



# NUUSLETTER

of the Unitarian Universalist Church of the Monterey Peninsula

June Theme: Delight

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

June 4

**“Dimensions of Delight”**

Rev. Axel Gehrmann and Worship Associates  
Christina Zaro and Page Galloway

“The quality of life is in proportion, always, to the capacity for delight,” the poet May Sarton writes. Sarton’s words are at once an important reminder and a challenge, especially in these complicated times. Where do you find delight? How do you experience delight? And – in this day and age - how might we all make the quality of our lives more delightful?

June 11

**“We Are One - A Delightful Music Sunday”**

Jorge Torrez, Lucy Faridany, Rev. Elaine Gehrmann  
& the UUCMP Community Choir

Mattie Stepanek has said, "Unity is strength . . . When there is teamwork and collaboration, wonderful things can be achieved." This Music Sunday, we will be treated to a number of marvelous musical illustrations of our unity in community. Don't miss this delightful musical feast!



## 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.

June 18

**“The Delight of Dad Jokes ”**

Rev. Axel Gehrmann and Worship Associate Micah Forstein

On this Father’s Day, we remember fathers we have known, and reflect on the ever-evolving meaning of fatherhood. We each have been shaped by our fathers, by their loving parenting and by their personal limitations, by their caring presence and their aching absence, by their hopes and fears. Fatherhood is a serious subject. However, exploring its many meanings may also benefit from a humorous perspective.

June 25

**“Spiritual Leadership”**

Rev. Joanna Daum and Worship Associates Ann Jacobson and Corey Brunson

What is a spiritual leader and what is spiritual leadership? Rev. Joanna Daum will share her understanding and vision of what it means to be a “spiritual leader” and will guide us to tap into the spiritual leader within each of us in all aspects of our lives - personal, professional, and here at church.

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## Ministers' Message

Rev. Axel Gehrman

June 30th marks the conclusion of another church year. And what a year this has been! It seems so much has happened, so much is going on, I don't even know where to begin.

This has been the first full year of in-person gatherings – many of them now hybrid – since our two-year pandemic shutdown. As many predicted, we have not returned to the way things were prior to the pandemic, but rather are still in the process of determining what a new normal will look like. This is true for each of us individually, and it is true in all aspects of congregational life.

Our Annual Meeting last month, as well as the Budget Forum the week before, were both well-attended and showed a greater level of interest and exchange than usual, especially regarding the financial aspects of church life, programming and staffing, and how we might wisely chart a course for our congregational future.

We are grateful to the hard-working members of our Board of Trustees and Finance Committee, who provided a wealth of substantive information, helpful explanations, and thoughtful leadership throughout. Thanks to their efforts, the congregation overwhelmingly approved all of this year's business items. (In case you missed it and are interested, much of this was included in our 2023 Annual Report, which is available on the church website.)

We are looking forward to our next congregational strategic planning effort which is scheduled for the fall, and which will be facilitated by our UUA Regional Field Staff, Annie Scott. It will be an "All-Church Imagination Gathering," with time for fun and exploration, reflection and discussion of our hopes and dreams for the future of UUCMP, as well as the steps we want to take to make them come true.

Elaine and I will be pondering all of this throughout the summer, which is also when we will be taking time for vacation and study leave. We will be attending the UU Ministry Days, and then UU General Assembly in Pittsburgh, PA, from June 21-25. If you are interested in issues and events in our larger movement, we encourage you to check it out. It is now possible to participate "virtually" online. All the plenary business sessions are free and open to all. You can learn more at [www.uua.org](http://www.uua.org).



UUA GENERAL ASSEMBLY  
PITTSBURGH • JUNE 21 - 25, 2023

After GA, we will be traveling to see family, near and far, and also reading and reflecting – pondering the meaning of it all. We are grateful for our gifted and dedicated Worship Associates, who are coordinating and conducting a series of worthwhile services throughout the summer. And we look forward to returning in mid-August.

There is a lot going on – in each of our lives, in our church, and in the world. However you may be spending your summer, we hope you find time to ponder the meaning of it all, and to experience a renewed sense of wonder and gratitude for the abundant blessings we share.

There is so much for which I am grateful . . . I often don't even know where to begin. But I will begin. Right now.

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 at 7 p.m. via Zoom. There is also an in-person potluck meeting at church on the 3rd Sunday of each month after the service. Feel free to drop in and join us.



Due to recent tech issues, please contact Patty Paisinger at [singerpattypai@gmail.com](mailto: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, June 10, at 8:30 a.m.**



The men's monthly breakfast is continuing as hybrid. Our next meeting is Saturday, June 10, 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](mailto: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

## 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, June 21, at 5:45 p.m. via Zoom.

**Buddhist Sangha** is every Wednesday at 7 p.m. in person in the Sanctuary. Zoom is also available. See page 7.

**Environmental Justice** meets Tuesday, June 13, 3:30 p.m. via Zoom.

**First Friday Game Night** is Friday, June 2, 6:30 p.m. in the Fireplace Room.

**I-HELP for Men** is Sunday, June 11, 5 p.m. Sign up on the bulletin board if you can help.

**I-HELP for Women** is Sunday, June 25. Contact Lee Hulquist if you can help.

**Jam Session** will not meet in June.

**Membership Committee** meets Wednesday, June 28, 5:30 p.m. via Zoom,

**Men's Breakfast Group** meets Saturday, June 10, 8:30 a.m. in person and 9 a.m. via Zoom. See article at left.

**Music Committee** meets Wednesday, June 14, at 6 p.m. via Zoom.

**NUU's letter deadline** for the July issue is Friday, June 16.

**People of Color (POC) group** will meet Monday, June 19, 7 p.m. via Zoom and in person Sunday, June 18. after the service in the Conference Room.

**Program Council** meets Tuesday, June 6, 12:30 p.m. via Zoom. For questions contact Mibs McCarthy [programcouncil@uucmp.org](mailto:programcouncil@uucmp.org)

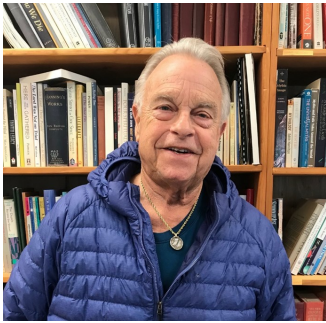
**Social Justice** will meet on Sunday, June 4, at noon in the Sanctuary and via Zoom.

**Stewardship** will not meet in June.

**T'ai Chi Chih** meets Tuesdays at 4 p.m. in the Sanctuary. See page 7.

**Youth Music** meets Sunday, 10 a.m. in the Conference Room.

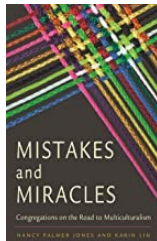
## President's Corner -- Björn Nilson



No, I am not your president. I am not even your vice president. Just a random, filling in for my friend Carol Greenstreet, who has had a nasty migraine.

It seems presidential to announce that the board has just finished five, once a month, discussions on *Mistakes and Miracles*, trying to learn how to create a more “welcoming and inclusive congregation.”

*Mistakes and Miracles* is a book by Karin Lin and Nancy Palmer Jones that was published in 2019. The book tells the stories of five Unitarian Universalist congregations that are on the journey to becoming more multicultural . . . etc.”



Wait, you may be drifting off. The really interesting thing is that the above summary of that book, (cut by 400 words), was composed by Bard, a conversational AI or chatbot trained to be informative and comprehensive . . . Better than ChatGPT-4. Try it: Bard.google.com. It's free. Try, “What are the UU Principles and Sources.” It will thrill and amaze.

Principles and Sources.” It will thrill and amaze.

Brings me to my final mind expanding, un-presidential techno tip. Yesterday, the sun came out while I was taking my walk. Words of a song came to mind:

“Walking In the Sunshine, sing a little sunshine song  
Put a smile upon your face as if there's nothing wrong  
Think about a good time had a long time ago  
Think about forgetting about your worries and your woes  
Walking In The Sunshine, sing a little sunshine song”

So—I am struggling in my mind to hear the tune in my ear. Most of you probably know this, but flip to either Spotify or Apple music apps on your smartphone and you can choose from 90 million songs. I danced along first to Ella Fitzgerald, then to Roger Williams. You can even play these apps through many hearing aids. No hearing aid?

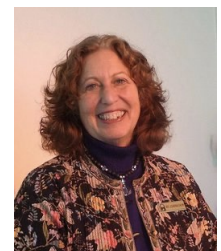
TOZO A1 Mini Wireless Earbuds Bluetooth. \$15.29 Amazon delivers tomorrow

Can't do any of this hi-tech stuff? Ask any teenager. Please do think seriously how we can become a more inclusive congregation,

Namaste, Björn

### Rev. Joanna Daum, MSW

Since the age of eight, Rev. Joanna Daum has embraced her curiosity about the big life questions: who AM I and why AM I here? Through an eclectic study of world religions, philosophy, transpersonal psychology, and spiritual practice, she focuses on learning, practicing, and teaching 'non-duality' metaphysics, where science and spirituality meet.



Rev. Joanna is an ordained Metaphysical Minister of Religious Science through Emerson Theological Seminary. Additionally, she is certified by Humanity's Team Conscious Business Innerprise to pursue her passion for the integration of business and spirituality toward a just, peaceful, sustainable, and economically balanced world. She begins counseling and consulting by aligning her connection with Spirit, which carries through to the individuals, organizations, and business she serves.

## RELIGIOUS EXPLORATION



Hello Everyone!

It's summer time! We had a wonderful RE service in May. The kids took part in much of the service and did a wonderful job! Lucille and



Sharyn read the story for all ages and did a fabulous job. We watched our high school seniors cross the bridge into our community of all

ages. It's an exciting time for our seniors, I'm so happy they have a warm community of support during this big transition in their lives.

Our committee on family ministries is working to plan for summer and fall activities for RE. We plan on holding a condensed summer version of *Our Whole Lives* sexuality education curriculum this summer for high school juniors and seniors. If you or

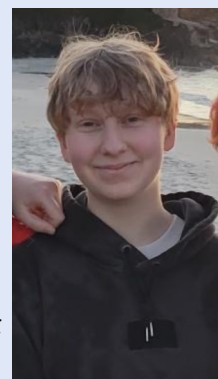
anyone you know is a trained OWL facilitator and is interested in teaching please reach out to



me. We will be holding a planning meeting on June 4th after the service. We also welcome youth from around the community to take part in these courses so feel free to spread the word.

We plan to have some fun summer outings such as beach days, hikes, and berry picking. Of course all are welcome, so stay tuned for more information on these activities.

Please welcome Ronnie, our new nursery assistant next time you see them. They've been working in the nursery during the service. Any families with babies or toddlers are welcome to drop off their child in the nursery during the service. Families can also use the nursery as a quiet space with their little one if needed.



Don't forget our Monthly First Friday Game Night on June 2nd at 6:30 p.m. in the Fireplace Room. Please feel free to invite friends and to bring snacks! Hope to see you there.

Contact me at [dre.elizabeth@uucmp.org](mailto:dre.elizabeth@uucmp.org) if you'd like to be included in the RE monthly emails. There we include specific events and updates about classes. Also, swing by our RE table every Sunday in the welcome hall where you can sign up to bring snacks for the kids and teens.

Thanks for catching up with RE!

Elizabeth Granada

# 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. The choir will be providing a Sunday Music Service on Sunday, June 11, and the last Sunday we will sing before we take a small



break will be June 25. We will resume rehearsals on August 3rd.

Jam Session is a time to have fun with folk songs and popular tunes, led by 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. However, we will be taking a break during June and July.



I would like to continue our Youth Music Program! Students are encouraged to come out and explore music by learning how to read music through the use of hand chimes. Please ask me if you have any questions about this fun opportunity for our youth! **If you are interested, please send me an email: [music@uucmp.org](mailto:music@uucmp.org)**

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

## Thank you

We want to thank all those who reached out to us when they heard of the death of our beloved dog Charlie. He was a dear, dear friend. His company was always welcome. He was there to play when we were up and there to nestle when we were down. His unbridled enthusiasm was an inspiration. His antics when we walked on the beach were a delight. But when he reached the ripe old age of 16 he stopped barking at the folks walking past our window and stopped eating and, in so doing, he let us know that he didn't have any more to give. We miss him so. I will never forget you, my good buddy.



Charlie Nagel

-- Harry Nagel

## 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](mailto:minister@uucmp.org))

Please join us!

## Life Enrichment Programs Affinity Groups

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

**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 in person and via Zoom on Wednesday evenings, 7 to 8:30 p.m. Contact: Rev. Dennis Hamilton

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

**Dances of Universal Peace** will not meet in June. 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 and in person at UUCMP on the 3rd Sunday of each month after the service. 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.



## June Shared Plate Recipient *The Epicenter*

The Epicenter exists to empower at-risk and system involved youth ages 16-24 to flourish by connecting them to community resources that provide opportunities for equity and hope in order to improve youth outcomes in Montecrey County. Their on-site services revolve around four pillars: Housing, Health/Wellness, Education and Employment.



Working in small groups of two to five, they organize events and coordinate community outreach programs such as our Healthy Hike and Art Night, as well as support the day-to-day activities at the Epicenter. We strive to create an environment where local youth feel ac-

cepted and supported, and through those relationships connect them to appropriate resources and services at the Epicenter.

The Epicenter is a youth-led and youth-run organization that works towards empowering at-risk youth by providing them with a one-stop resource center. One of the ways they are able to provide multiple resources is by having co-located staff on site. Co-located staff are employees of other agencies that provide their services at our center.

They strengthen the development of Foster Youth Leadership body (Youth Council) by enhancing recruitment, identifying needs, and setting attainable goals to benefit not only those involved in our Leadership body but all those who are part of the Foster Youth Community in our County. This is done through an authentic youth engagement model with a strong emphasis on peer mentorship and support.

Please support this worthy program generously.





## Art Committee Chair

Love Having Art in Our Welcome Hall? So Do !!

As the Art Committee chair, it's been a pleasure to know that UUs love having art on the walls and visitors coming to see the art love learning about our church and Unitarian Universalism as a whole. Shown here are some of the pieces from art displays in the last year or so.



Bonnie Rose Fernandez

Now the time has come for me to step down and give this fulfilling role to the next chair.

Thus, I am actively seeking a person who has an affinity for art, likes working with artists, and enjoys the process of bringing beauty to the church.



Mary Kay Hamilton

In the binder I have organized is a guide on procuring new artists, a list of artists who have previously expressed interest in having a show with us, the forms needed and helpful hints to make it a smooth process.



Karen Hunting

I will remain available to answer questions and offer guidance.

There is a wonderful group of committee members who assist in hanging the shows and often help with artist receptions.



Al Shamble

Our next artist is showing through July 2023. Ideally, a new artist would have a show beginning August 2023.



Lori Hughes

Reach out if you would like to explore this opportunity. Perhaps you know someone who would love this adventure.

Let me know your thoughts.

Thanks in advance,

Karen Hunting  
[karen@karenhunting.com](mailto:karen@karenhunting.com)  
831 594 0421



Regina Liske



# The Village Project, Inc.

Boa Me Na Me Mmoa Wo  
Help Me and Let Me Help You

We are proud to announce that one of our volunteers will be honored during the United Way Monterey

County's LIVE UNITED Awards ceremony.

Karen Brown is to be recognized for her exemplary work in the Education and Youth Services category!

She has recently returned to volunteering with us following the COVID-19 pandemic and we are thrilled to see her being honored during this event.



Karen Brown and a young reader



As a retired librarian, Karen has been a driving force to innovate the way students of our Mae

C. Johnson Education & Cultural Enrichment Academy interact with books. Her knowledge, expertise and vision has helped to shape and create a space for students to learn and gain an interest in reading. In our library, she ensures there are a multitude of books that are both fiction and non-fiction, featuring BIPOC char-

acters. Karen strives to create a library space where students can find books that relate to their cultural identities and celebrate their histories. She believes students should be able to see themselves in the books they read and that historically, the selection of books provided to students in schools has been Euro-centric and lacking the diversity to encompass all readers. Each month, she organizes the library with themes to highlight different books and call attention to certain historical figures or topics.

Karen's achievements and continued commitment has created a positive impact upon our young readers. Her attention to detail and genuine care for our community has led to students gaining an interest in reading as they can easily access books. Karen is currently working on creating an online database for all our library books and hopes to create a digital check-out system as well.

The Village Project, Inc. would like to say thank you to all of our volunteers! Our amazing volunteers help to fill in the gaps to ensure our programs are running smoothly. From office assistants, equine therapy drivers, after school tutors and even librarians, our volunteers bring their diverse skill sets and passions to help us create lasting change.



Though coming from a variety of backgrounds, our volunteers share a common goal of wanting to make a positive impact in the community and the dedication to take action. From the bottom of our hearts, thank you for all you do.

## Art News



### A Colorful Life

May 27 to July 28, 2023

[dstonely@sbcglobal.net](mailto:dstonely@sbcglobal.net)  
408/768-2660

Monterey artist Dorothy Stonely has fond memories of her first box of crayons. “The colors were so exciting!” she says. “My young mind reasoned that if I broke them all in half there would be even more color. My mother didn’t see it that way, but my father, a graduate of Rhode Island School of Design, understood perfectly. He was my first and most influential teacher.”

Dorothy was born in Pawtucket R. I., the first of six girls. “We were all encouraged to pursue creative hobbies, and most of us still create works of art – art quilts, jewelry, weaving and painting are actively pursued.”

At eighteen she moved from a traditional New England environment to the California Coast where she found the freedom to create very non-traditional art in a supportive setting. Although she elected not to pursue a formal art education, taking frequent classes from other working artists has infused her work with the vibrancy that comes from a community of artists working together and sharing ideas. Her work has been influenced by many artists especially Georgia O’Keeffe, Richard Diebenkorn, and Mark Rothko as well as contemporary artists like Simon Bull and Bette Ridgeway.



Her painting style is abstract or non-representational and her preferred medium is acrylic with an occasional piece done in a mixed media style. She says, “My primary subject is – color! I love the interplay of colors and the effect those colors have on our emotions. My work usually begins by painting the “bones” of the piece, the basic structure, in black. Then the piece takes on a life of its own. Colors are added and sometimes subtracted as the painting tells me what it wants.”

The west windows of her studio look out over Monterey Bay where you can find her most days – either painting or working out what she will paint next. “No matter where I am, my mind is always painting,” she says. “I see the world not in objects but in colors.”

Her work can be seen at Venture Gallery in the Portola Hotel and Spa and through the adjacent walkway at 260 Alvarado St. in Monterey.

*“I cannot pretend to be impartial about the colors. I rejoice with the brilliant ones and feel genuinely sorry for the poor browns.” -- Winston Churchill.*

## Environmental Justice

The picture of a sea turtle with a straw stuck in its nose got me to pay closer attention to choices at McDonald's. Plastics ending up in the ocean is somewhat distant until you see a photo like that one. A



nine-year-old boy named Milo Cress, in 2011, joined one of those beach cleanups like we at UUMP have sponsored. He was so shocked about the volume of straws it moved him to take action. It is a daunting project to consider how to address ocean pollution, but Milo decided just to "start somewhere." He approached the manager at a local Vermont diner to ask, "Would you ask your staff to wait until the customer requests a straw, to hand one out?" The owner agreed that this was something the staff could do, so they began to hold off offering a straw until it was asked for. Milo's mission led to the Be Straw Free campaign. He has traveled to many countries on speaking tours to raise awareness about straws and other single use plastics. Twelve years later, now when you drive through most any fast food place, there is a sign reminding customers



of the California law that indicates no straw, condiments or utensils will be offered unless asked for. That goes for the handfuls of catsup, the ranch dressings, hot sauce and the bazillion napkins they stuff in the bag.

ping directly from the lip of the cup? And when it comes to catsup for the French fries, you can ask for just one packet. Pre Covid, Burger King would let you pump your own little cup of catsup to save the waste and that foil packet that never degrades. We have made strides like taking our own bags to the



store, but since the pandemic, the extreme sanitary measures we adopted for those 18 months have limited some of the waste cutting like being able to bring your old Peet's coffee bag into the store for a refill. It all adds up.

So getting back on the horse, consider not taking that heavy cardboard mulch tray for drinks. Just ask the attendant to hand them directly to you as you give them to your passengers. And mention that you don't need straws because even though it is a law, they still hand them out automatically. The "compostable" containers and straws are theoretically biodegradable but like Milo Cress cautions, they don't really break down in commercial composting mostly because most municipalities don't have the right facilities to handle them properly. Most of the environmentally friendly fast food stuff requires hot composting which only works so far. Milo, who is now in his early 20s, studying engineering and still speaking when he can, reminds us that things can happen even from one small start. Consider what you might be able to do within your own home, beyond the choice at the grocery store. Just be aware of what you really do use.

--- Jane Foley

Try the vegetarian recipe on the next page.

## Environmental Justice



### Vegetable Lasagna

#### Ingredients ;

1 large onion, chopped  
2 cloves garlic, minced  
4 T. olive or vegetable oil  
½ lb. mushrooms, sliced  
1 – 15 oz. can tomato sauce  
1 – 6 oz can tomato paste  
1 tsp. each salt and sugar  
¼ tsp. pepper  
½ tsp. each crumbled basil and oregano  
2 – 10 oz. pkgs. frozen chopped spinach  
9 – 12 lasagna noodles (enough for 3 layers)  
2 lbs. ricotta cheese – room temperature  
¾ c. freshly ground Parmesan or Romano cheese

Sauté onion and garlic in 2 T. oil until limp. Add mushrooms, and sauté until tender. Stir in tomato sauce, tomato paste, and seasonings. Cover and simmer 5 minutes. Stir in spinach. In a separate bowl, mix parmesan with ricotta cheese.

Cook lasagna noodles as directed on the package. Rinse with cold water and drain. Arrange 1/3 of noodles in greased 9 x 13 in. baking pan. Spoon 1/3 of tomato mixture on noodles, top with 1/3 of ricotta and parmesan and a little salt and pepper. Repeat with two more layers ending with cheese, salt, and pepper.

Bake uncovered in preheated 350-degree oven for 45 minutes. Allow to rest for 10 minutes before serving.

-- Mibs McCarthy

## UUCMP Super Flea Market is coming again!

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

This is a wonderful way to raise funds for UUCMP and to clear out the extra things you've stored away for awhile.



Get ready now! 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 their 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](mailto:mibsmccarthy@comcast.com).



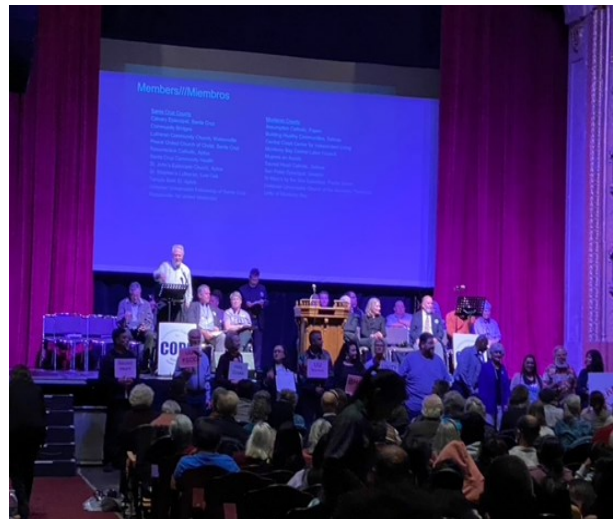


# COPA 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Convention



After months of planning and rehearsals, on Saturday, May 20, at the Golden State Theater in downtown Monterey, workers began to arrive four hours beforehand to rehearse and assemble equipment and materials, and around 4:30 busloads of COPA members began to arrive from all around the Central Coast area of Monterey and Santa Cruz counties.

and Glenn Church. Also present were Mayors Tyller Williamson of Monterey; Ian Oglesby of Seaside and Fred Keeley of Santa Cruz along with City Council members from Santa Cruz, Capitola and Watsonville; Superintendent PK Diffenbaugh from the Monterey Peninsula Unified School District was there to talk about housing for teachers. Also attending



We packed the Golden State Theatre with families, church delegations, some with more than 50 persons, and our own UUCMP delegation of ten persons! Much appreciation to our attendees: Karen Araujo, Doris Beckman, Nan Foster, Steve Johnson, Meredith Harrill, Sun-deep Gupta and his daughter Maya, Bob Krauth, and Harry Nagel.

were staff from the offices of Congressman Jimmy Panetta, Speaker of the State Assembly Robert Rivas; from Santa Cruz County District 1 and 2; and Monterey County District 3.

We began with a prayer by Bishop Emeritus Sylvester Ryan of the Catholic Diocese of Monterey. Since COPA is an organization of institutional members we next had a roll call and UUCMP stood up as a COPA member since 2017. There were 21 members present, 17 guest organizations, and we were joined by IAF sister organizations from Silicon Valley, Marin, Solano County, and the Central Valley.

The elected officials were present to hear about COPA's successes over the years and to commit to moving forward with its plans for progress in affordable housing, workforce development, and recovering from the disastrous flooding in Pajaro. Monterey County Supervisors Wendy Root Askew and Mary Adams were there to praise COPA for its work with the county in developing the VIDA program instrumental in effectively fighting COVID.

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Elected officials present: Monterey County Supervisors Mary Adams, Wendy Root Askew,



-- COPA continued

Monterey Mayor Tyller Williamson said he would work directly with COPA in setting up the rental registry and renter protections. He asked us to attend the City Council meeting and speak up for these programs. Also, PK Diffenbaugh of Monterey Peninsula Unified School District asked for help to increase voter turnout on behalf of the bond they will have on the ballot to develop teacher housing.

Supervisor Glenn Church committed to working with COPA to help the residents of Pajaro recover from the disastrous flood and to make infrastructure improvements to prevent it hap-



pening again. The head of Joby Aviation, a Santa Cruz company that makes electric airplane taxis, was present to talk about their new initiative in Marina and how they have worked with COPA to identify potential employees.

We renewed our covenant to one another to work together and to commit to each other's welfare and leadership development. Many new leaders and existing leaders had an opportunity to speak about the actions in which they had played a part. The convention closed with a message from Bishop Garcia of the Catholic Diocese of Monterey commissioning the Diocese's support for COPA.

The convention closed with a call to action by all those who attended. Maria Elena Manzo, co-chair of the convention, reminded attendees that our action is about building relationships and coming together: people, organized for action, with a shared plan. Everyone was asked to make commitments for future work and to give contact information so we could reach them. The convention closed to thunderous applause.

-- Laura Nagel

## Anti-racism Film Night, sponsored by UUCMP and Whites for Racial Equity Tuesday June 6, 7 p.m. in the Sanctuary

We will watch the hour-long documentary "1000% Me: Growing Up Mixed." With humor and sensitivity, filmmaker and comedian W. Kamau Bell tackles the joys and challenges of growing up mixed-race through conversations with kids and families in the San Francisco Bay Area, including his own. In a series of playful and impactful conversations, Bell explores how these young people navigate issues of identity in a world that can ask them to pick a side and thoughtful exchanges with families reveal the many joys and complexities of what it means to raise multiracial children.



In his trademark fashion, Bell maintains a serious focus while keeping the discussions lively and accessible, proving along the way that children are more than capable of understanding and furthering complex conversations about race, culture, and identity.

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