

# CCSM PINE TREE

VOL. 68, #6 | SUMMER 2019

## ANNUAL ALL CHURCH PICNIC!

JUNE 30 FOLLOWING THE SERVICE

BERESFORD PARK (SHELTER PICNIC AREA), 2720 ALAMEDA DE LAS PULGAS, SAN MATEO



**What's Provided:** Chicken, hot dogs, Boca burgers; water and lemonade; chips

**What to Bring:** If your last name starts with  
**A – I:** Desserts  
**J – R:** Salad, vegetables, fruit  
**S – Z:** Starchy side dishes, rice, beans, pasta

## Summer Sundays

**June 30** *Parables and Paradox.* Sheryl Johnson. Church Picnic

**July 7** *INTERdependence Day.* Penny Nixon.

**July 14** *Samaritan Surprise.* Jorge Perry Bautista.

**July 21** *We're The Ones We've Been Waiting For.* Alan Roby.

**July 28** *A Spiritual Cornucopia.* Marge Boyd.

**Aug. 4** *Storing up and Letting Go.* Sheryl Johnson



august sermon series:

**50 YEARS LATER...**

**AUGUST 11. 18. 25**

A lot happened in 1969 to shape our world, and consequently, to shape our faith. We will have some fun with looking back. In our August series Penny will look at the 50th anniversary of walking on the moon, Woodstock, and Stonewall.

This series will be fun for old and young!

## CCSM REPRESENTS AT SAN MATEO PRIDE!

On June 15, many enthusiastic volunteers represented CCSM at San Mateo County's 7th Annual Pride celebration! Many thanks to all of our volunteers, and also to Chris Sturken and George Snode for their hard work and dedication in coordinating CCSM's booth. This year we also distributed bubbles with CCSM's logo and website. It was a very fun day.

We were thrilled to receive a Certificate of Appreciation for our on-going sponsorship and support.



Certificate of Appreciation at San Mateo Pride



Congregational Church of san mateo

225 TILTON AVENUE, SAN MATEO, CA 94401  
650 343-3694 | CCSM-UCC.ORG

# CHILDREN, YOUTH & FAMILIES

## Youth Picnic/Hike after church on July 21!

Come to Laurelwood Park after church on **Sunday, July 21**. Climb to the top of the “mountain” for views of the bay and ocean. Eat until you explode, play until your collapse, and enjoy the sunshine.

## End of Summer Showdown, August 18

CCSM may not have a gym, but it does have space for volleyball, four-square, kickball, basketball, and more. If you are starting middle school or high school in the fall, don't miss **Youth Sports Day**, after church Sunday, August 18—to test out all the equipment and prove you are a winner (God already knows you are)! Join the playoffs between high school and middle school students for big prizes. Oh, yeah, also free lunch!



## Kids need backpacks!

**This summer help build self-esteem by donating new backpacks for kindergarteners through high schoolers in the La Honda Pescadero United School District!**

**CCSM's GOAL — 100 new backpacks for Puente to distribute at an August 7 event**

As in previous years, CCSM has committed to donating 100 new back-to-school backpacks for students of the La Honda Pescadero United School District. Puente, the only community resource center serving the San Mateo County South Coast & Farm communities, will be distributing these backpacks at an event on August 7 at the Pescadero Elementary school.

Please bring your new backpack donation(s) to church **by Sunday, July 28**, or drop them by the Church Office in June and July. You'll help families struggling to ensure that their children sparkle on their first day back to class! And I'm certain a lot of children will be smiling!

Can CCSM do this? Last year we exceeded our goal. We can do it again. Happy shopping!

## YOUTH SERVICE/LEARNING TRIP BECOMES LEARNING ABOUT SERVICE

The day after Flag Day, CCSM high schoolers celebrated the 75th anniversary of the invasion of Normandy with a road trip to Richmond's Rosie the Riveter National Historical Park, which honors the estimated 18 million women who joined defense and support industries during World War II. The museum is in the former Ford Assembly Plant where over 49,000 jeeps were assembled. The plant also served as one of only three US tank depots through which very combat vehicle used in WWII was processed. In Richmond, the finishing touches were put on 91,000 tanks, half-tracks, armored cars and other military vehicles destined for combat.

Before heading to the beach for volleyball and swimming, the teenagers also explored the SS Red Oak Victory Ship, the last surviving ship of the 747 ships launched at Richmond during World War II. Henry Kaiser applied mass assembly line techniques to building the ships—this production line brought pre-made parts together, moved them into place with huge cranes and had them welded together by “Rosies.” One ship was finished in four days! The real-life “Rosie” the youth met became a ship welder when she was barely older than they are now. What a character!

Because Richmond was home to over 56 different war industries, more than any other city of its size in the United States, the town more than tripled in size in three years! Challenges multiplied too. Because of so many deaths from accidents on the Home Front, Kaiser realized that only a healthy workforce could meet the deadlines and construction needs of wartime America. He instituted a revolutionary idea, pre-paid medical care of workers, which soon expanded beyond workers. For many workers, this was the first time they had seen a doctor. So, the Kaiser HMO began in Richmond, along with revolutionary child care centers and more.

# CCSM SCHOLARS

CYF is pleased to share that CCSM scholarships were presented during the church service on June 2 to three senior high young women and to three graduate students.

The senior high youth were **Katie Lunardi** (San Mateo HS), **Gabby Oberes-Padre** (San Mateo HS) and **Naomi Schroeter** (Aragon HS). **Katie** will attend NYU this fall with an interest in drama and film. She was active on her HS Youth Council, is a musician and volunteered at CCSM's Peace Camp. **Gabby** will be a UC Santa Cruz "banana slug," loves music, was active forming a ukulele club in HS, and served on the San Mateo Youth Council. **Naomi** will attend Lewis and Clark College with an interest in English, was engaged in HS theatre and the Improv club, and volunteered with the Peninsula Humane Society – wildlife section. All were active in the Senior High Youth Group.

The graduate school scholars were **Sara Graves**, **Xan Stoddard** and **Karen Pratt**. **Sara** is preparing for her MD at the University of Colorado School of Medicine where she was the founding president of the Latino Medical Student Association and is a leader in community service for med students. Sara was also a chaperone for our senior high youth at a UCC conference and helped lead the mid-high youth group. **Xan** is earning a master's degree in Engineering at Washington University in St. Louis where he is the communications chair of the Association for Graduate Engineering students. As an undergraduate, Xan served in a leadership position with the local non-profit - Ending Poverty in Charlotte, NC. **Karen** is studying at Notre Dame de Namur University in Belmont to become a certified elementary school teacher. At CCSM, Karen identifies as a dedicated Sunday attendee and worked with Kibbie Ruth in organizing the newly implemented Sunday School data base.

Qualities considered by the scholarship committee include being an active member of CCSM and demonstrating interest and involvement in school and community activities. Their accomplishments and involvement well match this mission—they have acted as the Face, Hands, Feet and Heart of God in the world. Congratulations to these scholars!



photo: Tony Gallo

Four of CCSM's scholarship recipients! L to R: Xan Stoddard, Katie Lunardi, Gabby Oberes-Padre, and Naomi Schroeter

## CELEBRATING OUR GRADUATES

We are so proud to have six students at CCSM who graduated from high school this June! Here is a brief description from each of them about what their plans are for what comes next:

**Mackenzie Pratt** graduated from Burlingame High School and plans to attend CSM for two years to get her general ed done then transfer. Geoff Davis counts on her as his Sunday buddy, so he can enjoy our kindergarten class without escaping to play in the fountain!

**Gabby Oberes-Padre** will attend UC Santa Cruz in the fall. She plans to major in economics with a minor in Spanish, but with so many options at UCSC she might change to a major... maybe even marine biology.

**Madeline Yeh**, who you know from her beautiful viola playing in worship, finished at Aragon and is heading for Wellesley in the fall.

**Melia Zimmerman**, also an Aragon graduate, will start at Sonoma State where she'll continue to play in the jazz band and teach with One Love about healthy relationships (remember her Second Hour session this winter?)

**Naomi Schroeter** is excited to study at Lewis and Clark College in Portland, Oregon. She plans on majoring in English and continuing her studies in Japanese and German.

**Katie Lunardi** graduated from San Mateo High School, and headed east to attend NYU in the fall to study drama.

# SUMMER SPEAKER SERIES

SUNDAY MORNINGS, 9:30 - 10:15 A.M. • BUCKHAM ROOM

JULY 14 - AUGUST 18

## JULY 14

### **JON KARESH: AN INSIDE LOOK AT THE SAN MATEO COUNTY SUPERIOR COURT**

Judge Jonathan (Jon) Karesh was born and raised in San Francisco. He went to college and law school at U.C. Berkeley. After working for a time in a large downtown San Francisco law firm, Jon moved to San Mateo County to take a job as a deputy district attorney. After serving as a deputy district attorney for more than 12 years, Jon was appointed to the position of San Mateo County Superior Court Judge in December of 2000 by Governor Gray Davis. Since taking the bench, Jon has tried close to 100 criminal and civil jury trials. Jon is now the Presiding Judge of the San Mateo County Superior Court. In that position, he manages 26 other judges and a court staff of 250 people. In Jon's talk, he will give you a behind the scenes look at what happens in the San Mateo County Court and how it is run every day. You will learn about how Jon first became a judge and then, later in his career, what led to his election as Presiding Judge. Jon will describe how he manages the court as the Presiding Judge and some of the issues and challenges he faces every day. You will also be given an update about some of the recent developments and changes in the San Mateo County Superior Court system.



## JULY 21

### **DAVE DOBRINEN: THE ART AND ASPECTS OF VIOLIN, VIOLA, AND BOW MAKING**

David Mitchel Dobrinen taught orchestra for the SF Unified School District for 33 years, conducted All City Honor Orchestras in San Francisco and San Mateo, has been a professional violist with Villa Sinfonia for 40 years, and has done string quartet freelancing for 40 years. He began repairing violins, violas and cellos when a colleague bequeathed David his father's violin making tools in the 1980's. He completed a violin repair workshop in New Hampshire given by Hans Nebel and then saved money for the SFUSD by repairing his students' instruments and repairing and rehiring bows. David loves studying about string instruments and bows - their histories and how they were made, varnish making, and tone woods. He has traveled extensively throughout the U.S. and Europe to visit violin shops and makers.



## JULY 28

### **MIKE ARMACOST: A "WORLD'S-EYE" VIEW**

Mike worked in government for 24 years, with service at the State Department, the Pentagon, and the National Security Council, and was Chief of Mission in Manila and Tokyo. From his expansive knowledge and experience, he'll focus in this talk on major current developments in East Asia and their implications for the United States. Mike was born in Cleveland; educated at Carleton College and Columbia University; taught at Pomona College, International Christian University, and Stanford; and served for seven years as President of the Brookings Institution.



2019 SUMMER SPEAKER SERIES

## AUGUST 4

### **IVAN RAIKOV: THE RELATIONSHIP AMONG NEUROSCIENCE, PSYCHOLOGY, AND SOCIAL JUSTICE**

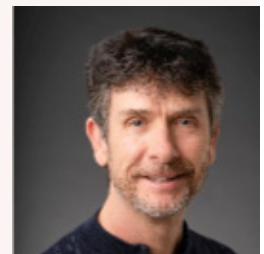
Ivan Raikov is a postdoctoral researcher at Stanford University, where he uses some of the most powerful supercomputers in the world to create computer models of the mouse brain and understand the mechanisms of memory. Ivan's educational background was shaped by his interest in computer science, fascination with the complexity of the brain, and firm belief that science should be used for improvement of the human condition. Ivan was born in Sofia, Bulgaria, studied computer science as an undergraduate at Georgia Tech, and conducted his graduate research work in Okinawa, Japan.



## AUGUST 11

### **PETER BAYLEY: ALZHEIMER'S DISEASE: CURRENT RESEARCH AND STAYING HEALTHY**

Peter J. Bayley, PhD., is Associate Professor (Affiliated) in the Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences at Stanford University, and Director of Research at the War Related Illness and Injury Study Center (WRIISC) at VA Palo Alto. He is a member of the Memory Screening Advisory Board for the Alzheimer Foundation of America which provides free, confidential memory screenings throughout the country on an ongoing basis. Peter will focus his presentation on Alzheimer's research findings and recommendations for healthful living.



## AUGUST 18

### **LINDA BROCKETT: A BRIEF INTRODUCTION TO ICONOLOGY**



Linda painted her first Icon over ten years ago. It was just a small, interesting painting of Mary holding Jesus on her lap. Since then, she has learned that her beginner image is a simplified version of a widely copied Icon attributed to St. Luke, the first Icon "writer". More recently, she painted the image again, this time under the instruction of a teacher from the Prosopon School of Iconology. A detail from the teacher's work is shown here. The hand of St. Luke is pictured painting an Icon of Mary with Jesus—an Icon within an Icon. It is a friendly scene. Mary is "holding hands" with St. Luke as



he paints. Jesus has rested his feet on the cloth protecting his Image. There are symbolic standardizations as well. For instance: Jesus has a large head and receding hairline to indicate maturity, wisdom and intelligence. The big ear indicates willingness to listen. We are being blessed by his right hand and exhorted to study his teachings, which are on the scroll rolled in the left hand. Hear more of Linda's story and the fascinating history and use of Icons.

# FULL CIRCLE THANK YOU

You have been part of my ministry from start to this almost-finish. You have encouraged me since March 1977, when I joined the staff as a naïve seminarian. Later you helped me launch the Center for Abuse Prevention (CAP) with assistance from Lani Leydig and Lee Mullery. You let me keep renting office space when CAP became Kyros, which stabilized troubled churches around the country. Then, you welcomed me back on staff to support MSJ and later to enjoy our children, youth and families—exactly my first ministry decades ago. You watched me grow up! What special mentors and partners you have been!

With CCSM so much a part of my life, you are each tethered to my heart. The “retirement” service and party touched me deeply. And the purse, wow! Jim and I are thrilled that the Napa house might have furniture again, thanks to your generosity. However, you thanking us for serving at CCSM seems backwards; we feel so profoundly appreciative of our shared years with you...and are especially grateful to grow even older in your midst.

With love,  
Kibbie and her sidekick Jim



## SUMMER MUSIC HIGHLIGHTS

- June 30** Melanie Dresbach, piano solo
- July 7** Former CCSM Member Victoria Morgan, vocalist
- July 14** TBD
- July 21** Drop-In Choir with guitars
- July 28** Bill Carter, jazz clarinetist
- Aug. 4** Drop-in Choir with McKinnon Violette, trumpet
- Aug. 11** Juan Castro, vocalist, and Beyond Boundaries (music from 1969, celebrating the Man on the Moon)
- Aug. 18** Merle Mason’s band – 1969 Woodstock
- Aug. 25** Music of 1969 - Stonewall

## SHARE THIS!

Did you know that CCSM gathers many of the articles you find in the Pine Tree in a blog format? You can find it here: [ccsm-ucc.org/blog](http://ccsm-ucc.org/blog) If you want to quickly find info or share an article from the Pine Tree with a friend, you can easily copy and paste a link from one of the articles and share it in an email or on social media.

## A BITTERSWEET FAREWELL

Dear CCSM,

I have some bittersweet news to share with all of you: I have accepted a position as the pastor of the Metropolitan Community Church in Guerneville. Therefore, my last day at CCSM will be on July 11. I am excited about this new chapter in my ministry, and also sad to say good-bye to all of you.



It has been such a joy to get to know all of you and to be part of CCSM’s ministries. You are truly an amazing group of people. I will definitely miss you.

I am especially grateful to have had the opportunity to work together with George Snode, Ministry Lead for the Ministry of Service and Justice, and all MSJ members and friends. I am inspired by your passion and dedication to working towards a more just world.

May God pour out abundant blessings on each of you, and on CCSM. May the Holy One use you as channels for love and liberation, and bless you with joy beyond what you can imagine!

Love and blessings,  
Amie Giordano



*LifeMoves 6th Annual*  
**RIDE TO END HOMELESSNESS**

**SATURDAY  
SEPT 7, 2019**  
Palo Alto, CA

Learn more at:  
[www.LifeMoves.org/rteh2019](http://www.LifeMoves.org/rteh2019)

Join the LifeMoves NextGen Board in a community bike ride to raise critically-needed funds to support LifeMoves high-impact programs and services. With your support, we can help our homeless neighbors return to stable housing and achieve long-term self-sufficiency.



**REGISTER OR DONATE TODAY:**

[www.LifeMoves.org/rteh2019](http://www.LifeMoves.org/rteh2019)  
Adults: \$50 Registration  
Youth: \$30 Registration

**SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES  
AND QUESTIONS:**

[lifemovesrides@gmail.com](mailto:lifemovesrides@gmail.com)



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# CCSM PINE TREE

A newsletter for the families and friends  
of the Congregational Church of San Mateo, UCC

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## SHOOTING HOOPS

No sooner had the mini-basketball court in the parking lot been finished than a church family was out shooting baskets. Owen Dodge, of Boy Scout Troop 42, created the space for us as his Eagle Project. Of course our children and youth will enjoy having a court, but you grown-ups are welcome to use it too. And, yes, you can still park under the hoop on Sundays—just be careful, if you choose that space, not to bump the pole. Thank you, Owen!



## Celebrating CCSM's ONA Birthday!

On June 2, 2002 at the Annual Meeting, the members of CCSM voted overwhelmingly to make the Congregational Church of San Mateo an Open and Affirming Church. (The UCC's definition of Open and Affirming is as follows: "Open and Affirming (ONA) is the United Church of Christ's (UCC) designation for congregations, campus ministries, and other bodies in the UCC which make a public covenant of welcome into their full life and ministry to persons of all sexual orientations, gender identities, and gender expressions." That statement was later amended by CCSM to include immigration status.) The vote was a culmination of five months of work by the nine-member committee. Many testimonials were shared during the service in the weeks leading up to the vote. As stated in the Mission Statement: "Our challenge and our pledge is to continue to grow into a fuller affirmation of the diversity among us and to seek ways for all persons who have felt excluded to feel welcomed in all aspects of our church life."

The final vote count was 135 YES votes, 5 NO votes, and 3 abstentions.

