



NUUSLETTER

of the Unitarian Universalist Church of the Monterey Peninsula

May Theme: Nurturing Beauty

Sunday Service at 10:30 a.m. in person and via Zoom online meeting app

May 1

"The Wisdom of Wild Flowers"

Rev. Axel Gehrmann and W.A. Micah Forstein

The Flower Communion is an annual tradition observed in countless UU congregations in Spring. On this Sunday, every in-person worshipper is invited to bring a cut flower along to church. The flowers will be placed in large baskets, and then distributed to all present. (Those of you joining us via Zoom from the comfort of your homes are invited to bring a flower, nevertheless, which you can share visually via your camera.)

Our worship will be shorter than usual and will be followed by our Annual Meeting. We encourage all our members to participate in this brief, but important gathering. All are invited afterwards to a luncheon celebration hosted by our Stewardship Committee.

May 8

"The Multiple Meanings of Motherhood"

Rev. Elaine Gehrmann and W.A. Corey Brunson

Some of us are mothers, and all of us have had mothers--this Mother's Day we will explore some of the many facets of motherhood, in all its joy, sorrow and complexity. If you have a motherhood anecdote or photo you'd like to share, please contact Rev. Elaine or Corey.

May 15

"Trampling Through Paradise"

Rev. Elaine Gehrmann and W.A. Bjorn Nilson

There is something about the beauty of nature that calls to us, and when too many of us answer that call, we can end up harming the very beauty we seek to cherish. How might we expand our appreciation to more sustainably accommodate our desire for natural wonders and feed our spirits?

May 22

"Celebrating All Ages"

Multigen Service

Rev. Axel Gehrmann and Erin Forstein and Elizabeth Granado

What a journey this past year has been! In this religious community that spans all ages, we have all learned a lot, and each of us has grown one year older. In this morning's multi-generational service we will be recalling the past and looking to the future, as we celebrate this year's Religious Exploration program: the children, youth, and adults who have participated.

May 29

"Beauty in the Religious Context of Love"

Ray Krise and W.A. Kathleen Craig

What is the most beautiful thing you can imagine? A shimmering multicolored garden, perhaps, or twinkling star infested dusk. But what is the aesthetic meaning of a flower or star? We decide this meaning together when we practice interpersonal love, engage in a blessed community. Only in that context can beauty be found, nurtured, and shared throughout our common experience. What part do beauty and the arts play in our spiritual lives?

Religious Exploration

is available via Zoom each Sunday for children (pre K – 11) at 10 a.m. Both children and teens (12 – 18) meet at church in person Sundays for classes following the Story for all Ages during worship.

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Ministers' Message

Rev. Elaine G.
Gehrmann

Living the 8th Principle

It was last year at this time, that our congregation adopted the 8th Principle-- *covenanting to affirm and promote: journeying toward spiritual wholeness by working to build a diverse multicultural Beloved Community by our actions that accountably dismantle racism and other oppressions in ourselves and our institutions.*

Now 160 UU congregations have joined in affirming this commitment to work against racism and other oppressions. And while we all know that intentions are good, we know also that actions are better. So how are we putting this commitment into practice?

The Board of Trustees spent a number of months reading and discussing the report from the Commission on Institutional Change, Widening the Circle of Concern—perhaps you might like to read it also (you can find it [here](#)).

A number of us participated in one or more sessions of “Beloved Conversations” (more info [here](#)),

and many of us continue to be involved with the “Whites for Racial Equity” group which meets locally and virtually (lots of good info [here](#)).

Members of our congregation have attended COPA gatherings (more info [here](#))

and NAACP gatherings (learn more [here](#)).

A number of our members and friends support two Seaside multicultural organizations,

The Village Project (more [here](#)),

and Palenke Arts (more [here](#)).

We have followed the lead of the UUA’s Indigenous Caucus and started including a Land Acknowledgment at the beginning of our Sunday Services, to remind us of the original inhabitants of the land we are on, and to inspire us to act in relationship and solidarity with them (learn more [here](#)).

And the Social Justice Committee, in addition to its support of our monthly shared offering organizations, is working to support both the Amah Mutsun tribe and the Ohlone Costanoan Esselen Nation on the Remove the Bells project (more info [here](#)).

The UUCMP POC (People of Color) group has been meeting four times a month, providing a framework of support and acknowledgment for members and friends of UUCMP who have lived experience as people of color (more info [here](#)).

We have started a new section in our Weekly E-news entitled “Living the 8th Principle.” We’d love to share information about ways you are putting our 8th Principle intentions into practice.

And if you’re not already involved in this important work, please consider joining any one of the above initiatives, or starting a new one—there is much work to be done, and while the arc of the moral universe may bend toward justice, it does so by us pulling on it, in the direction of more justice, more peace, and more love.

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, May 14, 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. in person and via Zoom.

Anti-Racism Book & Film Discussion Group Tuesday, May 3, 7 p.m. via Zoom. See page 14.

Board of Trustees meets Wednesday, May 18, 5:45 p.m. via Zoom.

Buddhist Sangha is every Wednesday at 7 p.m. via Zoom. See page 14.

Environmental Justice meets Tuesday, May 10, 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, May 25, 5:30 p.m. via Zoom.

Men's Breakfast Group meets Saturday, May 14 8:30 a.m. via Zoom. See article at left.

Music Committee meets Wednesday, May 4, 5 p.m. via Zoom.

NUUsletter deadline for the June issue is Monday, May 16.

People of Color (POC) group will meet Saturdays, May 7 and 21 at noon, and Mondays, May 2 and 16 at 7 p.m. at <https://tinyurl.com/uwf8rdjf> See article to the left.

Program Council meets Tuesday, May 3, 12:30 p.m. via Zoom. For questions contact Lauren Keenan programcouncil@uucmp.org

Sing Along will meet on Thursday, May 12, 5:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. in person and via Zoom.

Social Justice meets Sunday, May 15, at noon. in the conference room and via Zoom.

Stewardship meets Wednesday, May 4, 1:30 p.m. via Zoom.

T'ai Chi Chih meets Tuesdays at 4 p.m. in the sanctuary. See page 14.

Women's Discussion Group meets the fourth Thursday of each month at 2 p.m. via Zoom. See page 18.

President's Corner — Bud Smith



Changes!

By now you've heard the happy news that we have moved a few steps closer to the New Normal with the relaxation of our COVID protocols for in-person worship. Steve Johnson and his team at the Reopening Task Force, Warren Finch, Andrea Rivas, and Axel and Elaine, get the MVP award for all of the time and thought they have put in to shepherd us through this transition. (Remember that even though masks are now optional, they are still recommended by the Task Force. I will probably continue to wear mine for a while . . .)

We look forward to seeing all of you in person or via Zoom at our Annual Meeting this Sunday, May 1. Robert Brunson and the Finance Committee have put in hours coming up with a balanced budget that will allow us to continue our Good Works in the community and to have a vibrant worship life here at the church.

We'll be voting to approve the budget at our meeting, so I urge you to take a good look at it and come with any questions you have. Thanks to the generosity of all of you, we are in strong financial shape!

Along with the proposed budget, the Annual Report you received contains reports from the Staff and from all of our committees with news of all of the activities and projects happening at our church. Check them out. We are a busy group!

This year's Annual Meeting will be a technological tour de force as Fred Hamilton and his crew (including some of your board members) facilitate a meeting that will feature live and virtual participation in discussions and voting. It should be fun.

And don't forget our special luncheon right after the meeting for those attending in person. This will be our first "social" get-together in two (2!) years.

See you soon. Stay well.

Bud

Save the Date!

**ANNUAL
MEETING**

Make sure you have marked your calendar to attend the **UUCMP Annual Meeting on Sunday, May 1, at 11:30 a.m.**, after the service. We will vote on the budget for fiscal year 2022-2023, on new board members and other elected positions, and proposed bylaw revisions.

Be there and attend the meeting to learn what's happening, participate in the discussions, and to cast your vote on these important issues. A delicious fajita lunch will be provided to all attendees!



RELIGIOUS EXPLORATION



To everything (turn, turn, turn)
There is a season (turn, turn,
turn)
And a time to every purpose,
under heaven . . .

The season is changing into a beautiful new spring! I asked the Kids Zoom class the other day what they thought of when they heard the word Spring. New

flower buds, baby birds, baby goats, flower gardens, planting trees, rain, rainbows . . . yes, spring has sprung! It is in the air we breathe and the sun that warms our souls! The world is waking up from a too long slumber, and it is time for a change. It is CHANGE, that capitalized and underlined word that I tend to avoid as much as I can. But it's time. As the song tells us, there is a time for everything, and now it is time to take off my DRE of the UUCMP hat and place it lovingly upon Elizabeth's head.

Oh, how I have loved guiding our children and youth through the pandemic, but now that we are quite possibly on the other side, hopefully nearly finished with this long and tedious event, Elizabeth is better suited to lead the children on from where our paths fork.

You will always be in my heart, and the UUCMP will continue to be my church! The pandemic has allowed for the idea of multi-platform worship, possibly the one good thing that came from this whole crazy event. So, I will still see you on Sunday, and I will still hear the beautiful and wise words of our Ministers and Worship Associates! I will still sing along to the glorious music of our choir, and I will also continue to lead the Virtual Kids class for as long as I am needed. I am not leaving you, I am merely stepping aside to make room for our new DRE Elizabeth. She will nurture the growth of our RE and will continue to be the loving and beautiful presence that our children need.

I present to you, Director of Religious Exploration,
Elizabeth Granado!



Hello UUCMP friends,

If you don't know me yet, my name is Elizabeth Granado. I have been the elementary RE teacher for two years. During Covid I worked with our DRE [Erin Forstein](#) on developing curriculum and activities for our kids, teens, and young adults. We worked together every week to create lesson plans that would be fun and engaging to the kids. Erin has been a major part of keeping our UUCMP RE program a success even through COVID and virtual learning. I was blessed to work with Erin, and we made such a great team!

I am excited to accept the role of Director of Religious Exploration at UUCMP. Having been the RE teacher, I feel the transition to DRE will be smooth. I have already felt so much support from Erin, the ministers, and staff. I am also grateful for all church members who congratulated me and thanked me. I'm eager to get started connecting with the children, youth, and families even more. I feel confident in the success and growth of our RE program. I want to make sure our RE program is somewhere families and kids feel welcomed and excited to attend. My hope is that our children have a warm and accepting community where they can feel free to be themselves. I am happy to help facilitate genuine connections in our church community that enrich the lives of the children and families. I believe that through our nurturing circle our children will find a wholesomeness that leads to their growth and strength. I am so grateful for the new role and to everyone who has supported and welcomed me.

Thank you so much,
Elizabeth Granado
Director of Religious Exploration

Fun Fundraising Plans!

Mark your calendar! Start saving items to offer for sale at our UUCMP **Super Flea!** Super Flea will return to an in-person sale this year on **September 2-3**. We will use the same format as before COVID; each seller prices their own items, displays and sells them, and takes away their own items at the end of the sale. All proceeds go to UUCMP.



There are people in the congregation who are willing to help you at each step of the way. More information will be shared as the date gets closer. Contact Mibs McCarthy



mibsmcarthy@comcast.net with questions. Looking forward to finding unexpected treasures at the sale!

Our **Services Auction** is on the UUCMP calendar!

Our first ever virtual Services Auction last year was loads of fun and highly successful.

We surpassed our fundraising goal because of the many, many creative and unique items offered by all of you!

And all of the enthusiastic buyers were critical to that success as well. The Silent Auction portion of the Auction will be virtual and will take place the week of October 15-21.



Saturday, October 22, will be the culminating event and will have multiplatform options, meaning folks can congregate in person or participate via Zoom.

Planning has just begun. so if you are interested in joining the Services Auction team, please contact Lauren Keenan
bill.lauren.keenan@gmail.com

Book Discussion: *The Myth of Closure*

Dates: 1st, 3rd and 5th Tuesdays (May 3, 17, 31)

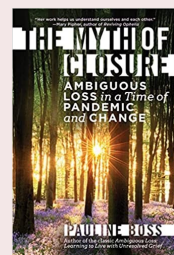
Time: 7:00 to 8:30 p.m. via Zoom

Rev. Axel is continuing to lead a five-session discussion of Pauline Boss's book, *The Myth of Closure: Ambiguous Loss in a Time of Pandemic and Change*, which was just recently published, and well-reviewed by the New York Times and NPR. It is a quick read and provides an interesting psychological perspective on the challenges of recent years, and how we might cultivate resilience and hope for the future.

An excerpt from the book jacket: "The COVID pandemic has left many of us haunted by feelings of anxiety, despair, and even anger . . .

vague feelings of distress caused by ambiguous loss, losses that remain unclear and hard to pin down, and thus have no closure . . . This book provides many strategies for coping: encouraging us to increase our tolerance of ambiguity and acknowledging our resilience as we express a normal grief, and still look to the future with hope and possibility."

Please contact Rev. Axel
minister@uucmp.org if you have questions, need help with Zoom, or plan to join the group and attend.





We Care, We Share

WE CARE, WE SHARE. Our congregation has been very generous during the pledge drive this year. The median pledge is up 20%! Thank you so much. We've all had trials to deal with these past two years. For a few of us that has meant financial challenges. Our Finance Committee uses our pledges to create the budget we vote on and use to operate UUCMP. If you find you can be even more generous please let us know so that our budget can meet our goals for UUCMP.

As of April 18, the fundraising results were as follows:

- There were 96 pledgers for this year vs. 108 in 2021-22. A handful of people were unable to pledge this time.
- Over 200 letters were sent to congregants and friends.
- 23 stewards contacted last year's pledgers and newer members.
- 6 members gave testimonials at worship.

It is never too late to send in a pledge card! Our numbers could change a little.

Annual Canvass	2021-2022	2022-2023 to date
Number of Pledges	108	96
Pledge Total	\$366,876	\$354,730
Average Pledge	\$3,397	\$3,695
Median Pledge	\$2,050	\$2,400

And many thanks to all those who have also share their time and effort to support this caring, sharing congregation.

Your Stewardship Committee:

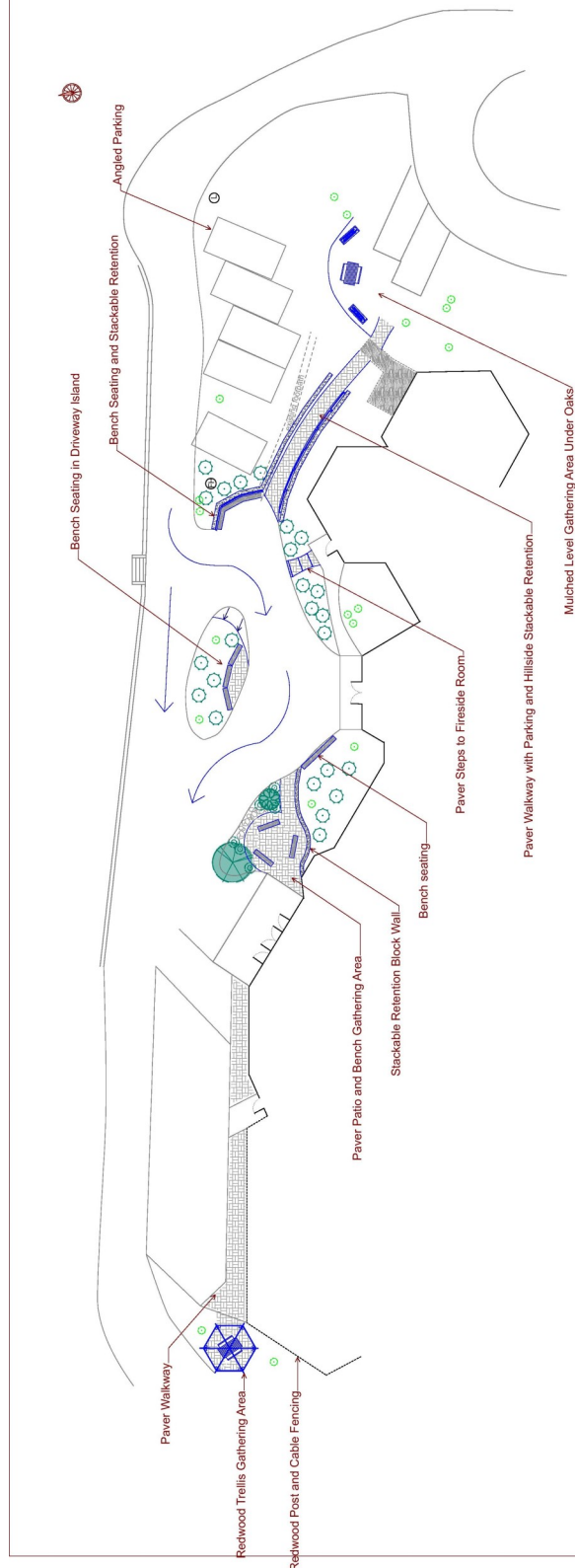
Carol Collin, Gretchen Hausmann, Steven Johnson, Judy Lind, Konny Murray, Harry Nagel, and JoAnn Novoson Special appreciation to our Committee Minister Rev. Axel Gehrmann

Artist Reception

There will be an Artist Reception for Karen Hunting on Saturday, May 14, 2022, 2 p.m. – 4 p.m. Come see the wonderful art works on display in our Welcome Hall and meet Karen in person. There is special pricing on all of the paintings for the duration of the show, which lasts through June 5. 20% of sales will be donated to UUCMP.



Soberanes Embers



UUCMP
490 Aguajito Road
Carmel, CA 93923
3/16/22

CONCEPT DEVELOPMENT CAMPUS BEAUTIFICATION PROJECT

Blue Door Garden Design, Inc.
www.bluedoorgardendesign.com
ramie@bluedoorgardendesign.com
831-238-3774

Landscaping Design

A part of our goal moving forward is to encourage and enable small groups to gather comfortably outdoors after church or meetings or to just be together. These enhancements will also make UUCMP a more desirable location for community groups to gather, for weddings or other celebratory events to occur on our campus, both raising our visibility in the community as well as creating more revenue.

The Board has engaged a state licensed landscape contractor to make these dreams real. At the March Board meeting the Board endorsed these plans to move forward. Due to the continuing financial support of this congregation through the past several years of isolation, UUCMP continues to be on a substantially firm financial footing and we have sufficient budgeted funds. Thus, blessedly, the cost of approximately \$80,000 fits into our current budget. This is the proposal from Blue Garden Design, Inc. The plan will be implemented some time during the coming months.

Help Get Out the Vote



Would you like to serve the voters of Monterey County at the June 7, 2022, Primary Election by working as a polling place election clerk? In exchange for a four-hour shift, you will receive a \$25 stipend and the satisfaction of assisting in the conduct of a fundamental process of democracy. The \$25 stipend is yours to keep or donate as you see fit.

The League of Women Voters is recruiting registered voters to work as election day clerks. Monterey County allows non-profit organizations to manage polling places under the "Team Up for Democracy" program. In return for handling the recruitment, the Elections Department allows the organizers to divide the workday into four-hour shifts instead of the all-day commitment.

As an election clerk you may be issuing ballots to qualified voters, collecting vote-by-mail ballots that voters are dropping off, greeting voters, or receiving the completed ballots. Experience is not necessary. All clerks must attend a mandatory two hour and 30-minute instructional class. Further, on election day, you will be working with experienced colleagues.

Fifteen training classes are available in Monterey from May 16 through May 20. Classes are presented at 10 a.m., 2 p.m., and 6 p.m. 15 classes are available in Salinas from May 23 through May 27 at the same hours. It is not known yet if an on-line class will be available.



Those who are interested can contact Dennis Mar, (831) 372-9388, DennisRMar3@yahoo.com

All Church Picnic

On Sunday, May 22, after the Sunday service, there will be an All-Church picnic lunch gathering at Veteran's Park in Monterey, hosted by DREs Erin Forstein and Elizabeth Granado. Bring a sack lunch and perhaps something to share and join us for a time of community and fun. All ages are welcome!



Watch the Weekly News for more details.



Musical Offerings

*May the beauty before me, open my eyes to see.
May the beauty above and below me set my soul
free.
May the beauty inside me wake me up to feel:
The beauty between you and me is real.*

*And may I be complete within my open circle.
May I be willing to see some hope in a broken
world
May I be like this tree standing in the center of
my circle,
I am solid on the ground
And I know I'm not alone.*

-Hal Walker

Hal Walker is a fellow UU Music Director from Kent, Ohio. This month we will sing his beautiful song "The Beauty Before Me" as our hymn of the month. Its lyrics are a perfect tie-in between awakening to our world and immersing ourselves in the beauty which surrounds us. On the surface, the song is fairly straightforward; let me awaken myself to the awareness of the global happenings all around me and recognize that I am not alone. However, the imagery of the tree-rooted through the solid earth-that is for me where the deep majesty of musical magic occurs.

Hal does a lovely job of swirling the melody in a most whimsical and complex manner with this text. He has the congregation sing both their highest and lowest notes on this line of the music as if to give a sense of being rooted, growing tall, and flowing freely, as the winds whirl through our own voices. Similar to how we may stroll through the woods, passing trees old enough to be our grandparents without a second thought, this musical moment comes and goes without much fanfare or attention or even vocal agility and difficulty.

Sing Along with Shawn

2nd Thursdays
5:30-6:30 PM



I think this is the secret to awakening to beauty fully. In a time when sensationalist stories lead us to believe there is more burden and heartache and terror in our



world than ever before, we can actually learn to shift our physical, cognitive, and spiritual frameworks to intentionally absorb all of the beauty which surrounds and lives through us. We can drench ourselves in the beautiful experiences before us, becoming fully aware of the balance of positive and negative realities around us. We can find gratitude in the life we are privileged to experience and hope in the face of despair.

If you would like to explore the beauty of music in community, you are invited to check out any of our ongoing ensembles or propose other ways to make a joyful noise with us. All of our groups are occurring in a hybrid model this month. Please feel free to reach out with any questions you may have.

All Meetings Hybrid via Zoom

ID: 828-761-1715

Password: music

All Are Welcome :-)



— Camille Hatton
Music Director

May Shared Plate Recipient *Interim Inc.*

This project began with a problem. Interim's Soledad House in Salinas was sinking. It also needed a new roof. Originally, the facility had been used as a crisis residential facility for adults with mental illness. More recently, it was used as a transitional home for clients who have been homeless or are at severe risk of homelessness. Interim had remodeled the residence several times over the years, and it would have been very expensive to rehabilitate again. So, in partnership with the City of Salinas, Interim, Inc. developed a plan to maximize use of the property by expanding the number of units on the site.

Since federal and state funding was available for both permanent and transitional housing for our clients, it was decided to provide both types of housing in the same building. The building was designed around the various funding sources' respective use restrictions.



Sun Rose has nine studio and one-bedroom units of permanent, affordable, supported housing for adults who are homeless, chronically homeless, or at-risk of homelessness. In addition, one floor of the complex will contain transitional housing for eight residents, in a shared housing configuration where each resident will have a private bedroom and share the common living areas, kitchen and bathrooms. This project has been specifically designed to meet the special needs of homeless single disabled adults.

The complex will also include offices and meeting rooms for counselors and residents. Designed by Wald, Ruhnke & Dost Architects, the building will be handicapped-accessible with an elevator to the upper floors. All tenants of Sun Rose will be offered mental health and case management on-site by In-

terim staff with the goal of helping residents to maintain housing and develop skills to be successful in the community. Tenants will be encouraged to use other services in the community, including those provided by Interim, at the nearby Pajaro Wellness Center.

The recent pandemic delayed the start of the project, which broke ground in August of 2021 and is expected to be completed the summer of 2022. This delay and the ensuing material shortage and labor cost increases have impacted construction of Sun Rose resulting in final project costs several hundred thousand dollars above the original estimates. Because the need for housing is so great, Interim, Inc. began construction and is actively seeking funding to complete the project.

The Sun Rose project was made possible through a partnership with the Monterey County Behavioral Health Bureau. "We have a long and successful history of partnering with Interim Inc., to provide needed services to the most vulnerable seriously mentally ill individuals in our community," said Katy Eckert, bureau chief at Behavioral Health.

Interim acknowledges support from the City of Salinas, the County of Monterey, and the local Coalition of Homeless Services Providers. Funding commitments have been received from the County of Monterey and the City of Salinas, including Community Development Block Grant Program funding, Whole Person Care funding, County Inclusionary Housing Funds, and Homeless Housing Assistance and Prevention funds. Interim was successful in obtaining competitive funds through the California Housing and Community Development No Place Like Home Program through a joint application with the County of Monterey. In addition, local foundations and donors have also provided financial support.

Please donate generously to this worthy organization.

Art News



Karen Hunting, a long time UUCMP member, will be showing her art the next two months in our Welcome Hall “gallery.” Originally scheduled for two years ago, it was postponed until now due to the pandemic. Karen’s show, “Layers,” demonstrates the interplay and flow of colors, textures and shapes evoking visions personal to each viewer.

Through the layering application of transparent and opaque elements of paint, paper, cloth and clay, a strong vibrant whole is created.



Explosive Impact

Whether they be the large abstract acrylics or the smaller clays on paper and cloth, the pieces

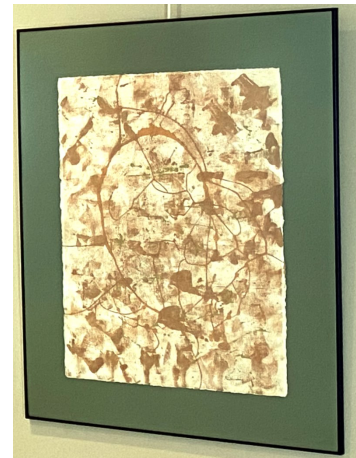
in this show endeavor to bring reflection on color, texture, shape and movement connections to give a full visual concert.



Sunlit Canopy

A degree in Graphic Design from Michigan State University, professional work as a graphic designer and art director and years with her own graphic design and wordsmithing studio provided the groundwork for her style to flourish. Once in California Karen began winning awards for some of her more whimsical three-

dimensional work in wood, clay and gourds. Other facets of Karen’s journey have included being an art director, marketing and public relations director, photography and art archivist, published author, featured artist in one woman shows and in group shows, chamber of commerce visitor center manager, art center board member, studio artist, contributing artist for fundraiser events and professional artist teacher in elementary schools’ programs.



Camouflage



Jabberwocky and Aflutter

Special

Special UU Art Show Pricing is in effect.

Highest \$325 price (Valued at \$750).

Three pieces have been sold as of April 17, 2022.

20% of sales is donated to UU Church of the Monterey Peninsula.

Artist Reception for Karen on Saturday,
May 14, 2022, 2 p.m. – 4 p.m. See page 7.

karen@karenhunting.com • 831 594 0421 • P.O. Box 2004, Carmel, CA
93921 • www.karenhunting.com

UUCMP Religious Exploration Library

OPEN anytime you're in the building, before & after church, or by appointment.

SEARCH with the catalog : librarycat.org/lib/uucmp

BROWSE by Source (S1, etc.) or Principle (P1, etc.) or OWL or UU.
Signs and a list of principles are posted.

CHECK OUT using the clipboard on the table.

RETURN books when you come to church or when done. Put them back in the right place or leave them on the bottom shelf below P8.

HELP? Questions? Delivery? Easy! Ask Karen 831- 917-2042 karenb1115@yahoo.com



Celebrating Our Own Peggy Olsen

Isn't it wonderful to have color and creativity return to our UUCMP Welcome Hall? We have the Art Committee, led by Peggy Olsen, to thank for arranging to have Karen Hunting's exhibition hung there in early April. See details on page 12.

Peggy Olsen has also gifted two of her lovely paintings to UUCMP. One, titled *Seaside Symphony*, is hung in the Conference room and the other, *Cypress by the Sea*, is on the wall in the Fireplace room. These are high quality giclee reproductions of Peggy's work. We are blessed to have her work grace our walls for many years to come.



Seaside Symphony



Cypress by the Sea

Thank you, Peggy, for your generous gift to our congregation. We are grateful!

Submitted by Lauren Keenan

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 May. Some will meet via Zoom.

Anti-Racism Book and Film Discussion First Tuesdays, 7-9 p.m. via Zoom

Men's Breakfast Group meets second Saturdays 8:30 a.m. via Zoom Contact: Doug McLain See page 3.

Women's Discussion Group meets on fourth Thursdays via Zoom. Contact: Nancy Baker Jacobs. See page 18.

Buddhist Sangha will continue via Zoom on Wednesday evenings, 7 to 8:30 p.m. Contact: Rev. Dennis Hamilton

Friday Night at the Movies will not meet in May Contact: John Freeman for any questions.

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

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.

UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CHURCH OF THE MONTEREY PENINSULA (UUCMP)

POLICY ON COVID-19 PRECAUTIONS

April 21, 2022

In consideration of the conditions listed below, UUCMP is hereby revising policies and protocols intended to limit transmission of COVID-19 at church events:

- Incidents of COVID-19 infection and hospitalization in Monterey County have reduced dramatically since 2021.
- Various COVID-19 mandates by federal, state and county government bodies, as well as by many businesses, have been scaled back or removed.
- A preponderance of UUCMP members and friends recently attending church events in person have documented their full vaccination for COVID-19.
- Fresh air circulation in high-occupancy spaces at UUCMP has been enhanced by new ventilation equipment, and box fans are available to exhaust air from smaller rooms.
- Quality Internet-live-streamed Sunday services and Religious Exploration classes are available for participants who choose not to attend in person.

UUCMP recognizes that COVID-19 vaccinations have not yet been approved for children under age 5, and that many people, particularly those with risky health conditions, may prefer to minimize their exposure to others while variants of COVID-19 remain in circulation.

Accordingly, the following changes in UUCMP policy and protocols shall **take effect on Sunday May 1, 2022**:

- The following are suspended, but remain available for reinstatement by the Board of Trustees in response to a new threat from an infectious disease:
 - COVID-19 Protocol for UUCMP Activities Inside the UUCMP Building, dated November 17, 2021
 - COVID-19 Protocol for Third-Party Activities Inside the UUCMP Building, dated November 17, 2021
 - COVID-19 Vaccination Policy, dated January 19, 2022
- The UUCMP Policy for Outdoor Activity, dated November 17, 2021, remains in effect.
- UUCMP encourages everyone who is medically qualified and age-eligible to seek vaccination and booster shots to limit the spread and personal impact of COVID-19. Registration with UUCMP of anyone's COVID-19 vaccination status is optional, but, in case needed during a future outbreak and related resumption of protection policies, it remains available through email or visit to the church office (see UUCMP.org for details).
- Wearing of facial masks to limit airborne spread of infectious disease is encouraged, but not required at UUCMP. Individuals exhibiting disease symptoms (e.g., fever of 100.4 degrees Fahrenheit or higher; severe fatigue; dry cough; unusual body aches; difficulty breathing or shortness of breath) should refrain from entering the church building, and are encouraged to be tested for COVID-19 infection.
- Event sign-in forms and vaccination/attendance tracking for potential contact tracing are discontinued. Entrance doors for Sunday services at UUCMP will no longer be limited to the Welcome Hall. The foyer entrance will be available for traffic.
- Post-event decontamination wipe-down of high-contact surfaces is not required.
- Imposing a waiting period between scheduled uses of a particular room or space at UUCMP is no longer required.
- UUCMP supports the social-distancing preferences of people attending church events in person. Use of adhesive, color-coded stickers for expressing those preferences during events will continue, as will distanced initial setup of chairs for those events.
- When there is food shared during an event, service from the kitchen must be through the pass-through openings into the sanctuary, managed by a limited number of people (maximum 4) in the kitchen.

Continued on page 16

COVID-19 Policy Precautions, continued

The following occupancy limits for UUCMP spaces remain in effect:

SPACE	CAPACITY
Sanctuary (only) – theater-style seating, with central aisle	63
Sanctuary (only) – theater-style seating, no central aisle	71
Sanctuary & Welcome Hall – theater-style seating with central aisle in sanctuary	75
Sanctuary & Welcome Hall – theater-style seating without central aisle	83
Sanctuary - unseated	80
Welcome Hall - unseated	50
Sanctuary & Welcome Hall - unseated	130
Fireplace Room	16
Conference Room	10
Upstairs Religious Exploration classrooms, nursery (each)	7
Kitchen	4
Upstairs women's restroom	4
Upstairs men's restroom	3
Emerson Room	8
Clara Barton Room	7
Church office	5
Downstairs restrooms (each)	1

This policy change allows resumption of many pre-pandemic practices at UUCMP. However, it does not require them. Respective, cognizant church staff and committees will decide when and how to reintroduce other aspects of church life, such as:

- Printing and distribution of paper Orders of Service on Sundays
- Passing collection baskets during the Offering period of church services
- Coffee, tea and snack availability before and after Sunday services
- Fully staffed Religious Exploration classes
- Staffed nursery service on Sundays

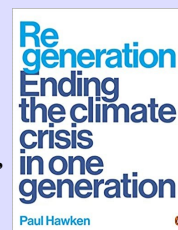
Internet live streaming of Sunday church services is now considered a permanent feature of UUCMP's religious program. Remote (Zoom) attendance at church-sponsored meetings and discussion groups will remain an option for attendees.

Book Discussion: *Regeneration: Ending the Climate Crisis in One Generation* by Paul Hawken

Dates: 2nd and 4th Tuesdays (May 10 and 24)
Time: 7:00 to 8:30 p.m. via Zoom

Rev. Elaine is continuing to lead a four-session discussion of Paul Hawken's book, *Regeneration: Ending the Climate Crisis in One Generation*, which was published last year, and favorably reviewed. The SF Chronicle said it is a "rational, pragmatic and well-researched clarion call. It's a

catalog of best practices for regeneration"... covering "an impressively broad range of topics from food safety to the war industry, electric vehicles to mangroves, which serves to demonstrate how all-encompassing the challenge is. But it's prescriptive, too, featuring reasoned calls to action from writers, activists, scientists and numerous other experts."



Please contact Rev. Elaine minister@uucmp.org if you have questions, need help with Zoom, or plan to attend.

Environmental Justice News

Natividad Creek Park Community Garden and Learning Lab, another Earth Day success story

Edited from an article by Mark C. Anderson

Natividad Creek Park Community Garden first sprouted on Earth Day, April 22, 2016 after a group of family and friends met in 2013, developed plans, designs and a network of resources, and was granted a go-ahead from Salinas city officials to start the project. Digging began in earnest. Planter boxes were constructed, irrigation was installed, and a free library was popped in place.

Leticia Hernandez, the dedicated and resourceful project director, calls that work “a labor of love” but she knows much more can be done with a space that’s been created entirely by donated grit and elbow grease. “Up until this point it’s been volunteer power that’s generated the garden and managed it,” she says. “Having a main point of contact organizing work days and managing emails and just being able to connect community members to the garden can expand our calendar and multiply the impact.”

The project was planned to “nurture connections, creativity, and a range of garden and biology learning drawing upon ancestral knowledge, existing community science knowledge, and new sustainable science innovation . . . during COVID times, outdoor space is even more important,” she continues. “We want the community to come out in a safe place and learn about gardening and growing food.” according to Ms. Hernandez.



A funding proposal for Natividad Creek Park Community Garden expansion went before the Salinas Library and Community Services Commission. The proposal described a vision of success that includes educational programming for neighborhood residents, organic gardening work days for 100-plus youngsters and creation of an outdoor classroom. Construction of a tool shed is also part of the plan, as is a compost box, a mushroom grove tucked in the shade of oak trees and a cold frame—basically a small greenhouse built out of bioplastics and repurposed materials to shepherd seedlings in the winter. Stated strategies to realize that vision range from collaborating with local biology researchers, schools, colleges, NGOs and libraries to providing ten qualifying families with their own gardening boxes. Expanding programming on nutrition, composting, native plants and STEAM subjects represent another priority, as does growing a demonstration garden and assembling an outdoor classroom with tree-stump seats. The involvement of four local superpower nonprofits—Communities for a Sustainable Monterey County (CSMC), bio-tech education experts Xinampa, The Blue Zones Project Monterey County and model education garden space MEarth Carmel will prove vital. CSMC, under Ms. Hernandez's guidance, proposed this project as their “BIG Idea” for the Monterey Foundations fundraising campaign and raised \$21,416.

The UUCMP Environmental Justice Group is proud to be in collaboration with CSMC in our community outreach activities.

A partial list of desired outcomes by the end of 2021: 500 pounds of produce grown; recruitment and engagement of 40 new volunteers contributing 1,000 hours of service; four intergenerational events; four half-day workshops in concert with community partners; and the successful planting out of 25 varieties of vegetables and 25 more of native and pollinator plants.

Continued on next page

Natividad Creek Park Community Garden cont.

The Salinas Library and Community Services Commission recommended the proposal, with a \$30,375 budget, move forward. While the Salinas Parks Department prepares the garden for the new infrastructure—like the cold frame, mushroom grove, and an artistic bike rack-planter box—programming can start in earnest. Curriculum launches later this spring with youth classes in community science. While the value of community gardens is self-evident to many, studies back that up. They advance healthier lifestyles, education and even entrepreneurship. They increase life satisfaction and bolster social networks, particularly among older demographics. They boost housing prices, attract small businesses and provide a retreat from urban environments. They limit soil erosion and runoff.

But for Salinas' Joey Martinez, it comes back to the painfully ironic reality that despite its location, the 2020 Census found Salinas zip codes are among some of the most food insecure in the country. Martinez is a Library and Community Service Commissioner who

recommended the plan, and he's also the local artist and philanthropist who created the eye-catching bike rack.

"The garden is a hub local for families to come



and experience gardening, a prime learning-based location, especially the way the Local Urban Gardeners have laid it out and planned it out for people to farm for themselves," Martinez says.

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 May 26th, when Kathleen Craig will lead our discussion of "Pets." 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

SOCIAL



JUSTICE

About 100 leaders from across California met on Sunday, April 3, for three hours to hear presentations on CA politics and its economy and also about raising money to fund our Industrial Areas Foundation (IAF) organizations. The goal these two topics contribute to is helping IAF organizations more effectively advocate for improvements in areas important to working families across CA. There are now seven IAF organizations in CA with the most recent addition of an IAF organization called Central Valley, located in Fresno, the largest city in the San Joaquin Valley.

Leaders from all of the IAF organizations representing the areas. Organizations and the areas they serve are as follows:



MARIN
ORGANIZING
COMMITTEE (MOC)



SILICON
VALLEY
SPONSORING
COMMITTEE



BAY AREA
ORGANIZING
COMMITTEE

Central Valley, Fresno County
Common Ground, Solana, and Napa Counties
COPA, Central Coast, Santa Cruz, Monterey, and San Benito Counties
ICON, north LA County
MOC, Marin Organizing Committee, San Francisco, and Marin Counties
One LA-IAF, Los Angeles County
Silicon Valley, Santa Clara County

We began with some facts about the CA economy, which is the fifth largest economy in the world and is home to one fourth of the nation's billionaires, but also has the highest poverty rate of any state. One in three CA families do not have enough money to meet their basic needs according to United Way's Real Cost Calculator. We met in small groups with representatives from all of the seven groups to talk about how we were impacted directly. We also learned about the financialization of housing, the declining middle class jobs in construction and housing and replacement of middle income jobs with low income jobs in health care. The amount of new housing stock is sometimes kept at a lower rate, intentionally to increase the value to the owner, with increased housing pricing and profit. We examined the success rate of some groups who influence developments in state and local laws. The California Chamber of Commerce, as an example, is extremely successful in halting legislation which might disadvantage businesses, despite the proposed legislation's potential to improve things for working families. Ernesto Cortes talked about the need for organizations like IAF to develop a countervailing power so that it could advocate for working people as effectively as the Chamber of Commerce advocates for business.

MOC presented information about the benefits of organizations raising "hard money." Hard money is money that has no "strings" attached; many grants, by contrast, may only be used for the specific purpose which the grantor authorized. Raising hard money can include: individuals or organizations paying more than their dues would require, money raising events like a dinner or other event, or approaching corporations/foundations for a general contribution, rather than a specific action based grant. MOC representatives advocated for organization developing a capital fund. The purpose of a capital fund is to enable the organization to tackle big ideas, and to keep the organization in existence if there are lean times in the future.

The meeting concluded with organizers requesting the organizations to consider committing to raising hard funds, with a future meeting in the fall to discuss the IAF organizations' conclusions. COPA has not yet met to discuss how it will respond to the urging to develop hard money.

Unitarian Universalist Church
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Office Hours

During the COVID-19 pandemic,
the office is open for limited hours: 10 a.m.
to 1 p.m. on Wednesdays and Fridays.
Email to office@uucmp.org

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Return Service Requested



May 2022

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