



NUUSLETTER

of the Unitarian Universalist Church of the Monterey Peninsula

Theme: Welcome

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

September 3

“Radical Hospitality”

Rev. Axel Gehrman and Worship Associate Page Galloway

“Whoever you are, wherever you are on your life’s journey, you are welcome here.” These are some of the words with which we begin every Sunday service. We aspire to welcome all. And yet, to be truly welcoming is easier said than done. The spiritual dimensions of a real welcome are radical. How might we practice radical hospitality?

September 10

“Building Bridges: Welcoming Those With Whom We Disagree”

Rev. Elaine Gehrman and Worship Associate Christina Zaro

Why can't we all just get along? Is our congregation a group of completely like-minded individuals, or is there room, and perhaps even a mandate, to welcome people of different viewpoints? How might we affirm our shared values and build bridges to understanding more perspectives? We will explore the struggles and rewards of welcoming those with whom we disagree.

September 17

“An Invitation to Innovation”

Rev. Axel Gehrman and Annie Scott and Worship Associate Corey Brunson

Change is the only constant in life,” an ancient philosopher once said, and many spiritual teachers agree. Change within us and around us is inescapable. We do have a choice, however, in how we handle change. We can be victims of change, or agents of change. As a congregation, we strive to be the latter. Join us, as we explore the changes we hope to see.

This morning’s service will continue this weekend’s congregational Re-Imagining process, facilitated by our UU Regional Consultant, Annie Scott. (see p. 2 for more information)

September 24

“World Wide Welcome”

Worship Associates Micah Forstein, Bjorn Nilson, and Ray Krise

Welcoming is a trait practiced by our species throughout our evolutionary development and continues to be practiced today throughout the world. What do these world wide welcomings have in common, despite their variance by region and antiquity and their potential limitations by caste? We've all experienced the sensation of feeling unwelcome, of not belonging. Does our Unitarian Universalist First Principle give us the framework for a true World Wide Welcome, transcending all limitations?

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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. Elaine
Gehrman

It's that time again! Time to think about the future of UUCMP! Time to do some strategic thinking, some imagining, some visioning, some committing, some discerning, some appreciating. Please get ready for our upcoming All-Church Imagination and Sharing event!

On Saturday, September 16, from 8:30 a.m. until 12 noon, in person or on Zoom, you are invited and encouraged to join your ministers, staff, board members and fellow UUCMP congregants in a Workshop of Imagination and Sharing, led by UU Pacific Western Region Staff-person Annie Scott. (Many of you might remember Annie from last year's Congregational Covenant workshop.)

Please mark your calendar and plan to attend this important event, which will kick off our Strategic Planning work this year.

Annie has asked some good questions to get us thinking:

- If our church were to become the Beloved Community, as Rev. Dr. King encouraged—or the congregation we dream of—
- What would our spaces look like for you and your family? What would it smell like?
- What sounds would you hear? What would you see in the hallways? What feelings would you have? And, what are you willing to change in yourself to help to get us there?

Come join us on Saturday, September 16, from 8:30 a.m. to 12 noon, in person or on Zoom, to help us determine the future of UUCMP!

It was in January of 2019 that we approved our last congregational Strategic Plan (which you

can see [here](#)). We were hoping to continue our growth and expansion, and perhaps move into Phase III of our long-standing building plans, which included building a new larger sanctuary on our concrete foundation. We worked hard on these plans for over a year, and just when we were about ready to embark on the financial feasibility study, the global pandemic hit. All plans were put on hold, and we have been holding steady and working on getting back to normal ever since.

The good news is, we have around half a million dollars set aside for Phase III construction, for use some day. The good news is, the sanctuary is full on Sundays again, as well as additional folks attending on zoom every week. The good news is, we are in a good position to consider what's next. The great news is, you have a really important role to play in these decisions!

We will have some important decisions to make—about our focus and direction, about what's working well, about what new projects we might want to take on, and what it all will require in terms of time, energy and resources. Now is a very exciting time in the life of UUCMP, come help us think about next steps, and how you can be involved in charting our course for the next stage in the development of our vibrant, thriving congregation. It's all up to us!!

See you in church,

Elaine

People of Color Group

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

The UUCMP POC Group meets 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 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, September 9, at 8:30 a.m.



The men's monthly breakfast is continuing as hybrid. Our next meeting is Saturday, September 9, 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 Welcome and Announcements from the pulpit are due by 9 a.m. on Wednesdays. ARTICLES for THE WEDNESDAY WEEKLY NEWSLETTER email are due by noon, on Tuesdays. MONTHLY NUUWSLETTER articles are due by 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 7 p.m. in the Sanctuary and via Zoom.

Board of Trustees meets Wednesday, September 20, 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 9.

Environmental Justice meets Tuesday, September 12, 3:30 p.m. via Zoom.

First Friday Game Night will not be held in September.

I-HELP for Men is Sunday, September 10, 5 p.m. Sign up on the bulletin board if you can help.

I-HELP for Women is Sunday, September 24, Contact Lee Hulquist if you can help.

Jam Session is on pause until further notice.

Membership Committee meets Wednesday, September 27, 5:30 p.m. via Zoom,

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

Music Committee meets Wednesday, September 13. 2 p.m. via Zoom.

NUUnewsletter deadline for the October issue is Saturday, September 16.

People of Color (POC) group will meet Monday, September 18, 7 p.m. via Zoom and in person Sunday, September 17. after the service in the Conference Room.

Program Council meets Tuesday, September 5, 12:30 p.m. via Zoom. Contact Mibs McCarthy programcouncil@uucmp.org

Social Justice will meet on Sunday, September 3, at noon in the Sanctuary and via Zoom.

Stewardship will meet Wednesday, September 6, 1:30 p.m. via Zoom.

T'ai Chi Chih meets Tuesdays at 4 p.m. in the Sanctuary. See page 9.

Youth Music will be starting again If you are interested, please send Jorge an email: music@uucmp.org

President's Corner



UUCMP's Board of Trustees did not meet in July, so August's meeting was the first of this "new year." We have three new Board members, all eleven Board members were in attendance (on zoom), all participated in meaningful ways, and I sensed an enthusiasm and dedication that was uplifting.

Early in the meeting, we reviewed our UUCMP Mission statement:

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 then reviewed our Vision statement and then our Purpose (as stated in our by laws), and then our organization chart with the congregation at the top.

These activities reminded the Board of who we are as a church and of the ideals and people we serve as a Board.

I encourage all members to participate in our new Strategic Planning initiative by attending activities

September 16th-17th. We need your ideas and hopes for how UUCMP moves forward in a post pandemic environment. This will be a great time for all of us to examine who we are and what we want to be.

Our Covid Angels campaign has started off very successfully with over 60 affirmations and several thousand dollars donated

honoring many people who really stepped up during the Covid pandemic to help our church and it's members. You too can offer your affirmations and donations honoring these special people. Forms are in the welcome hall on Sundays or you can offer your affirmations on our website.



The summer attendance at worship has remained relatively strong with members and visitors providing an energetic and fun experience. Our Worship Associates have done an outstanding job with our services during the pastors' vacation. We also have several visitors who want to become members.

Our committees are also gearing up for the "new year" of programs and activities. If you are not on a committee, consider joining one. If you are serving on a committee, thank you. If you have not filled out a Talents, Experience, and Interests survey, please consider doing so on our website. We want to know you better.

-- Mike Lovell

Celebration of Life Service

In honor of

Sue Ellen Stringer

Saturday, September 30, 2 p.m.

Reception to follow



RELIGIOUS EXPLORATION



Welcome to September! I hope everyone has settled into their new routines for the fall. I know the past few weeks have been busy for my family as my kids transitioned back into school and I've transitioned back into the Acting DRE role. I'm excited to be back in this role and looking forward to helping organize a new year of fun and learning for UUCMP kids and youth!

After Labor Day weekend, we'll be switching back to our age-based RE classes, instead of the all-ages summer class.

We've got a big group of middle school students this year and several elementary students as well, in addition to our staffed nursery for the little UUs among us. Be sure to check the weekly newsletter for updates on our class activity plans. We've got lots of fun activities planned for this year!



RE Registration

This year we are asking parents/caregivers to register their kids and youth (ages 0-18) for religious exploration. This will:

- Help staff to plan lessons and purchase supplies that are tailored to the group
- Guarantee that you will receive the information and invites to programming and events for your children
- Make sure all of your family's information is up-to-date in our system each year

Please register all the children and youth in your family that might want to participate — whether they want to participate weekly or for just a few events during the year. Once registered, you will be added to our RE newsletter and announcements email list. Register here:

<https://uucmp.breezechms.com/form/cc61da> If you'd prefer a paper registration, please email or see Acting DRE Sharyn dre.sharyn@uucmp.org

OWL Classes

This fall, UUCMP is offering the award-winning, secular human sexuality course, Our Whole Lives (OWL). For the first time ever, we will be holding OWL sessions for two age groups at the same time: kids in 5th & 6th grade (a 10-session course) and kids in 7th & 8th grade (a 25-session course)!



OWL sessions will be held at UUCMP on Sunday afternoons, starting on September 10. Both groups will gather at noon; 5th- & 6th-grade OWL will release at 1:15 PM and 7th- & 8th-grade OWL will finish at 1:45 PM. Additionally, we will offer an optional facilitated discussion group for parents of our OWL students where you can hear about what they are learning in their sessions.

We will be hosting an **informational meeting** for parents and caregivers who want to know more about our OWL programs before the courses begin. Please join us in-person at UUCMP or via Zoom on Saturday, September 2, at 4 PM (zoom link: <https://zoom.us/j/98080138802>)

Please spread the word to your friends!

Mandatory parent/guardian orientation sessions will be offered in person at UUCMP. These meetings are for parents/guardians only and will be held Tuesday, September 5, at 7:00-8:30 PM and Saturday, September 9, 4:00-5:30 PM. You only need to attend one of these orientations,

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RELIGIOUS EXPLORATION

but if you absolutely cannot make either, we will do our best to offer a workable make-up session. The orientations are required for you to be able to make a fully informed decision about enrolling your child in OWL.

To offset our costs for facilitator training and materials, we ask for a donation of \$75 each for 5th- & 6th-grade OWL and \$150 each for 7th- & 8th-grade OWL. Families with more than one child enrolled will receive a 25% discount. We do not ever want to turn away a family because of money, so if the fee is a problem, please reach out to Sharyn Routh (dre.sharyn@uucmp.org) for a no-hassle scholarship.

More information about the OWL curriculum is available here: www.uua.org/re/owl
Sign up here by September 3 to enroll: <https://forms.gle/Rd7qhZMwkW7hf9RaA>
Questions? Talk with our volunteer OWL program coordinator, Corey Brunson or email her at coreytb@swbell.net

Thank you for your interest in OWL! We look forward to spending the coming months with you and your kids!

Upcoming Events

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

- Friday and Saturday, September 1 & 2: Super Flea – come check out our kids' clothes,

toys, books, etc. and support UUCMP!

- Sunday, September 10th: First day of RE and OWL classes and pizza lunch
- First Friday Game Night on October 6th
- October Family Farm Outing – More info coming soon!

Volunteer Opportunities

We're always looking for RE volunteers to help out in the nursery and RE classes as a 2nd adult. If you're interested in helping out one time, or on a recurring basis (e.g. 2nd Sundays of each month), please get in touch with Acting DRE Sharyn. We'd love to foster more connections between UUCMP kids and adult members!



Thank you to everyone who helps make our RE program a success! I'm so grateful for our RE teachers and volunteers who join our children and youth on their faith development journey. I'm looking forward to learning, growing, connecting, and exploring together with you this year.

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



Our wonderful intern/sabbatical minister Susan Panttaja is being ordained at the Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Santa Rosa at 2 p.m. on Saturday, October 28. For those who would like to view the service, but do not want to travel all the way to Santa Rosa, please note that the service will be livestreamed that day. We will have more information about how to link to the livestream soon.

Ordination

Musical Offerings



The Adult Community Choir continues to meet **every Thursday from 7 p.m. - 9 p.m. in the sanctuary.** This choir is open to everyone, members and non-members alike, to explore singing together. No prior experience is needed. Send me an email or just stop by! We are currently preparing for singing at two services per month.



Jam Sessions with Rodney Smith will be put on pause until further notice.



I would like to con-

tinue 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

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

Making an International Unitarian Connection

Last May, Laura and Harry Nagel, with members of the Monterey Peninsula Community Gospel Choir (MPGCC) traveled to London to take part in Edwin Hawkins Music + Art Global 2023, an international gospel music conference. The conference itself was wonderful. MPGCC performed with gospel choirs from around the world.

But this trip was also an opportunity to connect with other Unitarians. We had reached out to several Unitarian churches in the London area about having our choir perform while we were there and received several enthusiastic responses. But Rev. Art Lester from Croydon Unitarian was particularly interested in our coming. The Croydon church was hard hit by COVID, losing a number of its elderly members. He thought our coming might give their church a bit of a needed boost. In addition, he told us that Croydon was serving as a sanctuary for LGBTQ+ refugees from Africa who had escaped because of laws which targeted them, sending many of their fellows to prison and possibly execution. These folks had formed their own choir, "Rainbow Across Borders," at the church, and Art said it might be possible for them to perform with us. And so we did a gospel concert for the Croydon Unitarians.

There were about 40 MPGCC singers and musicians performing for about 100 Croydon Unitarians and their guests. It was a full house, and a good time was had by all. It's looking like there will be another international gospel conference somewhere in Europe in 2025. If so, we hope we can seek out another Unitarian presence for an opportunity to perform and share the joy of gospel music. A picture and a write up from the Croydon church newsletter on the page 8

-- Harry Nagel

Croydon Church Gospel Choir visit



Gospel Choir singers

UUCMP Hiking Group



There are currently 27 enthusiastic hikers in the UUCMP hiking group. Fifteen of us took our first hike on July 1st at Palo Corona Regional Park. It was a great beginning!

We agreed on the structure of shared leadership, with someone new choosing and leading the hike each month. On August 12th, Ali Smith led us on our second hike at Garland Park and it was another good time and a beautiful trail. Max Cajar will be leading our next hike on September 23rd.

Although the idea is to have our hikes on the 3rd Saturday of the month, there has been flexibility based on peoples' schedules as well as church events. If you aren't already part of the group, we would love to have you join us!

If you're interested, please contact Maren Martin at marenmartin@gmail.com

Join Our Church!

Even in these post 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 September. 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 September. Contact: John Freeman for 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.



COVID Angels

A Recognition, Appreciation, & Fundraising Opportunity

As UUCMP emerges from the worst effects of the COVID pandemic we would like to recognize and appreciate the efforts of many of our members, staff, and friends (*Angels*) who helped us navigate the unique challenges presented and position us to create a “new normal” we can all take pride in. This is also a fundraising effort to help fund our congregational goals.

We ask that you think about those people that made a significant difference for our church during this time and write a brief affirmation describing their contribution, and include a donation in their honor. These notes of appreciation will be printed in our newsletters (no dollar amounts listed). These honorees may have contributed in very visible ways (technical, music, processes, etc.) or in more private ways (rides, grocery shopping, etc.). You may honor as many people as you wish, and the same individual can be honored as many times as people wish to share personal messages of appreciation. A reception will be planned at the end of the campaign to celebrate our honorees and our collective efforts during this challenging time.

Below is a form you can start with. Please be generous with your praise and your support. Thank you in advance for your support. Please limit your affirmations to about 25 words. If you wish to submit this on line, here is the link <https://tinyurl.com/COVIDAngels>

Honoree: _____ Amount: _____

Affirmation: _____

Honoree: _____ Amount: _____

Affirmation: _____

Honoree: _____ Amount: _____

Affirmation: _____

Submitted by: _____

These notes of affirmation could be printed in our newsletters (no dollar amounts) and we plan to list the name(s) of those submitting the affirmations unless you do not want your name listed.

Okay to list my name. Please do not list my name.

These are a few of the people who nominated COVID Angels, along with their nominees. Who might you want to nominate?



Kathleen Craig

Steve Johnson -- Steve has served untold hours behind the scenes working to keep our church running during these challenging times.

Ray Krise -- Ray has been stalwart during the challenging COVID days, supporting the church in so many ways, always with a smile.

Lauren Keenan -- Lauren never stops working on behalf of the church. No matter what is asked of her, she graciously accepts the opportunity to support UUCMP.

Steve Smaby -- I nominate Steve who has held together the I-HELP men's program through COVID atmospheric rivers, and reduced volunteer participation with kindness and generosity.

Corey and Robert Brunson

Lauren Keenan -- Lauren helps UUCMP in dozens of different ways from tending to plants to hosting events to speaking from the pulpit, and always does it with such grace.

Carol Collin -- Aside from working hard to serve the church, Carol truly cares about all the people (and their pets) here. She really is the heart of UUCMP.

Sharyn Routh -- Sharyn has stepped up twice now to take on the acting DRE job, bringing great enthusiasm and skill to her work.

Brian Jacobson -- Where would we be without Brian's generous support of our forest?

Steve Smaby -- Steve faithfully takes care of our I-HELP men month after month!

Erin Forstein -- Erin somehow kept our RE program alive through the COVID shutdown. Kids really loved her elementary RE classes.

Bjorn Nilson -- Bjorn is one of those people who just sees a need and fills it!

Andrea Rivas -- Andrea volunteers her time and expertise in multiple ways and has done so reliably since well before the COVID shutdown.

Karen Judkins -- Karen took the initiative to get UUCMP involved with the Big Sur Marathon, an event that builds our ties with the community, is fun to do, and earns a little cash!

Warren Finch -- Warren is a volunteer extraordinaire! He has worked with our teens every Sunday for years. They love him and we wouldn't have a teen program without his service.

Lucy Faridany -- Lucy makes beautiful music for Sunday services, and we depend on her to make everything seem like it is running smoothly, but she is also positive and affirming of everyone involved.

Rose Lovell -- Rose's abundant warmth and friendliness is making all the difference as UUCMP works to recover from the COVID shutdown.

Dennis and Mary Kay Hamilton

Fred Hamilton -- Operating behind the scenes, never looking for credit, Fred lent his remarkable technical expertise to keep the church operating in many, many ways.

Jon Czarnecki

Steve Johnson -- Steve got our infrastructure working in the wake of the pandemic.

JT and Gretchen

The Gehrmanns - Thank you for your gentle guidance, love, and humor.

Fred Hamilton - You are the BEST!

More nominators and their Angels

Carol Greenstreet and Randy May

Fred Hamilton -- Fred used his technical, planning and coordination skills to bring UU Services to anyone with a computer during COVID, allowing us to stay connected during this unprecedented time.

Brian Jacobson -- Brian dedicated his business resources and skills to maintaining the landscaping of our lovely campus, as well as removing the fallen trees that damaged the building and grounds.

Carol Collin -- Carol Collin has dedicated immense time and energy to UUCMP over the years. Her work with the Caring Network was always invaluable, but particularly during COVID when members needed help in ways small and large.

Camille Hatton -- Camille is a force of nature and of music. She was able to create marvelous music with her remote choir and deliver totally on Zoom. Her dedication to her craft, to her choir, and to the UU community was amazing.

Worship Associates -- The Worship Associates give their time, energy, heart and soul to their craft. They broaden our perspectives, give us insights into their lives and beliefs, and fill us spiritually with their wisdom.

Lucy Faridany -- Lucy's music is one of the many joys of attending services. Watching her fingers flutter over the keys like a butterfly is as lovely to see as to hear. Lucy's music lightens our lives.

Ray Krise -- Ray contributes to UUCMP both in the pulpit as a Worship Associate and behind the scenes as an administrator and a "get things done" person. His long-term dedication to UUCMP is appreciated.

JT Mason -- JT is a creative artist whose mosaics grace the outside of our church, not only enhancing its beauty, but also communicating our principles.

Kathleen Craig -- Kathleen's energy and professional talents have contributed to the lovely landscaping that enhances the beauty of our church and location.

Elizabeth Granado -- Elizabeth Granado has put her heart into the Religious Exploration Program. As a youth, I would have loved to have had an RE Program and DRE as enriching as now at UUCMP.

Carol Collin

Steve Smaby -- Steve continuously kept the meals going for the men of I-HELP all during the lockdown period and beyond.

Meredith Harrill -- Meredith gave generous gifts of time and caring in transporting people to appointments and giving other help as needed.

Steve Wade -- Steve put in many hours of time and effort in making household repairs and transporting people as needed.

Gretchen Hausmann -- Gretchen gave generous gifts of time and caring in transporting people to appointments.

Rev. Dennis Hamilton -- Rev. Dennis gave generous gifts of time and caring in transporting people to appointments and visiting those who needed to have somebody listening.

Mibs McCarthy -- Mibs worked tirelessly with the Caring Network, reaching out and listening to those in need, and transporting people to and from appointments.

Ray Krise -- Ray kept the office going and the whole church system running during the time when everything was online or in quarantine.

Camille Hatton -- Camille showed amazing skill and effort in keeping the choir together and providing service music via Zoom.

-- more next month





August Shared Plate Recipient *Basic Needs Initiative*

I've nominated the Basic Needs Initiative (BNI) at CSUMB because I am proud of having this university in our community that so many first-in-the-family students attend. I am honored to serve on the CSUMB Library Leadership Council, and because of that association, I was impressed when I learned about the student led BNI program.

In California, a state that consistently has one of the highest costs of living, it is good news that CSUMB students have a place to go to find help in maintaining their basic needs so they can remain in school. There is an on-campus Food Pantry, CalFresh Outreach (CalFresh is a food benefit that gives money for groceries. CalFresh supports students with more money for groceries), and an interdisciplinary Basic Needs Committee. The Associated Students council at CSUMB has created the position of *Basic Needs Senator*, devoted entirely to the coordination of the Food Pantry and cultivation of other resources to support students, so they can stay in school.

The Basic Needs Hub serves as the on-campus food pantry, as well as a space for students to connect with resources to help them in meeting their basic needs and to empower them to be successful, connected members of the student body and the community at large. Any enrolled student may visit The Hub to get nonperishable grocery items, healthy produce and grab and go snacks prepared by Associated Students and Chartwells, the dining services provider. Students can also receive drop-in CalFresh application assistance, farmers market vouchers, and information about nutrition, housing, and financial support program at the HUB. As many as 280 students are served daily by the HUB. Over 1000 students have been helped in applying for CalFresh Food (SNAP). In the last academic year, 2,489 unique students took advantage of BNI services.

Also, about 600 students are served annually via the Emergency Fund, which seeks to provide immediate financial assistance for students who encounter temporary financial hardship such as severe ill-

ness, accident and/or hospitalization, housing displacement and/or loss/lack of permanent residence or loss of income due to loss of primary financial support for some reason.

The Hub also accepts food donations:

- ◆ rice (bags or microwaveable pouches); beans (dry and canned);
- ◆ pasta/noodles - any form;
- ◆ marinara sauce;
- ◆ dried fruit - apricots, peaches, mangoes, raisins, cranberries etc.;
- ◆ bars: granola bars, Clif bars, energy bars;
- ◆ cereal - all kinds;
- ◆ non-refrigerated milk - oat, soy, almond;
- ◆ nut butter: all kinds, almond, peanut butter etc.;
- ◆ jams/jellies;
- ◆ canned goods: all kinds, vegetables, tuna etc ;
- ◆ nuts; trail mix.



Contact. Robyn DoCanto, Basic Needs Program Coordinator -- 831-582-3522, to arrange to deliver any food donations.

Here is how donations of different sizes can help:

- \$25 donation can buy a student a hot meal.
- \$50 donation can help stock the Basic Needs Hub.
- \$100 donation can help a student buy groceries for a month.
- \$250 donation can help fund a student who needs emergency/temporary housing on campus.

Please be generous!

-- Konny Murray



Grapevine

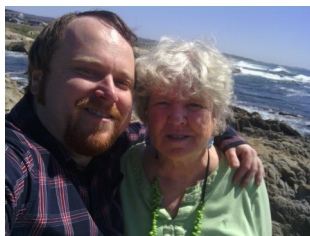


Sue Ellen Stringer was born in Long Island, New York, on September 20th, 1954.

The family moved across country when she was two years old to California when

her dad, Jerome (Jerry) Stringer Sr., transferred in his job at Lockheed to the budding aerospace industry in California. They first moved to Southern California, but soon moved to San Jose, where she grew up, attending Catholic School through high school. Sue Ellen eventually settled in the Monterey area, where she raised her son, Gavin.

While raising him as a co-parent, Sue Ellen attended Monterey Peninsula College, receiving an associate degree in child development. She later attended UC Santa Cruz, achieving a bachelor's degree in Women's Studies. In 2000, she was granted her Master of Social Work from San Jose State University.



She was a poet, a writer, an activist, a feminist, and a valued member of the community at UUCMP. Her personal stories were always a highlight when she would read them as a Worship Associate at UUCMP.

She was also actively involved in the fight for Mental Health awareness, de-stigmatization, and support in the community of Monterey County, serving on the local boards of the National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI), and the Monterey County Behavioral Health Commission. She frequently spoke at the Monterey County Mental Health Awards Banquet and was awarded there for her work in the community.

She had a fierce laugh and a lively spirit, and was a joyful, optimistic person. She loved to visit with her

young grandson, Finn, as often as she could.



Sue Ellen was active at UUCMP for many years. She sang in the choir and regularly attended Social Justice meetings. She was an active Worship Associate, sharing frankly from the pulpit what it was like to deal with mental illness. She was a joyful and caring presence around the church.

Sue Ellen passed into the light on July 24th, 2023, with her family by her side.



She is survived by her son Gavin, daughter-in-law Kendal, grandson Finn, step-grandchild Max, sister Jane, and brother Jerome.

There will be a Celebration of Life service for Sue Ellen at UUCMP on Saturday, September 30, at 2 p.m.

Grapevine is one project of the Caring Network, a group whose mission is to increase and strengthen the sense of community at UUCMP. If you or someone you know is in need of assistance or has something to share, please contact the steering committee at caringnetwork@uucmp.org

Environmental Justice

An Equinox Climate Conversation: Balancing the Dark and Light

When: Saturday, September 23, 2023, 2 p.m.

Where: Here at the UUCMP

Who: Nan Foster, UUCMP member, will lead the event, with participation from other members of the Climate Reality Project Monterey Chapter, in conversation with you!

How: We will use resources from Al Gore's Climate Reality Project to review the facts about climate change and the latest information about solutions to the problem, as well as explore our emotional and spiritual responses to this existential crisis and how we can find hope and take effective action. We will have time for small group discussions and group discussion.

Why: We're already seeing the impacts of climate change, and we have a very short window of time to prevent much greater global warming and more severe impacts. We also have the tools we need to make the necessary transition.

Q: What is the Climate Reality Project?

A: Al Gore was a longtime US Senator and then Vice President from 1992-2000. He narrowly lost the 2000 presidential election. After that, he put his public service focus on educating and motivating people about greenhouse gases, global warming and climate change. Many of us saw his 2006 film *An Inconvenient Truth* which really sounded the alarm about this topic. After that film he created two organizations to promote legislation to solve the problem and to train individuals to educate others and to take action regarding climate change. In 2011, these two groups merged to form the Climate Reality Project.

Q: How did you get involved with the Climate Reality Project?

A: I saw the film *An Inconvenient Truth* in 2006

and was quite moved and inspired by it. My husband, Chris, and I installed solar electricity and hot water panels on our home, and attended a green building conference. It seemed to me at that time as if people were getting more aware and there was a great movement towards changing our world to renewable energy and I had optimism about us collectively solving the problem. As years went on it became clear that we needed to do much more to change things, and I felt I needed to do more myself. I applied to become a Climate Reality Leader in 2015 and attended a training in Toronto, Canada. After this training I got involved with the San Francisco Bay Area chapter of Climate Reality and gave presentations, attended rallies, and lobbied local officials about climate related legislation.

Q: Why did you call this "Balancing the Dark and Light?"

A: As I am preparing for this presentation, I am deliberating about what to focus on and reflecting about my own experiences dealing with global warming and the climate crisis. There is so much darkness involved in this topic . . . the grief that comes with the fires and storms and floods and wildlife declines we're already seeing, and all kinds of difficult reactions when we hear about the potential losses in the future. We may also feel angry at other parties who have blocked progress in changing this trajectory, and we may feel guilt and powerlessness . . . at the same time, research and my own experience show that too much focus on the negative can lead to avoidance and inaction.

And we can find so much light to focus on, even the very sunlight that is beginning to generate electricity at less expense than fossil fuels. There are many, many reasons for hope and optimism. In particular, recent US legislation called the Infrastructure Bill and the Inflation Reduction Act is providing many billions of dollars in funding to enable a transition to a renewable economy in this country. This includes many incentives to help us make changes in our own lives.

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Environmental Justice

There is also a huge body of knowledge about climate solutions. I will point you to Project Drawdown, which has compiled a list of all the most useful solutions to reduce and eliminate greenhouse gases and mitigate climate change. There are also thousands, maybe millions, of people throughout the world working to make the changes we need. Solutions are here.

Q: Why are you especially excited about presenting this to the UUCMP community?

A: I found this church in January of this year. I'm delighted with this group's great warmth and commitment to supporting each other, and our collective endeavor to live well and care for the greater world. And our worship and music is so often focused on this idea of finding the light and having courage...So I feel this is such fertile ground for presenting this material, that you/we are open and ready for this conversation.

Q: What do you hope will come out of this conversation?

A. We may be in different places in terms of our knowledge and activity about climate change. So I hope that those who feel they need to learn more, do learn more, and gain resources to continue their education. I hope participants will share the knowledge they have and actions they're taking. And that those who aren't sure what actions to take learn about and feel motivated to take actions. And those who may feel despair or hopelessness feel comforted in knowing we collectively share these feelings and can support each other in having courage to confront the crisis and take action. I hope participants will know more about how to have climate conversations in their lives, and that everyone will join the local Climate Reality Chapter to keep learning and taking action. I hope our whole church will be activated to lead in solving the climate crisis and that we will work together with increased focus on this in the future.

Savory Oatmeal with Tomatoes

Taken from
Food and Wine 2014



Ingredients

5 tablespoons unsalted butter
1 small shallot, minced
1 garlic, very thinly sliced
12 cherry tomatoes, halved
1/2 tablespoon tomato paste
3/4 cup dry white wine
1 cup old-fashioned rolled oats
2 1/2 cups chicken stock or low-sodium broth
1/4 cup torn basil leaves, plus more for garnish
1/4 cup freshly grated Parmigiano-Reggiano cheese, plus more for serving
Kosher salt
Freshly ground pepper
1 tablespoon white vinegar
4 large eggs

Directions

In a medium saucepan, melt 4 tablespoons of the butter. Add the shallot and cook over moderate heat, stirring, until softened, about 2 minutes. Add the gar-

lic, tomatoes, tomato paste and wine and bring to a boil. Simmer over moderately high heat, stirring, until nearly all the wine is absorbed, and the tomatoes just start to pop, 4 to 5 minutes. Add the oats and chicken stock and cook over moderate heat, stirring occasionally, until the oats are just tender and suspended in a creamy sauce, 8 to 10 minutes. Stir in the 1/4 cup of basil, 1/4 cup of grated cheese and the remaining 1 tablespoon of butter. Season the oatmeal with salt and pepper and keep warm, adding tablespoons of water if it becomes too thick.

Meanwhile, bring a large, deep skillet of water to a simmer over moderate heat. Add the white vinegar and a generous pinch of salt. Crack the eggs into a small bowl, one at a time, and carefully slide them into the simmering water. Poach the eggs over moderate heat until the whites are set but the yolks are still slightly runny, about 4 minutes. Transfer the poached eggs to paper towels to drain.

Spoon the oatmeal into shallow bowls. Top with the poached eggs, garnish with basil and serve right away, passing additional cheese at the table.

-- Lauren Keenan

Art News

Craig Lovell

“Journey to the Mystic East”

July 28 – September 24, 2023



Photographing indigenous cultures has been a lifelong passion of mine. The advent of modern technology and globalization has created rapid changes in every culture on the planet including those presented here which include Tibet, Nepal, Burma, India and Bali. The Buddhism and Hinduism practiced in these countries help to maintain their historical traditions as they transition into the modern world.

I have been photographing in the Himalayas and Southeast Asia for the past 38 years and have witnessed rapid change. Many of the images presented here could not be captured today and are now part of the historical record. For example, the yaks crossing the Lar Geh pass in Tibet are carrying salt in hand loomed sacks which is no longer a form of livelihood in Tibet. My goal is to make the world more harmonious by showing the common humanity amongst all people.



In recent times, the Dalai Lama and other teachers have brought Buddhism to the West for the benefit of all sentient beings. Padmasambhava, the saint who brought Buddhism to Tibet in the seventh century, predicted this: “When the iron bird flies and the horse runs on wheels, the Tibetan people will be scattered like ants across the face of the earth, and Dharma will come to the land of the red man.” When the hippies traveled overland from Europe to India and Nepal, they encountered Hindu saints and brought back teachers who introduced yoga, meditation, and mystic practices to the West. These ancient wisdom traditions have had a strong influence in creating a better understanding amongst our different cultures. As Mark Twain once said, “Travel is fatal to bigotry, prejudice and narrow mindedness.”

I photograph in both color and black and white. I prefer black and white for people as it removes the distraction of color, inviting the viewer to see the human spirit and emotional content within the image. However, color is closer to the reality we experience through our vision, and it allows the viewer to imagine being there. There is also a series of colorized images. Starting with a black and white image, I carefully select areas to add a color and then print them on watercolor paper to enhance the visual effect. All photographs are printed and matted with archival materials.



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-- Art News continued

I am often asked how I can capture genuine moments of human emotion when photographing. I do this by always approaching people with respect, sensitivity, and integrity. This is possible even without a common language as 90% of communication is nonverbal. Once this is established either through eye contact, body language or words, then I proceed to pick up my camera. It is my hope that my photographs create a sense of common humanity and foster understanding and acceptance amongst all the tribes of the human family.



Purchase a Print and Support the Church

Please get in touch with me through email or telephone to purchase a print. 20% of the sale price will be donated to the Unitarian Church. I can either replace the image with another so you can take the print home, or you can pick up the print at the end of the exhibition.

Email: craig@eaglevisions.net Phone: 831 238-5320

Upcoming Events

Exhibition at the Marjorie Evans Gallery: Magic & Mystery in Latin America – Celebrating Hispanic Heritage Month

Opening: Friday September 22nd 5 to 7 p.m. at the Sunset Center. Images from Mexico, Ecuador & Cuba.

2023 Arts Habitat's Artist Studio Tour: Weekends of Sept.30/Oct. 1 & Oct 7/8 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Come and see the studio and lots more imagery at 80 Laurel Drive, Carmel Valley, CA

UUCMP Events

Sunday, September 24, 2023, Craig will be at the service and during Coffee and Conversation to chat about his work.

Sunday, September 24, 2023, noon, Welcome Hall

A walk-through conversation with presenting "Journey to the Mystic East" photography show.

Strategic Planning with Annie Scott-- Saturday September 16, 2023

Mark your calendars and please plan to attend the UUCMP Strategic Planning Workshop with UUA Pacific Western Region Regional Staffperson Annie Scott from 8:30 a.m. to noon. This will help us to determine the future for UUCMP!



Annie Scott

SOCIAL



JUSTICE



COPA News

Salinas Inclusive Economic Development Initiative (SEIDI). The James Irvine Foundation of California is funding this initiative in five California communities: Fresno, Riverside, Salinas, San Bernadino, and Stockton. The purpose is to reduce worker inequality. These communities were selected because they have a disproportionate share of low-income workers who are also persons of color. UC Santa Cruz and other universities are supporting this initiative for social change that will focus on changing the political landscape to promote agitation and collaboration. The Salinas Initiative is being supported by nine local non-profits and other supporting organizations that include COPA. The nine organizations are:

ALBA (Agriculture and Land-Based
Training Association)
Building Healthy Communities
CCA (Center for Community Advocacy)
Centro Binacional Para El Desarrollo
Indígena Oaxaqueño (CBDIO)

Hijos del Sol
Loaves, Fishes & Computers
Monterey Bay Central Labor Council
Mujeres en Acción
Rancho Cielo



Housing Plan Review. For those of you from UUCMP who attended the Housing Civic Academy on April 1st in Pacific Grove, follow-up discussions on the Monterey Draft Housing Element were held on August 24th by members of the Monterey County Housing Task Force of COPA. Stay tuned for further actions on this.

Leadership Retreat

COPA Leadership Retreat was held on August 26th from 10 a.m. – 4 p.m. at the St. Francis Retreat Center in San Juan Bautista, CA. The focus was on training for relational meetings, a foundational practice in IAF in establishing one-on-one relationships as an important predicate to working effectively for social change.

Strategic Planning included a review of COPA's membership and attendance at the four conventions held over its 20-year history. As we just celebrated our 20th anniversary, COPA's oldest members noted that attendance had fallen substantially over the four conventions held in 2003, 2009, 2018 and 2023. While organizational membership has declined somewhat by 17%, attendance has fallen markedly by 66%. This is in part a reflection of the decline of member institutions, most of which are religious congregations.

Cluster Meetings. In preparation for the Leaders' Retreat, COPA leaders from Santa Cruz and Monterey Counties met separately for strategic discussions. They assessed the strength of their member organizations, relationships with key leaders, and identified key issues for mobilization.

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of the Monterey Peninsula
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September 2023

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Please send NUUsletter submissions as an email attachment by the 16th to newsletter@uucmp.org, and indicate UUCMP NUUSLETTER in the subject line.

Please send submissions for WEEKLY NEWS, the weekly announcements, to office@uucmp.org by Tuesday noon.

Check the WEEKLY NEWS and website for news throughout the month.

If you have any questions, call the office, 624-7404, or e-mail us at office@uucmp.org