



NUUSLETTER

of the Unitarian Universalist Church of the Monterey Peninsula

March Theme: Vulnerability

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

March 5

“Risking Vulnerability”

Rev. Axel Gehrmann and W.A. Page Galloway

The psychiatrist M. Scott Peck writes, “There can be no vulnerability without risk; there can be no community without vulnerability; there can be no peace, and ultimately no life, without community.” This raises several questions: When is it worthwhile to risk making ourselves vulnerable? In which ways are we vulnerable, whether we want to be or not? And what if vulnerability weren’t a weakness, but rather a strength – or even a superpower that could help us change the world?

March 12

“This Bittersweet Life”

Rev. Elaine Gehrmann & W.A. Simona Bartl

"We're built to live simultaneously in love and loss, bitter and sweet," says author Susan Cain. In our society it seems that we are continuously pressured to seek happiness, and to avoid depression and sadness. This morning we will explore the importance of our human experiences of sorrow and longing, and how being open and vulnerable to sadness can also move us to greater compassion, creativity and connection."

Religious Exploration

Children (pre K - 11) and teens (12-18) attend our worship service on Sundays and go to their respective Religious Exploration classes following the Story for All Ages.

March 19

“Salvation for Ourselves and the Earth ”

Rev. Dr. Jay Atkinson and W.A. Lauren Keenan

Year by year, ever more dramatically, we see how the spiritual health and physical vulnerability of humanity is intertwined with Earth's vulnerability. Human and planetary salvation are existentially linked. If we cannot learn to live together, we will surely die together. Rev. Dr. Atkinson is Minister Emeritus of the UU Church of Studio City.

March 26

“Sharing Our Vulnerability”

Kathleen Craig, Maren Martin, & Bjorn Nilson

Vulnerability is a quality that we all grapple with. We'll talk about the various types of vulnerability (there are at least five!), how our level of vulnerability can impact our relationships, and how people react to us. Vulnerability is being discussed in our culture now more than ever before; join us in the conversation!

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See the calendar at
www.uucmp.org



Ministers' Message

Rev. Elaine
Gehrmann

Our young adult daughter recently recommended a tv program to us, called “We’re Here,” on HBO. She said, “You’ll love it, it’s like ‘Queer Eye’ meets ‘Priscilla Queen of the Desert.’” It is, in fact, like that and more. It is a reality show where in each episode, these three amazing queer drag queens (Bob the Drag Queen, Shangela, and Eureka O’Hara) go to a different conservative small town in America, and put on a drag show, featuring several local residents who brave the challenge to make a very public showing in their community, to represent and empower those who may not be able to be as out and visible.

While I have always been a deeply committed LGBTQ+ ally, I have not been too familiar with the world of drag, and I have been blown away by how moved I have been by this show. The love, empowerment, audacity, and courage shown by the stars, who descend on these small towns in extravagant costumes, wigs, makeup and heels—and the local residents who are transformed into brilliant beautiful butterflies, gives me hope I didn’t even realize I needed.



Several of the most touching episodes (though they’re all touching) involve trans folks, and their struggles for understanding and acceptance. Some folks have the love and support of their biological families, and some rely on their chosen family of friends. Almost all are nervous and a little fearful of performing on stage in their own town, in drag, and the final production is always an amazing exhibit of incredible artistry, imagination, glam and overwhelming love and support. And tears, lots of tears.

Their hope is to let people know that there is more support, even in these conservative communities, than is sometimes obvious, and to encourage people to come together, to create visible networks of love and security and empowerment.

Our theme for the month of March is “Vulnerability.” In being vulnerable, we can also discover great strength, depth, and possibility. In opening ourselves to others, we can be open to receiving more love, more support, more courage, and more joy. We don’t need to do it in drag... but it sure seems to help! How else might we be more openly visible and vulnerable? Who else needs to know we are here, as a community of love and support?

See you in church!

Elaine

Guest Preacher on March 19



Rev. Dr. Jay Atkinson retired in 2011 from 32 years of full-time service in Unitarian Universalist parish ministry, most recently twelve years in Studio City (Los Angeles) and, before that, thirteen years in Davis, Calif. During those ministries he also served at various times on the adjunct faculties of our UU seminaries in Chicago (Meadville Lombard Theological School) and Berkeley (Starr King School for the Ministry). Before turning to professional ministry, he did research in nuclear physics for eleven years. Currently he is a Research Scholar at Starr King with a focus on UU history.

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 the third Monday of every month via Zoom. Feel free to drop in and join us.



Due to recent tech issues, please contact Patty Pai singerpattypai@gmail.com to be included on an email list and receive meeting reminders and any last-minute updates to the meeting link.

Men's Breakfast

Saturday, March 11, at 8:30 a.m.



The men's monthly breakfast is continuing as hybrid. Our next meeting is Saturday, March 11, from 8:30 a.m. to 11:00 a.m., in the Fireplace Room. People will bring in food of their choice to the in-person meeting. If you prefer, you can join us via Zoom from home at 9:00 a.m.

Zoom Meeting ID is: 975 5961 1965. Passcode: 408070
On a phone (call 669-900- 9128)
Or with a computer - simply click on this link:
<https://zoom.us/j/97559611965>

The breakfast is open to all who identify as male or gender fluid. Our conversation is confidential. If you are joining us in person please RSVP to Mike Lovell lovellmike50@hotmail.com so that we will have an idea of how much food to bring. If you have any dietary restrictions please bring your own food. Hope to see you there.

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

A Course in Miracles meets Wednesdays, 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. in the Conference Room.

Adult Community Choir meets Thursdays at 7 p.m. in person and via Zoom; Jam session March 9, 5:30 - 6:30 p.m.

Board of Trustees meets Wednesday, March 15, at 5:45 p.m. via Zoom.

Book Discussion *Braiding Sweetgrass* Tuesdays March 7 and 21 via Zoom. See page 13.

Buddhist Sangha is every Wednesday at 7 p.m. via Zoom. See page 8.

Children's Choir meets Sunday, 10 a.m. in the Conference Room.

Environmental Justice meets Tuesday, March 14, 3:30 p.m. via Zoom.

Family Ministry Virtual Meeting Wednesday, March 8, 7 p.m. via Zoom; Family Ministry Lunch Sunday, March 12.

First Friday Game Night is Friday, March 3. 6:30 p.m. in the Fireplace Room.

I-HELP for Men is Sunday, March 12, 5 p.m. Sign up on the bulletin board if you can help.

I-HELP for Women is Sunday, March 26. Contact Lee Hulquist if you can help.

Membership Committee meets Wednesday, March 22, 5:30 p.m. via Zoom,

Men's Breakfast Group meets Saturday, March 11, 8:30 a.m. in person and 9 a.m. via Zoom. See article at left.

Music Committee meets Wednesday, March 8, at 6 p.m. via Zoom.

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

People of Color (POC) group will meet Monday, March 20, 7 p.m. via Zoom.

Program Council meets Tuesday, March 7, 12:30 p.m. via Zoom. For questions contact Mibs McCarthy programcouncil@uucmp.org

Social Justice will meet on Sunday, March 5, at noon in the Sanctuary and via Zoom.

Stewardship will meet Wednesday, March 1, 1:30 p.m. via Zoom.

T'ai Chi Chih meets Tuesdays at 4 p.m. in the sanctuary. See page 8.

President's Corner — Carol Greenstreet



The February message was *The Path of Love* in its many incarnations. Each month the Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA) identifies a theme for worship and reflection. This theme is elaborated in a Soul Matters publication with poems, quotes, links to music and movies, and optional spiritual exercises for reflection and journaling. The Chalice Circles often use these as a catalyst for their discussions. Pondering the recent sermons by our co-ministers, I was reflecting on the different aspects of love. Soul Matters included a quote by Parker Palmer which resonated with me. He wrote:

Self-care (and self-love) is never a selfish act — it is simply good stewardship of the only gift I have, the gift I was put on earth to offer others. Anytime we can listen to our true self and give it the care it requires, we do so not only for ourselves, but for the many others whose lives we touch.

Reading the different spiritual exercises, I tried to envision how I address the different acts of self-care and self-love on which the authors focused: loving my spiritual self, physical self, emotional self, and relational self. They also prioritized finding which of my many selves needed the most self-care and self-love. I pondered how I spend my days and noted that recently I had focused on reaching out to some friends with whom I had lost touch as well as connecting with those in the area for walks and talks. A short bout of a physical issue slowed my hiking and walking for a week, but

hopefully that is behind me now. Based on my interest in nature journaling, I took a book-binding class late last year and created a lovely journal. Wanting a smaller journal with different paper, I embarked on my first solo effort. As I was threading the pages together in the complex binding process, I was ruminating on how we bind ourselves to others with various forms of love and friendship. UUA's *Mistakes and Miracles* uses the term Common Threads for describing how different actions and relationships "interweave and sometimes tangle, get sorted out and grow stronger, then get tangled again."* As I was linking the various threads of my book and admiring the two intricate stitching styles, I was pondering how we intertwine our lives with others. I recognized some sewing mistakes after the fact and realized that while I have made mistakes in my personal life, I need to stop dwelling on them.



I decided to leave the errant stitches as they were and to get on with other things. (Spend time correcting the odd stitches or let them be and get outside and journal, walk, hike, bird, talk...) Hopefully my emotional self has learned a bit more on the process, and I can focus more of my efforts on my relational self.

**Mistakes and Miracles*, Nancy Palmer Jones and Karin Lin, pg 211.

Carol

RELIGIOUS EXPLORATION



Hello Everyone,

February was a busy month for the Religious Exploration team. We welcomed two new staff members, worked on planning activities for the spring and summer, and reached out to UUCMP families. Read on for more details!

Meet our New Teens' Teacher: Rebecca Irwin

Rebecca Irwin is now co-teaching the teens' class alongside long-time UUCMP member, Warren Finch.



Rebecca has a Ph.D. in Ecology and Evolutionary Biology, and has taught university level biology classes and science classes for homeschooled middle school and high school students. She has two grown children. For the past decade, she helped develop curriculum and then taught the 5th/6th grade Sunday School class at the Secular Jewish Community and School in Oak Park, Illinois. Last summer, she moved back to her home state of California and is happy to be living in the house that was her grandmother's, in Carmel.

Meet our New Nursery / Kids' RE Assistant Teacher: Becky Gutshall

Becky Gutshall also joined our RE team to help in the nursery. If there are no babies or tod-

dlers in attendance on Sundays, she will be helping out Sharyn in the kids' RE class. She will also be providing childcare at the monthly parent meet ups. Becky is a junior in college studying language education and anthropology. She comes from a large family and loves working with others. She loves crafting and creating!



Family Outreach

In February, the Committee on Family Ministry sent out postcards to families who previously attended UUCMP, encouraging them to return and check out our RE offerings. The committee is also using the results of their family activity survey to plan some fun enrichment activities for families on Sunday afternoons. See below for volunteer opportunities!

Upcoming Events

Please watch the UUCMP weekly newsletters and the monthly RE newsletter for upcoming family friendly events, including the:

- First Friday Game Night on March 3rd at 6:30pm in the Fireplace Room – please note the earlier time!
- Family luncheon and parent group on the 2nd Sunday of March (3/12) after service (childcare provided)

Volunteer Opportunities

- Help Plan or Lead an Activity at our Summer Camp: We are currently planning the curriculum for a weeklong elementary ages summer day camp at the church for mid-late June. Camp activities will focus on the 7th principle— “We believe in caring for our planet Earth, the home we share with all living things.”

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-- continued from page 5

If you'd like to help with planning or leading an activity on one day of camp (or more), please get in touch with Acting DRE Sharyn.

Lead a Sunday afternoon enrichment activity for UUCMP Families:

Are you a crafter? A naturalist? A baker? We're looking for volunteer teachers who would like to lead a 1-time activity for UUCMP families after church. The activity would take place at the church and could be tailored to kids, youth, or all ages. Help us build the beloved community!

Nursery Volunteers:

We need some "on-call" nursery volunteers who are willing to be an occasional 2nd adult

in the nursery when any babies or toddlers show up on Sundays. Volunteers must complete the church's Safe Gatherings training before volunteering. If you are interested, please get in touch with Acting DRE Sharyn.

As always, a big THANK YOU to all of the parents and volunteers who continue to help make our RE programs fun and enriching for our UUCMP children and youth.

Sharyn Routh
Acting Director of Religious Exploration
dre.sharyn@uucmp.org

Notes from the Intern Committee

Youngest child just left for college? Mother-in-law called back to the east coast to help out with the grandkids? That above-the-garage studio finally cleaned out and ready for its next adventure? Well then, let's talk!

As you know, UUCMP has a long history of supporting seminary students by hosting an intern to spend a year with our congregation. And you also know that the Monterey Peninsula is a very expensive place to live. When we were able to house our interns on site, we could provide an attractive package to potential candidates. However, circumstances have changed, and we may no longer have this option.

That's where you come in. If you do have space in your home or on your property, and if you like the idea of sharing your space with a vibrant, energetic, and inquisitive seminary student, please let us know. We'd love to talk to you!

Carol Galginaitis,
Chair, Intern Committee
carol.galginaitis@gmail.com
781-801-2775



Musical Offerings



This month, come join the music department in creating incredible music together.

The Adult Community Choir meets **every Thursday from 7-9 p.m. in the Sanctuary**. This choir is open to everyone, members and nonmembers



alike, to explore singing together. We are currently preparing for two services per month.

If you want to have fun with folk songs and popular tunes, come check out our Jam Session with Rodney Smith! This group is open to anyone with any instrument to play or sing along. You can bring music or use the music other people bring. This group does not perform in services. They meet in the Sanctuary the second Thursday of each month from 5:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. This month the group meets on March 9.



Our youth music program continues to play hand chimes together **every Sunday from 10:00-10:20 a.m. in the Conference Room**. Students are encouraged to come out and sing and explore these wonderful hand chimes. Please ask me if you have any questions about this fun opportunity for our youth!

If you have any other ways you wish to contribute to the music department, please feel free to contact me! We would love your involvement in this fun program.

Jorge Torrez, Music Director

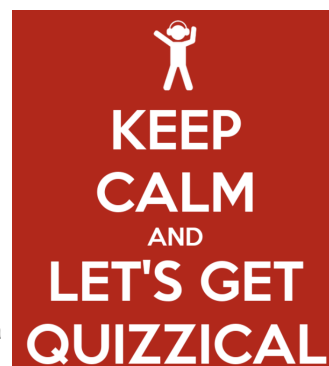
Join us for our very own UUCMP Trivia Night-- "Let's Get Quizzical!"

Friday March 10, 2023, from 6 - 8 p.m. in the Sanctuary

This service auction event has room for you! A suggested donation of \$20 (though no one will be turned away) gets you pizza and soft drinks, and a super-fun evening of team trivia competition, with prizes!! Join JT Mason, Katie Hamilton, Elaine Gehrmann and many of your fellow UUCMP friends for this entertaining evening!

RSVP by March 5th so we know how much pizza to order!

Email rev.elaine@uucmp.org or sign up on bulletin board across from kitchen at UUCMP.



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

Some groups will not meet face-to-face in March. Some will meet via Zoom.

Book Discussion *Braiding Sweetgrass* March 7 and 21 via Zoom. See page 13.

Men’s Breakfast Group meets second Saturdays 8:30 a.m. in person at church and at 9:00 a.m. via Zoom. Contact: Mike Lovell. See page 3.

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 via Zoom at 7 p.m. on the 3rd Monday of every month. See article on page 3 for meeting link.

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 Know You Have Stories to Tell!

The Worship Associates at UUCMP bring a variety of experiences and perspectives to our weekly services!

If you think it might be fun to help plan and participate in worship services, please talk to one of our ministers about joining our team. Enthusiasm is required, experience is not.



March Shared Plate Recipient *Door to Hope Women's Shelter*

DOOR TO HOPE



In 1971, Door to Hope opened its doors with a residential treatment center for women in need who were struggling with alcohol and drug addiction. Over the years, it has expanded care to offer

people in Monterey County much-needed behavioral health service programs. Today, it has ten caring programs, that help infants, children, teenagers, men, women and families. Door to

Hope has helped thousands of people, restored hope, happiness and productivity, and has enriched our communities in the process. When people of any age struggle with addiction, mental health issues, trauma or an unstable home life, they need competent and compassionate care. Our licensed, certified and professional staff brings an exceptional level of expertise in the science and psychology of behavioral health, which is matched by warm, supportive approaches. We love what we do, and it shows at every step.

Please give generously to help this organization do their work.



BIG SUR
INTERNATIONAL MARATHON

Seeking Volunteers for Distributing T-Shirts at the Big Sur Marathon (BSM)

Last fall UUCMP received \$1,500 for our helping at the 1/2 marathon, and we received \$1,100 for our help with last spring's marathon. That seems like a pretty good benefit to UUCMP for our help with a fun activity. We've been asked to help with handing out t-shirts again at Marathon expo on April 28 and 29 at the Portola Hotel/Monterey Conference Center. There are 20 volunteer slots spread over 5 shifts (2 shifts on Friday and 3 shifts on Saturday.) When we fill those volunteer positions, we will be helping our community host an event that is good for a lot of groups in the area, and which has helped our church.

If you're interested in helping, please go to the BSM volunteer site below. The site will show you the time of each shift. Hopefully you will find something that will work for you. Looking forward to working with you, doing some good for our community and our church. If you have questions, please contact Karen Judkins at kljudkins84@yahoo.com.

To volunteer, go to

<https://bigsurinternationalmarathon.volunteerlocal.com/volunteer/?id=64666> , enter the password UUCMP and select the shift which works best for you. You'll add your email, t-shirt size and a few other things. Thank you for your help.



ALL WE NEED IS LOVE

operating fund drive report

The kick off for UUCMP's annual operating fund drive was on February. 12. The sermon helped us to see that loving the church by supporting it financially is the responsibility of all of us. We affirmed our new covenant which emphasizes our obligation to support the church both thru our involvement and our finances (time and treasure). After the worship, 70 of us enjoyed Stewardship Committee-sponsored delectable bites catered by Rima Mazzeo Crow and staff.

The committee set up cocktail and sit-down tables with sheets of paper taped on top accompanied by crayons. Each table top had questions to ponder or comment on. Following are the comments you wrote. As you'll see, choir was mentioned often. UUCMP is a special place!

What gives you joy about UUCMP?

- Sunshine
- Always the music
- Lucy
- The piano and artwork
- Music and flowers
- Meeting new people and seeing friends
- Friendships
- Smiles
- Lucy & Jorge & Music
- Friends
- One person drew a picture of pine trees
- Old and new people

What gives you comfort at UUCMP?

- Singing with the choir and spending time with my fellows
- There's always something at each service that I did not know I needed to hear!

- The choir
- Food after services
- Lucy
- Friends
- Love hope
- Phone calls when I am sick
- Beverage and snacks after worship for connections and sharing inspiration gained from worship

What inspiration do you get from UUCMP?

- To keep doing good works in the community
- All the social justice projects
- Friendliness & friendships
- Music, sermons, and readings inspire me to love myself as I love others.

What have you learned at UUCMP?

- Inherent worth of all
- Unbelievably friendly people. Opens my heart to be greeted so warmly and be physically touched.
- Acceptance

What does love in action look like?

- Sharing what I have
- Loving someone with your whole heart and soul

Thank you for sharing delectable bites with us. Please turn in your pledge card if you haven't. You can pledge online also at UUCMP.org.

Your Stewardship Committee
Konny Murray – Chair, Carol Collin, Gretchen Hausmann, Steve Johnson, Judy Lind, Harry Nagel (UUCMP Treasurer), Jo Ann Novoson with advice from Rev. Axel Gehrmann

Art News



Mary Hill
Recognized National Photographer

“The Silence in Details and Quiet Places”
March 4 to March 30, 2023

Artist reception Saturday, March 25 from 1 p.m. until 4 p.m.

Mary Hill was born in Texas, moving to Carmel in 1988. She is a travel agent with Carmel-Monterey Travel and has had the opportunity to travel to some of the most beautiful places in the world. She believes that she lives in the most beautiful of them all.

Since coming to the Peninsula, her art has been photography with the focus being the silence in details and quiet places, as well as the appreciation of the world around her.

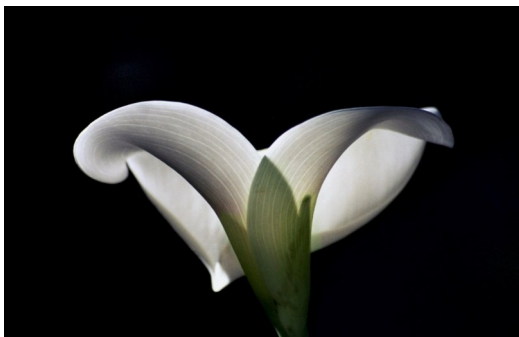
Since 2001, Mary has had several solo exhibitions. Among them were exhibits at the Pacific Grove Art Center, the Carmel Mission and two shows at The Sea Ranch Lodge.

Her photography can be seen annually in the Arts Habitat Studio Tour, the Bach Festival Art Raffle and the Miniature Show at the Monterey Museum of Art.



Quiet Crossing

Currently Ms. Hill has thirty-two images at CHOMP, nine at the Triton in Santa Clara, three at the Monterey Museum of Art and two at the Crocker Museum, as well as in private collections in California, Florida and Texas.



The Light From Within

Mary will happily receive your call or text via 831-601-8092 or email maryh@cmt.travel

Environmental Justice

Recycling Reminders from Your Environmental Justice Committee

Battery Recycling - All batteries in California must be taken to a household hazardous waste disposal facility. Our UUCMP Environmental Justice Committee will collect your batteries on the first Sunday of each month and take them to the Regional Waste Management District facility in Marina. Containers will be outside the doors to the Welcome Hall between 9 a.m. and 4 p.m. on the first Sunday. There will be separate boxes for lithium-ion batteries and all other batteries. Please put the batteries in the proper boxes. Lithium-ion batteries last longer and are a popular choice of rechargeable battery for use in many applications like portable electronics and automobiles. All batteries are potentially a valuable source of recyclable metal.

Composting Food Waste – Since January of 2022 Monterey County residents have been asked to compost food waste. This includes trimmings from your produce, the inedible parts of food e.g. shells and bones, plate scrapings, spoiled food; all but raw

meat and liquids including oils. Please do not put plastic, paper or biodegradable/compostable bags into your compost – only organic materials. If you

don't have a home composting system you are asked to add your compost to your green waste recycling bins. If you don't have much green waste and don't like the mess the food waste makes in the bin, there is a great new alternative. Some Safeway stores (Mid-Carmel Valley and Pacific Grove) and Trader Joe's in Pacific Grove have bins labeled Compost, Recycling, Trash, and Plastic Bags outside their stores. You can take your compost to these stores and ask other stores to get these bins. One way to handle your compost at home is to collect it in plastic bags in the refrigerator or freezer until you take it to the store. Be sure to save your bags, wash, and reuse them.



Tofu Tamale Pie

This recipe can be made vegan by substituting vegan alternatives for the milk, butter and cheese. Serves 8

INGREDIENTS

FOR TAMALES MIXTURE

- 1 C chopped onions
- 1/2 C chopped celery
- 1 clove garlic minced
- 2 Tbsp oil
- 1 14oz pkg firm tofu
- 1 16oz can whole tomatoes
- 1 17oz can kernel corn (I prefer frozen)
- 1 1/2 Tbsp chili powder
- 1 tsp salt
- 1/2 C vegetable stock or water
- 1 C corn meal
- 1 C pitted olives



FOR TOPPING

- 1 1/2 C milk

- 2 Tbsp butter
- 2 tsp salt
- 1/2 C cornmeal
- 1 1/2 C grated sharp cheddar cheese

Cook onion, celery and garlic in oil till wilted. Crumble tofu and add to onion mixture. Cook 2 minutes.

Add tomatoes, corn, chili powder and salt and simmer for 5 minutes. Mix cornmeal with stock and stir into tamale mixture. Cover and cook on low heat for 10 minutes. Stir to make sure it isn't sticking to the pot.

Put tamale mixture into a 2-quart casserole and cover with topping. Bake at 325 degrees for 25 minutes.

FOR TOPPING

Heat milk, butter and salt to boiling. Add cornmeal slowly and stir until thickened. Remove from the heat and stir in the cheese. Bake as directed above.

-- submitted by Kathleen Craig

SOCIAL JUSTICE



UUCMP to Host Housing Civic Academy

Please mark your calendars for

Saturday, Apr 1 @ 10 AM

St. Mary's By-the-Sea

146 12th Street, Pacific Grove



COPA leaders from the Peninsula have been working to co-sponsor a Housing Civic Academy with two other COPA institutions on the Peninsula, Unity of Monterey Bay and St. Mary's by the Sea Episcopal Church in Pacific Grove. We are also working to involve COPA member institutions St. Francis Xavier and San Pablo in Seaside.

The civic academy will be a face-to-face meeting. It is well timed as jurisdictions are now having to complete housing plans and goals for their areas. Please let me know if you would be interested in working on the planning team for this event which will meet regularly on Monday evenings.

Laura Nagel
COPA Core Team

Book Discussion Continuing— *Braiding Sweetgrass*

Rev. Elaine and the UUCMP Environmental Justice Group invite you to participate in the continuing book discussion of *Braiding Sweetgrass* by Robin Wall Kimmerer. "Drawing on her life as an indigenous scientist, a mother, and a woman, Kimmerer shows how other living beings—asters and goldenrod, strawberries and squash, salamanders, algae, and sweetgrass—offer us gifts and lessons, even if we've forgotten how to hear their voices. In a rich braid of reflections that range from the creation of Turtle Island to the forces that threaten its flourishing today, she circles toward a central argument: that the awakening of a wider ecological consciousness requires the acknowledgment and celebration of our reciprocal relationship with the rest of the living world."



We will meet on zoom first and third Tuesday evenings, 7 p.m. - 8:30 p.m. – March 7 & 21, April 4 & 18

<https://uuma.zoom.us/j/98610801883>

For the March 7 session please read Part 3 "Picking Sweetgrass."

Questions? Speak with Rev. Elaine minister@uucmp.org

**Unitarian Universalist Church
of the Monterey Peninsula
490 Aguajito Road
Carmel, CA 93923**

Office Hours

The office is open for limited hours: 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Wednesdays and Fridays.
Email to office@uucmp.org

Co-Ministers

the Revs. Elaine and Axel Gehrman
minister@uucmp.org

**Acting Director of Religious Exploration
Sharyn Routh**

dre.sharyn@uucmp.org

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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