

# This Week on the Peak

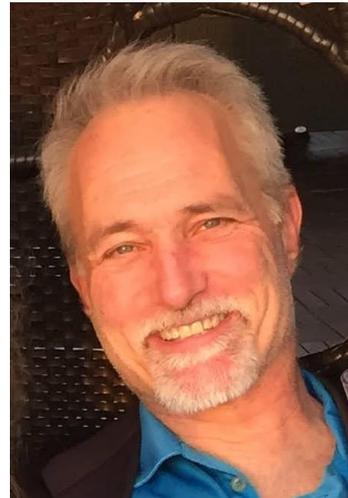


## Mission Peak UU - Fremont, CA The Home of Liberal Religion in the Tri-Cities and Beyond! June 9, 2021

Greetings!

One of my most meaningful moments growing up Unitarian Universalist was a lesson offered in Sunday School when I was in the K-1 class. We were told the story of the Flower Communion and Norbert Capek who invented it in Prague, Czech back in 1921. Learning that he created the flower exchange as a celebration of diversity and non-conformity resonated with me. It felt even more personal that he did it in defiance of the Nazi Regime which was threatening all the people who stood up for the outcast and spoke out against oppressors.

I was a normal kid in almost every way. But, on the inside, I felt different. I lived in fear that any one of those little idiosyncratic imperfections would get noticed, pointed out and become the reason I was picked on or shunned. As a little boy, I didn't have quite enough courage to stand up for myself. But, interestingly, I had enough courage to gently stand up for others who were picked on.



In class, we were given cuttings from a pussy willow tree and given instructions to go home and plant them. I put my little 'stick' in the ground when I got home from church. I watered it. And waited. I forgot about it until the following year when I realized it had, indeed, grown roots. By the time I 'bridged' out of middle school and graduated into the youth group, it was taller than me. I told my old K-1 teacher who had given me the cutting and she asked if she could come over and get cuttings from mine to give to the next class. I felt incredibly proud to pass something on that way.

This Saturday June 12 – between 2:00 – 4:00 pm – we are having a drive by Flower Communion Exchange near Cole Hall. This is so we can all bring a flower – a symbol of the unique and beautiful individual growth in our lives and exchange it to become part of the amazing bouquet that is our community. Shawn and I will be there with something cool to drink. You can meet my dog, Molly (who will be chasing all the ground squirrels).

Thank you for being part of the beautiful bouquet of Mission Peak Members and friends.

Rev. Greg  
(he, him, his)  
[minister@mpuuc.org](mailto:minister@mpuuc.org)  
(510) 972-3890

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## This Sunday's Service:

**We have transitioned to virtual services because of the Coronavirus pandemic. See [mpuuc.org/zoom](https://mpuuc.org/zoom) each week for how to connect.**



## Flower Communion

There is a tradition that, within the religious world, is rather unique to Unitarian Universalism. It came at a time of tremendous political turmoil and tension when a defiant idealist encouraged everyone to surrender to the spirit of beauty, wonder and generosity. This service is the story of that ritual and its power to change struggle into strength.

Rev. Greg Ward will lead the service and assisting will be Worship Associate Shawn Snavley. Worship Host will be Graham Bell. Jay and Jessica Steele 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%.

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## Special Collection with the Mission Peak Asylum Seeker Project

As part of our commitment to the UU goal of World Community, our congregation has been accompanying an asylum seeker

from Central America named Sergio. Sergio was forced to flee his home country after speaking out against the government. He endured unspeakable violence on his journey, and contracted COVID while in ICE detention once he reached the United States. Mission Peak and its congregants have provided Sergio with warm clothing, computer equipment, and a used car, as well as help connecting with local resources such as food pantries and legal counsel for his case.



Now Sergio has attained a certain amount of stability, but we would like to raise an additional \$500.00 to cover such things as a medical and psychological exam to support his claims of torture. We would also like to have a little in reserve in case of emergencies.

*Please donate if you are able, in one of these ways:*

Write a check to MPUUC with "Asylum Accompaniment" in the memo line and mail 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 an envelope with a check (with "Asylum Accompaniment" on the memo line) or cash (with a note stating "Asylum Accompaniment") in our mail slot addressed to: Mission Peak Unitarian Universalist Congregation

Pay online at <https://mpuuc.org/contact-us/donate/> with credit or debit card. Choose "Special" as the donation type. Please state "For Asylum Accompaniment" in the message. Note we use PayPal for this, and they charge us around 3%

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Dear Friends and Family,

Please gather with us to celebrate our dear John Landers - his rich life and what he means to each of us - with memories, pictures, and songs.

**Celebration of John Landers**  
Saturday, June 19, 10:30 am  
Ceremony and Sharing of Memories

Mission Peak Unitarian Universalist Congregation  
2950 Washington Blvd, Fremont

Light refreshments will follow

Donations in John's memory are welcome and may be made by check to Tri-City Ecology Center, PO Box 674, Fremont, CA 94537 or at [tricityecology.org/donate](http://tricityecology.org/donate).



We will provide three ways to attend the service -- via Zoom, sitting outside Cole Hall on the patio, or sitting inside Cole Hall. Our sound system works well inside and outside.

Contact or questions: Russ 510-919-4391, Paula 510-693-9122, Joanne 510-656-8877.

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**Flower Communion Exchange** will be held on Saturday June 12 from 2-4 pm. Please drive in through the Methodist's paved parking lot and around the back of Cole Hall. The Flower Exchange will be held near the MPUUC Office. If you'd like to stay to socialize, please park in the MPUUC parking lot (gravel side). Cold drinks will be provided for those who stay to socialize.

Contact Shawn dre@mpuuc.org for more information.



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## We have started to use Cole Hall again!

Our Worship Hosting Team has been working extraordinarily hard to facilitate the return to Cole Hall. Because Covid has taught us to 'stream' and extend ourselves outward to the larger world, we have reconnected with those who moved away. We have committed ourselves to remaining connected by practicing a 'hybrid' approach to simultaneously presenting service for a live audience AND streaming all over the globe.

Over the summer we plan on having 3 types of services:

1. The worship team will be streaming from Cole Hall on Sunday, June 13<sup>th</sup>.
2. On June 20<sup>th</sup> we will be having a service with congregants in Cole Hall. **We will provide three ways to attend the service -- via Zoom, sitting outside Cole Hall on the patio, or sitting inside Cole Hall.** Our sound system works well inside, outside and over Zoom.
3. If enough people volunteer to help in Cole Hall (see Sunday Service Team article for details) we will be having live services or watching the Zoom service in Cole Hall after June 20<sup>th</sup>. (If we do not have enough volunteers, we will be having Zoom only services many weeks)

Each week This Week on the Peak will inform us what type of service is planned for the upcoming service. We will also give details on [mpuuc.org/zoom](https://mpuuc.org/zoom).

**All service types will be streamed over Zoom as well as any components at Cole Hall.**

We expect to update our safety plan on how to safely go back to Cole Hall today (June 9th) at our board meeting. See next weeks newsletter for more details. Contact Steve Wallcave to get more information.

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## The Sunday Service Team is starting up again!

This is your chance to volunteer to help us meet in Cole Hall every Sunday starting June 20<sup>th</sup>. We plan on a self-serve approach to chairs, hymnals and cushions when we start. We will not be serving food or drinks at "coffee hour". The following functions are needed to support a service in Cole Hall:

- Pulpit Set-Up/Take Down
- Aesthetics
- Greeters
- Safety Monitor
- Zoom and A/V host
- Key Holder

For Job descriptions for these see <https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1yAiBBTLvYaiVZW33Dj1jutFR2j0Szl42WTB>

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## Daytimer's Discussion Group

The Minister's Daytimer Group meets on Thursdays at 10:00 a.m. This week's topic "The Blessings of Diversity" – Specifically, what are you aware of others sacrificing for diversity? What have you sacrificed for diversity? 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 will be about "Fathers" – what did we learn? What did we struggle against? What did we take for granted? What do we remember? What do we now offer because of them?

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## Outdoor Celebration of Alex Jensen's Ordination

When Alex is back in Fremont (2 weeks after his ordination) we will celebrate his ordination with him outside of Cole Hall, on June 20th at Noon. **For those who RSVP by June 14th we will serve a light lunch**, including carrot cake, a favorite of Alex. RSVP to Steve Wallcave – [wallcave@mpuuc.org](mailto:wallcave@mpuuc.org).



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**This is another invitation to live into our covenant to support each other as UU communities in geographic proximity.**



**Pacific Central District**  
PACIFIC WESTERN REGION OF THE UUA  
BIG FAITH, NO BORDERS

The Pacific Central District's Annual Business Meeting will take place June 12th, 2021, at 2PM Pacific Time, 11AM Hawaii Time.

As individuals, all UUs may register here to get the Zoom link to the meeting:  
<https://www.cognitoforms.com/PacificWesternRegionUUA/PCDVirtualAnnualMeeting2021>

Although the meeting will have the usual business elements like formally approving a budget and electing officers, the Board hopes that the heart of the meeting will be a real conversation, or at least a solid Q&A session, about how we might transform our district.

Here are links to two documents to help you prepare for the meeting:

[Meeting Resources](#)  
[2021 Board Report](#)

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## JUSTICE CORNER

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### Judge Cordell to be Keynote Speaker at the

# League of Women Voters' Fremont-Newark-Union City Annual Meeting

On Saturday July 19, 9:30 a.m, activist, fierce fighter for human rights and esteemed Judge LaDoris Hazzard Cordell will talk about her years as a Superior Court judge, the American legal system and her own personal journey which are part of a memoir she's written recently entitled: *Her Honor: My Life on the Bench...What Works, What's Broken and How to Change It*. The book will be released October 5, 2021. You won't want to miss this outstanding presentation! To register go to: <http://lwvfnuc.org/zoom>

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## ANTI-RACISM ANTI-OPPRESSION COMMITTEE (ARO) RECOMMENDATIONS



I am delighted to invite you to UUSC's 10th Annual Human Rights Award, a virtual celebration featuring a conversation with U.S. Congresswoman Ayanna Pressley. We have great respect and appreciation for Congresswoman Pressley's strong support for human rights and progressive change, including her co-sponsorship of the **BREATHE Act**, which UUSC strongly endorses. The event will be an evening of hope and inspiration, to take place in advance of the UUA's General Assembly, on Thursday, June 17, 2021 at 7:00 PM ET / 4:00 PM PT.

If you would like to join us, we ask that you please [register here](#). While donations are not required to attend, we ask that you please consider a special gift in support of UUSC's work to advance social justice around the world.

For additional details, please contact Elizabeth Auwood at [eauwood@uusc.org](mailto:eauwood@uusc.org).

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## Board Briefs

The board met on Wednesday, May 12:

- **Approved the Path to Services proposal from the reopening task force**
- Approved adding a Reparative Justice line item to the 2021/22 budget
- **Approved the updated Outdoor Events and Office Use policy, See section 18 of board policies.**
  - Corrected the GA delegates and added an alternate
  - Approved the planned special summer collections
  - Approved the proposed 2021/22 budget to be presented at the annual meeting
  - Approved the covenant between Rev. Greg Ward and Rev. Chris Schriener
  - Approved the right-sizing task force charter



The next board meeting is on Wednesday, June 9, 2021 at 7 p.m.

**The annual meeting is on Sunday, June 13 at 11:30 a.m.** We will elect next years board members and approve our annual budget at this meeting.

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](https://mpuuc.org/about-us/members-only)

For more details about meetings or questions email [president@mpuuc.org](mailto:president@mpuuc.org)

## HUMOR CORNER



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

## 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://house.gov)

Representative Ro Khanna (202) 225-2631

Senator Alex Padilla (202) 224-3553

Senator Dianne Feinstein (202) 224-3841

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