a valuable resource, providing support and services to our members and friends.

What if I have a question about a church matter during the sabbatical?

Susan Panttaja, the church staff, and the Sabbatical Committee are good resources to contact with questions.

Members of the Sabbatical Committee are Katie Hamilton, Be Astengo, Randy May, Page Galloway, Lauren Keenan, and Sue Ellen Stringer—They can be reached at sabbaticalcomm@uucmp.org

It's a win-win

Sabbaticals are an important ingredient in cultivating healthy and vital long-term ministries.

Sabbaticals benefit both ministers and congregations – providing opportunities for reflection, new perspectives, and continued growth – personal, spiritual, and institutional.

If you have any questions about the upcoming ministerial sabbatical at this point, please contact either of the co-ministers (minister@uucmp.org) or the Sabbatical Committee (sabbaticalcomm@uucmp.org). Thank you for your support of this important aspect of congregational life!

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Closed for June. due to the pandemic .
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June 2021

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