

NUUSLETTER

of the Unitarian Universalist Church of the Monterey Peninsula

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

April 2 "Resistance is Futile, Or Is It?" Rev. Elaine Gehrmann and W.A. Ann Jacobson

In the Star Trek universe, the tagline of the invading species "the Borg" is "Resistance is Futile." Perhaps this is a psychological ploy, perhaps a time-saving attempt, perhaps a fact, stating the inevitable. We have all had times when we have felt powerless in the face of opposition or change or assimilation, and yet are there ways we could engage these situations differently?

April 9 "Turning the Other Cheek" Rev. Axel Gehrmann and W. A. Corey Brunson

On Easter Sunday we remember the life and teachings of a prophet, who, in a memorable sermon on the mount, encouraged us to love our enemies and to pray for those who persecute us. Jesus, it seems, was a powerful preacher. For centuries his call to love even in the face hate has inspired countless pacifists. But can we really be expected to practice what he preached – in times of war, today?



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See the calendar at www.uucmp.org

April 16 "Rest as Resistance"

Rev. Elaine Gehrmann and W.A. Shannon Morrison In her book *Rest is Resistance: A Manifesto*, Tricia Hersey says, "Treating each other and ourselves with care isn't a luxury, but an absolute necessity if we're going to thrive. Resting isn't an afterthought, but a basic part of being human." This morning we will explore the precious power of rest, and how it might empower us to resist forces that want to keep us exhausted and compliant.

April 23 "Overcoming Our Resistance" Rev. Axel Gehrmann and W.A. Kathleen Craig

April 22 is Earth Day. The motto of this year's observances is "Invest in Our Planet." Environmental activists encourage us to: Get Inspired. Take Actions. Be part of the green revolution. It is a call for us to resist practices and policies – both locally and globally - that harm our natural world. Practicing this kind of resistance is a challenge, for sure. The greatest challenge, however, may be resisting our own comfort and complacency.

April 30 "Going With the Flow" Rev. Dennis Hamilton and W.As. Bjorn Nilson & Christina Zaro

When rafting through a rapids, if you get sideways to a big rock your raft will wrap around it and dump everyone in the drink. If you work with the current it will slip you past the rock and send you safely on. Everything flows, even stone. Everything changes. Everything dies. How do we stop fighting the current and find instead the flow of life?

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.



Ministers' Message

Rev. Axel Gehrmann

Easter is a complicated holiday for Unitarian Universalists. Arguably the most important religious observance in the Christian calendar, in this predominantly Christian country, it tells the story of a tragic death and a miraculous return to life. But what does this story mean? What does Easter mean to you?

When I was a child, raised in a UU family, I considered myself an enlightened skeptic, and questioned the veracity of the traditional tale that hinges on a divine supernatural intervention – a resurrection. I thought myself precociously above such superstition.

Even so, I was happy to accept tales of Easter Bunnies, as long as they involved exciting egg hunts, and the promise of plenty of candy.

But as I grew older, I came to appreciate the deeper wisdom of ancient stories, and layers of meaning that, I now realize, were never meant to For some of us, the past years have helped us rebe taken in a narrow, literal-minded way. The turning of seasons - the circle of life - really is a miracle worth celebrating.

Today I am reminded of the many spring holidays that have been observed through the ages and around the world. Whether stories of the goddess Persephone or Eostre, or Jewish stories surrounding the Passover – all of them stories of overcoming some form of oppression and entering a period of new beginnings.

I imagine us emerging not from a literal death, but rather the dormancy of dark winter months, which seem to hold us captive.

This year, Easter strikes me as an especially welcome harbinger of hope, arriving not only three days after the poignant events of Good Friday, and not only as a seasonal celebration after three months of winter darkness - but rather a holiday

of hope after three years of living in the shadow of a global pandemic.

These past three years, from which we are now slowly emerging, forced us all to live in various kinds of confinement and captivity, in different forms of dormancy and hibernation. So many aspects of our lives were put on hold, or put to sleep. These past three years have profoundly affected us all. After all we have been through how will we return to life? How will we become fully alive, once again?

Our church community certainly suffered throughout the challenges of the past years. And yet, in the midst of it all, we carried on - giving and receiving help, supporting one another, reaching out to the most vulnerable among us. I witnessed countless instances of compassion and kindness, and a remarkable generosity of spirit.

alize what really matters in our lives, and in the lives of those we love.

My hope is that these experiences, these lessons of love, remain with us. My hope is that they remain within our hearts and minds as precious seeds. My hope is that in the days and months to come, they might take root, and blossom in our lives to become beautiful, unimagined manifestations of love.

This is what Easter means to me: a renewal of life and love. And my hope is that we each may find evidence of this Spirit of Life and Love - emerging, unfolding, and forever new!

See you in church,

Axel

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 <u>singerpattypai@gmail.com</u> to be included on an email list and receive meeting reminders and any last-minute updates to the meeting link.

Men's Breakfast

Saturday, April 8, at 8:30 a.m.

The men's monthly breakfast is continuing as hybrid. Our next meeting is Saturday, April 8, 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.

Board of Trustees meets Wednesday, April 19, at 5:45 p.m. via Zoom.

Book Discussion *Braiding Sweetgrass* Tuesdays, April 4 and 18 via Zoom. See page 6.

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, April 11, 3;30 p.m. via Zoom.

First Friday Game Night is Friday, April 7. 6:30 p.m. in the Fireplace Room.

I-HELP for Men is Sundays, April 9 and 30, 5 p.m. Sign up on the bulletin board if you can help.

I-HELP for Women is Sunday, April 23. Contact Lee Hulquist if you can help.

Jam Session is Thursday, April 13, 5:30 p.m. in the sanctuary.

Membership Committee meets Wednesday, April 26, 5:30 p.m. via Zoom,

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

Music Committee meets Wednesday, April 12, at 6 p.m. via Zoom.

NUUsletter deadline for the May issue is Sunday, April 16.

People of Color (POC) group will meet Monday, April 17, 7 p.m. via Zoom.

Program Council meets Tuesday, April 4, 12:30 p.m. via Zoom. For questions contact Mibs McCarthy programcouncil@uucmp.org

Social Justice will meet on Sunday, April 2, at noon in the Sanctuary and via Zoom.

Stewardship will meet Wednesday, April 5, 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



We Monterey County residents should co-opt the phrase "March Madness," taking it from the sports world and applying it to meteorology. Weather-wise, it has been a devastating month. I hope everyone is safe, dry, and has access to friends, family, and groceries. (And flashlights, batteries, and candles.) Randy and I were minimally impacted due to being out of town for the longest of the power outages in our neighborhood. Our house currently has at least one unsolved electrical issue, but we have time to figure that out. A few days ago, we arrived home to find a pile of small branches in the driveway. While Randy was picking them up, I noticed a neighbor's Monterey Pine tree dangling a large set of branches from its crown directly over where Randy was working. I ushered him away and took a video of



the branches swinging in the wind. We took a quick lunch break before going out to clean up the rest of the yard, only to discover a larger pile of broken branches. The dangling branches had crashed to the driveway bypassing people, houses, cars, and even the fence. I watched what remained of the tree warily while Randy and a neighbor cut and dragged the debris out of the driveway. We were quite fortunate, unlike many in our area.

I picked up a Carmel Pinecone which stated that we have had nearly 40 inches of rainfall since October 1, 2022. On two recent hikes in Garland Ranch Regional Park, I witnessed the roaring Carmel River and Garzas Creek from safe distances. The March spiritual theme of Vulnerability certainly resonates this month. I am writing this prior to hearing how Earth's vulnerability is intertwined with our spiritual health and physical vulnerability, which Rev. Dr. Jay Atkinson and Lauren Keenan discussed on March 19. I am looking forward to attending the service.

The Monterey Office of Emergency Services has a Winter Storm Relief fund for the Pajaro area, for Wildfire Relief, and other emergency support services such as the Food Bank. Please consider what you can contribute to our vulnerable neighbors.

Carol

Celebration of Life Service In honor of

William "Bill" Anderson
Saturday, April 15, 2 p.m.
Reception to follow



RELIGIOUS EXPLORATION



Hello Everyone,

April is another big month of activity for the RE program! Elizabeth will be returning to her role as the DRE in mid-April, we have an egg hunt on Easter Sunday, we're preparing our RE kids and youth to participate in our bridging ceremony and RE church service in May, and we're busy planning some fun family activities and (hopefully) high school OWL classes this spring.

Summer Camp Update

Given our limited volunteer capacity at this time, the Committee on Family Ministry has decided to postpone a UUCMP summer camp until next year. Instead, we plan to focus our efforts on building up the RE community with one time events this spring and summer that will hopefully attract new families and bring former families back into the church. Next summer, we hope to be better equipped for hosting a summer camp and have more UUCMP families who might attend. Thank you to everyone who shared ideas and offered to help out!

Upcoming Events

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

First Friday Game Night on April 7th at 6:30pm – we will be continuing with the earlier time again in April. Please join the laughter, and games!

Easter Egg Hunt on April 9th – the kids will



be learning about Jesus and his calls to speak out against injustice, and then hunting for eggs (outside) during the church service. All are welcome to partic-

ipate! We'll also have some cookies and snacks after church for families to enjoy outside while the kids play on the playground.

- Family luncheon and parent group for April is postponed due to Spring Break and Easter.
- Family movie night at the church more details coming soon!

Volunteer Opportunities

Share a Sunday afternoon with UUCMP kids!



Are you a crafter? A naturalist? A baker? We're looking for volunteer teachers who would like to lead a one-time activity for UUCMP families ministers and Acting DRE Sharyn for snacks, after church. The activity would take place at -- continued on page 6

--continued from page 5

the church and could be tailored to kids, youth, or all ages. We will cover any supplies needed, advertising, etc. for the activity. Help us build the beloved community! If you are interested, please get in touch with Acting DRE Sharyn.

Do you like babies? 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.

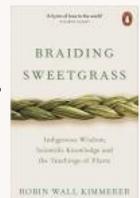
As I close my last monthly newsletter write-up as Acting DRE, I'd like to say thank you to everyone who helped me out for the past three months. The warm welcome, the helpfulness, and the smiles have all brightened up my 2023! Thank you so much to all of you!

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

Book Discussion Concludes- Braiding Sweetgrass

Rev. Elaine and the UUCMP Environmental Justice Group invite you to participate in the con-

tinuing 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 golden-rod, 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. - April 4 and 18.

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

If you wish to join us, read chapter 5, "Burning Sweetgrass." In the last session we will also have a discussion about what our next personal actions will be.

Questions? Speak with Rev. Elaine <u>minister@uucmp.org</u>

Musical Offerings



This month, come join the music department in creating great 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. Our rehearsals are currently hybrid,

if you would like to ZOOM into our rehearsals, feel free to email our director: music@uucmp.org

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. The group meets the second Thursday of each month from 5:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. in the sanctuary. This month we will meet on April 13

Our youth music program continues to play hand chimes together every Sunday from 10:00-10:20 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

New Member and Visitor Orientation Luncheon



Are you interested in learning more about Unitarian Universalism in general and in hearing more about UUCMP? Then please join us for an orientation luncheon on Sun-

day, April 16, after the worship service from 12:00 to 2 p.m. A light lunch will be available, followed by an interactive session led by Rev. Axel. RSVP to Rose Lovell at lovellfamily5@gmail.com by Wednesday, April 12. If you would like to meet virtually, please let us know.

Questions? Ask Rev. Axel or Rev. Elaine minister@uucmp.org

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 April. Some will meet via Zoom.

Book Discussion *Braiding Sweetgrass* April 4 and 18 via Zoom. See page 6.

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 April. Contact: John Freeman for any questions.

Dances of Universal Peace will not meet in April. 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.



April Shared Plate Recipient Community Human Services

Community Human Services (CHS) is a nonprofit agency dedicated to providing highquality mental health, substance abuse, and homeless services to Monterey County residents to help them reach their full potential. Their vision is of a community free of substance abuse, mental health challenges, and housing instability. CHS has fifteen programs at 13 sites and 17 schools throughout Monterey County.

Building on the success of Casa De Noche Buena, CHS' shelter for women and families in Seaside, when Shuman HeartHouse opens this summer, it will accommodate up to 35 individuals - providing much-needed temporary housing, meals, and a variety of supportive services. The emphasis is on providing shelter to homeless women and families with children and wraparound services to help them transition to long-term, sustainable housing.

The project has been in the works since the spring of 2021 when local businessman and philanthropist, Mark Shuman, donated \$3M to CHS to purchase the building at 600 E. Franklin St. in Monterey for a homeless shelter for single women and families with children. "Everybody has a right to a safe place to sleep and a comfortable place to wake up in the morning," Shuman says. "I know CHS has the experience and know-how to help make this

happen. Their proven track record of managing finances and successfully operating various types of facilities is evident to me."

Groundbreaking occurred on December 14th, and construction began on January 16th to add a kitchen, dining room, sleeping quarters, bathrooms, laundry facilities, a computer lab, TV lounge and playroom, and case management offices. The property is noted as a Historical Building for the City of Monterey, so care is being taken throughout the renovation process to preserve its legacy.

With the Shuman family, so many of our community's generous donors, and Senator Laird's help in allocating \$2.5M from the state surplus for the project, CHS has raised over \$6.7 million. There is a little over a million left to raise to meet their \$7.8 million goal.

The funds needed to help CHS reach their goal will go toward finishing the construction of the building and helping to operate the shelter once it's open. This means your gift will soon change the lives of homeless women and families in our community!

Thank you for your generosity.

Konny Murray Shuman HeartHouse Nominator

UUCMP Super Flea Market is coming again!

September 1 and 2, 2023, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Save your best treasures, price them at home, and be ready to set up at church August 30 -31. All proceeds will benefit UUCMP, and sellers will take away unsold items when the event ends. Cashiers and bake sale contributors will be needed as well, and contributors can team up and share a table if needed. Mark your calendar, and get ready to join the fun! For more information, contact Mibs McCarthy at mibsmccarthy@comcast.com.



ALL WE NEED IS LOVE

operating fund drive report



BUT MONEY IS KEY TO SPREADING THE LOVE!

As of the writing of this column, 88 of you have pledged, by either sending in your pledge card, turning it in at Sunday worship, or pledging online. There are five new pledgers, but 12 previous pledgers have not pledged yet. We are short of where we need to be in participation and in monies raised.

The twenty stewards have tried to reach out to everyone on their lists and have had some enjoyable conversations with people during these extraordinary times. Our stewards want to talk with everyone in our community. Our canvass is important for the health of our covenant and relationships. If you have not responded to our contacts, please, please, let us know what is going on. You can call or text me directly at 831-595-7853 or email me at

konnymbuck@gmail.com. Some folks in the past have failed to respond because they cannot

pledge as they did in the past. You may also respond to the Reverends Gehrmann if you prefer. We really do want to know how you are doing, what your needs are, if any, and how you feel about UUCMP.

We want to continue our great programs, continue maintenance and upgrading of the church grounds, and have more programs for all ages. These are some important ideas for our community; do you have more ideas or wishes?

Every single pledge, no matter the size, is vital. **Your** pledge in important. Thank you for being of support to your community.

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

Save the Date!

Concert with classical pianist Michael Allen Martinez Saturday, May 6, 3 p.m. at UUCMP

Michael Martinez has a talent that began blossoming at a young age. He started playing piano at age 11, and soon thereafter began composing captivating melodies. Michael's astonishing command melody and emotion was beginning to be noticed and attracted claimed New Age pianist Jonathan Lee, and at age 13, Michael subsequently became his protégé. In 2004, Michael took over Lee's position as The Grand Piano Man for the Big Sur International Marathon. He has played annually for thousands of runners on the nine-foot concert grand piano at the famous Bixby Bridge turnout ever since. Michael's style is a blend between New Age and Classical, and has been described as heartfelt, cinematic and reflective.



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Admission: \$20 regular, \$15 seniors and students, and children under 12 free with paying adult.







William "Bill" Richard Anderson - dedicated husband, father, grandfather, great grandfather, brother, and friend - passed away at 92 years of age at home in Salinas, California on Thursday, January 12, 2023. His heart finally failed him.

Bill was born to William and Lottie Anderson in Napa, California on November 10, 1930. Bill had an older sister, Dorothy, and a younger brother, Jere. He spent his childhood growing up in Sacramento, California. He graduated from C.K.

McClatchy High School before attending college where he studied accounting. Bill served in the U.S. Army Finance Corps from 1952 to 1954 and was stationed in Berlin, Germany. After his military service he



received his MBA from U.C. Berkeley and became a CPA.

Bill met his future wife on a blind date in 1956. They quickly fell in love. Bill and Mary Gene married on April 20, 1957, and soon after welcomed their first child, a baby girl, Martel, while living in Marin County. After Martel was born, Bill took an overseas work assignment and the family lived in Tokyo, Japan where Eric was born.



In short work, the family grew to five with the birth of Kurt in San Francisco. In 1969 while living back in his beloved Sacramento, they welcomed third son, Thor, to make a family of six.

Through the years, Bill enjoyed playing cards, listening to music, gardening, woodworking, and spending time with his family. He loved going on camping trips, hiking, and vacationing at Lake Tahoe

Bill and Gene called the Sacramento area home for over 50 years. They built a house in the Greenhaven area and lived there until 2017. This is where they raised their four children. Bill had several CPA positions in the insurance and real estate industries over the decades.



Being a grandpa came naturally to Bill. His grandkids loved his silly antics and him chasing them all over the place, especially in those huge green sun-

glasses. Bill was a quiet and shy man, but when he was around his grandkids and great grandkids, he was uninhibited with lots of laughter and carrying on.

Bill is survived by his wife of 65 years, Gene; their four children: Martel, Eric, Kurt, and Thor; five grandchildren: Martel,



Jacob, Sienna, Emma, and Ethan; ten great grandchildren: Elena, Mia, Lucia, Marco, Mateo, Benito, Leilani, Kalea, Keannu, and Malia.

Bill was preceded in death by his parents, William and Lottie Anderson; his siblings: sister, Dorothy Frohwein, and brother, Jere Anderson; his nephew: Dale Frohwein.

A Celebration of Life will be held at the Unitarian Universalist Church of the Monterey Peninsula, 490 Aguajito Road, Carmel at 2:00 pm on Saturday, April 15, 2023. Reception to follow.

Art News



Tapestry April 1 - May 25, 2023

www.cherylkampe.com cherylkampe@mindspring.com

Cheryl Kampe found an early interest in art from a joy and fascination with interpreting a visual scene onto paper.

Twenty years ago she finally had the chance to devote herself to her art and began systematically to learn the techniques of watercolor. She studied with several leading artists in the Bay Area, while at the same time painting daily and developing a personal style and increasing expertise with the medium. Working with a small group of other watercolorists she evolved her skills and soon found encouragement to begin showing her work.

She currently is showing her work at Venture Gallery, 260 Alvarado, Monterey, and has had solo shows at the Pacific Grove Art Center.

After painting for 10 years in watercolor she expanded to acrylics, pastel and finally oils. She studied with talented artists in the Monterey County area in California, working both on crea-

tivity and her skill level painting plein air, still life, landscapes, seascapes and abstracts.

This latest series is Oil and Cold Wax on canvas. These abstracts are inspired by tapestries and blankets made by her mother's family in Chimayo, New Mexico. When you mix the cold wax with the oils, it creates a texture and a softness that reminds her of textiles.

These oil and cold wax paintings are inspired by her family heritage in Chimayo, New Mexico. When visiting New Mexico as a child she was always aware of her mother's history in Chimayo. People travel from near and far for the

> healing properties of the sands of El Santorio.



The area is also known for the beautiful blankets woven by the locals, including her uncle Lawrence. These blankets have adorned their families' homes all her life and are the inspiration for these paintings.

Environmental Justice

Storm aftermath; When trees fall in the forest saturated, things start sliding around. (excerpts)

By Elise Overgaard, Monterey Herald, published Feb. 12, 2023; updated March 14, 2023

Why trees fall over

Frank Ono, who served as the city forester for Pacific Grove for 17 years, is a tree detective of sorts. As an urban forester and a certified arborist who has worked with trees since 1967, he's good at finding clues in roots and soils and he is an expert at determining why trees fell down. Or whether they might in the future.

One factor is the health of the tree itself. Bacteria, viruses, fungi and insects can all attack trees. But there's also a lot of physics involved.

As trees grow taller, their trunks become levers. "If the wind hits this tall lever, the force pushes the lever over and the tree can uproot," said Ono.

Luckily, trees have limbs. Those limbs absorb and dampen the energy of the wind and protect the



trunk. If a limb absorbs too much energy it can break off, which is why it's common to see fallen limbs after wind storms.

Trees are anchored by their roots, but soil can only hold so much water, and when it gets over-

Inspect your own trees

According to Ono, there are some things a homeowner can look out for:

"You need to look at the soil around the tree and see how secure the tree is rooted in it," said Ono, "that's number one. Was there previous work done? Were roots cut? Is the soil lifting on the opposite side? That's a tell-tale sign that something's going on.

"Number two – the base of the tree. Are there cavities? Are there mushrooms growing out of the base of the tree? Big flat-fanned mushrooms usually indicate general decay at the base.

"Number three – work your way up – are there cavities, splits, cracks, fissures? Are there signs of abnormal insect activity? Is it "bleeding," [oozing sap or resin]

"Number four – look at the branch attachments. Are the branch attachments nice and secure and openly spaced? That's good, strong structure. Look for weak points.

"Next you start looking at the twigs. Is there dieback in the foliage? Or is the tree really full? Is it too full so wind can't get through it? What's the color of the foliage? Is it yellow and it's supposed to be dark green? That's not good.

"And look at the lean of the tree – anything over 20 degrees you gotta worry about."

Please enjoy the vegetarian recipe for Sheet-pan Mushroom Parmigiana on the next page.

Environmental Justice

Sheet-pan Mushroom Parmigiana

Yield: 4 servings

Ingredients

10 ounces cherry or grape tomatoes, halved (1 pint)

2 garlic cloves, finely

chopped

Extra-virgin olive oil

Kosher salt and black pepper

8 portobello mushrooms, stems removed

3 cups store-bought or homemade marinara sauce

3 cups (12 ounces) shredded low-moisture mozzarella

1 cup panko bread crumbs

½ cup (½ ounce) basil leaves, finely chopped, plus more leaves for topping

Preparation

Heat oven to 425 degrees. Arrange the cherry tomatoes on a sheet pan, along with half the garlic, and drizzle with 1 to 2 tablespoons of olive oil. Season with ½ teaspoon of salt and ½ teaspoon of black pepper and toss to coat the tomatoes.

To the sheet pan, add the mushroom caps in between the tomatoes, gill side up, and drizzle each generously with olive oil. (Don't skimp here, as the olive oil will add lots of rich flavor.) Scatter the mushrooms with the remaining garlic and season each mushroom with salt and black pepper. Fill each mushroom with marinara sauce, and top with cheese. Place in the oven and roast for 15 to 20 minutes, until the cheese is melted, bubbly and golden.

Meanwhile, heat a medium skillet over medium -high. Add 1 tablespoon of olive oil and add the bread crumbs, basil and ½ teaspoon of salt. Stir constantly for 2 to 3 minutes, until golden. Remove from heat immediately and transfer to a bowl or jar.

To serve, transfer mushrooms to serving plates, along with a few of the roasted cherry tomatoes. Top each mushroom with the basil bread crumbs and scatter with a few basil leaves.

Genista Pulling Time

With the rains comes the opportunity to pull up genista/ French broom and other invasive plants.

In March, the UUCMP Environmental Justice committee scheduled and then cancelled a genista pulling day on our church campus. With the extent of fallen and falling trees



and opt for safety.

However, you can remove genista on your property and organize your neighbors to remove it. Pull up genista wherever you see it.

Genista is not only an insidious plant as it expo-

nentially takes over wildlife habitat each year it is left unattended; it is also a significant fire hazard. It grows taller than most scrub habitat, which in turn creates a taller flame, and it has oils in the woody stems that make it flammable.

Additionally, it changes the soil composition, making it less favorable to habitat restoration, not to mention its millions of seeds that last for years in the soil, ready to sprout in the winter. Genista cuttings and plants should not be put in your green waste containers. Green waste beand muddy conditions we decided to be cautious comes compost for future gardens. It should go into garbage containers destined for the land fill.

> It is up to everyone to do their part to help preserve the biodiversity of the wildlife habitats that support the birds, bees, moths and butterflies, and all animals that support our lives in tangible ways.







HOUSING CIVIC ACADEMY

Saturday, April 1, 2023 10:00am-12:00pm

Reunion Bilingüe

St. Mary's by-the-Sea Episcopal Church 146 12th Street, Pacific Grove, CA 93950

Our elected leaders are required to make plans to create more housing at all income levels and policies to protect tenants.

Share your experience with the housing crisis
Learn about the Housing Plans underway
Organize our collective voice for housing fairness,
accessibility and dignity
Plan to take action with COPA

Who should attend: Renters, Property Owners, Homeowners, Employers - ALL of us!

REGISTER HERE: https://bit.ly/PeninsulaCOPA



Questions? copa.iaf1@gmail.com or 831-786-6520

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

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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