



NUUSLETTER

of the Unitarian Universalist Church of the Monterey Peninsula

Theme: Story

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

January 5, 2025

“All I Am is Stories”

**Rev. Elaine Gehrmann and Worship Associate
Jon Czarnecki**

Since our earliest childhood, we learn about our family through stories. Stories of ancestors, traditions, scandals, and saints. As we grow older we star in our own stories of failure and triumph, love and loss, struggle and hope. This morning we will consider the bundles of stories we all are, and how our stories help us to make sense of our lives.

January 12, 2025

“Beyond the Book’s Cover”

**Rev. Axel Gehrmann and Worship Associate
Max Cajar**

A book’s cover catches the eye and may offer clues as to what we will find inside. However more subtle and substantive stories often await those who take the time to peruse the pages, look more closely, and read between the lines of our lives.



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.

January 19, 2025

“Let Your Life Speak”

**Rev. Elaine Gehrmann and Worship Associate
Allysson McDonald**

It is often said that actions speak louder than words. There are a few remarkable individuals, like Rev. Dr. King, whose lives told volumes about their principles, ethics, and values. How might the story of our lives better reflect our most deeply held beliefs?

January 26, 2025

“Our Stories”

**Worship Associates Ann Johnson, Christina Zaro,
Ray Krise, and Lauren Keenan**

Storytelling is baked into our DNA. Very few things are truly universal across cultures, but basic storytelling appears to be one of them. Every culture has its own narratives, which are shared as a means of entertainment, education, cultural preservation or instilling moral values. Today we will share some of our stories.

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Ministers' Message

Rev. Elaine Gehrman

January begins a new year, 2025, a year that to me sounds like the setting for a science fiction novel of my childhood, and yet, here it is. And there are many science fiction plotlines abounding—the speed of our warming planet, artificial intelligence replacing many of our human roles, “big brother” watching us, and the masses around the globe increasingly more desperate as the wealthy elites wall themselves off in their mansions and high-rises and make plans to escape in their spaceships.

And yet I am ever more determined that this shall not be our future, not in the long run anyway . . . There are people here in our own community and around the world, who are working to achieve a different vision: a planet which thrives with abundant life of all types; societies where everyone has enough—enough food and shelter, enough modern medical care, enough opportunity to work and play and learn and grow, to laugh and love and grow old in peace. A planet where people don't have to flee their homeland in order to have a safe and successful life; societies where education and science and art and music are valued and accessible for all. Where accurate history is taught, and the lessons really learned from.



I believe that our world holds the capacity for achieving both the dystopian future we seem to be barreling towards at the moment, and the utopian view many of us are dreaming and working for. I believe it is a matter of will, and hard work, and organizing, and persistence, and casting a more compelling vision to

others to do the same. Our congregation in some small way tries to do this, week in and week out . . . trying to spark our hidden hopes, reinvigorate our ideals, motivate our better natures, to move us in the direction of more justice, more peace, more equity, more love.

This year is going to require a lot of us—there are many people (and other species), who are going to need us to be more visible, more welcoming, more outspoken, more outreaching. We are going to need to be even clearer and more committed to living our values. It may feel riskier, and that is because it will be even more important.



We are so fortunate to have our religious community to support us in this crucial work. To reinspire us when we are tired, to comfort us when we are in despair, to celebrate our small victories and to help us regroup for the next challenges. Let us begin this new year, with a firm resolve to continue our work to move towards our vision of the future—a future of abundance, sustainability, compassion, justice, and peace. A future with love at the center-- I truly believe it is possible, and am so grateful for all of you, our companions in making this future vision a reality. It's going to take all of us, and together, I believe nothing is impossible.

See you in church,

Elaine

Men's Breakfast

Saturday, January 11, at 8:30 a.m.

The men's monthly breakfast is continuing as hybrid. Our next meeting is Saturday, January 11, from 8:30 a.m. to 10:30 a.m., in the Fireplace Room. People will bring 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.



PUBLICATION DEADLINES

ANNOUNCEMENTS for SUNDAYS from the pulpit are due by 9 a.m. on Wednesdays.

ARTICLES for THE WEDNESDAY WEEKLY NEWS-LETTER email are due by noon, on Tuesdays.
MONTHLY NUUSLETTER 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, January 15, at 5:30 p.m.

Buddhist Sangha is every Wednesday at 7 p.m. in person in the Sanctuary. Zoom is available. See page 12.

Celebration of Life for Bob Sadler is Saturday, January 25, at 2 p.m. at UUCMP.

Environmental Justice meets at noon, Sunday, January 12, in the Sanctuary and via Zoom.

Friday Game Night is Friday, January 10, 6:30 p.m. in the Fireplace Room.

I-HELP for Men is Sunday, January 12, 5 p.m. Sign up on the Meal Train (page 13) or contact Rose Lovell or Greg Simmons if you can help.

I-HELP for Women is Sunday, January 26. For more information contact Mibs McCarthy.

Membership Committee meets Wednesday, January 22, at 5:30 p.m.

Men's Breakfast Group meets Saturday, January 11, 8:30 a.m. in person and 9 a.m. via Zoom. See article at left.

Music Committee meets on Tuesday, January 28, at 6 p.m. via Zoom.

NUUSletter deadline for the February issue is Thursday, January 16.

Program Council meets Tuesday, January 7, 12:30 p.m., via Zoom. Contact Mibs McCarthy programcouncil@uucmp.org

Remembering Marge, a sharing of memories of minister emeritus Rev. Marge Keip is Saturday, January 18, at 2 p.m. See page 11.

Social Justice meets Sunday, January 5, at noon in the Sanctuary and via Zoom.

Stewardship meets Wednesday, January 8, 1:00 p.m. via Zoom.

Take a Breather is February 8, 2 p.m. - 4 p.m.

T'ai Chi Chih meets Tuesdays at 4 p.m. in the Sanctuary. See page 12.

RELIGIOUS EXPLORATION



Story!



**CHILDREN'S
RELIGIOUS
EXPLORATION**

Dear UUCMP Families,

Happy New Year, my wonderful community! It's a new year and a new month - which means we are due for a fresh theme - Story! We will be working with our children to talk about the Practice of Story in the four Sundays ahead. Children will have the opportunity to think about the perspectives with which stories are told, how individuals tell their stories, and what collective stories we share.

Our planned lessons and activities will help us to explore the many ways that *The Practice of Story* shows up in our living and loving. Here's how we are getting at this in our sessions:

January 5 - Stories and You: The practice of building your unique identity

January 12 - Stories and Friendship: The practice of building meaningful connections

January 19 - Stories Social Change: The Practice Of Building the future we hope for -- (MLK Day)



January 26 - Stories and Religion: The practice of building our UU identity

A major goal this month is to help our children understand and explore that we are made of two different types of stories, collective stories and individual stories, and that we use both of these to build our identities as individuals and communities.

Another idea woven through this month's sessions is that our stories inspire the stories of others. Hearing others bravely tell their stories, we gain the courage to share and proudly embrace our own.

Finally, this month is all about remembering that stories help us make sense of our world. Without them, we would literally be lost.

With warmth and gratitude,

Shannon Morrison (she/her)
Acting Director of Religious Exploration

Activities & Events in January

Mark your calendars - you won't want to miss out on the fun!

* **January 10** - *Second* Friday Game Night!
Andrea to host 6:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.,
Fireplace Room.

* **January 18** - **Parents Night Out!** - 5:30 to 8:30 p.m. - Sanctuary and Fireplace Room

* **January 19** - **Committee on Family Ministry** (CoFM) meeting 12:15 - 1:15 p.m. after the service - Fireplace Room

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PROGRAM REGISTRATION

Please be sure to Register for [RE Programming 2024-25](#). This will help us best prepare for your child, keep you in the loop for upcoming events and activities and build our community. If you are having trouble submitting your form please let Shannon know - a paper registration form will be available starting January 5th.



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. 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 TO OUR DECEMBER VOLUNTEERS!

We have been so lucky to have helping hands in RE - thank you to our volunteers [Monique Romero](#), [Roberta Granados](#), [Alina](#) and [Jacob Bagley](#), [Lindsay Fondren](#), [Amy Blondell](#), and [Karen Brown](#) for all your contributions this month!

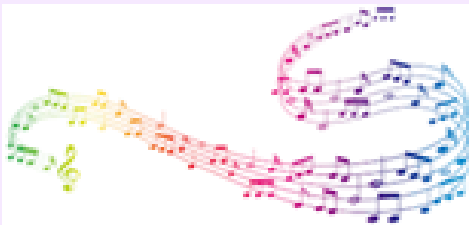
Whether bringing food to share, hosting an event, helping to set or clean up, keeping our library tip top, or filling in for our teachers - your help is greatly appreciated!

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. The Choir will be singing January 12 and January 26.



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 again!! If you have any interest, please reach out to music@uucmp.org

The **Music Committee** meets every fourth Tuesday of the month via Zoom. Please let the Music Director know if you would like to be part of the Zoom meetings.

-- Jorge Torrez

RESONATE! Meets the first Saturday of each month from 7p.m. – 9 p.m. in the Fireplace Room. Come join the sacred art of community chanting, raising our collective voices for peace, for our sacred Earth, for hope, for love and resilience. If you have Earth drums, please bring them. Great for teens and up. No experience is necessary, just a playful spirit and a commitment to playing well with others. Led by Charlotte Bear.



Strong Together for Love and Justice

It's just around the corner, the February 16, 2025, kick-off of our annual canvass! Your Stewardship Committee invites you to make a financial commitment to UUCMP for the next fiscal year, 2025-2026. Think of it as your opportunity to multiply the impact of your values, by standing strong with the church community we all love.

Our theme this year is "Strong together, for love and justice," because we know how important it is, especially now, for each of us to have a church home that will support our values, amplify our voices, and strengthen our commitment to speak out against injustice.

The business and the values of our church are reflected in the annual budget created by our Board, based on the financial commitments received from each of us. Last year we made some progress in filling the budget "hole" we were facing as we weaned ourselves from dipping into reserves. The fiscal challenges remain, however, and you will hear more specifics about our fiscal health soon. In the meantime, please begin thinking about YOUR financial commitment to the UUCMP for 2025-2026.

Starting this month, each Sunday service, you will be hearing from some of your fellow congregants as to why they support this church. We hope that their stories will resonate with your own, and inspire your generosity and commitment.

As we did last year, your financial commitment will be made online, but help from our wonderful stewards is yours for the asking. It's easy! Thank you in advance for your continued generous support of UUCMP.

Your Stewardship Committee,
Carol Collin, Gretchen Hausmann, Steve Johnson, Björn Nilson, Jo Ann Novoson, Katie Hamilton, and with spiritual encouragement and support from the Rev. Axel Gehrmann.



KAZU Underwriting

We are continuing to advertise UUCMP on KAZU Public Radio, FM 90.3. A number of us who already regularly contribute to this local public radio station, instead pool our money, by giving it to the church, which then gives it to KAZU, and then UUCMP gets under-writing spots, one for each \$30 contributed. KAZU gets our money, and UUCMP gets our message out to the community.

Please consider contributing to this effort. Make sure your check is clearly labeled "KAZUGift" in the memo line. These donations will not earn any of the thank you gifts that KAZU sometimes gives. However, they will give UUCMP greater visibility in the community and help us implement our mission of "Changing ourselves as we change the world."

Solo Journeys: A UU Chalice Circle for Single Souls

Are you single and seeking a space to explore the deeper questions of life?

Join us in a welcoming and intentional community designed for those navigating life outside of partnered relationships. This is not a social or dating group but a space for reflective conversations on the unique experiences, challenges, and opportunities faced by individuals on their own paths.



Why Join?

- Engage in thoughtful discussions about purpose, freedom, belonging, and spiritual growth.
- Build meaningful connections with like-minded individuals.
- Explore life's deeper questions in a supportive, UU-centered environment.

What to Expect:

- Monthly small group gatherings (up to 8 participants).
- Guided discussions on themes such as:
 - *Living Fully as a Solo Traveler in Life*
 - *Creating Community Without a Partnered Role*
 - *Balancing Freedom, Responsibility, and Connection*
- A confidential and nonjudgmental space for deep sharing and listening.

First Gathering Details:

- **Date:** February 17, 2025
- **Time:** 2:00 - 3:30 p.m.
- **Location:** Zoom
- **RSVP:** dmartinnetto@gmail.com

How to Join:

This group is open to anyone who identifies as single and resonates with the UU principles. Space is limited to ensure intimacy and depth.

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 may consist of 6-10 people who meet at least once a month for about 1 1/2-2 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.

Save the Date!



An Afternoon with Christiana

Live, acoustic (mostly) pop/rock music
With Christiana Brekke, vocals, guitar and piano
Saturday, February 15, 2 p.m. at UUCMP

UU Connections – UUCMP Connections pairs established members and newer members to share their UU experiences and build friendships across our congregation.

The suggested structure is to meet once a month either in-person or by phone for 3 months. After 3 months, participants who want to continue can rotate to a new connection.

If you're interested in being paired with a new connection, send the following information via email to alicia.shapard@gmail.com

- Name, contact information (email, phone)
- How long have you been attending UUCMP?
- Brief "about you" introduction
- List a few spiritual or intellectual interests to help pair you with someone



UU Skill-Sharing

Are there skills you would like to learn?

Do you have a special skill that you could teach to others?

Visit the Skill-Sharing bulletin board and fill out an index card with the following information:

- Name, contact information (email, phone)
- Briefly describe the skill you would like to learn

Or,

- Briefly describe a skill you would like to teach someone



Examples:

I would like to teach someone how to change a tire.

I'm looking for someone to teach me small soldering or metalwork.

I would like to share how to make a pastry crust.

If you see a skill request you can answer, contact the requester directly.

Contact alicia.shapard@gmail.com with any questions.

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/>

Or you can e-mail a photo to be included to office@uucmp.org

Questions, contact office@uucmp.org





Grapevine



Robert E. Sadler (Bob), age 80, passed away peacefully, surrounded by his loving family at Community Hospital, on November 29, 2024, after a medical crisis. He was born in Hartford, Connecticut, on January

11, 1944. His family moved to Springfield, Massachusetts, when he was seventeen, where he met Sharon, his wife to be. Bob and Sharon both enjoyed walking, and shared many long walks together as good friends before romance blossomed one evening at a party. They were engaged in 1964.

Bob was a Vietnam Veteran who discovered a love of teaching English literature at a local Vietnamese college on his days off from working as a dog handler. When he returned from the war, he and Sharon were married in 1966, and Bob became a teacher. Bob taught high school journalism at Westledge School in West Simsbury, Connecticut. Former students remember him as an inspirational and creative teacher. Their daughter Jordan and son Josh were born into an interracial neighborhood, Blue Hills, in Hartford, Connecticut, where Bob and Sharon worked on issues of segregation, and Sharon started her horticulture business. While in Vietnam, Bob also bought his first camera and began to explore photography, learning to capture images of the people and places around him with a keen eye for composition. He shared photos he took with local children who had never had pictures of themselves before. His passion for photography grew deeper over time, and Bob became well-known as a master photographer with a striking ability to use the medium to convey his love of nature and an ability to see the humanity in others. Paired with his storytelling and poetry, his art was appreciated far and wide.

Bob got offers to join the Chamber of Com-

merce in Hartford. which was looking for someone who knew how to work in the nonprofit world. A international consulting company approached Bob and asked him to use his skills as a consultant. Bob took courses and created his own consultant program to help businesses succeed. For a years he commuted to Silicon Valley for the work week and was only home for about 24 hours on weekends. Once their kids were off at college, they found an interesting opening at his international firm in London, England. In 1992, he and Sharon moved there for three years. Sharon volunteered at the Royal Botanic Garden at Kew. After the three years in London, they moved to San Carlos, California, and bought a home there. Bob went back to his previous American clients, now within easy reach. Sharon was involved with Filoli Gardens giving tours and working in the garden after she taught ESL classes. They bought the Pacific Grove house in 2007, where Bob recovered successfully from cancer, and moved to Del Mesa in October of this year.

Bob spent his life standing with those who needed support in his community and beyond. This began with a years-long fight against racist housing practices in Hartford, CT, in the 1960s and 70s, and continued in many ways and many places, culminating in his most recent work fighting tirelessly to reform care for seniors in Pacific Grove. Bob combined his art with his drive for justice in the Monterey Peninsula community when he created the Inherent Worth and Dignity Project in 2012. He collaborated with the Interfaith Homeless Emergency Lodging Program (I-HELP) to take professional portraits of unhoused individuals. Bob connected with each person with empathy and love, seeing their full humanity as he photographed them. Many of the people he worked with felt that being photographed by Bob was “lucky” because they went on to gain employment and housing after seeing themselves so powerfully reflected through his lens.

-- continued on page 10



Grapevine



-- Grapevine continued

This project continued until the end of his life as he and Sharon worked together to photograph and write the stories of families living in area shelters.

Bob and Sharon were both highly involved in UUCMP, where each served a term as Board President. Bob's professional life was wide-ranging and impactful; his management consulting work over many years took him from Connecticut to London and then to Silicon Valley. In recent years, executives from well-known companies came to Monterey to work with Bob at Sadler Consulting. He coached

them in executive presence, using a program he developed based on his understanding of team collaboration and business communication. Bob was, above all, a dedicated and loving husband, father, grandfather, brother, uncle, friend, mentor, teacher, and colleague. His meaningful and loving life leaves a legacy that will impact others for generations.

There will be a Celebration of Life service honoring Bob on January 25, 2025, at 2 p.m. at UUCMP, with a reception to follow the service.

Take a Little Breather with Allysson and Mary Kay - February 8, 2025

Shortly after the election Allysson was in a Zoom meeting where folks were focused on the disappointment, worry, and even anger they were experiencing. "As I listened," she says, "I was feeling all that anxiety enter my own body, and I knew I needed to take a deep breath and let it out with a sigh. The rest followed suit. It was such a relief."



There are plenty of reasons to feel out of sorts right now. Is there an antidote - a way to balance all of that? What are the stress relievers in your life? Allysson and Mary Kay are offering an afternoon of listening to the wisdom of your own body for answers, doing some playful activities to move all that around, and breathing. We will draw from our training as InterPlay leaders and share some of the life practices that have helped us.

When: Saturday, February 8, from 2 p.m. – 4 p.m.

Where: UUCMP Sanctuary

Who: anyone who wants to feel a little lighter, a little looser, a little easier

Wear: comfortable clothing and bring your whole self



January Shared Plate Recipient *ACLU*

Perhaps now more than at any other moment in this nation's history since the Civil War our Constitutional rights and liberties are being destroyed from within.

The Unitarian Universalist Church is deeply rooted in principles of **justice, equity, and the inherent worth and dignity of every person.**

These values align seamlessly with the mission of the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU), making it an ideal recipient for our shared plate offering. The ACLU tirelessly defends the civil liberties guaranteed by the US Constitution, ensuring that marginalized and oppressed individuals have a voice and legal support in the face of systemic injustice.

By supporting the ACLU, we directly contribute to their crucial work in areas like **voting rights, criminal justice reform, and reproductive freedom**—issues that are at the heart of our UU commitment to social justice. The ACLU's advocacy for LGBTQ+ rights, racial equity, and freedom of speech embodies the UU principles of justice, compassion, and the goal of creating a world community that upholds human rights for all.

Our shared plate offering represents more than financial support—it is a moral statement. It signifies our solidarity with those who are most vulnerable to discrimination and oppression. It affirms our belief that no one should be denied their rights based on race, religion, gender, or socioeconomic status.

Furthermore, giving to the ACLU enables our congregation to extend our impact beyond the walls of our church, joining a national effort to uphold the democratic process and safeguard freedoms that are under increasing threat. Together, we can support a brighter, more just future—one that reflects our values as Unitarian Universalists.

By selecting the ACLU for our shared plate offering, we act as a beacon of hope and an agent of change, demonstrating our commitment to building a world where liberty and justice are truly for all.

Please give generously to this worthy organization.

-- Björn Nilson

Remembering Marge Keip



Ministers emeriti Revs. Marge and Fred Keip were co-ministers of UUCMP from 1976 until 1996. They then did stints as interim or consulting ministers and retired to Grants Pass, Oregon. After a period of declining health, Marge died on October 16, 2024. We are gathering together to share our memories of Rev. Marge on Saturday, January 18, at 2 p.m. Anyone who has memories or memorabilia to share may contact Rev. Dennis Hamilton or Rev. Axel Gehrmann. All are invited to attend this very special gathering.

Join Our Church!

Even in these post pandemic times - *especially* in these times - our church seeks to be a caring community and a welcoming place. We strive to deepen our religious lives and support the spiritual growth of all who join together here, working to build a better world beginning with ourselves.



If you find you resonate with our principles and you are at least 16 years of age, then we invite you to sign our membership book.

Joining the church entitles you to vote at congregational meetings, at which we adopt budgets, elect officers, and direct the course of church programming. Above and beyond that, membership is a personal and public expression of your support of this religious community, the ideals it stands for, and the work it does.

If you are interested in becoming an “official” member of UUCMP, contact the ministers. (minister@uucmp.org)

Please join us!

Life Enrichment Programs Affinity Groups

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

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 3.

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 for January 12, 2024

On January 12th 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

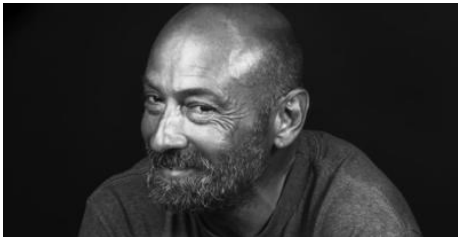
Starting a new year while still processing a loss can be daunting. The UU Grief Support Circle continues to be a place for those seeking support and fellowship following loss. We usually gather together in the Fireplace Room to share stories and resources on the 1st and 3rd Wednesday of every month from 11-12:30, but this month we will meet **only on January 15** because of the New Year's Day holiday on the 1st. For more information, contact Rev. Axel or Sharon Miller (831-601-0403)



Art News

We are still displaying Bob Sadler's portraits of unhoused men in a display entitled *Inherent Worth and Dignity*. The intent is to find the 'inherent worth and dignity' of each man and portray and communicate those fine qualities for all to see.

These portraits are the effort to look at homeless men "through another peephole," weakening the negative stereotype of homelessness and build empathy that might be converted to better public policy and more effective support. One night in 2013, while standing in the I-HELP supper line, Bob was asked by a homeless man named Ferdinand to get one of Bob's "good luck" pictures. Many of the men he'd photographed before had gotten jobs and housing. Ferdinand told Bob that when a man woke in the morning and reached for the photo instead of a mirror, he



would say, "That's a good-looking guy who deserves a job and a house!" They felt good about themselves and did better in interviews. Bob realized that his was a social justice project, one that could change hearts and minds. Ferdinand did indeed get a job and a place to live, like many others of the men in the photographic collection.



Bob Sadler created art through photography for over 50 years. His fine art exhibit of homeless men is on display at UUCMP and has been shown at the Weston Gallery in Carmel, CA, Art Intersection's Gallery 4 in Gilbert, AZ and 20 other locations in Monterey Bay.



Another exhibit, "Transcendent Landscapes," is hanging in the sanctuary. In January 2014, Bob delivered a lecture at the Monterey Museum of Art in Monterey, CA. His portfolios can be seen hanging in the lobby and hallways of the Goetz office building in Pacific Grove as well as the Cherry Tree Mortgage Finance Company that's about to open in the lobby of the Holman Building.

He began shooting photographs in 1965 while serving in the US Army in Vietnam and never put his camera down for the rest of his life.

Bob had a 50-year career as a management consultant working for KPMG, Ernst & Young, and Deloitte, before running his own corporation, Sadler Consulting.

Bob relocated to Pacific Grove, CA in 1995 and moved from Pacific Grove to Carmel in October of last year. He died on November 29, after a medical crisis.

President's Corner



As I write this, memories of the holiday pageant, "A World of Winter Lights" are fresh in mind. What a treat that was, and a reminder of one of the things I like best about UUCMP: Our community spans generations and brings together people of all ages. Both my daughters – one grown up and living in Manhattan and the other very much here and in the middle of 8th grade – have felt loved and cared for by countless adults at UUCMP over the years. It's like we're a giant family, with lots of cousins, aunts, and uncles. My younger daughter once said it feels like UUCMP is her second home.

One measure of our devotion to our children at UUCMP is the priority we give to the Religious Exploration program, as evidenced by the number of paid RE staff we have on hand each Sunday.

As we begin a new year, full of events big and small, it's nice to be among children, and to be reminded of the words we recite at the end of each service as we extinguish our chalice. Each Sunday we commit ourselves anew to be "the presence of love in the midst of fear, the voice of hope in the face of despair, and the hands of justice, restoring a world worthy of our children."

-- Warren

Board News



Celia Barberena

The Board of Trustees wishes to thank Celia Barberena for her service as a member of the Board. Celia resigned her position on the Board in November in order to focus on her many other community endeavors and in December the Board president appointed Carol LeVa to serve the remainder of Celia's term until Board elections are held in the summer. We welcome Carol and look forward to serving with her in the months to come.



Carol LeVa

--Warren Finch

Celebration of Life Service

In honor of
Bob Sadler

Saturday, January 25, 2 p.m.

There will be a reception directly after the service.



Vegetarian Recipe

Roasted Squash with Tomato Ginger Chickpeas

Ingredients

Yield: 6 to 8 servings

- 3 (15-ounce) cans chickpeas, drained
- $\frac{2}{3}$ cup extra-virgin olive oil, plus more for drizzling
- 3 (14½-ounce) cans diced tomatoes
- $\frac{3}{4}$ teaspoon ground cinnamon
- 4 marjoram sprigs or 3 oregano sprigs, plus leaves for garnish
- 2½ tablespoons peeled, finely chopped ginger
- Salt and black pepper
- 2 (3- to 4-pound) kabocha, butternut or kogatana squash
- $\frac{3}{4}$ cup full-fat plain Greek yogurt (one 5-ounce container)



Preparation

Step 1

Heat the oven to 300 degrees with racks in the upper and lower thirds. On a sheet pan, stir together the chickpeas, $\frac{2}{3}$ cup olive oil, tomatoes, cinnamon, marjoram sprigs and 2 tablespoons chopped ginger. Season with salt and pepper and spread in an even layer.

Step 2

Scrub the squash — the skin is perfectly edible — and prick the squash in a few places with a paring knife. Transfer to an oven-safe skillet, baking dish or a second sheet pan (line with foil for easier clean-up) and coat lightly with oil, salt and pepper.

Step 3

Bake the squash on the bottom rack and the chickpeas on the upper rack until a knife slides easily through the squash and the chickpeas and tomatoes are dark red and thick like jam, 2 to 2½ hours, stirring the chickpeas occasionally.

Step 4

Meanwhile, stir the remaining $\frac{1}{2}$ tablespoon ginger into the yogurt. Stir in water until thin enough to drizzle, then season to taste with salt and pepper. Refrigerate until ready to serve.

Step 5

Discard the herb sprigs, then season the chickpeas to taste with salt and pepper. When the squash are cool enough to handle, cut or tear into big pieces, then scoop out and discard the stems, seeds and stringy bits. Season the squash with salt and pepper. Transfer the squash to a platter flesh side up, then top with the chickpeas, some of the ginger yogurt and a sprinkle of marjoram leaves. Serve the remaining yogurt alongside.

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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