

This Week on the Peak



Mission Peak UU - Fremont, CA The Home of Liberal Religion in the Tri-Cities and Beyond! April 14, 2021

Greetings!

Response to Anti-Asian Violence
By Michelle L. Wallace

In the past five years, I have noticed a drastic uptick in not only the incidents of racism in our country, but in the boldness and severity of these incidents. We have seen people become emboldened by those in positions of power and influence to openly express their racism and hatred.

Since the beginning of the pandemic, one group has seen a dramatic rise in the occurrences of racism and violence: Asian and Pacific Islander Americans. In the past year, there has been a nearly 150 percent increase in reported instances of violence and racism toward this group (NPR), and “There have been 500+ hate crimes targeted at Asian people this year alone,” social media specialist Mark Kim wrote on Twitter. The incendiary rhetoric of politicians and others who perpetuate the belief that the Chinese are to blame for the virus that causes COVID-19 is directly responsible for this hatred and violence.



This week in Atlanta, Georgia, a white man went on a shooting spree at three different spas, leaving 8 people dead; 6 of them were Asian women. Law enforcement have speculated on his motives, one even going so far as to claim that the shooter was having a bad day and was trying to eliminate places of temptation for him. Regardless of motive, the fact remains that six women of Asian descent are dead at the hands of an angry white man.

As Unitarian Universalists, we value the inherent worth and dignity of all human beings, so it is incumbent upon us to stand with our brothers and sisters in the Asian and Pacific Islander communities and support critical, immediate change in our society. If you want to find out more, visit StopAAPIHate.org and read their 2020-21 National Report. If you see discrimination in action, follow the American Friends Service Committee’s [Dos and Don’ts for Bystander Intervention](#). We must do our part to put an end to white supremacy in all of its iterations. The violence and hate must stop, and we must be part of the solution!

This Sunday's Service:

We have transitioned to virtual services because of the Coronavirus pandemic. See mpuuc.org/zoom each week for how to connect.



Learning How to Sing the Blues

The 'blues' is a style of music born from oppression that couldn't help but sing. It has a quintessential American history - the painful and forgotten side of our rugged individualism. In this service, we will explore some of what gave birth to this music and what it says about who we've been and who we long to be.

Rev. Greg Ward will lead the service and assisting will be Worship Associate Rev. Barbara F. Meyers. Worship Host will be Erik Alm. Peak Rocks will provide our music.

Because we will not have services in Cole Hall where you can donate money, below are 3 ways you can donate and/or fulfill your pledge:

Mail check to

Mission Peak Unitarian Universalist Congregation
P.O. Box 545
Fremont, CA 94537-0545

(If you use Bill Pay with your bank, you could use them to mail the check)

Drop envelope with check or cash in Mission Peak UU mail slot addressed to:
Mission Peak Unitarian Universalist Congregation
We will be collecting this once per week.

Pay on line at <https://mpuuc.org/contact-us/donate/> with credit or debit card.
Note we use PayPal for this and they charge us around 3%.

It's Canvass Time of Year!

We are finishing up our yearly pledge drive, or Canvass, where we make a pledge for our upcoming fiscal year which starts July 1, 2021, and ends June 30, 2022. Most people should have been contacted by their Connector to schedule a 1-on-1 "Connection" meeting.

I know that some of our Connectors have not been able to reach out to all their connectees yet, and that some connectors and connectees have not been able to find a time for their 1 on 1 discussions. If your Connector has reached out to you to set up a time to talk with you but you haven't been able to get back to them yet, please take a few minutes today to see if there's a time that will work for you and let your connector know. If



your Connector has not reached out to you yet, please know that we are working to help make that connection with you, and we really appreciate your patience.

I really encourage you to schedule your Connection meeting if you haven't; these conversations are a great way to connect with someone you may not have talked with recently, and to share your hopes for how we can make Mission Peak a bigger and better force for positive change in the world!

So far we have seen amazing generosity from the Mission Peak community! We have currently received 49 out of the 65 pledges (75%) and we are at just over \$186K - that's 85% of our \$220K pledge goal! But the best news of all is that of the 49 pledges turned in, 32 increased their pledge by 10% or more to qualify for our generous matching grant. That is truly amazing!! We also know that different families have different circumstances. Some are not able to increase and there is no shame in that. But those who can increase make sure that we, collectively, are providing resiliency and resourcefulness for our community. We are so grateful and fortunate - AND we really need to continue making those connections and get the remaining 16 pledges. Our goal is to have all pledges made as soon as possible so that we can start setting our budget for next year.

If you have any questions about anything Canvass-related please contact me, Melissa Holmes at treasurer@mpuuc.org.

A big Thank You to all our connectors, all those who pledged and all those who will pledge sometime in the next week!

Daytimer's Discussion Group

The Minister's Daytimer Group meets on Thursdays at 10:00 a.m. This week's topic (in honor of traditional 'tax day' – April 15) is 'Capitalism – Success or failure as a foundation of our Global Economy? The link to the conversation can be found if you [Press here](#) (Or you can find the link on the MPUUC website and events calendar) Next week's topic (April 22) will be 'How many Unitarians Does it take to Install a Minister?' (Thoughts on the installation of Shared Ministry).

Rev. Greg Ward to be installed!

Mission Peak UU is installing Rev. Greg Ward on Sunday April 25th at 1PM over Zoom using a covenant Mission Peak UU members will vote on adopting on April 18th. Yes, We will be voting on two covenants on April 18th. Please read Rev. Greg's article about them at the beginning of The March 17th This Week on the Peak at <https://mpuuc.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/03/March-17-2021-This-Week-on-the-Peak.pdf>. Even more information about both covenants is also at <https://mpuuc.org/building-the-mission-peak-uu-covenant/>

For more information contact The committee on ministry or Rev. Greg

We are Ordaining one of our own!

The Mission Peak UU board voted in January to jointly ordain Robert Alex Jensen on June 6th, along with the congregation where he is serving as an intern, First Parish in Wayland, MA. Mission Peak UU is accepting donations to help pay for his ordination costs with a goal of raising \$1000. You can donate in one of these ways:

- Mail check to Mission Peak Unitarian Universalist Congregation with "Alex Jensen Ordination" in the memo line.

P.O. Box 545

Fremont, CA 94537-0545



• Drop envelope with check (with “Alex Jensen Ordination” on the memo line) or cash (with a note stating for “Alex Jensen Ordination”) in Mission Peak UU mail slot addressed to: Mission Peak Unitarian Universalist Congregation.

• Pay on line at mpuuc.org/contact-us/donate/ with credit or debit card. Choose “Special” as the donation type. Please state for “Alex Jensen Ordination” in the message. (Note we use PayPal for this and they charge us around 3%.)

For more information contact Steve Wallcave or goto ordainalex.com.

Special Selection of Porters' Book Offered in Media Exchange - Deadline to Purchase 04/16/21

There are still over 900 items in the Media Exchange spreadsheet (books, cookbooks, audiobooks, DVD's, music CD's, and puzzles) including a special selection of books from John & Jackie Porter's library. The books from John & Jackie are labeled 'J&J' in the 'Category 2' column of the spreadsheet. I will be taking all remaining items to Half Price Books on April 16 (so I can have my livingroom back). Please click on the link below to see what is available. There are two sheets on the Media Exchange spreadsheet. The first has instructions. The second contains all of the available items. Sheets are accessed via tabs at the bottom of the spreadsheet.

https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/11uQnD9PX9FtrNprPkQm0i3k9-HiQ9_ssbckYg4W72z8/edit?usp=sharing

Multiple 'categories' have been included to try and help you find items you're interested in. Ordering instructions are available in the spreadsheet. Items that have been 'claimed' are removed from the spreadsheet. Items you request will be dropped off for you “no contact”..

Jen King

JUSTICE CORNER

UUBorders has led experiential learning trips to the US-Mexico border area several times a year. Due to the need to prioritize the safety and health of the communities we visit (and any trip participants), our in-person immersions continue to be on hold. **But we're back for an ONLINE UUBorders journey as we respond to the immigrant justice needs of today!**

In partnership with Via International & UURISE (UU Refugee & Immigrant Services and Education), we are excited to offer a program of **virtual visits & workshops**, during which attendees will have an opportunity to witness the effect of US Immigration policies from both sides of the border, deepen our faith connection to issues and efforts around immigration justice, and to connect with communities directly impacted by our broken immigration system.

Spaced out across two weekends, this online UUBorders offers a flexible and spacious pace for learning, reflection, & action. [Learn more & register today!](#)

Kathi Bayne



ANTI-RACISM ANTI-OPPRESSION TASK FORCE (ARO) RECOMMENDATIONS



Action: [https://www.surjbayarea.org/SURJ Action Hours](https://www.surjbayarea.org/SURJ>ActionHours)

Feeling rage and deep sadness about racism and white supremacy, but not sure what to do? Join SURJ for an hour of action! We'll meet over Zoom to take concrete steps—calling elected officials, signing petitions, etc.—to combat racism against Black and Indigenous people and communities of color. Closed captioning will be available in the main room of Action Hour calls. [Sign up for one date or all three here!](#)



Education: Multiple Dates • April 5 – April 29

[Bystander Intervention to Stop Anti-Asian/American and Xenophobic Harassment](#)

Anti-Asian/American and xenophobic harassment are on the rise across the U.S. and the world. In these one-hour interactive workshops, co-sponsored by [Asian Americans Advancing Justice \(AAJC\)](#) and [Hollaback!](#), you'll learn how you can intervene effectively as a bystander without ever compromising your safety. Workshops are available on multiple days and times. [Sign up for this free training here.](#)

Board Briefs

We are having a Congregational meeting on Sunday, April 18 after the service to vote on the Congregational Covenant and the Minister/Congregation Covenant. For more information about the covenants go to mpuuc.org/building-the-mission-peak-uu-covenant/

The next board meeting is on Wednesday, April 14, 2021 at 7 p.m.

For complete board minutes or other board info go to the Members Only section of our web site at mpuuc.org/about-us/members-only

For more details about meetings or questions email president@mpuuc.org



HUMOR CORNER

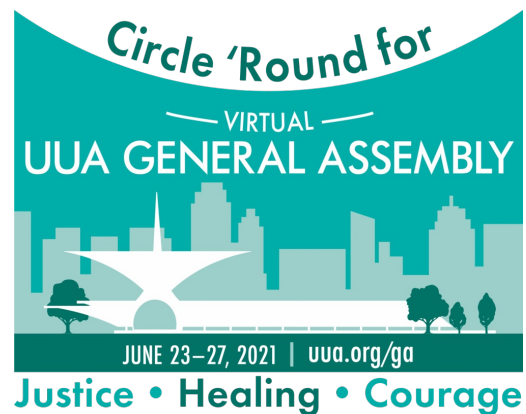
Therapist: "You need to let people in."
Me: "It's not locked."



If you have contributions to the Humor Corner, please send them to Sandra before 5 p.m. on Tuesday.

Virtual General Assembly 2021: Register Now!

Circle 'Round for Justice • Healing • Courage is the theme for General Assembly 2021. General Assembly is a time to circle 'round in community. We circle 'round in care and healing; for liberation and justice; and for love and courage. We share stories of the work happening at our Association and in our congregations. We study ways to implement and live into our mission. UUA GA 2021 will incorporate recommendations from the Commission on Institution Change report, "Widening the Circle of Concern" and dialogue with the Article II Commission about our Principles and Purposes.



- Registration is open! Registration for virtual GA 2021 is \$200 per person. [Learn about registration details.](#)
- [Volunteer Applications](#) are open for those who want to volunteer to lower their costs to attend. Applications accepted on a rolling basis.

ACT NOW!

Call your Elected Officials!

Calls can make a difference! Contact your representatives to alert them to your views!

Representative Eric Swalwell 510-247-1388 or go to [house.gov](https://www.house.gov)

Representative Ro Khanna (202) 225-2631
Senator Alex Padilla (202) 224-3553
Senator Dianne Feinstein (202) 224-3841

Stay Connected



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