



NUUSLETTER

of the Unitarian Universalist Church of the Monterey Peninsula

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

March 3

“The Courage to Change”

Rev. Axel Gehrmann and Worship Associate Max Cajar

In the course of your life, as you grow and change – ideally - you will become the person you are truly meant to be. Pursuing your life’s calling is deeply rewarding, but it is also risky. There is comfort in conformity. Remaining on well-traveled roads feels safe. It takes courage to travel the path that is uniquely your own.

March 10

“Relishing the Goo”

Rev. Elaine Gehrmann and Worship Associate Ann Johnson

The multi-stepped transformation from caterpillar to butterfly is a familiar one, but what’s really happening in the middle there, betwixt and between, while in cocoon or chrysalis? What lessons might we draw from their natural process that might help us with our own in-betweens?

March 17

“Coping With Change”

Rev. Axel Gehrmann and Worship Associate Page Galloway

Even in the best of circumstances, change can be challenging. Changing our habits or changing our home, changing our perspective or changing our mind – any self-initiated attempt to change has its challenges. But what about the changes that are foisted upon us, whether we like it or not? How can we cope?

Religious Exploration

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

March 24

“The Slow Process of Instant Change”

Rev. Susan Panttaja and Worship Associate Ray Krise

Many of us experience moments of epiphany in our lives, when our perspectives shift dramatically. Likewise, there are times in our societies when something monumental seems to change overnight. Yet most often, like the buildup of pressure before an earthquake, what seems sudden is the result of forces at work for a very long time. Today we consider what it takes to stay engaged, to keep laying the groundwork for “sudden” transformations in our institution and individuals - including ourselves.

March 31

“Radical Resurrections”

Rev. Elaine Gehrmann and Worship Associate Corey Brunson

This Easter Sunday, we will consider what aspects of ourselves, our community, our world, might benefit from some extreme life-restoring measures. How might we all seek to come back to life in this season of spring and rebirth?

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See the calendar at
www.uucmp.org



Ministers' Message

Rev. Elaine Gehrman

There has been a lot of wonderful activity around UUCMP recently—potlucks, trivia night, soup luncheon, work parties, karaoke, canvass kick-off—whew!! It’s been a whirlwind, in an exciting invigorating way! And new groups have formed—in addition to the hiking group, there is now a movie-lover’s group, and a young adult group is starting up, along with an LGBTQUIA+ Families group. So many opportunities to build connections and community with other great people.

There are also several upcoming opportunities for involvement with our larger UU movement.

There will be a Pacific Western Region Assembly in Denver, CO, on April 19-20, “Threads Connect, Stories Inspire.” You can attend in-person or virtually. This is a great way to learn more about what other UU congregations in the western third of the U.S. are up to! More info here-- <https://www.uua.org/pacific-western/calendar/pwr-uua/pwr-threads-connect-stories-inspire>.

And our annual UUA General Assembly this year will be an entirely virtual event! “Love Unites, Stories Ignite” will take place June 20-23. Participants can worship, witness, learn, connect, and make policy for the Association through the democratic process. Anyone may attend, and contact the ministers if you are interested in serving as an official delegate. <https://www.uua.org/ga>

One of the major orders of business that will take place at this year’s General Assembly is a vote on the proposed revision of Article II of the UUA Bylaws. This part of the bylaws currently contains the 7 UU principles and the 6 sources—which will be replaced by 6 shared values, centered around our primary value of “Love.” There are four possible amendments to the proposed revision to be voted on, and then the final vote on the revision

itself. There is lots more information at these two links--

<https://www.uua.org/uuagovernance/committees/article-ii-study-commission/final-proposed-revision-article-ii?fbclid=IwAR3bCPbRi5Y4JvMDxImdXDrkv7dO5AZim0AVH1ZBpgb-15OUDMYEG4wfYo>

Link to article II amendments <https://discuss.uua.org/t/article-ii-amendments-which-will-be-placed-on-the-final-agenda/1448>

And you might remember that I preached on this topic last year—which you can watch here-- <https://uucmp.org/services/whats-love-got-to-do-with-it/> (I’m pleased that this sermon is also included in the new congregational resource “Amplifying the Charge” which you can find here - https://www.uua.org/files/2024-01/amplifying_charge_resource_kit.pdf)

The 6 UU values all centered in our primary value of



“Love” have been captured by this graphic.

We hope you will read and find out more about what is being proposed and what is happening in our larger UU movement. If you have any questions or would like more information or discussion, please speak with either of your co-ministers.

I think these are exciting times in our congregation and in the larger UU movement—and I will be actively participating in these events. I hope you'll find meaningful ways to partici-

pate in these activities, locally, regionally, and nationally, and gain more knowledge and inspiration and support from our vibrant UU community!

See you in church,

Elaine



Rev. Susan Panttaja

Rev. Susan Panttaja was the UUCMP intern minister in 2020 and then was our sabbatical minister during the Gehrman's sabbatical journey. She served Napa Valley Unitarian Universalists as contract minister from February of 2022, and was ordained on October 28, 2023. She came to ministry after a 30-year career as a geologist in the environmental consulting world and after being a UU for over 20 years. She holds a Master of Divinity degree from Starr King School for the Ministry.

Rev. Susan's understanding of Earth history and love of the natural world inform her theology. For her, scientific knowledge and spiritual experience coexist and enhance each other. Susan has deep roots in Sonoma County and has lived in Petaluma for over 30 years with her husband David Templeton. She and David have two grown children, Jaye and Andy, and a cat named Dickens. Susan enjoys hiking, singing, and attending the theater.

She will return here to speak on Sunday, March 24.

Artist Walk and Talk

Our current artist Elizabeth Wrightman gave a most interesting Walk and Talk in February. Please plan to hear her again Sunday, March 3rd, after the service.

To purchase one of her paintings (three are now sold), please contact Elizabeth at 831-622- 9770 or elizabeth@wrightman.us



Men's Breakfast

Saturday, March 9, at 8:30 a.m.

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

Adult Community Choir meets Thursdays, 7 p.m. in the Sanctuary and via Zoom.

Board of Trustees meets Wednesday, March 20, at 5:45 p.m.

Buddhist Sangha is every Wednesday at 7 p.m. in person in the Sanctuary. Zoom is available. See page 11.

Environmental Justice meets Sunday, March 10, at noon in the Sanctuary and via Zoom.

First Friday Game Night is Friday, March 1, 6:30 p.m. in the Fireplace Room.

I-HELP for Men is Sundays, March 10 and 31, 5 p.m. Sign up on the Meal Train (page 9) or contact Steve Smaby if you can help.

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

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

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

Music Committee meets Tuesday, March 26, 6 p.m. via Zoom.

NUU'sletter deadline for the April issue is Saturday, March 16.

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

Social Justice meets Sunday, March 3, at noon in the Sanctuary and via Zoom.

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

T'ai Chi Chih meets Tuesdays at 4 p.m. in the Sanctuary. See page 11.

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

Work Party will be Saturday, March 16, 9:30 a.m. to 12 p.m. with inside and outdoor projects. See page 13.

President's Corner



Pay it *FORWARD*

The phrase “Pay it *Forward*” came to mind recently after listening to some of the Stewardship statements from UUCMP members on Sundays. I recalled the movie of the same name from over 20 years ago, and so Rose and I watched it again.

In the movie Trevor, and his 7th grade class, are challenged to think of a project (for a grade) that could change the world and present their ideas to the class. Trevor’s idea was that if he could do something challenging and nice for someone, it could make a difference in their lives. If this act improved that person’s life, they might feel encouraged or obligated to do something to help someone else. His idea was if he would help three people, and each of them helped three people, and each of them helped three people, and so on, the world would be changed for the better. The story is about Trevor’s efforts, his successes, his failures, but also the differences his project made in people’s lives. It is a wonderful example of the difference each of us can make.

Per Wikipedia, “Pay it forward is an expression for describing the beneficiary of a good deed repaying the kindness to others rather than paying it back to the original benefactor. It is also called serial reciprocity.”

I was thinking that here at UUCMP, we are the beneficiaries of the efforts and commitments of many people that came before us. We have a property and church campus that is beautiful, functional, and paid for. We have a successful organizational structure and bylaws that help guide us. We have a rich spiritual history to embrace. We have solid financial footing that allowed us to weather the pandemic much better than some other churches. Their efforts (to make the world a better place) benefit us and our mission.

We can “Pay it *Forward*,” making a world worthy of our children, by working on a committee, teaching a lesson, cleaning the property, supporting group efforts like I-HELP, giving generously financially, and many other ways. I personally feel that UUCMP makes the world a better place by affirming and acting on our 8 guiding principles. We can do this best by doing good as a community, doing it together.

I invite all of us to “Pay it *Forward*” by committing our **Time, Talents, and Treasures**, at UUCMP, and change the world for the better.

-- Mike Lovell

RELIGIOUS EXPLORATION



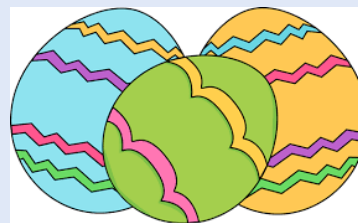
Hello Everyone,

I've been reflecting on March's monthly theme of transformation for a while now, as I work with the Committee on Family Ministry and the ministers to discuss the changes that have happened with the RE program at UUCMP since before, during, and after COVID times. How can we effectively adapt to the changes in our RE community and how can we lay the foundation for the transformation we'd like to see? In talking with other DREs, it seems that low RE attendance numbers are a challenge for many UU (and other faith) communities and not just ours.

While some changes to our RE program would be welcomed, such as attracting more families with children who attend UUCMP regularly, I also believe that we're achieving many important outcomes with the kids we do have in our community. We're teaching our kids to appreciate diversity and community, we're cultivating kids' creative self-expression, we're teaching them to embrace empathy and fairness, and we're helping kids to build a Unitarian Universalist identity.



I recently attended a training with the UU Institute for new DREs and a quote that really stuck with me was this: "Everything we do is Faith Formation. Everything we teach is Unitarian Universalism. The Congregation is the Curriculum." I've been thinking about this quote for the past few Sundays as I watch how our UUCMP kids learn so much from their interactions with church members and friends of all ages, before, during, and after the Sunday service. I know my kids have been transformed by the relationships they've formed since we started attending UUCMP about two years ago. I'm optimistic that with more outreach and dare I say, a bit of UU evangelism that we can introduce our loving and inclusive community to more families on the peninsula and continue these transformative relationships across generations.



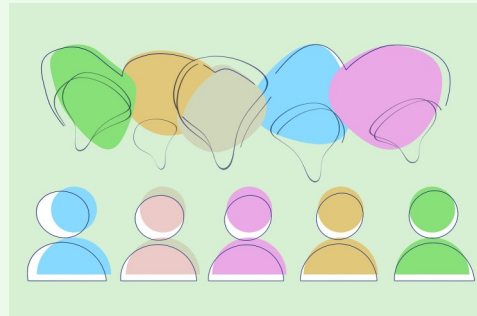
Later this month, we'll be hosting our annual Easter Egg hunt on the UUCMP grounds

along with some other fun activities, including the Monterey Bay FC soccer match on Sunday, March 24th. Please be sure to watch the UUCMP weekly newsletters and the monthly RE newsletter for other upcoming RE and all-ages events!

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

Would You Like to Join a Chalice Circle?

Chalice Circles provide an opportunity for members and friends of the church to develop deeper connections and wider service within our community through small-group conversation. Chalice Circles consist of 6-10 people who meet at least once a month for about two hours to explore meaningful topics together. Some Chalice Circles meet via Zoom, others meet in person, and others meet in person with the option to also attend via Zoom.



If you would like to learn more about Chalice Circles, contact the ministers at minister@uucmp.org.

Currently, there are openings in these ongoing groups:

Second Monday Afternoon

This group meets at church in the Fireplace Room on second Mondays from 1:30 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. If you are interested in joining, please contact Kathleen Craig at kathleen@craigdesignassociates.com

Second Monday Evening

This group meets at church in the Fireplace Room and via Zoom on second Mondays from 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. If you are interested in joining, please contact Kat Morgan at katmorgan13@gmail.com

Fourth Monday Evening - OMNIA Group

This group meets via Zoom on fourth Mondays from 6:45 p.m. to 8:45 p.m. If you are interested in joining, please contact Sharon Miller at bmcclane@redshift.com or Kerry Sissem at kerrysissem@earthlink.net

Third Thursday Afternoon

This group meets via Zoom on third Thursdays from 2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. If you are interested in joining, please contact Rose and Mike Lovell at lovellfamily5@gmail.com

Calling Rainbow Families to UUCMP

Several years ago, at UUCMP, there was Interweave— a social group for LGBTQ2 folks and allies of all ages. Amy Blondell would like to start a new version of Interweave. She, her wife, Andrea, and 7-year-old Jamie want to expand their LGBTQ2-friendly community here, having moved from San Francisco during the pandemic. She was drawn to UUCMP when she received LGBT affirmative UU publications at Monterey Pride. She is hoping for something inter-generational with a potluck and socializing. Is this something you would like also? Contact Amy at amy.donovan.blondell@wellesley.com to get started.

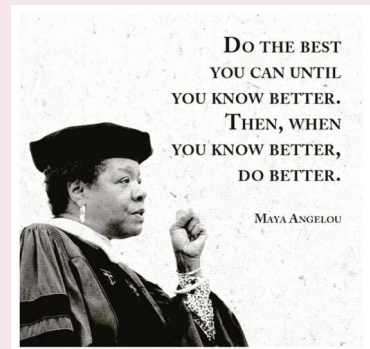




March Shared Plate Recipient *Caste Action Alliance*

How can we each take a concrete and personal act toward reparations for long-standing systemic racial inequalities? Members of the small but growing group Caste Action Alliance (CAA), inspired by Isabel Wilkerson's book *Caste*, have established a fund through the Community Foundation of Monterey County to award scholarships to the Black descendants of enslaved people. CAA has been able to award 14 scholarships in the last two years.

The goal for this year is \$20,000 to help pay tuition for 12 students, a goal attainable with the help of the UUCMP. Since 2021, CAA has distributed hundreds of copies of *Caste*, held in-depth discussions of anti-racist books, and participated in community, political, educational, and artistic endeavors with an antiracist focus. For more information, please visit <https://casteactionalliance.net> – especially the Scholarship and Actions sections.



Thank you, Sharon Miller

Musical Offerings

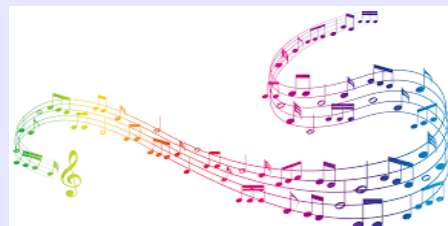


The Adult Community Choir continues to grow and meet **every Thursday from 7 p.m. - 9 p.m. in the Sanctuary**. This choir is open to everyone, members and nonmembers alike, to explore singing together. No prior experience is needed. Send me an email or just stop by! We are currently preparing for two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

Choir Sundays this month will be March 10th and March 31st

CHOIR POTLUCKS: We are having monthly choir potlucks on the **FIRST** Thursday of each month from 6 p.m. - 7 p.m. followed by rehearsal. Bring something to share and join us in for a bite followed by harmonious songs!

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



Donation Request for Men's I-HELP for March 10 and 31

On March 10th and on March 31st, UUCMP will host and provide meals for Men's I-HELP (Interfaith Homeless Emergency Lodging Program.) We are planning for about 17 guests.

We need your help to provide the donations of food for the meals. We can also use your help with setting up, preparing food and greeting the men. Please sign up on the links below.



[Men's I-Help Meal Train 3/10/24](#)

[Men's I-Help Meal Train 3/31/24](#)

You can sign into Meal Train with your google account or facebook, you do not have to create a new account unless you want to do so.

Food donations may be left in the church kitchen after the morning worship service on Sunday. **PLEASE LABEL all food with Men's I-HELP.** Food may also be brought to the church after 3:00 pm, but no later than 4:00 p.m. on that Sunday. Please use the Meal Train link to sign up by the Saturday before at 5 p.m. so we know where we stand for donations, since our goal is to have all items donated.

If you just want to tell us what you are bringing, contact Rose and she will sign you up.

[Men's I-Help Meal Train 3/10/24](#)

[Men's I-Help Meal Train 3/31/24](#)

If you would rather contribute monetarily to support this important mission of our church, please mark your check donation in the memo line for **Men's I-HELP Meals**, or use the link below.

[Donate financially](#)

If you have difficulty using the Meal Train program, please let Rose Lovell know: lovellfamily5@gmail.com

Please let Steve Smaby know if you have suggestions or questions pilot.smaby@gmail.com

Thank you for supporting this important mission of our church!

Rose Lovell 214-228-6665

Art News



Paintings by Elizabeth Wrightman

Feb. 2, 2024 – March 29, 2024

Artist Walk and Talk

Sunday, March 3rd at 12:15

“*Painting is stronger than I am*”, said Pablo Picasso. “*It makes me do what it likes.*” Although that sounds a little dramatic for me, if not downright self- important, I regularly experience what Picasso is saying. Of course one cannot look directly at such a phrase, but might glimpse the feeling many times, out of the corner of one’s eye, and smile and nod one’s head knowingly.
~Elizabeth Wrightman

Elizabeth will show in the Welcome Hall gallery February and March. She lives in Carmel with her husband Paul, pastor of the Community Church of the Monterey Peninsula, and they are both ordained in the United Church of Christ.

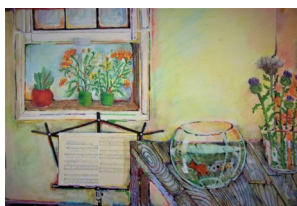
She would be described as an expressionist, with acrylics, house paint, pastels, often collage and often *drawing a lot*. She majored in fine arts at the College of Wooster in Wooster, Ohio, spending her senior year however at UCSB, still with a painting emphasis.



Donkey

Working for the Dept. of Aging in Pittsburgh, PA then attending Pittsburgh Theological Seminary as they raised teenagers, she would paint and show maybe once year. She then became a pastor, and also a hospital chaplain.

Upon moving to the Monterey Peninsula 14 years ago Elizabeth experienced a call to full time work in the studio. She paints largely from Irish literature. (This led to an independent study of James Joyce, involving several presentations, beginning with Trinity College in Dublin, on Bloomsday.) Joining Joyce scholars from worldwide settings, Elizabeth was accepted to show her paintings from Ulysses, as the literary world celebrated 100 years since its highly controversial publication.



Marigold Window

Her work similar to dreams perhaps . . . alternates between the playful and the mysterious. A Celt by family origins, her family were Highlander Scots, but spent generations in Ireland. Elizabeth identifies more with the Irish imagination. At first puzzled to find poems and legends showing up center stage, as a source of subject matter, she eventually accepted it; it gave her complete peace, and a sense of homecoming. If you look up the haunting poem, the *Song of Amergin*, you will know *everything that she knows* about what she paints. The Why, When, Where and Who can be explored in more depth, with a cup of coffee at a ‘walk and talk’ in the Welcome Hall.

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)

Life Enrichment Programs Affinity Groups

Some groups will not meet face-to-face in March. 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 4.

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

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.



UUCMP General Fund Drive 2024

BE THE LIGHT – SUCCESSFULLY MOVING ALONG

THANK YOU! A big thank you to those of you who have pledged online! Many of you are choosing to meet the challenge by moving up to 5% of your income with your pledge and/or increasing your pledge from last year by 25%. As of this writing, I expect we will meet the challenge match and go beyond it. So, those of you who have not pledged yet, please get your pledge in – either online or by submitting a paper pledge. Pledge forms are available at church.

Below is a list of our dedicated stewards. They are there to help you with pledging, to answer your questions, and to find out how you are feeling about UUCMP during these exciting times. Here's who may be reaching out to you: Be Astengo, Robert Brunson, Carl Christensen, Carol Collin, Warren Finch, Fran Gaver, Rev. Axel Gehrman, Peggy Hansen,

Gretchen Hausmann, Lee Hulquist, Paul Jessen, Lauren Keenan, Mike Lovell, Maren Martin, Mibs McCarthy, Bjorn Nilson, Wanda Parrott, Don Reynolds, and Konny Murray. They are mostly early pledgers as are the members of your Board of Directors.

At the orientation sessions, I asked these people why they agreed to be a steward. Here's what they said: Because I was asked; Church needs help; Asking for the church; One and done; Get to know folks better; Be part of a team; Committed to the cause; To contribute to the church's financial solution; To connect with folks I don't always see; I believe in helping people support what is important; Not just funds – need to keep community going; To help make the church thrive.

The celebratory kick-off cake on February 18 was well received and we'd like to reach our \$480,000 goal so we can have another cake on March 31, the last day of our campaign. Please pledge as soon as you can so we know where we stand in reaching our goal. Looking good so far.

\$480,000 – here we all come! WE CAN DO THIS

KONNY MURRAY for the Stewardship Committee

SOUPer Bowl Sunday Thanks

Thank you to all of our SOUPer participants, cooks and helpers! Our FUNdraiser made over \$800! Healthy, delicious soups, salad and bread, not to mention camaraderie, laughter and being in-person! Ideas are always

welcome for our next adventure - contact JT Mason jtigerm@comcast.net or Ann Johnson annjhanson@att.net





Join the UUCMP Environmental Justice Group for

GENISTA PULLING

Come and learn about the native and invasive plants on church grounds. Together, we will pull up young genista plants by hand or dig them up. Please bring gloves and tools (shovels, hand clippers) if possible.

SATURDAY, MARCH 16
9:30AM-12PM

REFRESHMENTS PROVIDED

Genista is invasive and highly flammable, so it's a double threat to our local ecology.

Help us get the plants out before they set seed and spread even more widely.

UU Principle 7:
We believe in caring for our planet Earth, the home we share with all living things.



Other opportunities to help with church grounds upkeep will be available at the same time.

For more information, contact Lauren Keenan (bill.lauren.keenan@gmail.com)

Environmental Justice

Environmental Justice at UUCMP

The Environmental Justice group and friends have been reading the book *The Future We Choose: The Stubborn Optimist's Guide to the Climate Crisis* by Christiana Figueres and Tom Rivett-Carnac. This will be the first of two reports about our reading and study lead by Rev. Elaine and Dr. Suzy Worcester.

Following are excerpts from the Introduction and Chapter One:

We are determined to play our part in ensuring our future is one that we deliberately choose, rather than one we stumble into blindly.

The next decade will be the most consequential in human history. We are choosing between two utterly contrasting futures, one to be feared and the other to be proud of. Those who will be most affected have taken to the streets. Their anger is energy that we desperately need. Anger that evolves into conviction is unstoppable.

Moving beyond injustice, restoring nature, eliminating racism, and solving the climate crisis can only be achieved if we recognize that they are all fundamentally the same challenge of how humans live well together on this Earth.

All governments of the world unanimously adopted the Paris Agreement in December 2015 and most ratified it into law in record time. Since then, many corporations, have set laudable emissions-reduction goals for themselves, many local governments have enacted effective policies, and numerous financial institutions have shifted significant capital from fossil fuels to alternative clean technologies. As essential as these actions are, they still fall far short of what is necessary to stop the rise and start the reduction of emissions worldwide.

The science of climate change presents facts that are measurable and verifiable. Climate deniers are shamelessly protecting the short-term financial interests of the fossil fuel industry to the det-

rimment of the long-term interests of the own descendants.

Complacency now will lock us into a future of guaranteed scarcity, instability, and strife. We can have more efficient and cheaper transportation, and we can practice smarter use of natural resources signaling a maturation of humanity.

The changes we need to make are significant but doable.

By 2050 at the latest, and ideally by 2040, we must have stopped emitting more greenhouse gases into the atmosphere than Earth can naturally absorb through its ecosystems (a balance known as net-zero emissions or carbon neutrality).

The goal of cutting global emissions in half by 2030 represents the absolute minimum we must achieve.

Mainly because of the unbridled use of fossil fuels and vast deforestation, the concentration of greenhouse gases in the atmosphere today exceeds anything we have had since well before the last ice age.

Oceans have absorbed more than 90 percent of the extra heat we have produced over the last fifty years.

Devastation is admittedly a growing possibility but not yet our inevitable fate.

The world we are now creating is leading to warming of more than 3 degrees Celsius. The world we must create will limit warming to no more than 1.5 degrees Celsius. To achieve this, we must achieve massive reforestation and new agricultural practices, and abandon fossil fuels and the internal combustion engine.

We can choose our future and collectively create it.

-- Mibs McCarthy

Environmental Justice

Gochujang Potato Stew

Plush baby potatoes braised in an aromatic gochujang broth form the heart of this satisfying, vegetable-packed stew. The spice-timid can lower the amount of gochujang, the Korean red-pepper paste, and heat seekers should feel free to add more to taste at the end. Canned white beans and dark-green Tuscan kale (also called lacinato or dinosaur kale), stewed with soy sauce and honey, create a deeply savory flavor that is reminiscent of South Korean gochujang jjigae, a camping favorite starring pantry staples, and dakdori tang, a gochujang-based chicken and potato stew.

INGREDIENTS

Yield: 4 servings

- 2 tablespoons unsalted butter or olive oil
- 1 large red onion, coarsely chopped
- Salt and black pepper
- 5 large garlic cloves, coarsely chopped
- 3 tablespoons gochujang, plus more to taste
- 3 cups vegetable broth
- 2 tablespoons soy sauce
- 1 teaspoon honey or dark brown sugar
- 1 pound baby gold or fingerling potatoes, large ones halved
- 1 (15-ounce) can cannellini or butter beans, rinsed
- 1 large bunch Tuscan kale, stems and leaves chopped (6 packed cups)
- Cooked white rice, for serving
- Sour cream and chopped flat-leaf parsley (both optional), for serving



PREPARATION

Step 1 Heat a large pot or Dutch oven over medium-high. Melt the butter and add the onion. Season with salt and pepper. Cook, stirring occasionally, until the onion starts to soften, 2 to 3 minutes. Add the garlic and gochujang, and stir until heated through and fragrant, just a few seconds.

Step 2 Stir in the vegetable broth, soy sauce, honey, potatoes and beans. Season with salt and pepper. Bring to a boil over high, then reduce the heat to medium-low to maintain a gentle boil. Cover and cook for 10 minutes, then add the kale. (It will seem like a lot at first but will wilt down considerably.) Tamping down the kale, continue gently boiling the covered stew, stirring occasionally, until the potatoes are tender and the broth is thickened to your liking, 10 to 20 minutes. Taste the broth and add more salt, pepper and gochujang as desired.

Step 3 Serve the stew alongside white rice and, for coolness against the heat, top with a dollop of sour cream and a sprinkle of parsley, if using.

-- Nan Foster

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