



NUUSLETTER

of the Unitarian Universalist Church of the Monterey Peninsula

Theme: Invitation

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

September 1

“Our Personal Invitations”

Rev. Axel Gehrmann and Worship Associate Ray Krise

We humans are social animals. We long for meaningful relationship. We thrive in community, and are often happiest in the midst of a circle of friends. I wonder which is more wonderful – Being invited into beloved community? Or finding ever-new ways to welcome others to join in?

September 8

“This Being Human is a Guesthouse”

Rev. Elaine Gehrmann and Worship Associates Max Cajar and Christina Zaro

In the opening line of his poem, 13th-century Persian poet Jalaluddin Rumi tells us that “This Being Human is a Guesthouse.” He invites us to embrace every emotion and experience as a guest, to be welcoming to whatever life brings to us. How might we create the space and perspective within ourselves to honor the wide variety of guests that may enter in?

September 15

“Room At the Table”

Rev. Axel Gehrmann and Worship Associate Mibs McCarthy

Every one of us is unique. We are each endowed with a one-of-a-kind combination of experiences, interests, and abilities. We each have many gifts. One of the challenges we face, as we build community, is to figure out where we each fit in. The good news is: There is room for all of us.

This morning’s service will be followed by our annual Connections Fair. Many of our active committees and groups will be staffing tables all around the church, sharing information, answering questions, and providing opportunities for engagement.

September 22

“Inviting Autumn Into Our Lives”

Worship Associates Jon Czarnecki and Bjorn Nilson

The song says, "Oh, it's a long, long while, from May to December. But the days grow short when you reach September . . ." A little September, October, November and a lot of December. That's Autumn, the season of great change in the natural world, and the season of anxiety and harvest. Everything begins to close down, from flower petals to farm stands. Even our hearts. Perhaps we should consider Autumn in a different light. Instead of closing down, we might think of Autumn as a time of regeneration of an old cycle of life that needs rekindling. Isn't love the best kindling of all for life?

September 29

“Reimagine Together-- UU Climate Justice Revival Service”

Rev. Elaine Gehrmann and Worship Associate Ann Johnson

This weekend we are joining with hundreds of UU congregations across the country to host a UU Climate Revival. This service will be a chance for us to re-imagine and recommit to a new way of living into our visions of climate justice, for our congregation, our community, and the larger world.

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.

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Ministers' Message

Rev. Elaine Gehrman

This month's worship theme is "Invitation"—which goes wonderfully with the second goal of our new Strategic Plan – “To Improve our welcoming, advertising, and outreach.”

How and why did YOU first attend UUCMP? For many of us, it was because someone invited us to come. A trusted friend, a relative, or just an acquaintance who thought that we might benefit from something that our beloved community has to offer. Someone who shared with us their experience of the joys of attending this congregation. Someone who knew that open-minded, open-hearted, progressive, inclusive values would be welcomed and encouraged here.

Sometimes, even those of us who didn't always consider ourselves 'church-goers' have found ourselves to be surprised and gratified by the unique offerings of this particular kind of 'church.'

Who do you know who might be one of those people who would find this spiritual community a welcoming, supportive place? Who of your acquaintances might be looking for new friends, a place for contemplation and action, a group of like-minded, and sometimes differently-minded souls, who nevertheless support each other and strive to live out their values in the world?

Why don't you consider inviting them to some event at UUCMP this month? It could be a Sunday morning service, but it could also be the First

Friday game night, or the new Climate Café, or our Climate Revival . . . It could be Tai Chi or the Buddhist Sangha group, or a book discussion, or the Anti-racism film night or the soccer game outing. Perhaps you could bring them to share a meal with our I-HELP guests? Or you could invite them to the Connections Fair after church on September 15, where there will be tables with information about almost all of our groups and activities.

We Unitarian Universalists are often very shy and reluctant about evangelizing and proselytizing, with good reason, and yet, aren't you glad that you discovered our community? I bet some of you might even wish that someone had told you about it sooner! (Some have even said that UUCMP is the best-kept secret in the Monterey area!) We know that our religious perspective is not for everyone, but for those people who might really enjoy and benefit from being involved in our congregational life, let's all work to make sure they know we are here, and invite them in!



See you in church!

Elaine

Photo directory coming -- Please update your Breeze info

Last year we began using Breeze to manage our church member data -- if you have not yet logged into Breeze, please do so soon, and please upload a photo, so that we can create an updated Photo directory soon! All the information you need to access Breeze you should be able to find on our website here <https://uucmp.org/breeze-database/>

Questions, contact office@uucmp.org



Reimagine Together: From An Extractive Age To A New Era

UU Climate Justice Revival | September 28-29, 2024

UUCMP, along with 300+ other UU congregations will be participating in a UU Climate Justice Revival.

The Revival builds on decades of faithful and visionary UU climate and environmental leadership and is designed to encourage collaboration amongst congregational teams and break down silos. Together, we can move past systems and cultures of extraction to usher in a new era with love and justice at the center of our climate actions.

There will be workshops/dialogs on Saturday September 28, from 1-5 p.m., and a special Worship Service on Sunday, September 29. Please mark your calendars and plan to attend! Watch your weekly e-news for more details.

Don't Miss Our 2024 UUCMP Connections Fair!

Sunday, September 15, at 11:30 a.m. (following the 10:30 a.m. worship service)

Looking for ways to deepen your involvement at UUCMP, meet new people, and use your gifts meaningfully? Ever wonder what our church groups and committees do and how you might participate?

This will be the day to find out!

Our program committees and other church groups will be on hand at tables on September 15. Talk to members of each group to find out what they do, who the members are, and how you might contribute.

Bring your ideas and suggestions and share them! Come make connections with friends old and new!



Men's Breakfast

Saturday, September 14, at 8:30 a.m.

The men's monthly breakfast is continuing, as hybrid. Our next meeting is Saturday, September 14, 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.

Antiracism Film Viewing & Discussion - "Origin"

On Tuesday Sept. 3, at 7 p.m. in the sanctuary, we will be showing the recent film "Origin" based on the life of Isabel Wilkerson, who wrote the book *Caste*. The film was written and directed by Ava Duvernay, and will be followed by a brief discussion period. Everyone is welcome.



PUBLICATION DEADLINES

ANNOUNCEMENTS for SUNDAYS 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.

Antiracism Film Tuesday, September 3, 7 p.m. in the Sanctuary. See article at left.

Board of Trustees meets Wednesday, September 18, at 5:30 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, September 8, in the Sanctuary and via Zoom.

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

I-HELP for Men is Sunday, September 8, 5 p.m. Sign up on the Meal Train (page 10) or contact Rose Lovell or Steve Smaby if you can help.

I-HELP for Women is Sunday, September 22.

Membership Committee meets Wednesday, September 25, at 5:30 p.m. via Zoom.

Men's Breakfast Group meets Saturday, September 14, 8:30 a.m. in person and 9 a.m. via Zoom. See article at left.

Music Committee meets Tuesday, September 24, at 6 p.m. via Zoom.

NUUWSletter deadline for the October issue is Monday, September 16.

Program Council meets Tuesday, September 3, 12:30 p.m., via Zoom. Contact Mibs McCarthy programcouncil@uucmp.org

Social Justice meets Sunday, September 1, at noon in the Sanctuary and via Zoom.

Stewardship meets Wednesday, September 4, 1:30 p.m. via Zoom.

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

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

RELIGIOUS EXPLORATION



Fall Happenings!

Dear UUCMP Families,

Our theme for the month of September is *Invitation*. Your children will have the chance to grow and learn in their age groups as we will change from our one-room-schoolhouse into three distinct groupings: Nursery for babies up to Kindergarteners. The Center Classroom will reopen for our elementary group (Kinder to 5th grade) and our tweens and teens (grades 6th-9th) will meet with Ms. Rebecca downstairs in our Emerson room for the Crossing Path's program.

We have an exciting month full of activities available for our RE families and community and you are invited to join the fun! I hope you will get the opportunity to join at least one or more of these events. We will have a Fall Equinox Bonfire, Apple Picking and Lunch at Gizdich Farms and a Soccer Night at the MBFC field in Marina!

You are also invited to attend our monthly **Committee on Family Ministry (CoFM)** which will meet the last Tuesday each month— please join us on zoom September 24, 2024, from 7:00 p.m. - 8:15pm. We are seeking a new chair for this committee—see flier on the next page for more details!

Please join to learn more about upcoming opportunities and to share your ideas for our RE programming.

Shannon Morrison (she/her)
Acting Director of Religious Exploration
Upcoming Activities & Events for September

* **September 8** - Start of our Fall Curriculum

* **September 22** - Fun Young Adults and RE Meet Up - Apple Picking and lunch at [Gizdich Ranch!](#)

* **September 21 - Autumn Equinox Celebration Bonfire** Celebrate the beginning of fall - All UUCMP families and friends who wish to participate - Beach Bonfire - 6 p.m. - 8 p.m. - RE Families and friends are invited to meet on the beach at 6 PM to have s'mores, roast hot dogs, etc. More information to follow.

* **September 24** - Committee on Family Ministry (CoFM) meeting 7 p.m. - 8:15 p.m. on Zoom

* **September 28** - UUCMP @ MBFC Soccer Night - 7 p.m. Join your UUCMP friends for a night of soccer and fun! \$21 tickets, discounted parking passes also available for \$15. Carpooling is encouraged! Join us in the lively "Supporters Section" for the game! Email dre@uucmp.org for more information or to reserve your spot.



VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Church members *without* little ones are encouraged to lend a hand so caregivers can have a chance to connect with our wonderful community. [Sign Up HERE!](#) We appreciate your help whether working directly with our kids or to make our UUCMP campus a safe and fun place to be!

THANK YOU! We have been so lucky to have helping hands in RE - **thank you to our August volunteers Karen Brown, Max Cajar, Lauren Keenan and Warren Finch** for all your contributions this month.

UUCMP Fall Happenings!

Committee on Family Ministry



IS SEEKING A

Committee Chairperson

- Create agenda and send reminder email to committee members and families
- Facilitate monthly meeting
- Help prioritize RE Action Items
- Support DRE for programming; staffing decisions
- 2-4 hours per month commitment

EMAIL: MINISTER@UUCMP.ORG

MBFC VS. DETROIT

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 28
7PM



CARDINALE STADIUM
CSUMB / MARINA

TICKETS - SPECIAL GROUP RATE!
\$21/PERSON

EMAIL SHANNON FOR MORE INFO
DRE@UUCMP.ORG



Fall into Fun

Fun Adults Group
and RE Families
presents:

APPLE PICKING AND LUNCH

SEPTEMBER 22 AFTER CHURCH

GIZDICH RANCH, WATSONVILLE

GIZDICH RANCH
55 PECKHAM RD.
WATSONVILLE CA 95076



Beach Bonfire,
September 21
6:00 PM

New Book Discussion - Beginning September 17th

Rev. Axel will be leading a 6-session discussion of the book *Whose Story Is This? - Old Conflicts, New Chapters* by the writer, historian and activist Rebecca Solnit.

As we head into this year's election season, our conversation will reflect on how our UU values and principles might provide us with the grounding and guidance we need to engage the pressing issues of our day. The book asks: "Who gets to shape the narrative of our times? The current moment is a battle royale over that foundational power, one in which women, people of color, non-straight people are telling other versions, and white people and men and particularly white men are trying to hang onto the old versions and their own centrality." The book asks what is emerging? And why does it matter?

Whose Story Is This?

Old Conflicts,
New Chapters

REBECCA SOLNIT
Author of Men Explain Things to Me

Please consider joining us! We will be meeting on the first and third **Tuesdays**, at **7:00 p.m.** beginning **September 17**, in the Fireplace Room. Please contact Rev. Axel (minister@uucmp.org) to register, or if you have questions.

President's Corner

What Are We Doing Here?



I once heard a UU minister give a sermon in which he talked about his experience growing up Catholic. He loved being a part of the community he grew up in, but as he got older he found he could no longer believe in many of the tenets of Catholicism. This was a crisis for him, because the Catholic community he grew up in was grounded in a set of theological beliefs, and if he no longer believed those things, he could no longer be a member of that community. At UUCMP, we are free to grow in our spiritual beliefs and follow our individual spiritual paths wherever they may take us. We might say that our relationships with each other come before our spiritual beliefs, but it may be more accurate to say that our spirituality is grounded in creating and maintaining a caring, welcoming, and loving community.

Human beings thrive when they are part of a strong, loving community and strong, loving communities thrive when they are filled with strong, loving individuals. It isn't a zero-sum game. The more energy I put into my community, the more I grow and prosper. The strong, loving community we create enriches the lives of all who are a part of it.

Fundamentally, then, what we are here to help create has been called the Beloved Community: A place where humanity in all its diversity is celebrated, and we are bound together by love, care, and mutual respect. Can we succeed in building such a community? As the hymn goes, "The task is mighty, and so are we!"

--Warren Finch

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 rehearsals have begun, and we will be singing in services for September 8 and September 22.



Do you play an instrument, sing, and would like to find a group where you can practice your skills in a safe environment? We would like to start Jam Sessions up again!! If you have any interest, please reach out to music@uucmp.org

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

September Shared Plate Recipient *Regeneración*

Regeneración serves as a unique climate+justice collaborator with community partners to inspire a local response to our changing climate. We dream of a safe, vibrant, climate resilient Pájaro Valley where all thrive.

We:

- Discover and elevate stories of how climate change is impacting our community.
- Grow new, young Environmental Justice champions and amplify their voices, actions, and leadership.
- Inform local strategies and policies addressing climate change.
- Educate and empower actions to reduce Greenhouse Gas emissions.

Since 2016 we have activated thousands, created pathways for new leadership, and changed the conversation about climate change to center solutions on justice for frontline communities.

Farmworker families and other low-income people are disproportionately affected by climate impacts such as drought, heat, and wildfires. Our grassroots surveys identified a significant gap in local agricultural communities in planning for climate adaptation.

We present the concerns of Pajaro Valley's underrepresented communities as governments and organizations address our changing climate, and help build capacity with and for social service organizations to understand climate impacts and engage decision makers.

Regeneración has become the local expert on climate and justice, receiving frequent invitations to consult, speak, and offer perspective. We create pathways for equitable leadership for young adults representative of our community, and partner with local and regional organizations, governments, and educational institutions to address climate change and build unity for long-term social and environmental justice. We gauge our impact through measuring engagement at events, social

media followers, contact lists, media coverage, local climate policy changes, and results of volunteer and event surveys demonstrating increase in knowledge and commitment to action.



We envision a just and thriving community which has minimized climate risk, prepared everyone to adapt, and achieved justice as we transform our society to successfully respond to the climate crisis. With the once in a generation \$3.5+ trillion in government funding slated for climate, this dream could be a reality, but only if justice is centered in our local response. Our climate agencies are already working to develop projects and have a strong commitment to center equity, but the effort is critically under-resourced.

We are a vital climate and equity partner for jurisdictions in the tri-county Monterey Bay. We are uniquely positioned to enroll and convene social service and justice groups in the Monterey Bay Area Climate Justice Collaborative to ensure emerging strategies and solutions achieve both justice and climate goals. We will expand the Collaborative in 2024 and increase the capacity of social service organizations to engage decision makers and build community resilience.

Please donate generously to this worthy organization.

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!

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.

Life Enrichment Programs Affinity Groups

Some groups meet both face-to-face and via Zoom in September.

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.



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 for September 8th, 2024

On September 8th UUCMP will host and provide meals for Men's I-HELP (Interfaith Homeless Emergency Lodging Program.) We are planning for 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 this link:

[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 p.m., but no later than 4:00 p.m. on that Sunday. Please use this Meal Train link to sign up by the Saturday before 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](#)

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

Thank you for supporting this important mission of our church!

Rose Lovell 214-228-6665

UUCMP Grief Support Circle

Throughout our lives we are each confronted with a variety of losses, and along with them come experiences of grief. Last month nine of us launched a new Grief Support Circle. Sharing our respective stories, thoughts, and feelings in a small, supportive group of UU members and friends is both helpful and healing. We plan to continue meeting at the church every two weeks for an hour or so around the lunch hour. If you are interested in being a part of this group, or if you have questions, please contact Sharon Miller at bmcclane@redshift.com



Art News



Retrospective Amanda Menefee

September 1, 2024 – November 15, 2024

Amanda has lived most of her days in Northern California, enjoying 4-H, riding and showing horses, and the beckoning outdoors with favorite animals, friends, and family. Initially aimed at becoming a veterinarian, her goal morphed into Medical Illustration and then to teaching high school mathematics. “Math is everywhere!” she often said, though her classes included some artistic direction via at least MC Escher (creating Escher-type drawings), Fibonacci Sequence (artichokes, ferns, pineapples, pinecones, zebra stripes), and Fractals (patterns+). It was only following a horseback riding accident (2001) that she retired from teaching and started practicing more art.

A favorite activity continues to be plein air painting with her father and first art teacher, watercolorist Randy Wilson. She took all the art classes he taught at Butte College near Oroville. She also studied under Wayne Thiebaud at UC Davis, Ken Morrow at CSU Chico, and now with Romanoos Mattonen through the Pacific Grove Art Center.

Amanda says, “I specialize in pastels – both soft oil pastels and I focus on landscapes, most often of places where I’ve travelled. Since I’ve recently been creating murals, I’m enjoying working with acrylics. I am motivated by the desire to be the best “me” I can be, so I continue to study and attack those challenges and new techniques I encounter. I enjoy using pastels because the colors are so brilliant, no brush or solvent is needed, and paintings maintain their intensity without fading. In my life as in my art, variety is key. I enjoy drawing and painting portraits, animals, still life and landscapes, and often work on multiple paintings at once. “Only boring people get bored,” my dad always said. I like to keep things interesting. I’ve been creating art for 57 years, I enjoy playing tennis and pickleball, running, and currently live on the Monterey Peninsula with my sweetie, Ken, our Golden Retriever puppy and our two Manx cats. I hope you enjoy what you see!”

Member of:

Pacific Grove Art Center Coastal Arts League Central Coast Art Assn Artists of Rivertown

Shows:

Wild Goose	Venture Gallery	Studio Silzer	Silver Dollar Fair
Shale Cyn Winery	Reflections Gallery	Pebble Beach	Pacific Grove Art Center
Mug Shots	Monterey County Fair	Meals on Wheels	Butte County Fair
Brushstrokes	Brass Tap	Coastal Arts League	Avery Gallery
Asilomar Conf Center and more locations			

Contact info:

amandamenefee.com

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[@amandamenefeeart](https://www.instagram.com/amandamenefeeart)

831.229.0334

THE 2024 UUCMP SERVICE AUCTION --FABULOUS FICTION!



Each year UUCMP members offer delicious meals, experiences in nature, musical opportunities, garden advice, cooking lessons, original craft items, and so much more as a different way to connect with our church community. By joining in the fun, you are also contributing to a major church fund-raising event. This year our theme is *Fabulous Fiction*.

What creative new idea do you have for this year's virtual on-line Silent Auction? Or for the hybrid Live Auction on the final night? Maybe you have a tried-and-true offering that folks eagerly await each year? Think about things that people love to eat and to share!

Do you have something homemade you want to donate? Or a painting, a unique photograph, an interesting item collected while traveling, a piece of jewelry you don't wear any longer?

What did you purchase last year that pleasantly surprised you and now inspires you to offer something similar? Our on-line SILENT AUCTION will begin on Saturday, October 20, and will run for the entire week, culminating in a hybrid LIVE AUCTION on Saturday, October 26. The deadline for auction submissions is September 29. There is a submission form on the UUCMP website at <https://uucmp.org/service-auction-2024> There are also paper submission forms available at church.

Other specifics will be shared with the congregation soon. And if you would like to join the Auction team, please contact Lauren Keenan or Steve Johnson at ServiceAuction@uucmp.org or Rev. Elaine Gehrmann at minister@uucmp.org as soon as possible.

Environmental Justice



The local transportation agency's (TAMC) proposed SURF bus project is an example of the inter-connection of climate change, social justice, protecting biodiversity and the need to take a broad

systems-view to the interconnected problems on our planet.

First, exorbitant home prices along the coast have led to long commutes in California. This has led to the largest share of carbon pollution in California being from cars and trucks (40%!). This has led to the catch phrase "housing policy is climate policy." More affordable housing in coastal cities through "smart growth" and "new urbanism" is a major climate change solution and a social justice solution providing homes for those who need them.

Locally we can see this as there is ever increasing traffic on Highway 1 for those commuting to jobs around the greater Monterey Peninsula. Those least able to afford housing on the peninsula are often Latinx, younger people and those with more limited economic means, all who must endure long commutes and sometimes hours out of their day stuck in traffic. All the while most are burning expensive gasoline and releasing carbon pollution. This is a justice issue for many including working families trying to reach day care and schools on time, along with getting to their jobs, which takes away quality time for leisure and being with family and friends.

To reduce traffic by getting people onto mass transit, TAMC proposed a special SURF bus-only-lane that paves over the old bike lane next to Highway 1 along with some land covered mostly with weeds next to the old railroad tracks. The currently used Beach Range Road recreational trail would remain intact with a section. It is used widely by cyclists, pedestrians and families as it is safe and within Fort Ord

Dunes State Park. I know this because I bike-commute most days on it to work (as well as use MST buses when it is dark). Here is a [video](#) of the planned route and more [details](#) about this fully funded project.



This project will reduce traffic congestion and carbon pollution and get people out of their cars by increasing transit efficiency. The SURF buses will be able to zoom past the sluggish Highway 1 traffic and have access to direct connections on express routes that take people quickly to their jobs in higher density areas.

The project hit headwinds when environmentalists (some whom I know!) disliked removing the old bike path and complained about sensitive plants. Unfortunately, this is short-sighted thinking. Having worked for nearly 20 years with Fort Ord dunes plants I know that the vast majority of sensitive species are on the west side of the bike/recreational trail. There is only one location with high abundance of coast wild-flowers that can be protected during construction and with careful routing (which looks like what they tried to do in the plan).

The Coastal Commission recently argued to deny the project as it was not consistent with the coastal zone (likely including protecting rare species). This is ironic because one of the largest impacts on rare species such as Monterey gilia, Monterey spineflower, snowy plovers, and other creatures is climate change-driven sea level rise. For example, dunes in North County are being overtopped by large ocean waves during king tides destroying years of progress on dune restoration for sensitive species. The next Coastal Commission meeting to discuss this project is [Sept 11-13](#)

Climate change is driven by carbon emissions, 40% of which are from our cars. In order to change our future for the better, we have to

-- continued on page 14

Environmental Justice

create systems for people to drive their cars much less than they currently do. Note that even if everyone drove EVs people would still be spending hours stuck in traffic. And as temperatures get hotter more and more people are immigrating to our area putting more pressure on our roadways. We need to think about how to move people differently -- think carpooling, taking buses (or possibly someday by rail), or by e-bikes all of which will really put a dent in our carbon emissions.

The key is for everyone to start thinking more often about the big picture. What is driving our climate change problem (including local impacts such as fires, floods and heat waves for those living inland)? It is the high cost of housing, jobs located primarily in coastal cities, a culture

of driving alone rather than sharing rides with neighbors or friends, and more. People with limited mobility often must drive cars in many cases (even as buses lifts and service on demand become more available to many with limited mobility). For the rest of us we can think about doing things differently. Can we reduce our total number of trips alone in our cars by combining errands? Carpooling with others? Riding bikes when we can? Joining some meetings on Zoom? Are we supporting more infill and building of multistory buildings with mixed uses so many more people can live next to where they work and shop? Thinking about climate change solutions helps to increase equity where many more people can spend more time doing what they enjoy rather than sitting in traffic.

-- Suzy Worcester

Caramelized Zucchini and White Bean Salad

From NY Times recipes

Yield: 6 servings

Ingredients



2 large zucchini, shredded on the large holes of a box grater
1 large yellow onion, thinly sliced
4 tablespoons olive oil
½ teaspoon red-pepper flakes
Kosher salt and freshly ground pepper
2 (15-ounce) cans white beans, like cannellini, rinsed
1 lemon, plus more if needed
½ cup roughly chopped mint
½ cup roughly chopped parsley, dill or basil

Preparation

Wrap the shredded zucchini in a clean kitchen towel and gently squeeze it to remove excess moisture.

In a large nonstick skillet over medium-high heat, combine the zucchini and onion with 3 tablespoons olive oil, the red-pepper flakes, 1 teaspoon salt and a few grinds of pepper. Cook the mixture, stirring occasionally, until the water has evaporated, and the zucchini and onion turn golden brown, 25 to 30 minutes. You will have to stir more often toward the end of cooking to prevent burning.

Add the cooked zucchini mixture to a large bowl along with the beans. Zest and juice the lemon over the top and add the remaining 1 tablespoon of olive oil; stir gently to combine. Let the mixture cool to room temperature, then add the herbs and stir gently. Season to taste with salt, pepper and additional lemon juice, if desired. Serve at room temperature or cold.

-- Lauren Keenan

CLIMATEcafé®

MONTEREY

Join us for the launch of the new Climate Cafe Monterey!

When: Saturday, September 14, 2024, 2- 4 p.m.

Where: The Unitarian Universalist Church of the Monterey Peninsula (UUCMP)

Focus: For this first meeting of the Climate Cafe Monterey, we will be discussing *"How can I incorporate more clean energy into my living space?"*

What: These events will recur on the 2nd Saturday of each month at the same location. A Climate Café® is an inclusive space where everyone is welcome to join constructive conversation about climate. The Unitarian Universalist Church of the Monterey Peninsula and the Climate Reality Project Monterey Bay are partnering to launch a new relaxed, non-partisan, non-profit, public space to get together to listen, to learn, to share and to act on climate change. This particular Climate Cafe will occur monthly on the 2nd Saturday of each month and will feature a different climate-related theme every month. Climate Cafe Monterey Coordinators: Charlotte Bear, Nan Foster & Mibs McCarthy. Please SPREAD THE WORD! Share this announcement with your various networks.

To visit our Climate Cafe Monterey webspace on the global Climate Cafe hub, go to: [Climate Cafe® Monterey – Climate Café®](#)



Co-Host Unitarian Universalist Church of the Monterey Peninsula website: [Home - Unitarian Universalist Church of the Monterey Peninsula \(uucmp.org\)](http://Home-Unitarian-Universalist-Church-of-the-Monterey-Peninsula(uucmp.org)). Email: climatecafe@uucmp.org

Co-Host Climate Reality Project Monterey Bay website: [Climate Reality Monterey Bay chapter \(climaterealitymb.org\)](http://Climate-Reality-Monterey-Bay-chapter(climaterealitymb.org)). Email: chapter@climaterealitymb.org



Educating our communities about the reality of climate change and working to build a just and true net zero future.

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September 2024

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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