



NUUSLETTER

of the Unitarian Universalist Church of the Monterey Peninsula

March Theme: Renewing Faith

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

March 6

“Selma Sunday”

Rev. Elaine Gehrmann and W.A. Lee Hulquist

57 years ago, Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. led hundreds of non-violent activists of all ages, on a march from Selma to Montgomery, Alabama, which resulted in passage of the Voting Rights Act. Many Unitarian Universalists came to Selma, two of whom were martyred for this cause. Today we will recall their brave actions, and consider where we are called to act today.

March 13

“My Grown Up God”

Rev. Axel Gehrmann and W.A. Micah Forstein

As Unitarian Universalists we celebrate a diversity of religious beliefs. Among us are theists, atheists, agnostics, and a wide variety of perspectives on what we mean by “God.” In the course of our lives, as we grow in wisdom and maturity, our beliefs may change. Is the God you first learned about as a child, the same God you believe - or disbelieve - in today?

March 20

“The Revelation of This Day”

Rev. Elaine Gehrmann and W.A. Ann Jacobson

Inspiration often arrives as a new insight, a new experience, a new idea, which deeply moves us. How would you describe your latest spiritual revelation? Where might you find inspiration next?

March 27

“Faith and History”

Rev. John Buehrens and Ray Krise

Continuing our theme of “Renewing Faith,” we welcome back to our pulpit John Buehrens, who served as interim minister at UUCMP in 2012-14. Since then John has written two works of history, one about our transcendentalist forebears as social activists, and one about Unitarians in San Francisco since 1850. He will reflect on how our present moment in history both justifies and requires a renewal of faith.

Religious Exploration

is available via Zoom each Sunday
for children (pre K – 11) at 10 a.m., for teens
(12 – 18) at 12 p.m. and young adults
(18-35) at 1 p.m.

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See the calendar at
www.uucmp.org



Ministers' Message

Rev. Elaine Gehrmann

One of the highlights of our sabbatical travels was visiting Yellowstone National Park. I knew very little about it before we went, and I was amazed at all of the varieties of thermal activity we experienced there. Of course I had heard about Old Faithful, but I was astonished by the multitude of other geysers, over 500 in total, and how some, like Old Faithful, erupted very regularly, and others were sporadic and unpredictable. The numerous hot springs were also surprising, so many bubbling and steaming pools with their brilliant colors and differing depths. The fumaroles were new to me also—steam vents in the earth's surface, emitting



volcanic gases like that pungent eggy sulfur dioxide. And my absolute favorites were the mudpots—opaque pools of different colored mud, bubbling and spurting occasional jets of mud up into the air . . . I could sit and watch them for hours!

I have to think that the hydrothermal features of Yellowstone are a great metaphor for our congregational activities. Some of our committees meet on the regular, just like Old Faithful, and others are more occasional. Our worship and religious education programs are constants, bubbling away week in and week out like hot springs . . . and I like to think of our ongoing social justice and spiritual practice activities and groups as the mudpots—not always as clearly visible, but those occasional spurts can be

quite noticeable and meaningful. I will leave it to you to speculate about the steam vents . . .

What brings the metaphor home for me, is that each of these different forms of expression all come from the same source of energy. The Yellowstone “hotspot” is where hot magma, molten rock from the Earth's mantle, rises toward the surface. All of the geysers, hot springs, fumaroles and mudpots, are fueled by this hotspot. It turns out that this hotspot, while close to the surface, also runs very deep, and actually remains stationary while the North American tectonic plate moves over it.

We are so fortunate in this congregation, that so many individuals and families over the past half century, have contributed to the UUCMP “hotspot,” providing the fuel for our many church activities. All of us who contribute, with our time and talents, and with our finances, are the magma, that erupts as bold geysers, and bubbles as steady hot springs, that makes our presence known like those steamy fragrant fumaroles, and percolates like those hypnotizing joyful mudpots . . .

We hope that you will contribute generously during this canvass, to fuel our many UUCMP activities for the coming year. The size of our collective hotspot, will determine how much spouting and steaming and bubbling we can do.

Axel and I are once again practicing the UU tithe, 5% of our income to the church, and 5% to other causes we care about—and we encourage you to do the same. May the fuel we provide erupt in numerous good works, taking many different forms, adding to the collective and creative force for good in the world.

See you in church!

Elaine

People of Color Group

Do you identify as a person of color? Join us for conversation and camaraderie! The UUCMP POC (People of Color) Group provides a framework of support and acknowledgment for members and friends of UUCMP who have lived experience as people of color. At our meetings, we will gather as an intentional, accepting fellowship of POC UUs to explore and reflect on our individual experiences, intersectionality, and UUism.



The UUCMP POC Group meets at 7 p.m. on the 1st and 3rd Monday of every month, and at noon on the 1st and 3rd Saturday of every month. Feel free to drop in and join us at any of these times! Meetings will be virtual at <https://tinyurl.com/uwf8rdjf> until in-person meetings at the church resume.

Men's Breakfast Group

Saturday, March 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.



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

You join us with your phone or computer.
Zoom Meeting ID is: 975 5961 1965. Passcode: 408070

On a phone (call 669-900- 9128)

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. Newsletter articles are due the 16th of each month.

SCHEDULED EVENTS

Adult Community Choir meets Thursdays, 7 - 9 p.m. via Zoom.

Anti-Racism Book & Film Discussion Group Tuesday, March 1, 7 p.m. via Zoom. See page 10.

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

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

Environmental Justice meets Tuesday, March 8, 3:30 p.m. via Zoom.

I-HELP is supported by financial donations to UUCMP, providing monthly meals. 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, March 23, 5:30 p.m. via Zoom.

Men's Breakfast Group meets Saturday, March 12, 8:30 a.m. via Zoom. See article at left.

Music Committee meets Wednesday, March 2, 5 p.m. via Zoom.

NUUsletter deadline for the April issue is Wednesday, March 16.

People of Color (POC) group will meet Saturdays, March 5 and 19 at noon, and Mondays, March 7 and 21 at 7 p.m. at <https://tinyurl.com/uwf8rdjf> See article to the left.

Program Council meets Tuesday, March 1, 12:30 p.m. via Zoom. For questions contact Lauren Keenan programcouncil@uucmp.org

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

Social Justice meets Sunday, March 6, 12 p.m. via Zoom.

Stewardship meets Wednesday, March 2, 1:30 p.m. via Zoom.

T'ai Chi Chih meets Tuesdays at 4 p.m. in the sanctuary. See page 10.

Women's Discussion Group meets the fourth Thursday of each month at 2 p.m. via Zoom. See page 7.

President's Corner — Bud Smith



SIDE BY SIDE

"Who needs us? We need us. And aren't we fortunate to have found one another?"

Rev. Elaine Gehrmann
Carmel, CA
February 13, 2022, sermon

"No one gets to heaven alone, heaven alone, heaven alone.

No one gets to heaven alone, we get there side by side." — *Side by Side*, Lea Morris
UUCMP Community Choir
Carmel, CA
February 13, 2022

"What we have in mind is breakfast in bed for 400,000 . . . We're all feedin' each other! We must be in heaven, man!"

Wavy Gravy (acknowledging all the volunteer groups providing food to the assembled music fans)
Woodstock, NY
August 17, 1969

Even Wavy Gravy understood that we all thrive when we support one another. Of course, Elaine's sermon and our choir's song were in support of our pledge drive kickoff, and Wavy Gravy's announcement was full of the exuberance of those three days back in the '60's, but the message is the same. We get to heaven side by side.

At our recent board meeting, Axel and Elaine

asked us what stood out to each of us about the last six months during their sabbatical leave. One of the common themes of our replies was the support and patience of the members of the congregation for each other as we worship virtually and work to prepare for our re-entry to worship in the sanctuary.

And many hands are at work on that re-entry. Fred "Tech Guy" Hamilton is completing the final touches on the impressive audiovisual system that will allow us to hold services simultaneously in person for some and virtually for others. I think you will be very appreciative of what he's been able to put together to make worship meaningful and nourishing for both groups. Meanwhile, Steve Johnson and the Re-opening Task Force have been working out the logistics of accommodating people who will be attending the worship in person.

Also hard at work are Robert Brunson and the Finance Committee who are developing our budget for the next fiscal year. Thanks in part to your generosity, we are in very good shape financially.

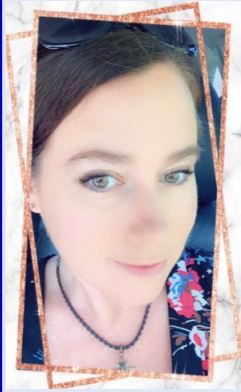
With the return of Axel and Elaine, we have also begun discussions on possible revisions to our Mission and Vision statements, and we have begun consideration of a Congregational Covenant similar to the covenants many of the committees have adopted. As we get back to some version of "normalcy," we will also return to work on our Strategic Plan and our sanctuary expansion.

Thanks to all the rest of you working side by side to keep this church thriving during these unsettled times. As Elaine says, "Aren't we fortunate to have found one another?"

See you soon!

Bud

RELIGIOUS EXPLORATION



RE Volunteers

I am just going to come right out and say it. I need some volunteers. I cannot get the RE going in-person again without some serious help. I might also venture to say that the serious help that is needed, will be needed very soon! Our children need your help. Desperately. Please know that I understand that not everyone can help with RE, I understand that right now some of our parents especially need to interact with other adults instead of being in a class with children. We love our children, but we as parents have a need to interact with our peers.

I remember when Dylan was younger and my UU Fellowship in Topeka asked me to volunteer in the classrooms. I would be a perfect fit they said, as I was a teacher and had excellent classroom management skills! Yes but . . . I spent my days in a classroom with young children, and then was a single mom to a young child. Occasionally I might get to talk with another adult at school, another teacher on the playground, my paraprofessional, the nurse. We talked about the children though. Anything else would have been inappropriate and unprofessional. I did volunteer in the classroom at my fellowship once. But just once. I craved adult conversation and just sitting next to adults, singing with adults, drinking coffee with adults. I volunteered in other ways though; I played my violin every other week and pretended to play the piano. All I had to do was push a couple of buttons as the songs were all ready to go in the electronic organ. I am not Lucy! I stood up for myself because I needed that hour or so of adult time once a week. Self-care is so very important.

I know that some of our parents also need that hour. I

completely understand. Maybe though, you know of another person in our church that would be interested in volunteering with our children. Maybe you are that person! Maybe you miss the time when your children were young and you would do fun crafts and sing with them! Maybe you enjoy having deeper conversations and doing meaningful projects that help our earth with the youth in their teens! Maybe you have a skill that you would love to pass down to the children and youth, and you could spend a couple of Sundays, or maybe just one Sunday sharing your skill! Gardening, building, music, art, poetry, photography, folk dancing, yoga, archeology, and more! We need BOTH regular classroom volunteers as well as occasional topic-specific volunteers!

The joys and rewards of volunteering are huge! It makes you feel good! Really, volunteering is nearly as good as chocolate. The endorphins that your brain creates when you do a good deed, especially with children, will keep a smile on your face for days!

The children learn from you! You can pass on important information that they might end up carrying with them throughout the rest of their lives, in turn passing it on to others!

Everyone benefits from multigenerational interactions! Kid hugs are the best hugs ever! Though right now we will keep our distances, at least for a little while. You will be honored at the RE Sunday service!! Really, this is a pretty cool thing!

The children need you. The parents need you. The church needs you. And I need you. Send me an email (dre.erin@uucmp.org) if you would like to help out with our Religious Exploration program and our children!

— Erin Forstein
Director of Religious Exploration

Launching Text Giving at UUCMP!

First, thank you for your continued generosity in support of UUCMP! Our church has weathered the two-year COVID-19 pandemic extremely well, financial speaking, and we are in much better fiscal shape than some other UU churches around the country. That said, we are excited to announce the roll out of the ability for you to give to UUCMP using text-to-give functionality!

Text giving through Kindrid, a non-profit donation platform, offers a new, safe way to donate or make pledge payments to UUCMP from your cell phone and ensures we're providing you with the most convenient methods possible to offer a gift of support to the church. We hope this will be more convenient than mailing a check to the church, though, of course, you are certainly welcome to continue to do that if you prefer.

Through our new online giving platform, you have the ability to give one time or to set up automatic recurring gifts from a credit/debit card or through a bank ACH transaction. UUCMP does pay a small transaction fee to process each online payment, but we feel this nominal fee is well worth the added convenience. If you so choose, you are also able to cover that fee for the church at the same time you make your donation.

We believe these new tools will allow us to continue to serve the UUCMP community well. We want you to know how much we appreciate you and the generosity of heart you demonstrate through your continued support of UUCMP and our various ministries and initiatives.

Stay tuned for the how-to details on text giving in the upcoming issues of the UUCMP Weekly News!

Robert Brunson
UUCMP Finance Committee chair



John Buehrens is celebrating his 50th year of ministry and his 50th wedding anniversary this year. He and his wife, Rev. Gwen Langdoc Buehrens, a priest in the Episcopal Church, are now retired in San Francisco, but both still actively engaged as volunteers in ministry. A graduate of Harvard College and Harvard Divinity (Gwen went to Cal Berkeley and Yale), John was President of the Unitarian Universalist Association from 1993 to 2001. He had previously served congregations in Massachusetts, New Jersey, Tennessee and Texas. He later returned to parish ministry and spent a decade as national co-chair of Freedom to Marry, promoting LGBT equality. After serving UUCMP, he was Senior Minister of the First UU Society of San Francisco from 2014 to 2017. He holds three honorary doctorates and is the author or co-author of eight books about progressive religion, most recently *Conflagration: How the Transcendentalists Sparked the American Struggle for Racial, Gender, and Social Justice* (Beacon, 2020).



We Care, We Share

The symbol for this year's annual operating fund drive (created by Carol Collin) with hands holding our flame, says a lot to me. We are the ones who keep our flame burning brightly. It symbolizes the unity we share with one another. It symbolizes how our sharing makes the community a warm and caring one.

By now you should have received your pledge card in the mail, or you can pledge online. If you want to pledge on line, click DONATE on the UUCMP website, then scroll down to Pledging. If you click on the words Pledge

Form, you will be directed to the online pledge form.

Thank you to the many early pledgers! Our financial gifts keep our flame burning and our light shining brightly. The total of all the pledges from the congregation is the basis of our operating fund budget that we will vote on at our Annual Meeting in May. Your generosity in these challenging times is heartwarming. I am so proud of our community.

Please get your pledges in soon if you have not done so already. Your pledge makes a difference, no matter the amount. We are all a vital part of this caring, sharing community.

Thank you!

Konny Murray
for the Stewardship Committee



During the COVID-19 pandemic, the UUCMP office is open for limited hours: 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Wednesdays and Fridays. However, you can email the office or leave a telephone voicemail message at any time and we will get back to you as quickly as we can. Thank you for your patience.

— Ray Krise

WOMEN'S DISCUSSION GROUP Unitarian Universalist Church of the Monterey Peninsula

The Women's Discussion Group fosters friendship and sharing of ideas among women in UUCMP and the wider community. To enrich our lives, we explore a variety of interests and experiences in an open and accepting atmosphere and cover a wide range of topics.

We welcome all women to our monthly meetings, which are held on the fourth Thursday of each month, currently via Zoom. Our next meeting will be on March 24th, when Peg Olsen will lead our discussion of "Active Listening." Watch for the emailed notice for this event. It will contain the Zoom link and password.

If you wish to be added to the WDG email list, contact either Nancy Baker Jacobs at pgauthor@comcast.net or the church office.

—Nancy Baker Jacobs, Facilitator

Musical Offerings

The curious nature of faith and the equally curious nature of music, for me, is how both are so abstract, elusive, yet incredibly emotive. It should come as no surprise that when I think about worship, I think about the music and auditory memory. Christmas Eve service or Easter service or Water Communion all elicit memories and feelings embedded in my being. I think Rev. Elaine captured it perfectly when she described her experience returning to the Watertown, New York's Perpetuball Motion Machine during sabbatical. She said, "It felt like time collapsing, connecting the present moment with those moments so many years ago." That concept is precisely how I experience both music and faith.



I try to consider this potential collapse of time and expansion of the spirit when planning service music. Of course it is impossible to program music every week for everyone. However, holding space for someone to re-experience a song or piece, or revisit a familiar poem now set to music, may be significant to a congregant more than I may ever know.



In reverse, I also wonder how the programming

of new, or less familiar music for some might be generating future importance or embodied memories for musicians and congregants alike.

The repetitive nature of a song or message could be a thread someone will pick up

in a few months or years from now. Or the flow of the music woven throughout the tapestry of the service may provide just the right combination of energy and grounding for a congregant which may lead to a memorable, and potentially transformative experience.

All the while, I also recognize that most of the music will pass through the service in the way mall dwellers likely pass through Watertown's mall. Some will notice the Perpetuball machine, others may not, and the few and, arguably, fortunate may find holy ground and a sense of awe in the experience of the old machine cranking out ball after ball down the line. If you would like to join in the making of music in our community, we welcome you to check out any of our ongoing musical offerings.

Sing Along with Shawn

2nd Wednesdays
5:30-7 PM



All Meetings via Zoom

ID: 828-761-1715
Password: music
All Are Welcome :-)



— Camille Hatton



March Shared Plate Recipient *Everyone's Harvest*

Everyone's Harvest was founded in 2002 by Iris Peppard, building on her capstone project as a student at Cal State Monterey Bay. Since then, the small nonprofit has grown into a robust, values-driven 501(c)3 organization. It operates five certified farmers' markets and is a catalyst for health-related programs across Monterey County. The mission is to provide access to healthy, affordable fruits and vegetables through certified farmers' markets and community food programs. The vision is for every community to have a fair and sustainable food system.

In 2008, Pacific Grove chose Everyone's Harvest as the organization to run their community farmers' market. This opportunity was a turning point for Everyone's Harvest, leading to increased collaborations and partnerships. More than 2,000 families are served weekly by Everyone's Harvest markets in Salinas, Marina, and Pacific Grove – with more than 25 small and mid-scale farmers serving them. Everyone's Harvest takes pride in the growing community of people who value organic food and rely on Everyone's Harvest for access to local fresh fruits and vegetables.

The farmers' market locations serve diverse communities and low-income people. Local hospitals host Everyone's Harvest Certified Farmers' Markets at Natividad Medical Center and Salinas Valley Memorial Healthcare System. Everyone's Harvest pioneered access to several public nutrition benefits at its farmers' markets for everyone to access fresh, local, and organic foods.

In 2012, Everyone's Harvest was presented with Edible Monterey Bay magazine's nonprofit "Local Hero" award and in 2013 the Monterey County Weekly newspaper named Iris as one of the "25 for the Next 25" movers

and shakers in Monterey County. Iris is always quick to point out, "My success is not just my own. It's because of everyone involved. It's about a movement. It's about food justice." Today at Everyone's Harvest:

- Over 50 percent of Everyone's Harvest Certified Farmers' Markets' farmers are certified organic and come from within a 100-mile radius of Monterey County.
- All five of our Certified Farmers' Markets serve low-income communities and accept Electronic Benefit Transfer (EBT), the modern-day food stamp.
- Two of our Certified Farmers' Markets are partnerships with medical institutions – Natividad Medical Center and Salinas Valley Memorial Healthcare System – who both partner in the Fresh Rx program.
- The organization offers free space to other nonprofits, community groups, and government entities at its markets for public outreach.

Please give generously to this worthy organization.



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 ministers. (minister@uucmp.org)

Please join us!

Life Enrichment Programs Affinity Groups

Most groups will not meet face-to-face in March. 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 See page 3.

Women's Discussion Group meets on fourth Thursdays via Zoom. 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 March. Contact: John Freeman for any questions.

Dances of Universal Peace will not meet in March. Contact: Barbara Bullock-Wilson if you have any questions.

POC (People of Color) Group meets at 7 p.m. on the 1st and 3rd Monday of every month, and at noon on the 1st and 3rd Saturday of every month at <https://tinyurl.com/uwf8rdjf> . See page 3.

T'ai Chi Chih meets every Tuesday at 4 p.m. in the sanctuary.

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.

VACCINATION REQUIREMENTS FOR IN-PERSON ATTENDANCE AT UUCMP WORSHIP SERVICES AND EVENTS IN THE BUILDING

As an expression of care for our community, and in recognition that the health and well-being of everyone are interconnected, UUCMP now requires COVID-19 vaccination, or documentation of a recent negative test for COVID-19, for anyone aged 5 or above who enters the building for Sunday worship services or other church-sponsored events.



Volunteers will confirm vaccine status as people arrive for in-person Sunday services. The church will keep a list of those who have shown evidence of vaccination – once your name is registered, you will be pre-cleared for building entry. You will not need to sign in for Sunday services; attendance notes will be kept by the entrance volunteers in case contact tracing is needed later.

To get yourself on the list of vaccinated folks, please do one of the following:

IN PERSON: show your vaccination card, or a photograph of the card, as you enter. Your name will be added to the “vaccinated” list at that time.

ONLINE: email a legible photograph of your vaccination card to UUCMP’s special email address, vaccinations@uucmp.org.

Unvaccinated folks can enter the building if they present official documentation of a negative test for COVID-19, taken within the preceding 72 hours. Home-test kit results will not count. Monterey County Health Department publishes an online list of approved testing sites:

<https://www.co.monterey.ca.us/government/departments-a-h/health/diseases/2019-novel-coronavirus-covid-19/covid-19-testing-locations>

UUCMP still requires people in the building to wear facial masks and maintain social distancing from others not in their household.

You can read the full COVID-19 Vaccination Policy document, which was updated on January 19, 2022, on the church web site, <https://uucmp.org/unitarian-universalist-church-of-the-monterey-peninsula-uucmp/>

Thank you for helping make UUCMP safe for all who enter, and for supporting the health of the wider community.

Environmental Justice News

Join our Environmental Justice group and learn more about the harmful use of pesticides in Monterey County. We are working to protect the interconnected web of life by eliminating the widespread use of pesticides.

Our Shared Plate recipient in February was the Center for Farmworker Families. You may recall from the information shared by Dr. Ann Lopez that the Center is also working hard to reduce the use of pesticides within Monterey and Santa Cruz counties. The following information shows the shockingly high volume of pesticide usage in our two counties. It also brings to light the extreme levels of childhood cancers here as a result of all the pesticides applied to the crops grown in our area. The Center is also working to promote the expansion of organic farming here, and we'll share more on that effort another time.

The data that follows is based on information shared by Mark Weller from Californians for Pesticide Reform and is only some of what he shared with us, the UUCMP Environmental Justice group. environmental-justice@uucmp.org

He can be reached at:

Mark Weller

Californians for Pesticide Reform

931 E Market St., Salinas CA 93905

831-325-1681

mark@pesticidereform.org

www.pesticidereform.org

Working together for a just & sustainable food system since 1996

Pesticide health threats in Monterey County

***Half of the pesticides used in Monterey County are banned in other countries.**

***The use of carcinogenic pesticides has increased over generations in Monterey County.**

Use of cancer-causing pesticides in Monterey County has decreased in the last few recorded years. However, recent use remains above even the highest spikes in annual use in the 1990s.

****Pesticides linked to childhood cancers in Monterey County***

Disproportionate use of pesticides linked to childhood cancers in Latinx areas of the Monterey Bay region. In Monterey County, the application of pesticides linked to childhood cancers is concentrated in the Latinx-majority region of the Salinas Valley, where 58.7% of residents are Latinx.

****Harm to children's brains from organophosphate pesticides*** A [UC Berkeley CHAMACOS Study](#) (2017) found that for every 522 pounds of combined organophosphate pesticides, including chlorpyrifos, applied within 1 kilometer (0.62 mile) of a pregnant woman, her child tended to lose more than 2 IQ points. Fifteen Monterey County schools had between 606 and 957 pounds applied in 2016 within 1 kilometer, which may indicate IQ loss of between 1.9 and 3.0 points.

Our hope is that this information will encourage all who are able to purchase organic, pesticide free foods, clothing and plants as we work towards a healthier, safer and more sustainable world, starting here in our own back yard. Writing letters to the editor, contacting local politicians and businesses urging the banning of many pesticides, as 28 other counties have done, is another way to support our children and the families who grow and harvest our food.

Respectfully submitted by the UUCMP Environmental Justice committee



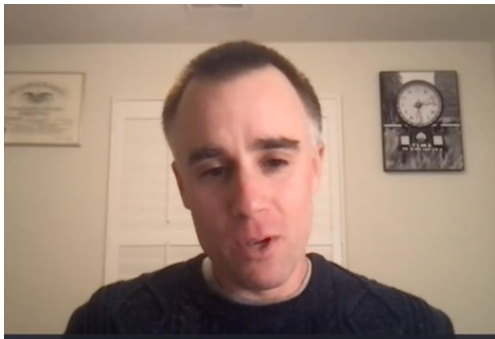
COPA News

Five-Week Training Report

By the end of February, COPA had completed five weekly training sessions. Every week approximately 150 persons from 23 member institutions attended via Zoom. Special recognition to our Core Team members who attended, Lauren Keenan, Mibs McCarthy and Karen Judkins. The training was particularly geared to help build core teams at the member organizations. We had different trainers every week, including those COPA leaders pictured here.



Jack Herbig COPA Regional Strategy



Tim McManus, Supervising Organizer, COPA

Each week had a different focus around the basic subject of building power. Sometimes there were readings, and after the primary teaching accompanied by real life examples, they broke into small group discussions led by facilitators. Lauren Keenan reported that she enjoyed getting to know other teachers from around the Salinas area, where she herself taught.

The subject of the trainings included: 1) Power and the ability to act, and how to select an issue to work on; 2) What issues are impacting local families and how we build power to take actions on those issues; 3) Qualities to look for in new and up-and-coming leaders, which include anger, a sense of humor, willingness to take risks and curiosity; and 4) House meetings, a technique for identifying issues and potential leaders.



*Maria Elena Manzo, COPA Organizer,
Mujeres en Acción*

CA IAF Meetings

Key leaders and organizers from the seven California IAF organizations have also been meeting to deepen our relationships and prepare for future actions. We have also been doing training led by Ernesto Cortes, Co-Director of [Southwest Industrial Areas Foundation](#). The organizations are listed below:

Los Angeles, Ca: [ONE LA — IAF](#)

Pomona, Ca: [Inland Communities Organizing Network](#)

Sacramento, Ca: [SVOC](#)

San Francisco, Ca: [Bay Area IAF](#)

Vallejo, Ca: [Common Ground](#)

Central Coast Region headquartered in Watsonville, Ca: [COPA](#)

**Unitarian Universalist Church
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Office Hours

During the COVID-19 pandemic,
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March 2022

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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