



NUUSLETTER

of the Unitarian Universalist Church of the Monterey Peninsula

July Theme: Exploration & Experimentation

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

July 4

“Freedom and the First Principle”

Pastor Tobias Schlingensiepen & W.A.s Micah Forstein & Lee Hulquist

The first principle speaks to the inherent worth and dignity of every human being. Being the Fourth of July, Americans celebrate the birth of the independent spirit born with the help of our founding fathers. But while freedom is important, what is freedom without the first principle? The speaker is a special guest, Senior Pastor Tobias Schlingensiepen. Tobias is Senior Pastor at the First Congregational Church, Topeka, a community leader, and a chaplain with the Topeka police department.

July 11

“Compassion and the Second Principle”

Natalie Fryberger, Ken Cuneo, Christine Kolisch, Robin Jensen

The second principle lists three qualities: justice, equity, and compassion. Justice and equity are always getting more attention, but it is compassion that regulates the two others. Natalie Fryberger, Ken Cuneo, Christine Kolisch, and Robin Jensen will focus on compassion and how it determines if justice and equity are served.

Religious Exploration

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

July 18

“Your Spiritual Growth and Our Responsibility”

Karen Brown & Others

The UU principles begin with, "UU Congregations affirm and promote . . ." and the third principle concludes ". . . the encouragement of spiritual growth in our congregations." What do you need for your spiritual growth? Some of us might say "nothing!" Yet, this is a basic tenet of our denomination. How does our congregation encourage our spiritual lives? What more could we do? Several members will respond. Contact Worship Associate Karen Brown (831-917-2042, karenb1115@yahoo.com) to chat about your ideas.

July 25

“What Have We Learned From the Past Year? COVID Takeaways From Our Congregation.”

Ann Jacobson & Kathleen Craig

What a year it's been! Join worship leaders Kathleen Craig and Ann Jacobson as we hear from a handful of UUCMP members about their experiences of and insights about life during this challenging time.

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See the calendar at
www.uucmp.org



Ministers' Message

Rev. Elaine
Gehrmann

We are on vacation in July, and happy to share this guest column, by Christine Slocum, a UU in Buffalo, NY, whose work facilitates housing for people experiencing homelessness and severe mental illness.

I appreciate her thoughtful observations about right relationship and being caring members of a community.

Love,
Elaine

“Exhaling in Community”

By Christine Slocum

“Your breath is always with you.”
—common meditation prompt

Remember when we used to breathe all over each other? Pre-pandemic, we stood behind each other in the grocery line, chit-chatted before meetings, or sat next to each other in church. There was a clear line of sight to each other’s noses, and the sounds of our voices were unobstructed by fabric. My unrestricted exhales didn’t put me out of right relationship with those around me.

The virus changed how we understood the consequences of breathing. I used to breathe without thinking. If I was breathing mindfully, it was in the context of meditation or yoga. Breath was life force, or a tool of centering oneself. Now we know: the way we take up space includes where our breath goes.

Several people wearing masks stand, in church, holding out their hands as if in prayer. But breath is also a vector of illness. With over a half a million people deceased, and many in my

community, I could not ignore the potential power I had to spread illness. I didn’t like how something so fundamental to my being could cause harm. I also couldn’t deny it.

Masking up became so normal, I felt naked in public without it. I learned to cross the street whenever I saw anyone on the sidewalk. I chose to forego unneeded interpersonal interaction. It’s been a lonely year. My own understanding of personal space aligned with the collective revision to six feet. Even after receiving the vaccine and the requisite time elapsing to immunity, my instincts to avoid other people are still very sharp. I could still harm.

I miss the innocence about how we existed in each other’s presence. I miss the ease and lack of caution. What I understood to be true—the safety I perceived—was because I did not have the complete perspective.

Committing to right relationship means being willing to revise our practices when we learn that previously accepted habits might be harmful. It’s true of the language we use and the ways we practice power. Now we know: the way we steward our breath matters. I will leave the pandemic with a better understanding of how to protect people around me from illness. May I recognize this awareness as a gift, and use it to express care for the people around me.



Life Enrichment

The Fall Life Enrichment catalog will be published in a couple of months. We'd love to have your ideas for classes for the fall. If you'd like to teach something, please get in touch with Carol Greenstreet. Have a lovely summer.

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

Men's Breakfast Group

Saturday, July 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.

If you have questions, please contact Douglas McLain dmclain@hotmail.com

Our Zoom Meeting ID is: 161 3331 8951. Passcode: 490Agua!!! You can join via phone (call 669 254 5252) or via computer - simply click on this link: <https://nps-edu.zoomgov.com/j/16133318951>

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, July 6, 7 p.m. via Zoom. See page 9.

Board of Trustees will not meet in July.

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

Community Choir will be taking the month of July off.

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 will not be meeting in July.

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

Music Committee will not meet in July.

NUUsletter deadline for the August issue is Friday, July 16.

Program Council will not meet in July. For questions contact Lauren Keenan programcouncil@uucmp.org

Sing Along will meet on Wednesday, July 14, 5:30 p.m. via Zoom.

Social Justice will not meet in July.

Stewardship will not meet in July.

Women's Discussion Group is taking July off. See page 7.

Zumba meets Tuesdays at 5:00 p.m. and Thursdays at 5:30 p.m. via Zoom. No Zumba the week of July 5.

President's Corner — Bud Smith



Among the most popular and appropriate words in the last few months is . . . "Liminal: relating to a transitional or initial stage of a process." We are certainly at a liminal moment these days.

With any luck (and vaccinations), we will soon be emerging from Zoomland and heading back into the world of three-dimensional get-togethers. Zoom has certainly been, and will remain, convenient, but it can't compare to real encounters and real visits. I have been attending Board meetings and choir rehearsals via Zoom for over a year now, and I can describe in detail one wall of every Board and choir member's house.

But as tough as this last year was, our church weathered it very well. Our virtual services have been spectacular. Thanks for that go to our ministers, our worship associates, Camille and our choir and the wonderful Lucy, intern Susan Panttaja, RE's Erin Forstein and Elizabeth Granado, and our tech wizard Fred Hamilton. And so many other activities of our church carried on successfully despite COVID, including our Virtual Auction, our Stewardship Campaign, our Men's Breakfast, our Chalice Circles, and all of our Life Enrichment classes. During our absence from the building, we were also able to provide support for local homeless programs. My apologies if I have missed any other of our activities.

Our board, under the leadership of Jon Zarnecki, has guided us so well through this difficult period. As a newcomer this year, I was quite impressed by how smoothly and effectively the board worked. All opinions were

heard, business was conducted, and decisions were reached in a respectful and efficient manner. We will be sorry to see board terms end for Mibs McCarthy, Fred Hamilton, and Peggy Hansen. Mibs was our tireless secretary during our meetings, and all three provided thoughtful counsel during our discussions. I am sure that our new board members, Kathleen Craig, Steve Johnson, and Mike Lovell, will prove equally valuable, and we are all looking forward to working together.

The good news for this coming year, of course, is that, with the careful guidance of the Reopening Task Force, and subject to some timing decisions and safety protocols, we will, at some point, be able to gather together again in person for worship. A little time later, we will even be able to dust off our hymnals and sing again! We will also be able to meet together to revisit our plans for an expansion of our sanctuary and we will be drafting a new Strategic Plan to guide us for the next few years.

We will miss the guidance of Axel and Elaine for six months, but we wish for them a restful and restorative sabbatical. I am sure they will return full of ideas and inspiration. Those of you who have had any contact with our intern Susan Panttaja in the many areas of church life in which she has participated know that she will be the perfect sabbatical minister for us in their absence. How fortunate we are to have had her available to us.

So it's going to be a big year for UUCMP. It will be good to get back to worshipping and doing our Good Works together in person.

Looking forward to serving you,

Bud



Lorita Shull Fisher, a longtime member UUCMP, died peacefully in her sleep on May 26, 2021, after a period of declining health. She was 98. Lorita was born on November 5, 1922, in Palghar, Maharashtra, India, 50 miles north of Bombay. She and her brother Gordon, three years younger, learned Marathi, the local language, from their ayah.

Her father was a Church of the Brethren missionary. This was not an evangelical position; he worked in public health and village education. He had men set up schools in areas where there were none; they had to persuade the farmers that there was an advantage to having their sons learn to read but made no effort to convert them religiously. Lorita was homeschooled by her mother until the age of 9 and then attended Woodstock, an American boarding school at a hill station in the mountains 1000 miles from home. It was the second largest American school in Asia, with 400 students in grades K-12. It was attended mostly by missionary children – Mish Kids – but also had Indian students from high level families who wanted their children to learn good English. There were two tracks, American College Prep or Cambridge Exam Prep; all the Americans followed the American track. This excellent school is still in operation, now attended almost exclusively by Indian students.

When Lorita was 12, her mother died quite suddenly of pleurisy, being ill for only five days. Since it took a letter three days to reach them, her father sent a telegram to Miss Stoner, the fifth-grade teacher who was the Church of the Brethren representative at the school. She gently told Lorita and Gordon that their mother had died and that they would be going home. They left India in the beginning of December when the school year ended and lived at the Iowa home of their grandmother, their mother's mother. Her father traveled to various churches, telling them about the work in India. Finally an airmail letter arrived from Miss Stoner, back in India; they found that she had accepted his proposal of marriage. They traveled by train to California, meeting their new cousins and grandmother-to-be, picking up a wedding dress, then sailed back to Palghar, where the former Miss Stoner became an excellent, loving stepmother. The great embarrassment for Lorita and Gordon was witnessing their first kiss when the ship docked in Bombay. Their daughter Esther Fisher was born to the family in 1939.

In 1939, Lorita enrolled in Manchester College, a

Church of the Brethren College in Indiana, where she studied English to become a high school teacher. It was there that she met Glen Fisher, who was a year older. Glen, like all Church of the Brethren congregants, was a pacifist, so when he was drafted in 1942 he went into Civilian Public Service, CPS, doing a variety of community projects. They married on May 12, 1945, and after the war Glen went to the University of North Carolina to get a PhD in cultural anthropology. Lorita worked for the Fellowship of Southern Churchmen to get her PhD – Putting Hubby Through. Glen was hired by the Foreign Service to teach personnel and their spouses about living in foreign cultures; he wrote a very successful book on the subject, *Mindsets: The Role of Culture and Perception in International Relations*, which was translated into several languages. He worked directing Quaker work camps in Mexico, where their son Wayne was born. Daughter Kathy was born in Virginia prior to his work as a Foreign Service officer; that work took them to Venezuela, the Philippine Islands, and Bolivia. Lorita taught English at American schools in the various countries and worked with women's organizations to teach them how to become involved in political activity. She became a representative of the League of Women Voters in 1955; she was involved with the League nearly to the end of her life. The couple came to the Peninsula 1983, and Lorita became involved in UUCMP, where she was on many committees, helping to rewrite the bylaws, organizing social actions, collaborating on the formation of I-HELP, serving as UUCMP rep to UU Service Committee for ten years, and being president of the UUCMP Board of Trustees. She was president of the local League of Women Voters twice, in the 1980's and the 1990's. She was also involved in Planned Parenthood, was on the board for Gateway, home for developmentally disabled, and was on the board of Friends of the Monterey Library. She referred to herself as Professional Volunteer; she knew how to help with organization. Glen's skills were far reaching; they never had a repair person in the house, as he could do anything. Their son Wayne is an expert in engine pollution control in Michigan. Their daughter Kathy, a traveling registered nurse, decided to cease traveling and moved into the downstairs apartment in the house while she worked at Hospice in Santa Cruz. She was there to help care for her father in his final illness; Glen died in 2011. She was Lorita's permanent resident caregiver. Lorita attended many UU functions, was on the board of the local United Nations Association for 18 years and did membership work in the League of Women Voters. She will long be remembered for her strength and determination to be of support to those in need and her ability to keep on going despite anything that happened in her life.

RELIGIOUS EXPLORATION



“Oh, the places you’ll go! There is fun to be done!”

My wonderful RE family and friends throughout the church, it is summer and there are so many awesome ways to celebrate it. The Monterey area offers up so many delightful day and evening adventures, it is sometimes difficult to choose. And you can now choose. The vaccine has allowed us a little more freedom, room to move, to breathe, to stretch our arms out and bask a bit as we take a few small steps back out into the world. Let’s imagine, for a moment, that I am right there with you this summer, and leading you to my favorite places around the bay . . .

- * Henry Cowell State Park! (Redwoods and banana slugs!)
- * Asilomar Beach!
- * Point Lobos State Park!
- * Carmel Beach!
- * Camping in Big Sur and going to the Fernwood Restaurant!
- * The Monterey Aquarium!
- * Del Monte Beach!
- * Whale watching cruises out of Moss Landing and Monterey!
- * The Elkhorn Slough!
- * Kayaking in the slough! (Check out the night time bioluminescent tours!)

- * Lover’s Point park and beach!
- * Monterey walking trail!
- * Dennis the Menace Park!
- * Mt. Madonna!
- * Del Mar Beach!
- * The Santa Cruz Boardwalk is also now open!

And did I mention the beach? California has so many beautiful beaches, some are more accessible than others, some have more amenities than others. My personal, absolute favorite beach requires climbing up and over a sand dune (on a marked trail to protect the wildlife), and only has a couple of port-a-potties down by the parking area. Moss Landing beach feels crowded when you see a couple of other groups somewhere along its length, as there just usually aren’t very many people around. I have spent so many days just relaxing on this beach, playing in the sand with my children, finding sand dollars and pretty sea shells, walking, watching shorebirds, seals, sea otters, whale spouts in the distance, and on one memorable occasion (while my mom was visiting, no less!) seeing a pod of dolphins leap and swim! I cannot recommend this beach enough. It is my happy place. I hope that you find it and enjoy it as much as I have.

So, my friends, there is fun to be done!!! Grab your hats and sunblock, a good pair of shoes (for hiking), or none at all (I would drive barefoot to the beach). Where will the world take you today?



Erin Forstein
Director of Religious Exploration



July Shared Plate Recipient

United Farmworkers Foundation Salinas

Their mission is to empower communities to ensure human dignity. And their core values are as follows:

Integrity: Doing the right thing even when no one is looking.

Empowerment: creating the environment and tools for success.

For 15 years, the UFW Foundation has mobilized farm workers and their organizations across the country to advocate for more equitable policies, such as immigration reform, pesticide protections, heat standards, hazard pay, and other worker protections. The foundation engages constituents in systemic change to break the cycle of poverty while also providing critical services. In fact, the UFW Foundation is the largest federally accredited immigration legal service provider in the state of California.

One of the group's recent accomplishments was ending the racist exclusion of farm workers in the U.S. from overtime pay. Field workers were excluded from the Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938.

The Fairness for Farmworkers Act of 2021 extends overtime pay to all of America's farm workers. The California Legislature redressed the racist exclusion of farm workers from paid overtime after eight hours a day or 40 hours a week by passing a law in 2016.

"Farm workers risk their lives through the pandemic, wildfires, and other extreme conditions, yet they are still fighting for their right to be treated equally. Farm workers are always essential and we must treat them as such—overtime protections are way overdue" said UFW Foundation Executive Director Diana Tellefson Torres.

Locally, the foundation has been active in achieving the milestone of 42,000 COVID-19 vaccines administered to more than 70% of the total farmworker population since vaccination efforts began earlier this year.

Your support of the United Farm Workers Foundation in Salinas will directly help our local farm workers. Please give generously.

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, **except during July**, which is our annual vacation.

When our sessions resume in August, we will meet from **2-3:30 p.m.** either via Zoom or in the Fireplace Room, depending on the conditions at that time.

—Nancy Baker Jacobs, Facilitator

Sunday Sip n' Social July 18th 4-5 p.m.

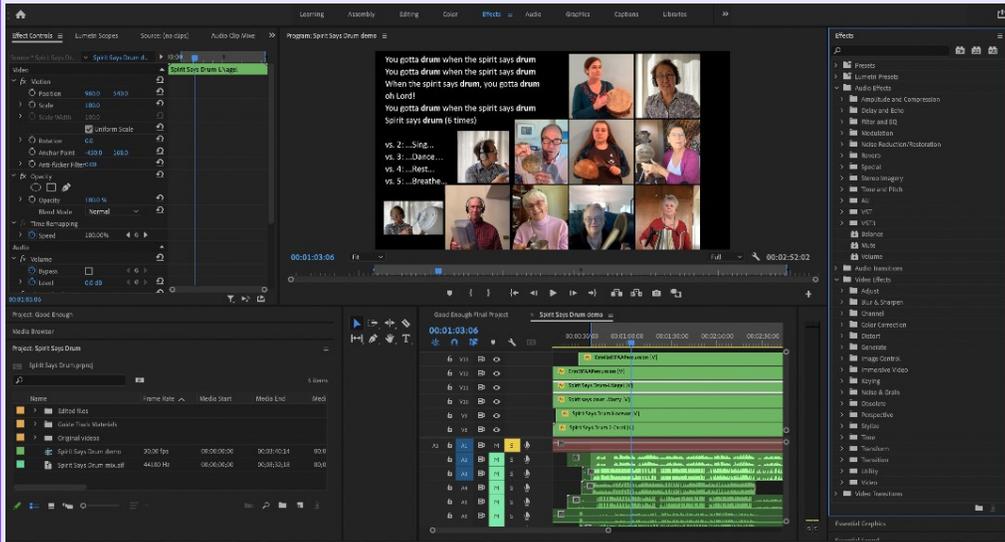
We invite you to join us on July 18th from 4:00 to 5:00 p.m. for our Sip n' Social on Zoom. Let's get to know each other in a small group setting. Please send an email to membership@uucmp.org if you would like to join us. We will be in touch closer to the time of the social to send you the Zoom link.



Thanks.
Membership Committee

Musical Offerings

The music director and the choir will be taking a break in July as usual and will reconvene in August. The last fifteen months have been a remarkable time for both the adult choir and the children's' choir to work together, all virtually, to produce music for the Sunday services. In addition, the Sing Along group has met every month via Zoom, using YouTube videos and singing along together.



Preparing a piece of music for a Sunday service has some complications when we are not meeting in person. In some cases, such as for the St. Cecilia mass, each choir member had a copy of the score. But for some music, choir members download individual copies of the sheet music when they are posted on the choir Google Drive site. At choir rehearsal, Camille goes over the music with those in attendance, reviewing the various vocal parts and helping the voices blend. This is when singers can highlight and review areas that

are difficult or confusing.

Camille creates a separate vocal track for each voice part so that the singers hear their own voice part emphasized when they record. This is especially helpful for those who do not read music well, and also when the part is complicated. After all the audio and video tracks have been submitted. Camille loads the audio parts into a special program

where she can manually align each singer's part so that the vocal parts all match. She can use the program to raise or lower volumes in voices so that it comes out even, and everyone is singing together even though everyone sang separately in their own space. Then she matches the videos, if there are those (such as with anthems) so that the lips and sound sync. In another program she can move the videos of the individual singers around, rearrange them on the screen, change the size of the images, and add other effects.



When you see the adult and/or children's choirs performing on Sunday, know that there is a huge amount of behind-the-scenes work that Camille did that went in to producing the final effect.

— Carol Collin

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 resonate 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 Membership Committee chair Maren Martin (membership@uucmp.org).

Please join us!

Life Enrichment Programs Affinity Groups:

No groups will meet face-to-face in July. 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: Doug McLain

Women’s Discussion Group does not meet in July. Contact: Nancy Baker Jacobs. See page 7.

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 July. Contact: John Freeman for any questions.

Dances of Universal Peace
Will not meet in July. Contact: Barbara Bullcock-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

Climate Denial vs. Science Research

by Jane Bell

Over 15 years ago, when Professor Tim Stanton was talking with a group of us from a Monterey Bay Aquarium volunteer shift in his office at the Naval Postgraduate School, where he was a research professor in the Oceanography Department, pioneering research on arctic ice and climate he said, "I am often asked if I believe in climate change. It is not a matter of belief, but what I see and know from the readings of my instruments, which I design and engineer myself.

In that earlier era, top government officials, including then president George W. Bush, were denying climate change, and at least one major oil company had been paying scientists to obscure scientific findings for many years. However, the US Navy has had longstanding interests in climate research due to concerns about national security and the locations of naval bases in coastal areas, subject to sea level rise and storm surges.

Despite official climate change denials, people have become increasingly aware that its effects have already been occurring. We have seen the polar bears on ice drifts and images of an Alaskan village built on permafrost now gradually turning to slush and sinking. Also, Pacific islanders, inundated by storm surge are finding their croplands unsustainable due to saltwater. In situations of unprecedented storms, drought, and famine it is so often those with the least means who are most affected and less able to pick up and move somewhere else.

And so, it is gratifying to read about the work of scientists. Professor Stanton is now Professor Emeritus at NPS, retired after almost 40 years there. Now he is adjunct professor in ocean physics at Moss Landing Marine Laboratories.

This spring, 2021, he gave an Osher Life Long Learning Institute (OLLI) talk explaining a recent project called "MOSAIC," for Multidisciplinary Drifting Observatory for the Study of Arctic Climate. He was instrumental in the monumental task of organizing this year-long multinational expedition to the Arctic, which took place in 2019.

Their research vessel, was imbedded in the Arctic ice, moving with the floe from above Canada to above Europe and back during the year. He was part of the lead team of over 300 collaborating researchers, taking turns aboard the ship, making firsthand observations, collecting samples, and educating younger ocean scientists. This was one of the largest research projects in its scope and in the number of countries participating. A major research aim was to solve the puzzle of why actual summer ice melt has been so underestimated by computer modeling, an important part of understanding ocean effects on climate. What is really going on? What has been missing? They are still analyzing the vast amount of data, delayed by the Covid virus.



For more details on Professor Stanton's ocean physics projects and MOSAiC, you can search the web for "Tim Stanton, Arctic Ice." There are sites for various levels of physics understanding, including YouTube talks and photographs of the expedition's work in progress. It is heartening to know that international scientific institutions are working together, with the goal of solving the puzzles behind these climate crises.

Juneteenth: Transitioning from Where We Were to Where We Want to Be as a Nation



Juneteenth is an opportunity to reflect on history while continuing to fight for true equality.

by Mike Givens on June 17, 2021, Re-printed from the UU Service Committee website

The institution of slavery has long been considered America's original sin. The confluence of anti-Black racism, rampant white supremacy, and unabated—and unabashed—imperialism were the fertile soil in North America in the 17th century out of which the heinous, violent, and malignant tendrils of slavery grew to envelop the nation.

On June 19, 1865, General Gordon Granger arrived in Texas and officially declared that slavery was abolished. It was the very end of the Civil War and just a year later, former slaves in Galveston would hold the very first annual celebration of the abolition of slavery. Over the last 156 years, Juneteenth gradually came to be celebrated in states across the nation. Today, 48 states and the District of Columbia celebrate Juneteenth as a holiday and President Biden is signing legislation to make it a federal holiday.

Juneteenth is a collective opportunity for each and every one of us to celebrate the dismantling of an institution that laid the basis for anti-Black racism and oppression from coast to coast. While it's a time to celebrate, to reflect on the long legacy of slavery and how it's entwined itself into the ethos of this nation, we must also be vigilant.

The capitalist, racist, colonialist, and malicious characteristics of slavery are still woven tightly into so many institutions and systems that we depend on. Consider the following:

- * Modern day policing has its origins in slavery.
- * Runaway slaves were considered highly valua-

ble pieces of property and policing formed as a way of not only catching slaves, but preventing revolts. After slavery, many police forces in the south were tasked with promoting racist Jim Crow laws designed to disenfranchise and oppress Black Americans. Our current iteration of the police force is still infused with racist notions and acts.

- * Black Americans disproportionately account for a large percentage of the incarcerated in this nation.
- * Employment rates are lower for Black Americans, and people of color in general.
- * There's a massive wealth gap between Black and white Americans.
- * Our school systems regularly fail Black students and consistently set them up for failure.
- * Slavery was abolished almost 160 years ago, but the same racist underpinnings that caused it to flourish are alive and well in our education, healthcare, law enforcement, employment, and housing systems and institutions.

Juneteenth is a wonderful opportunity to gaze upon the past and condemn the ugliness that came with treating an entire group of people as chattel. However, the fight for true equality isn't over.

People like George Floyd show us that anti-Black sentiment still permeates the policing system. The school-to-prison pipeline is a stark illustrator of the disparities that Black youth face when trying to get a quality education. The nation's poverty rates sadly narrate a story of income and social inequality.

We live in a nation, in a world, where all we must do is look around to see how race and racism circumscribe our lives. Now more than ever, we must come together to repair the harms that we all have collectively experienced because of racism, restore the dignity and power of all Black people, and reimagine our world in a way where racism, bigotry, and hatred are obliterated.

SOCIAL JUSTICE



Breaking the Chain of Infection Program in Monterey County



Photo Credit: Jose Angel Juarez/Monterey County Weekly

Breaking the Chain of Infection Program was Awarded \$4.9 Million to Fight COVID in Monterey County. Three days before Christmas last year the Monterey County Board of Supervisors awarded \$4.9 million to support COPA's Breaking the Chain Proposal. We advocated hiring 100 community health workers (CHWs) to work in those areas hardest hit by COVID. The CHWs would teach people how to protect their families from infection, help people get tested, provide tangible support so that those who tested positive could isolate successfully, and when vaccines became available, help people get vaccinated.

COPA Helped Design and Implement the Program. The proposal was the result of hundreds of small group meetings where people talked about their families' experiences during the COVID pandemic. Jack Herbig is one of the co-chairs of the COPA's Breaking the Chain Task Force that helped design the program and has continued to help guide its implementation. He said he felt like "the dog that caught the car." "We had heard stories about gaps in the county's response to COVID and had been discussing these problems with county staff, the supervisors, and other community organizations. Everyone recognized we were in a health crisis, so in a short period of time the board awarded the funds and asked the Community Foundation of Monterey County (CFMC) to administer them." CFMC eventually awarded contracts to 10 community-based organizations (CBOs) that hired CHWs, but many of the CBOs began hiring staff and sending them to training, even before they had executed contracts.

SOCIAL JUSTICE

Maria Elena Manzo, the other co-chair of Breaking the Chain, is Director of Mujeres en Acción, a CBO in the Salinas Valley and a member institution of COPA. Mujeres hired ten community members to work on the CHW program. This was a radical shift for COPA and its member institutions. We usually think of our shared work as community organizing, building the power to change systems, rather than hiring staff and operating programs. For a global pandemic, however, we made an exception. Three COPA institutions, Mujeres en Acción, Building Healthy Communities, and Community Housing Improvement Systems and Planning Association (CHISPA) stepped up and hired additional staff to concentrate on reducing the spread of infection.

110 Community Health Workers Hired through 10 Community-Based Organizations. The official name of the program is Virus Integrated Distribution of Aid (VIDA), which is currently funding over 110 community health workers (some work part time) across 10 organizations. One of the groups, Centro Binacional para el Desarrollo Indígena Oaxaqueño, is providing information in Triqui, Zapoteco, and Mixteco, indigenous languages from the states of Oaxaca and Guerrero in Mexico that are all spoken in Monterey County. “One way to stop the spread was to hire people from the community as trusted messengers to talk to people to help them understand the need of being safe, using masks, and distancing,” Manzo says.

Declining Infection Rates. Monterey County has been successful in bringing down the infection levels at a critical time when many foreign workers on H2A visas and migrant workers from Yuma, Arizona, were returning to the county for the spring planting season. Many organizations in the county have worked hard to bring vaccines to those areas where COVID cases are highest. One of the factors limiting vaccination was the lack of internet access and computer skills, so community health workers helped people register for vaccination appointments. During the time when appointments were scarce, CHWs received special alerts from the County Health department when new vaccination appointments became available.

In the first 3 months of the program (February – April) CHWs made over 74,000 outreach contacts; over 39,000 of these were in April alone. More than 5000 people were vaccinated at CBO-hosted clinics. In April, 88 people who tested positive were provided the essential items (e.g. groceries, diapers, etc.) that they needed to successfully isolate. In addition to these specifically COVID-related activities, CHWs connected people to other resources such as food, rent, utilities, and help with medical bills.

Program Expected to Continue. The CHW program was initially funded through June 30, 2021. Though Monterey County’s current infection rate is one of the lowest in the nation, there are still many uncertainties in our situation. No one knows for certain what the impact will be when California reopens fully on June 15th. Presumably, more visitors will be coming to the area. The impact of virus variants and the impact of spending more time indoors in the fall is unclear. No one knows what the vaccination rate will ultimately be and whether vaccine boosters will be needed in the fall. All of these things would affect the continued need for CHWs to work on COVID-related tasks. Consequently, the Board of Supervisors asked that updated impact reports, expenditure reports, and an assessment of projected need be brought back to them for consideration on July 27th.

UUCMP SABBATICAL GUIDE

August 1, 2021 – January 31, 2022

Our Co-ministers, the Revs. Axel & Elaine Gehrman, 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 $\frac{3}{4}$ time role of Sabbatical minister. (Elaine & Axel each serve $\frac{3}{4}$ 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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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