

UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CHURCH OF THE MONTEREY PENINSULA (UUCMP)

2026 SERVICE AUCTION GUIDE

Overview	As UUCMP has successfully done for the past five years, we are once again using a web-based auction service to manage this year's event, <i>RAINBOW CONNECTION</i>. Auction proceeds will support UUCMP's operations during the church year; this continues to be our major fundraiser. Items for auction bidding are donated by UUCMP Members and Friends. Categories are Food, Goods, Services, and Experiences & Get-Togethers. This is a chance to apply your experience and imagination to benefit our church community. Please see the "Donors" section below. The auction catalog will be online at the church's <i>RAINBOW CONNECTION</i> auction web site, hosted by Auctria: https://UUCMP2026.auctria.events. All Silent Auction bidding will be conducted online via Auctria; Live Auction bidding will be in-person in the church sanctuary, and online via Zoom. Anyone who registers as a Bidder may bid on items in the Service Auction. Donors and Bidders are encouraged to register online through the Auctria site, where Donors can post their own Item(s) for the catalog. <i>Anyone who has an Auctria login from a previous year does not need register again</i>, but please <i>confirm that your contact information is current</i> (especially the email address). Optionally, paper forms for Item donations and Bidder registration are available in the Welcome Hall and church office, or as .pdf file downloads from the auction info website, https://uucmp.org/service-auction-2026-rainbow-connection/ If you would like assistance registering, donating, or bidding in the online auction, please contact one of the Auction team listed in the "Questions?" section below. The Auctria Sign In pop-up also has a "Stuck?" link you can click; Auctria will email you a one-time access code.												
Calendar	<table> <tr> <td>Friday 10/09</td><td>Final day to submit donation items for Catalog</td></tr> <tr> <td>Saturday 10/24</td><td>Auction Catalog available online, in both Auctria and for .pdf download; paper copies will be mailed to those who do not have an email address</td></tr> <tr> <td>Sunday 11/01</td><td>Noon: Online ("Silent") auction begins</td></tr> <tr> <td>Saturday 11/07</td><td>7:00 PM: Live Auction and activities, in-person at UUCMP or via Zoom</td></tr> <tr> <td>Sunday 11/08</td><td>6:00 PM: cutoff for all bidding; statements emailed to winning bidders</td></tr> <tr> <td>Monday 11/09</td><td>Statements (with winning bidder info) emailed to all Donors</td></tr> </table>	Friday 10/09	Final day to submit donation items for Catalog	Saturday 10/24	Auction Catalog available online, in both Auctria and for .pdf download; paper copies will be mailed to those who do not have an email address	Sunday 11/01	Noon: Online ("Silent") auction begins	Saturday 11/07	7:00 PM: Live Auction and activities, in-person at UUCMP or via Zoom	Sunday 11/08	6:00 PM: cutoff for all bidding; statements emailed to winning bidders	Monday 11/09	Statements (with winning bidder info) emailed to all Donors
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Donors	Donors may directly enter descriptions of their Items by clicking on the <i>Donate Goods and Services</i> link on the auction website, https://UUCMP2026.auctria.events. (The separate <i>Donate Cash</i> link is for direct monetary donations.) Item titles should be enticing (e.g., "Gloria's Yummy Vegan Brownies"), and descriptions concise. Please upload a photo, if you have one; if not, the auction team will upload a generic image to represent your Item. An Experience & Get-Together Item (event, meal, songfest, etc.) should specify a date, time, and location. Outdoor events benefit from having an alternative "rain date" identified. Please provide a <i>reasonable market value</i> for your item. This determines the starting point for bidding, and will help both you and the winning bidder to determine income tax deductibility. A separate document, "How to Donate Auction Items," elaborates on these steps.												

Bidders	Bidders may directly register at the web site, https://UUCMP2026.auctria.events, by clicking on the <i>Register</i> link. You will need to provide a valid, unique email address for your login ID and to receive auction information (e.g., bid status, statements). You will need to create a password for subsequent secure logins to your account. During online bidding, your identity will be kept confidential – only you will know the status of your own bids. Bids may be submitted either through your login at the Auctria web site, or by using the Auctria app on an Android or iOS (Apple) device (search for “Auctria” in your respective app store to download the free app). Auctria allows, but does not require, your registration of a credit card within the system. With a registered credit card, you will be able to immediately pay for winning-bid Items by clicking the <i>Checkout</i> button at the bottom of your emailed statement. (You must click <i>Checkout</i> – Auctria will not process a charge against your credit card without your specific authorization.) See the “Payment” section below for other ways to pay for your winning bid. If you will be unavailable to participate during the auction period, but would nevertheless like to bid on Items in the Catalog, we can set up Proxy bidding instructions. Please submit a Request for Proxy Bidding form, available at the church or by .pdf download from the auction info web page, https://uucmp.org/service-auction-2026-rainbow-connection/. Details are on the form.						
Live Auction	Certain Items will be selected for bidding during the Live Auction on November 7. These are included in the Catalog, but are not available for Silent Auction bidding. Zoom attendees will be able to place bids through Zoom chat, monitored by in-person proxy bidders at the church. In addition to the bidding, we will have “rainbow”-themed games for group participation. Think about how your favorite rainbow connection; a costume (optional!) makes it more fun. Refreshments will be provided, but anything edible you care to contribute to the occasion would be most welcome. Child care will be provided for the evening, and children are welcome to dress in a costume for the occasion (an encore for that Halloween get-up, perhaps?)						
Payment	Auctria allows Bidders to register credit cards within the system to directly pay for their winning bids through their emailed Bidder statement, by clicking the “Checkout” button. UUCMP allows other forms of payment, as well: cash (in a sealed envelope, delivered to the church office), personal check, bank direct payment (bank-issued check), PayPal, or a credit card you registered in the Breeze data system. See the church website, uucmp.org, <i>Donate</i> link, to use PayPal. <i>For any payment method outside of the Auctria system, please include a memo or note saying “Auction 2026”.</i>						
Delivery	Pickup or delivery of Food and Goods, and scheduling of Get-Togethers and Services, are to be coordinated directly between the Donor and the winning Bidder(s). Contact information for each is provided on both Donor and Bidder statements. If the Donor and Bidder(s) encounter impassable transport difficulties, please contact the Auction team (next section) for assistance.						
Questions?	UUCMP Service Auction team contacts: <table><tr><td>Lauren Keenan</td><td>831-595-8295</td><td>ServiceAuction@uucmp.org</td></tr><tr><td>Steve Johnson</td><td>831-402-7601</td><td>ServiceAuction@uucmp.org</td></tr></table>	Lauren Keenan	831-595-8295	ServiceAuction@uucmp.org	Steve Johnson	831-402-7601	ServiceAuction@uucmp.org
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