

This Week on the Peak



Mission Peak UU - Fremont, CA The Home of Liberal Religion in the Tri-Cities and Beyond! April 27, 2022

Greetings!

My name is Allysson McDonald. One thing I am most passionate about at Mission Peak UU is our Community Partners program, which I coordinate. I truly believe that building up community partnerships is good for the congregation as well as for our community. It's an important avenue for growth - giving to a good cause is, of course, a worthy activity in and of itself, however it is also one way to shine our light out into the world rather than keeping it under a bushel basket (a biblical reference).



Mission Peak has been "sharing the plate" with nonprofits doing good in our community for many years - so long, I don't remember whose idea it was originally. It used to be called "Second Sunday Collection", as that is when it typically happens, but Community Partners is a better description of the purpose. For several years former member Natalie Campbell single handedly managed the program - sometimes doing a congregational survey to get ideas for it. When she moved to El Cerrito a few years ago I agreed to take it on. At that time I decided to make it more about building partnerships in the community - I started asking our "partners" how we could make other kinds of contributions - membership, petition signing, volunteering, etc. Unfortunately Covid put an end to that, but hopefully that aspect of community building can be reinvigorated next fall. I would also like to look into other ways we can be a resource to local nonprofits, perhaps by coordinating some networking events or other activities.

Another aspect of our Community Partners Program is the annual Courageous Love Hero award we grant in February. This is the way we recognize an individual or group in our area who has been courageously showing up to challenge oppression and violence. We do this in conjunction with the Side with Love public advocacy campaign sponsored by the UUA. It was Rev. JD's idea that we combine the award with the February Share the Plate, and we've continued to do so, making our award more meaningful. We also use the opportunity to reach out to the local press to announce the award in hopes of gaining a little publicity.

After we established the Justice Council I began to solicit suggestions for Community Partners and Love Heroes from the Council members, since they often had close relationships with local organizations. I still ask those leaders to recommend partners and help coordinate our outreach to them, but we also welcome suggestions from anyone in the congregation. Over the last few years the Justice leaders have also suggested and voted on our Love Hero nominees, though we solicit nominations from everyone in the congregation. Please recommend local partners you think are worthy of our support!

Our congregation has continued to be very generous with our community partners even through challenging circumstances. We don't have a full accounting yet of all our donations (more about that later) but I was quite astonished by the donations received on behalf of Fremont's Afghan Refugee Help Fund in September: Over \$2.5 K! The City reports that 19 organizations and five individual families were granted more than \$310,000 from the ARHelp Fund to support emergency needs such as legal fees, clothing, food, furniture, and shelter. The fund has also helped organizations hire additional staff who speak Dari and Pashtu and provided cell phones for those who had to discard theirs while fleeing Afghanistan. In addition, the City has distributed grants for after-school care, culturally appropriate food, and much more. It feels good to be part of this wider effort that has such an impact on our community, especially some of the newest and most vulnerable residents.

It's hard to get an accurate accounting for the donations each month because they don't all come in any defined time period. So it's time for another change. I'd like to request that when donating for a Share the Plate you get your checks and online donations to Mission Peak UU by the end of the month when we are collecting for that particular organization. This will make it easier for me, Sandra, and the treasurer to track and keep accurate records, as well as ensure that we make our congregational donation to the organization in a timely way. I will try to include a reminder to do so in our monthly announcements.

This year we have one more Share the Plate partner in May - this one will be NAMI Alameda County. Member Peggy Rahman will introduce the organization and explain how our donation will help. I know you will again open your hearts, and your pocket books, to help grow our relationship with NAMI and the people it serves. Thank you for your generosity!

This Sunday's Service:

We have transitioned to hybrid services. See mpuuc.org/zoom each week for how to attend services.



Peace Be With You - Core Teachings of Islam and Learnings from Ramadan

Eid Mubarak - Reflections on Islam and Ramadan

Eid al-Fitr begins tonight - the religious holiday marking the end of the fast of Ramadan. Ramadan is a month of fasting and of prayer, reflection and community, and is one of the Five Pillars of Islam. It is the commemoration of Muhammad's first revelation of the Quran. Many of us have little experience with fasting, but member Graham Bell often tries a modified fast during Ramadan. His teacher, Bawa Muhaiyaddeen, a Tamil-speaking Sufi mystic from Sri Lanka, considered fasting an opportunity to take on our inner "demons" or "bad qualities" (such as pride, greed, anger, and impatience) and

to surrender instead to that which is greater than the self, to reflect on unity, and to find compassion for others. For many Muslims Ramadan is a time of putting others first and making donations to charity. Our service today will be lead by Allysson McDonald and Graham Bell as he reflects on what he has learned from his experiences of fasting for Ramadan, and about the meanings of some Arabic words that provide insight into the true meaning of Islam. Salaam alaikum!

Graham Bell and Allysson McDonald will lead the service. Worship Host will be Steve Wallcave. Peak Performers will provide our music.

Whether you are attending services in Cole Hall or remotely you can donate money and/or fulfill your pledge in the 3 ways shown below:

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 a check 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%.

If you are attending services in Cole Hall we will provide envelopes so you can donate money by placing checks or cash in the office mail slot.



CIRCLE OF LIFE

Each week, we post the previous Sunday's Joys and Concerns that we were given permission to share. We encourage you to make room in your heart for the hopes and fears of your fellow members. Reach out to celebrate and console those you care about. Here's the [Joys and Concerns](#) for April 24 as well as the prior 3 weeks. If you would like your joy or concern to appear in the Wheel of Life, contact the Encouragement Committee at ecteam@mpuuc.org

Safety Policy for Hybrid Services in Cole Hall - Updated March 30th

Attendees should be masked inside and outside of Cole Hall during the service. We encourage people to wear N95 (or equivalent) which are more effective than cloth or surgical masks. We have such masks available in Cole Hall on Sunday mornings. We encourage people to only come inside Cole Hall if fully vaccinated and boosted. Because vaccinated people can still spread the disease to others, we strongly encourage those in contact with unvaccinated or immunocompromised people to attend services outside or via Zoom.

The [board Safety Policy on how we allow services in Cole Hall](#) is in the "[About->Congregational Documents](#)" section of the mpuuc.org web site. If you wonder how we are trying to keep us all safe as we gather together again, please read it. We expect to continue to monitor what is safe and make changes as needed.

We also have other board policies related to Covid-19 in section 18 of the board policies document, which is also in the “[About->Congregational Documents](#)” section of the website. The outdoor event guidelines in section 18.2 will control how we would be able to have food or drinks outside after the service, or for special events. Contact Steve Wallcave with any questions about either safety policy.

Midweek Discussion Group

The Minister’s Midweek Discussion Group meets on Thursdays at 10:00 a.m. This week’s discussion will be lay led and will be about Eid al-Fitr – a Muslim holy day commemorating the end of Ramadan where old wrongs are forgiven, money is given to the poor and special foods are prepared for a feast that can last up to three days. The link to the conversation can be found if you [Press here](#). Next week’s discussion will be about mothers. Who were the exemplars of mothering for you? What did lessons in mothering include? Who were the people who taught mothering from perspectives you didn’t expect?

JUSTICE CORNER

My name is Rev. Connie Yost, and I am a member and Treasurer of the Oregon Poor People’s Campaign (PPC). I am coming to Washington, DC, on June 18 because I believe that the PPC is the most effective way for us to come together across all divides to address the interlocking injustices of systemic racism, poverty, ecological devastation, militarism, and the war economy, and the false moral narrative of religious nationalism.



The PPC addresses these evils and changes the narrative to one that centers our hearts and actions on what is moral and right for the 140 million poor and low-income people in the US. Our Unitarian Universalist Principle of justice, equity, and compassion in human relations drives us to work for healthier and more equitable economic systems.

The numbers show that a fusion coalition of Black, White, Latino, Asian, and Native poor people and their allies can shift the outcome of elections and public policy. The PPC gives us a way to live out our Unitarian Universalist values while working to build the Beloved Community where everyone is supported in living healthy, safe, and sustainable lives. Working with others gives us HOPE and STRENGTH to continue until true equity is achieved. Together, we become friends and resist the lies of scarcity and difference that seek to keep us divided.

I invite you to join me in Washington, DC, June 18.

UUSJ is an avid supporter and partner of the Poor People's Campaign (PPC). UUs around the country also work closely with PPC and support its mission. Mobilizing UUs For June 18, 2022, With PPC

If you intend to participate on June 18th in DC, with The Poor People’s Campaign please let us know by filling out this [form](#). You can also use the form to volunteer to help plan UU involvement for June 18 with the UUA’s PPC Council. For nuanced questions contact Pablo DeJesus, UUSJ Executive Director (pdejesus@uusj.org).

Anti-Racism Anti-Oppression Committee (ARO) Recommendations

Saturday, April 30 • 11:00 am – 1:00 pm Haitian Voices of Resistance Today

Please join [Haiti Action Committee](#) on the 30th anniversary of its solidarity work for a webinar with recent presidential candidate Dr. Maryse Narcisse and community leader Joel Edouard "Pacha" Vorbe, both members of the popular Fanmi Lavalas Party. Learn about the courageous and deepening struggle by the Haitian people to remove the US-backed dictatorship of Ariel Henry and to end the US/UN occupation of Haiti. Proceeds from the event will benefit the [Haiti Emergency Relief Fund](#). Learn more [here](#) and [register here](#).



8th Principle Learning

Audre Lorde, Barbara Smith, and other members of the Combahee River Collective used their experience as Black Lesbians to develop the concept of intersectionality in the 1970s, years before Kimberle Crenshaw gave it the name we use now. In this very readable article, Keeanga-Yamahatta Taylor situates their work in the context of her own biography and political development.



Speech: [Audre Lorde, "The Uses of Anger: Women Responding to Racism"](#)

Board Briefs

The board met on Wednesday, April 13:

- Voted and accepted the proposal from the financial consultant to revamp and streamline MPUUC's financial process, including installing a new web-based financial and membership database.
- Agreed on the proposed update to our bylaws and set up a process for informing the congregation of the proposed changes and getting feedback.
- Discussed the canvass results, which are above the goal with some pledges still not received.
- Created a budget subcommittee.
- Approved a recipient of the Volunteer of the Year award
- Set an additional meeting to complete agenda.



The board met on Sunday, April 24:

- Discussed the CAYRE proposal on hiring a Coordinator of Lifespan Learning.
- Heard about the Program Council meeting.
- Discussed the updated offering collection process.
- Reviewed and assigned jobs that need to be done before the next board meeting and the annual meeting.

The next board meeting is via Zoom on Wednesday, May 11 at 7 p.m.

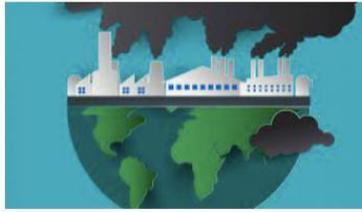
The Annual Congregational Meeting will be on Sunday, June 5, after the service. For complete board minutes or other board info go to the Members Only section of our web site at mpuuc.org/about-us/members-only

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

WE ARE ONE



RALLY |



**PEACE & CLIMATE JUSTICE
GO TOGETHER**

Thursday, April 28, 2022

5:00 to 6:00 p.m.

Walnut & Paseo Padre, Fremont

Curbing climate change is an act of peace-making. If global emission rates are not reduced, the likelihood of climate-induced violence is fivefold.

When nations sell fossil fuels and use the money to buy weapons, our dependence on fossil fuels supports war. As long as our economy relies on fossil fuels, we will be at the mercy of petro dictators who use their influence on global energy prices like weapons.

This is a moment to decisively break from fossil fuels. We cannot continue to live this way. It will destroy our civilization.

The world's top energy experts, economists, and social scientists say it's still possible to avoid the most catastrophic consequences of climate change, but only if societies take immediate, drastic action to put the planet on a safer path. We must urge our leaders to act NOW!

"This moment is a clarion call for the urgent need to transition to domestic clean energy so that we are never again complicit in fossil-fueled conflict."

- Senator Ed Markey

**Tri-City Interfaith Council
Compassionate Fremont**

[Click here for flyer](#)

Tri-City Interfaith Council and
Temple Beth Torah invite you to

Interfaith Yom HaShoah Service

a Holocaust remembrance

Sunday, May 1 7pm

Temple Beth Torah
42000 Paseo Padre Pkwy
Fremont, CA



This event will be multi-access, In-Person and Virtual
Pre-register by Friday 4/29 at <https://bit.ly/YomHaShoah5782>

**Please Join Us For
General Assembly
2022!**



UUA GENERAL ASSEMBLY
MULTIPLATFORM / PORTLAND • 2022

The General Assembly Housing Reservation System is Now Open!

The GA Housing Reservation System offers premium amenities, discounted rates, and the best networking opportunities for in-person GA attendees. By booking in our hotel block, you assist the UUA in effectively controlling meeting space, attrition and penalty fees; all of which directly benefit you and the future of General Assembly. Additionally, the UUA is able to negotiate on behalf of our block of attendees for [sustainability](#) and [accessibilities](#) requirements. Get a head start on your travel plans and book your housing today on the [GA Housing Reservation Page](#).

Dormitory housing at Portland State University and information about home hospitality, if available, will be published in March 2022. [Reserve Now!](#)

Safety and Wellness in Portland

In compliance with UUA and Oregon Convention Center guidelines, entry to General Assembly 2022 in Portland, OR is open to people who are fully vaccinated. Additionally, the OCC's requirement of vaccination extends to all contracted service providers working in the facility.

[Oregon Convention Center COVID-19 Safety Measures](#)

In addition, masking is required and physically distanced seating options will be reserved in our meeting spaces.

Register Now for In-Person GA 2022!

[Registration is now open](#) for in-person attendance.

UUA General Assembly 2022: Virtual Registration Opened March 1

June 22-26, 2022

[Can't view email? Click Here to View as Webpage](#)

Virtual Registration for General Assembly Opens March 1.

Do you enjoy the convenience and accessibility of remote General Assembly participation? GA 2022 again offers virtual attendance with robust programming and enhanced delegate discussion tools. [Virtual Registration](#) opens March 1st.

Multi-Platform General Assembly: Choose Your Platform

In-person Registration is required for all live GA events and programming taking place in Portland, Oregon. In-person registration includes access to virtual content available on the GA app, powered by Whova. In-person registration is the same process for delegates and non-delegates; delegates may register before or after determining their delegate status. General Assembly registration is required for all in-person participants, including in-person delegates. [Register now!](#)

Full Virtual Registration is required for access to virtual GA programming, including workshops, worship services, the Ware Lecture, featured speakers, Opening and Closing celebrations, exhibits, entertainment, and networking. Virtual GA programming will be streamed on the GA app, powered by Whova. Delegates will use the GA Delegate Platform for discussion and voting during General Sessions. Virtual registration is the same process for delegates and non-delegates; delegates may register before or after determining their delegate status. [Register starting March 1](#)

Business-only Virtual Registration provides access to the GA Delegate Platform for discussion and voting during General Sessions. Payment is not required but a donation to offset production and platform costs is suggested. Business-only registrants will access to delegate chat rooms but will not have access to GA programming, the GA app, networking opportunities, or the exhibit hall. GA delegates are strongly encouraged to register as Full Virtual Registrants. [Register starting March 1](#)

Register Now for GA 2022! GA Registration Rates Increase May 1.

[Registration is now open](#) for in-person attendance and virtual attendance. [Financial support](#) for registration, lodging credit within the [GA housing block](#), as well as a payment plan are available. In-person registration rates will increase on May 1. Virtual registration rates will increase on May 1.

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



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