



# NUUSLETTER

of the Unitarian Universalist Church of the Monterey Peninsula

Theme: Renewal

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

June 2

**“All Ye Who Music Love -- Music Sunday”**

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

"Cease not daily, from morn till eve to warble gaily" is fine advice for birds AND humans longing for renewal. This Music Sunday we will be treated to a variety of wonderful choral offerings reminding us of the power of love to make a difference in our lives.

June 9

**“Is There Nothing New Under the Sun?”**

**Rev. Axel Gehrmann and Worship Associate Ann Johnson**

“The more things change, the more they stay the same,” a 19th century French author named Karr famously quipped. We like to believe in the possibility of progress and our capacity for self-improvement. We strive to build a better world. And yet the basic question remains: Can we humans change our ways?

June 16

**“New Wineskins”**

**Rev. Elaine Gehrmann and Worship Associate Ray Krise**

This morning we will explore the challenges and rewards of exchanging old wineskins for new-- how will new containers and expressions better hold us in community -- in preparation for the UU General Assembly and more.

## 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 23

**“GA Sunday Service -- Weaving Our Lives”**

**Revs. Elaine and Axel Gehrmann**

We are all tangled up together in a great web of life that is woven with beauty and hardship, love and loss, thriving and struggle. How do we tend well to the weaving so that all of us are held in care? This morning we will be viewing the virtual UUA General Assembly Sunday worship service.

Rev. Molly Housh Gordon will be joined by Violet Vonder Haar, Jamila Bachelder, Rev. Leon Dunkely, Rev. Eric Kaminetsky, Rev. Joan Javier-Duvall, Rev. Jordinn Nelson Long, Rev. Aaron Wisman, Rev. Sadie Lansdale, and Rev. Sarah Oglesby-Dunegan.

June 30

**“Seeds Worth Planting”**

**Rev. Dennis Hamilton and Worship Associate Bjorn Nilson**

Nature is obvious. Good seed in good soil means healthy plants. So, too, the right words from a kind heart bring healing. When we live from the heart, it changes us. We stop struggling and begin to live at ease in the world. Who knows what wounded soul might yet thrive because of some word of understanding planted there?

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See the calendar at  
[www.uucmp.org](http://www.uucmp.org)



## Ministers' Message

Rev. Axel Gehrman

### Summertime, and the living is easy...

Summertime is just around the corner. And I can't help but hear the opening line of the Gershwin tune in my head. And I wonder - will the living indeed be easy in the days and weeks ahead? I sure hope so.

The 2023-2024 church year that is wrapping up this month has been amazingly busy and remarkably successful. Our annual meeting last month, on May 5<sup>th</sup>, was a short and joyful affair, in equal parts church business and celebration. (If you are interested, you can find the 78-page congregational annual report on our website, and read up on our many activities and accomplishments.) Many of our volunteers, leaders and staff members have been working very hard – and definitely deserve a break!

This year, the first day of summer coincides with the first day of our annual Unitarian Universalist General Assembly (GA). Last year Elaine and I attended GA when it was held in Pittsburgh, PA. Next year we hope to attend GA in Baltimore, MD. But this year GA will be completely virtual. That means we will be attending GA in Monterey!

We plan to livestream the General Sessions at church, from Thursday-Sunday, June 20-23. We encourage you to join us for a part or all of the sessions! (See the program schedule on page 3.) Our UUCMP Sunday service on June 23, will be the GA worship service.

The biggest business item, that will be discussed and finally voted upon, is the revision of proposed Article II of our UUA bylaws. As some of you know, for the past several years Unitarian Universalists around the country have engaged in a thorough process of discernment and deliberation, as we sought to create a new articu-

lation of our central UU principles and values. (Most recently, Elaine shared highlights and resources about Article II in her March Ministers' Message. We encourage you to check them out!) We are big supporters of the proposed Article II, and look forward to the conclusion of this very worthwhile multi-year endeavor.

Prior to GA, from June 17 – 19, Elaine and I will be attending Ministry Days, an annual gathering of UU ministers from around the country. Ministry Days this year will also be completely virtual, however we will be heading to Walnut Creek, to join a gathering of regional colleagues for an in-person “watch party.”

On July 1<sup>st</sup> our summer vacation and study leave will begin, as we head to Germany, where we will be visiting family and friends. In early August Elaine will be attending a silent retreat with UU colleagues in Rancho Palos Verdes, CA, while Axel embarks on some silent hiking and camping. We will be back at church the week of August 12.

What will your summer look like? Whether you are planning to travel or stay close to home, whether you will be taking a break or enjoying familiar routines – our hope is that the spirit of summer might restore both your body and soul, and provide a few moments when you feel - deeply and truly – that the living is easy.

See you in church,

*Axel*



# UUA GENERAL ASSEMBLY

## VIRTUAL GA • JUNE 20 - 23, 2024

### Join us for General Assembly at UUCMP

Elaine and Axel will be at church in the Fireplace Room for the General Sessions listed below. Join them for a few minutes, or for a whole session. You can also stream the General Sessions from your home. Find more information at [www.uua.org/ga](http://www.uua.org/ga)

Thursday, June 20

10:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.

Opening and General Session I

1:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.

General Session II

Friday, June 21

11:30 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

General Session III

Saturday, June 22

11:30 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

General Session IV

Sunday, June 23

12:00 p.m. – 2:00 p.m.

Closing & General Session V

### DRE Transition—

Our wonderful DRE Sharyn Routh is moving with her family to Massachusetts. Please see more info [here](#).

Sharyn's last day as DRE will be June 9 - we will recognize her and there will be cake! We wish Sharyn and her family all the best in this new transition; they will be missed!



### Celebration of Life Service

In honor of

Lynne Powers

Saturday, June 15, 2 p.m.

There will be a reception directly after the service.



## Men's Breakfast

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

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

Zoom Meeting ID is: 975 5961 1965. Passcode: 408070

On a phone (call 669-900- 9128)

Or with a computer - simply click on this link:

<https://zoom.us/j/97559611965>

The breakfast is open to all who identify as male or gender fluid. Our conversation is confidential. If you are joining us in person, please RSVP to Mike Lovell [lovellmike50@hotmail.com](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.



## 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, June 26, at 5:45 p.m.

**Buddhist Sangha** is every Wednesday at 7 p.m. in person in the Sanctuary. Zoom is available. See page 9.

**Environmental Justice** meets at noon, Sunday, June 9, in the Sanctuary and via Zoom.

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

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

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

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

**Memorial** for Lynne Powers is Saturday, June 15. 2 p.m.

**Memorial** for Mel Czarnecki is Sunday, June 30, 2 p.m.

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

**Music Committee** will not meet in June.

**NUU'sletter deadline** for the July issue is Sunday, June 16.

**Program Council** meets Tuesday, June 4, 12:30 p.m. via Zoom. Contact Mibs McCarthy [programcouncil@uucmp.org](mailto:programcouncil@uucmp.org)

**Social Justice** meets Sunday, June 2. 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 9.

**Youth Music** will be starting again. If you are interested, please send Jorge an email: [music@uucmp.org](mailto:music@uucmp.org)

## Fun and Fellowship Potluck June 28th

Join us on June 28th for a night of fun, food, and fellowship! We will **gather at 5:46 p.m.** for a potluck dinner of salads and fruits/desserts, eat from 6-6:54 p.m. and join group activities that begin at 7 p.m. Activity options planned include a “pop-up” chalice circle, a fun for all-ages creative project, and games. We expect to finish up by 8:30.



We hope that you'll save the date and join us! Use this link to sign-up:

[Fun and Fellowship Potluck](#)

Families with children are welcome and are encouraged to attend!

For any questions, contact Rose Lovell ([lovellfamily5@gmail.com](mailto:lovellfamily5@gmail.com)) 214-228-6665.

## Musical Offerings

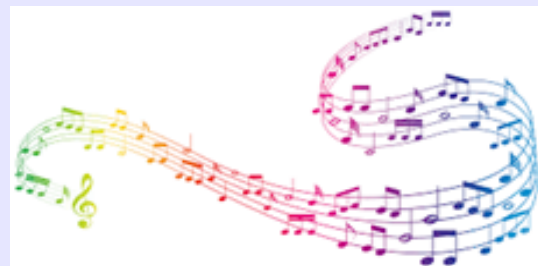


The Adult Community Choir continues to grow and meets **every Thursday from 7 p.m. – 9 p.m. in the Sanctuary.** This choir is open to everyone, members and nonmembers alike, to explore singing together. No prior experience is needed. Send me an email or just stop by! We are currently preparing for two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

Sunday, June 2, will be **MUSIC SUNDAY at UUCMP!** Be sure to attend this service for a wonderful music-filled morning!



The last two weeks of June and for all of July there will be no rehearsals as the choir will be taking time off. Rehearsals will begin August 1st with a WELCOME BACK potluck at 6 p.m. followed by rehearsal at 7 p.m.



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. Also, if you would like to be added to the choir email blast (you will receive information on all rehearsals and upcoming singing events), please email our Music Director, Jorge Torrez [music@uucmp.org](mailto:music@uucmp.org)

-- Jorge Torrez

## RELIGIOUS EXPLORATION



### Farewell

Dear Friends,

Summer has finally arrived! With the end of the school year and the church year come many transitions in the lives of families and churches. And so it is that my family prepares for a rather large transition this summer. As you have likely heard by now, my family is moving to Amherst, Massachusetts later this month.

I feel so grateful to have been a part of the UUCMP community these past two years that we have lived on the Monterey Peninsula. Prior to living in this area, I always joked that I homeschooled Unitarian Universalism to my kids, because attending church hadn't worked out for my family for a variety of reasons. However, when we moved here, it seemed like our family's values were in the minority, so we thought joining a UU community might be a way to find folks with similar outlooks on life. While my kids were familiar with UU values and principles when we started attending, what they had missed out on from homeschooling UU was the multigenerational community. I have been grateful to see my kids making memories at UUCMP that I hope they will look back on fondly. Helping Karen with the RE library, chatting with Rebecca about science and math, playing games with Rev. Elaine, attending an OWL class with Warren, Rebecca, and Andrea, eating chili at Rose and Mike's house, enjoying Mystery Buddy communications with Andrea and JT, and so much more – the breadth of my kids' positive experiences underscores to me how important communities like UUCMP are for kids and adults alike.

I treasure the time I have spent serving this spiritual community with all its quirks and beauty. You have taught me so much about love, patience, and flexibility. We have learned together and grown together. Please know that the UUCMP community will remain in my thoughts and I'll be cheering you on from the sidelines.

Life is precious. I am glad I got to spend some of mine with you.

Before I leave, I'd like to highlight some fun events we have happening in June. For our first Friday game night on June 7th, we'd like to especially welcome LGBTQ+ families to celebrate Pride Month with us, and for the worship service on June 9th, I'm excited to welcome a guest reader and author, Alexis Buntin, to share the Story for All Ages and facilitate some activities for kids in the RE classes.

Blessings to you all,  
Sharyn

## President's Corner



### Annual Meeting Remarks 2024

Last year when I addressed the annual meeting, I shared with you that I viewed this year, the one we are finishing, as one of opportunity.

I saw an opportunity to use the Strategic Planning process to make our voices heard as to what our new normal will be. What programs, activities, outreach, staffing, and membership commitments we will advocate. Opportunities to reconnect and re-engage. The Strategic Plan that this congregation helped create is before us today.

I saw an opportunity for our committees to be re-energized and refocused using congregational input. I have visited many committees and witnessed the passion and dedication these volunteers commit to our programs and visions, and they are now reviewing their charges to see how they can best help implement our Strategic Plan.

I saw an opportunity for our Board of Trustees to better understand the congregation's desires, to refocus, and to communicate more effectively. We have a committed Board that continues to work toward these goals.

I saw an opportunity for our committed ministers to help lead our planning process, and with the results, help lead us to realize our congregational ambitions. Axel and Elaine have done an excellent job leading this process.

At last year's Annual Meeting there was significant discussion regarding finances and the level of ministry. The Financial Solutions Working Group had submitted a report examining many topics, including goals not realized from our last Strategic Plan, the expiration of "Big Gift" funding, and the challenges we will address moving forward. Your Board of Trustees, including our co-ministers, took this report and our challenges very seriously, had discussions, and were prepared to consider difficult choices. Due to a strong response from our congregation, including the matching funds initiative, and then another "Big Gift," we were able to retain our current staffing level. Helping this process is the fact that in this current fiscal year, we are doing much better than we budgeted.

And lastly, we had renewed opportunities to live our Mission and our Vision in ways that honor our Covenant to each other. UUCMP, well done.

-- Mike Lovell



### Lynne Powers

Jacquelyn “Lynne” Powers, née Latham, beloved mother, grandmother, great-grandmother, and friend, was born May 16, 1932, in Los Angeles, and passed away May 2, 2024, in Salinas, two weeks shy of her 92nd birthday. A longtime resident of Monterey, Lynne attended Occidental College, the University of Hawaii, and graduated with a teaching credential from California State University Los Angeles. She lived and taught elementary school for many years in China Lake, a naval station in the Mojave Desert, broken up by three years in Germany. She moved to La Jolla and entered law school, where she clerked for a San Diego superior court judge and volunteered at the Mexican American Legal Aid Society. Then, she opened a law practice and worked in bank trust departments. Lynne was an active volunteer and member of AAUW, the ACLU, Mensa and the Unitarian Universalist church. Her great joy was being a docent at the Monterey Bay Aquarium, which she did for 15 years. A lifelong folk dancer, she also loved sailing, hiking, and all things ocean. She leaves behind a legacy of intellectual curiosity, love of music, and exploration of the world. Lynne was very active at UUCMP, working on a variety of committees and dealing with finance and stewardship. She was treasurer of the church for several years. She served as a canvassing steward for many years. She also asked pertinent questions about why we were doing things the way we were, instead of just automatically accepting things at face value. She will be sorely missed.

She is survived by four children: Jennifer Hassett, Cheri Powers, Kiera Benidettino, Eric Powers; five grandchildren; two great-grandchildren; and a brother, Keith Latham.

A memorial service will be held June 15 at 2 p.m. at UUCMP. Contributions in lieu of flowers preferred to the Monterey Bay Aquarium.

### Are You Interested in Joining a Grief Group?

Throughout our lives we each are confronted with a variety of losses, and along with them our experiences of grief. A few of us are in the process of launching a new Grief Group at UUCMP, to share our respective stories, our thoughts and feelings, in a small, supportive group of members and friends, who are coping with similar challenges, moving toward healing.



We are tentatively planning to meet on the third Wednesday of the month, either in the late morning or early afternoon. If you are interested in being a part of this group, or if you have questions, please contact Lynda Sayre ([lyndasayre@gmail.com](mailto:lyndasayre@gmail.com)) or Rev. Axel ([minister@uucmp.org](mailto:minister@uucmp.org))



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

## 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 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.

## Men's I-HELP June 9th

On June 9th UUCMP will host and provide meals for Men's I-HELP (Interfaith Homeless Emergency Lodging Program.) We are planning to have about 25 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 link below.



### [Men's I-HELP MEAL TRAIN](#)

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 this Meal Train link to sign up by the Saturday before at 5pm 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](#)

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.**

### [Donate financially](#)

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

Thank you for supporting this important mission of our church!  
Rose Lovell 214-228-6665

## Celebration of Life Service

In honor of

**Mel Czarnecki**

**Sunday, June 30, 2 p.m.**

There will be a reception directly after the service.



## Environmental Justice



On Saturday, June 8, 2024, from 2 - 4 p.m. in our Fireplace Room, please join us for a community organizing meeting about the Monterey County Community Climate Action and Adaption Plan (CCAAP) implementation.

We are partnering with the Climate Reality Project Monterey Bay to invite interested community stakeholders across organizational lines to brainstorm how we can build solidarity and strategize about keeping sustained pressure on Monterey County leadership to implement our CCAAP. The focus of this *first meeting* will be on updating shared knowledge about the CCAAP's status, identifying shared goals, and deciding upon how we want to work together on this grass roots effort. If you want to help, then we hope you can join the conversation.

For more information about this meeting, please see Charlotte Bear, Nan Foster or Mibs McCarthy.

In the meantime, here is a link to access the CCAAP through the Monterey County website: <https://www.countyofmonterey.gov/government/departments-i-z/social-services/community-action-partnership#cap> There is also a section regarding community engagement.

-- Submitted by Christine Bailey

### The Environmental Justice Committee of UUCMP supports CA Senate Bill 308, Carbon Dioxide Removal (CDR) Market Development Act.

What is carbon dioxide removal (CDR)? How is it different from Carbon Capture and storage (CCS)? Carbon Dioxide Removal (CDR) removes already emitted carbon dioxide from the atmosphere and durably stores it in geological, terrestrial, or ocean reservoirs, or in products. This is different from Carbon Capture and Storage (CCS), which tries to prevent more carbon from going into the atmosphere at the point of emission, at places like refineries or power plants. This distinction is important because, in order to achieve the goal of net zero greenhouse gas emissions, we need both to reduce the emissions of carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) and other greenhouse gases and remove some of the already-emitted CO<sub>2</sub> from the atmosphere. For more information, please see this article: <https://carboncurve.substack.com/p/conflating-cdr>

Why is CDR needed? Without CDR we cannot get to net zero emissions. California passed landmark legislation committing the state to achieve net zero

greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions by 2045, with a reduction in emissions of at least 85% from 1990 levels. This leaves 15% of emissions that need to be removed that we aren't likely to be able to eliminate by 2045. To achieve a target of net zero – in other words, to remove as much carbon dioxide from the air each year as we add to it – the state will need carbon dioxide removal (CDR) to balance those remaining 15% of emissions. This is supported by the United Nations' Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) in its report, "Climate Change 2022: Mitigation of Climate Change," which was released in early 2022: "The deployment of CDR to counterbalance hard-to-abate residual emissions is unavoidable if net zero CO<sub>2</sub> or GHG emissions are to be achieved." In addition, California Draft 2022 Scoping Plan Update states, "Because CDR is critical for achieving carbon neutrality in all alternatives, it is important to begin investment soon to allow demonstration, deployment, and experience to reduce its cost as dependence on it grows toward 2045."

-- Submitted by Mibs McCarthy

## Environmental Justice

### VEGETARIAN RECIPE OF THE MONTH

#### Broccoli Korma –

by Zainab Shah, from the NYT

Total time 30 min- 15 min prep, 15 min cooking.

Yield: 3 to 4 servings



#### INGREDIENTS

- ¼ cup ghee or vegetable oil
- 1 teaspoon ginger paste or freshly grated ginger
- 1 teaspoon garlic paste or freshly grated garlic
- 1 medium yellow onion, finely chopped
- 1 tablespoon unsweetened almond or cashew butter
- 1 (13-ounce) can coconut milk
- 8 ounces broccoli florets (from 1 large head broccoli), or use 8 ounces frozen broccoli
- Salt
- 1 to 3 teaspoons coarsely ground black pepper (preferably Malabar)
- ½ teaspoon garam masala
- Handful of slivered almonds (optional)
- Lemon wedges (optional), for serving
- Rice or roti, for serving

#### PREPARATION

##### Step 1

In a medium (10-inch) pot, heat ghee or oil on high for 30 seconds. Stir in ginger and garlic and cook for about 30 seconds. Add onion and continue cooking, stirring frequently, until it turns translucent, 5 to 7 minutes. Stir in almond butter and coconut milk and bring the mixture to a boil.

##### Step 2

Add broccoli and 1 teaspoon salt, and reduce the heat to maintain a simmer. Cook until just tender, about 8 minutes. Stir in black pepper and more salt if desired, to taste.

##### Step 3

Top with garam masala and with almonds, if you like. Serve with lemon wedges, if using, and rice or roti.

-- Submitted by Rev. Elaine Gehrmann



## June Shared Plate Recipient *Empathy in Action*

Our June Shared Plate recipient is *Empathy in Action*, an empathy-based program that encourages emotional understanding, forgiveness and personal growth between the incarcerated at Correctional Training Facility (CTF) Soledad Prison and the public. The core beliefs include the worth and dignity of every human being, and the belief that “gentleness comes only from the strong.”

The program allows college students, faculty and select members of the public to engage in deep dialogue and listening with incarcerated men, referred to as *Brothers in Blue*. It follows a Transformative Justice curriculum grounded in 8 socio-psychological competencies (e.g., racism, trauma, gender and forgiveness) forming an arc of transformation. This is paired with 8 insight-oriented values which create the foundation for each of the 8 weekly discussion topics and challenge all participants to put virtuous concepts into action over the course of the program. The results are life-changing for both the Brothers in Blue and the outside volunteers.

I have participated in the Empathy in Action program at Soledad, as has UUCMP member Max Cajar. I did find it to be life-changing, especially in regard to my prior stereotypes about incarcerated persons since I knew none personally. I was profoundly moved by the vulnerable, honest, and gentle men that I experienced during my visits there, all of them eager to heal and grow. I would be happy to share more about my experience if you're interested.

-- Maren Martin

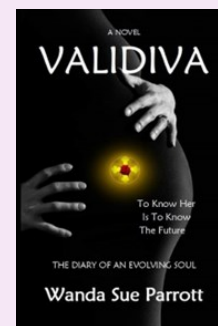
## Books for Beds

Thanks to everyone who helped raise funds for the UUCMP I-HELP fund by buying copies of my sci-fi novel *VALIDIVA--The Diary of an Evolving Soul*. There are still a few copies of this limited edition available, so if anyone is interested in contributing \$20 and reserving a signed copy, contact me now at 831-899-5887 or [amykitchenerfdn@hotmail.com](mailto:amykitchenerfdn@hotmail.com) After June 15, the remaining copies will go on sale to the public in a local bookstore.

The total contributions to the I-HELP fund as of May 19, 2024, are \$685. Thank you all!

P.S. As some of you know, my original goal was to contribute \$1,000 to the I-HELP Fund. If you add the \$350 in expense to acquire the copies of *Validiva*, the total I contributed from my personal funds and sales money was \$1,000 plus change. I am sorry that amount was not entirely realized by the fund.

--Wanda Sue Parrott



Unitarian Universalist Church  
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**Office Hours**

The office is open for limited hours: 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. on Wednesdays and Fridays. Office closed June 17 - 21.  
Email to [office@uucmp.org](mailto:office@uucmp.org)

**Co-Ministers**

the Revs. Elaine and Axel Gehrman  
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