

# This Week on the Peak



## Mission Peak UU - Fremont, CA The Home of Liberal Religion in the Tri-Cities and Beyond! February 8, 2023

Dear Sandra,

Warm greetings, everyone!

I'm Don Ramie, leader of the Operational Support Team. We're a group who take turns arriving a little early on Sunday mornings to prepare for the service. We have three duties:

1. Set Up. Chairs, cushions, tables and signs are put out. The chalice, candle and the bell to start the service are also set up. After the service, all these things are returned to their storage places.
2. Aesthetics. The lectern and the rest of the area on the dais (raised platform) are decorated anew each week.
3. Greeter. One of our members stands near the front door and says "hello" to people as they arrive and offers them an order of service. The greeter also brings the Joys and Concerns book up to the worship leader during the service when people have finished writing in it.



These accoutrements seem to pop up magically each Sunday morning like mushrooms, but the little "elves" behind the scenes are absolutely essential. I want to publicly thank the eight members of the Support Team who have volunteered, some for many years.

As usual, service has its rewards. For me, I always get more than I give to our wonderful congregation and its outreach. I have never been good at organizing people or leading them. Now I am learning some skills in this area and it becomes easier and more fulfilling. I have usually worked alone in my work as an artist, now I'm becoming more comfortable with asking people to help.

Enjoy our Sunday services, and rest assured it will all be ready to go and lovely. And, of course, anyone who wants to try some of these tasks is welcomed. No long-range commitment required, and if you can't make a Sunday, old leader Don will take care of it!

Don Ramie

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## This Sunday's Service:

**We have transitioned to hybrid services. See [mpuuc.org/zoom](https://mpuuc.org/zoom) each week for how to attend services.**



### **Love Hero**

Cornell West once said that "Justice is what Love looks like in public." Each year, MPUUC celebrates a 'Love Hero' - a person or group who exercises the kind of 'public love' that resembles and inspires justice. This year, our Love Hero is Sergio Jaime Lopez who has successfully navigated our broken immigration system to attain asylum status and is now working on the 12-18 month process of bringing his family to the U.S. from Nicaragua.

Rev. Greg Ward will lead the service and assisting will be Worship Associate Don Ramie. Worship Host will be David Gibbons. Jay and Jessica Steele will provide our music.

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## **Black & White Auction**

# B & W Auction

**Date : February 11th  
7-9pm, Zoom**

**Topic : Night of Fellowship, Fun,  
& Fundraising**

## **Deadlines:**

1/31: Last day  
to buy a ticket  
at \$25

2/1: Tickets  
are \$30 each

2/2: Get your  
donations to  
Colleen

2/4: Catalog is  
live! Go  
shopping --  
start bidding!

## **Event Details:**

- Single Breakout Room Discussions
- How to Bid instructions
- Games: Scavenger Hunt & Scattegories
- Fudge Winner Announced
- Extra time to bid
- Lots of laughter!

## **Buy A Ticket!**

<https://mpuuc.square.site/s/shop>

### **Notes :**

- It's going to be a great night!
- Pour some wine & bring your
- own dessert to the screen

Tickets can be purchased at <https://mpuuc.square.site/s/shop>.

## **Share the Plate Special Collection for Courageous Love Hero - Sergio Jaime Lopez**

If you are able, please donate generously to this special collection in one of these ways:

- Make your check out to MPUUC with Love Hero in the memo line.
- 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) If you are making a pledge, please indicate "pledge" on the memo line.

- Drop envelope with check (with Love Hero on the memo line) in Mission Peak UU mail slot addressed to:

Mission Peak Unitarian Universalist Congregation

We will be collecting this once per week.

- Pay online at <https://mpuuc.org/contact-us/donate/> with credit or debit card. Choose “Special” as the donation type. Please state for “Love Hero” in the message. (Note: 3% surcharge).

We will be collecting through March 12, 2023.

**Please note donations for this special collection are not tax deductible .**

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## 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%.

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### 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 are the [Joys and Concerns](#) for the past 4 weeks. If you would like your joy or concern to appear in the Wheel of

Life, contact the Encouragement Committee at [ecteam@mpuuc.org](mailto:ecteam@mpuuc.org)

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## Safety Policy for Hybrid Services in Cole Hall

Attendees should be masked inside and outside of Cole Hall during the service. We encourage people to wear N95 masks (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.

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## Midweek Discussion Group

The Minister's Midweek Discussion Group meets on Thursdays at 10:00 a.m. We welcome all voices who wish to participate in discussion on interesting topics. In honor of Sergio Jaime Lopez being granted asylum, this week's discussion will be about the hardest, most impossible thing you have done in your life. We will consider what you had to give up in order to attain this and what you learned – about yourself and about the world. The link to the conversation can be found if you [Press here](#)

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## Welcoming Each Other

Hello from your Membership Committee!

Feeling a sense of community is an important reason why many people have become involved in this congregation. Hybrid services have been wonderful in allowing all of us to be together, those that don't live in the area, those who live in the area but are unable to attend in person, and those in Cole Hall. The small disadvantage to hybrid services is it can be more challenging for us to feel connected to each other like we did when everyone was in Cole Hall.

Though not required, we ask those attending via zoom to turn on their cameras. Having our cameras on helps those in Cole Hall feel connected to those on Zoom. It helps those on Zoom feel more connected to each other. Last but not least, it helps visitors to get a better sense of who we are by seeing live faces and not blank screens.

After the Board Welcome, we will have a chance for in-person and remote attendees to wave at each other, which is called Welcoming Each Other. We experienced this last month with the Methodists when we had our joint service with them and liked the idea. Though this is something new and may need adjustments, it is our hope that this small act of greeting each other will help us feel a stronger sense of love and connection.

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The CaYRE team is excited to introduce MPUUC's new Religious Education Coordinator. **Ariel Smith-lyre** has been an educator most of her adult life teaching PE classes and understands the intuitive inclination to play is a great gift of young people. She has been a member of UU Berkeley Congregation for 15 years, teaching in the RE program and serving on the RE Committee. She also has two children of her own. The search team was very impressed with her flexibility, creativity, imagination, and resourcefulness. "I see a world of untapped possibilities in the pursuit of multi-generational, beloved community," she says. "I'd love the opportunity to talk with you more about these possibilities and how we might collaborate." Stay tuned for more information about Ariel and her emerging role at MPUUC.

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## CONGREGATIONAL PICTURE

Professional photographer, Don Ramie, has offered to help us update our congregational photo. We are hoping to gather as many folks as possible to celebrate Sergio Lopez successfully reaching asylum status and take a photo together. This includes our virtual members and friends as well as we will be taking screen shots of everyone waving!

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## LET MPUUC BUY YOUR 1 YR MEMBERSHIP IN THE NAACP

Last month, at our shared MLK service with the Methodists, we raised over \$1100 to support the NAACP. The Board celebrated by turning your generosity into an opportunity for the whole congregation to deepen its awareness and commitment to the NAACP. For



the next two months, the Board will use these funds to pay for an annual NAACP membership for all MPUUC members who wish to become members. You can click [Join the NAACP](#) and join (and pay) on your own. OR you can click [MPUUC + NAACP](#) and fill out the form and MPUUC will sign you up and pay for your 1<sup>st</sup> annual membership. All funds raised not used in providing annual membership fees will be donated to the NAACP general fund. Thank you for your commitment to end racial injustice.

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## JUSTICE CORNER

### Tell Your Members Of Congress; Our Democracy Is Under Attack

We need to protect our democracy. We cannot allow a small group of legislators to stop Congress from being a functioning legislative body. We need you to help save it and urge your Members of Congress to prioritize the health of our democracy as an organizing principle during the 118th Session of Congress.

*We the people* need all those who represent us in Congress to provide a federal government that works effectively to meet our needs. It is critical that Democrats, Republicans, and Independents work together for the good of the people they represent.

- Our elected representatives must provide legislation and funding that ensure our rights and keep us secure. That is the fundamental purpose of our government.
- Members of Congress must make our collective needs their first priority, above their personal needs, and the needs of their political party.
- We need them to work together and compromise when necessary.

Help start the advocacy process with a clear statement of interest grounded in our principles and organizational values. Send our volunteers into their various engagements with a strong showing of support.

In optimism for a better democracy,

Pablo DeJesus  
Executive Director, UUSJ

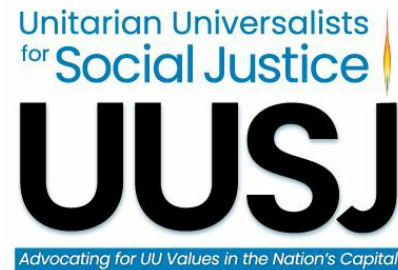
### Anti-Racism Anti-Oppression Committee (ARO) Recommendations

#### JUSTICE FOR TYRE NICHOLS

SURJ Bay Area joins in solidarity with the family of Tyre Nichols who was brutally murdered by Memphis police during a traffic stop, and with people across the country who demand an end to police violence.

#### Actions you can take:

- [Sign the Color of Change Petition](#) to the Memphis City Council demanding Justice for Tyre.
- [Donate](#) to the Tyre Nichols Memorial Fund set up by his mother to support his family and his memorial.
- Support groups organizing against racist policing in Memphis. Donate to [Just City](#) and [Black Lives Matter Memphis Chapter](#).
- Learn more about racist policing and abolition: visit the websites of [Anti Police-Terror Project](#), [Critical Resistance](#), and [UC Berkeley's Othering & Belonging Institute](#)



[Support Democracy In The 118th](#)

## 8th Principle Learning

“The black hole in the white UU psyche” by Mark Morrison-Reed

<https://www.uuworld.org/articles/black-hole-white-uu-psyche>

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### How to be a Good Guest at Your Neighbor's House of Worship

Islamic Networks Group and Tri-City Interfaith Council are cosponsoring this inter-religious panel during World Interfaith Harmony Week.

Panelists from major world religions will discuss how to be a good guest at your neighbor's house of worship, how to be a good host when welcoming people of other faiths into your house or worship

Date: **Saturday, 25 February 2023**

Time: **3:00 pm - 5:00 pm PST**

Local time: [Click Here](#)

Register [Here](#)

Click [here](#) for flyer

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### Mission Peak Money Matters: Contact Info



Responsibilities for Mission Peak UU's financial process are shared between our Congregational Administrator, Sandra Lange ([office@mpuuc.org](mailto:office@mpuuc.org)) and a treasurer ([treasurer@mpuuc.org](mailto:treasurer@mpuuc.org)).

- Sandra handles most ongoing operational tasks, such as pledge tracking, reimbursement requests/status, contribution statements, stock donations, and the like.
  - In the absence of a treasurer, please send any questions to both the treasurer email ([treasurer@mpuuc.org](mailto:treasurer@mpuuc.org)), which is being monitored by DeAnna Alm and also to Sandra ([office@mpuuc.org](mailto:office@mpuuc.org)). This will ensure that any financial questions are answered promptly.
  - **Important note** - if you are making a stock donation/pledge, please notify Sandra at [office@mpuuc.org](mailto:office@mpuuc.org) and [treasurer@mpuuc.org](mailto:treasurer@mpuuc.org) immediately.
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## 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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