

# This Week on the Peak



## Mission Peak UU - Fremont, CA The Home of Liberal Religion in the Tri-Cities and Beyond! May 24, 2023

Dear MPUUC Congregants,

I'm writing to share the state of the congregation with you and ask that each of you look into your heart and determine how vital MPUUC is to you. As I write this letter, the board and LDC have successfully recruited and received "yesses" from several members to step into new roles, either board positions or committees. However, we do not have a President for 2023-24. We need to get every congregation member to energize MPUUC so that we can grow spiritually, mentally, and in community. While we need a President to provide oversight and steering of the ship, we need each member to show up to events, host & participate in day to day efforts, and outreach to the community. A little effort from many, not only makes the workload lighter, but has dramatic long-term positive effects.



As I imagine the future of MPUUC in 2023-24, I feel optimistic. We have invested in a new RE Coordinator, Ariel, and a new Choir Director, Von, both of whom have an abundance of experience, energy, and enthusiasm that can project us forward into a lively robust community. Our Canvass pledge drive was successful. Many members maintained or increased their pledges. Unfortunately, it was insufficient to counter our inability to add new members and make up for some predictable attrition. I'm ever so grateful for the matching funds and the extra donations received earlier this year, as those above and beyond gifts allowed our budget to be "almost" balanced (our proposed deficit is less than 3% of our budget).

As MPUUC moves forward, we need to be mindful of the importance of outreach and member growth to sustain our vitality, and we must actively participate in the operational needs of our beloved community. We cannot grow in the future without more present members volunteering and helping out. Many members are wearing multiple hats, and I worry we will wear them out to the point of no return.

As president, I was not overwhelmed. I found the job manageable and painless. I actually enjoyed the board and executive meetings for the fellowship and responsible conversations that allowed me to grow and stretch. I made friends and

learned about myself and how leadership can be shared responsibly and respectfully. MPUUC has stretched, encouraged, and left me with more confidence and understanding of how socially just actions and discussions create positive change. This will forever be with me.

Why did I write this letter?

To ask you to lean into this community to help our congregation grow. That means someone needs to volunteer to be President, many people need to volunteer to join a committee, and everyone needs to find an MPUUC event they can participate in for their personal growth.

If you are willing to open up and lean in, please email or call me. I'd love to talk with you and help you find the best place to volunteer.

In loving community always,  
Suzette Takei  
President  
510-468-6767 cell  
[president@mpuuc.org](mailto:president@mpuuc.org)

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## This Sunday's Service:

Service can be attended in-person at Cole Hall or online. See [mpuuc.org/zoom](https://mpuuc.org/zoom) each week for how to attend services.

### Hildegard of Bingen

Join us with guest preacher, Rev. Ruth Rinehart, Interim Minister at Starr King UU Church in Hayward. What does astonishing 12th century German nun, Hildegard of Bingen, have to say to Unitarian Universalists today?

Rev. Ruth Rinehart will lead the service and assisting will be Worship Associate Rev. Barbara Meyers. Worship Host will be Graham Bell. Jo Ann Schriener and Knuti VanHoven will provide our music.

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**Whether you are attending services in Cole Hall or remotely, you can donate 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%.

## Share the Plate for Sunnyhills Neighborhood Association Juneteenth Celebration in May



Sunnyhills Neighborhood Association (SNA) is sponsoring the first Juneteenth Celebration in Milpitas. Our goal is to honor our Black Milpitas ancestors, celebrate our rich cultural heritage, African and African American history, and continue to unite our diverse community while connecting residents with valuable resources and services.

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

Write a check to MPUUC with "SNA" 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 "SNA" on the memo line) 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 "SNA" in the message. Note we use PayPal for this, and they charge us around 3%

**Please note we will be collecting for SNA until June 4.**

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Please remember to send in your donation for Sunnyhills Neighborhood Association by June 4.

More information on Milpitas's First Juneteenth Celebration can be found here:

**[JUNETEENTH CELEBRATION ON SATURDAY JUNE 17. READ HOW WE CAN BE PART OF IT.](#)**





## 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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## 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. The link to the conversation can be found if you [Press here](#)

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## Annual Congregational Meeting

Our annual Congregational Meeting will be held Sunday, June 4th immediately after the service. We will have a number of items to vote on (details and agenda were sent out via a Constant Contact email on May 21), and we will need a quorum of voting members, so please mark your calendars and plan to attend. As a reminder, while all are welcome to attend, only active members will be allowed to vote.

## Congregational Meeting





# Children's Chapel

Sunday May 28th during service  
following the Time for all Ages



We'll sing a song and read a book together, then have free-play time. Parents/grandparents/caregivers are welcome to join us or remain in service.



**Mission Peak Unitarian Universalist Congregation**

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## UU Ups and Downs: Lessons from the Past

Former UUA President, Rev. Dr. John Buehrens Six-part UU History Course with emphasis on the bay area. Sundays this summer online via Zoom Webinar. Each class will run 4:00-5:30 pm PT. July 9, 16, 23 August 13, 20, 27 Pay what you can \$25-90 [Register Here](#)

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Members & Friends!

Help with Outreach efforts. It's easy!!

- 1) Join our MPUUC facebook page  
When you see something interesting OR see the flier go up about services --- simply "share" with your own feed.
- 2) Grab one of these fliers and print a few  
Then you can post at local coffee shops or public bulletin boards in your area

[Flier #1](#)  
[Flier #2](#)  
[Flier #3](#)  
[Flier #4](#)

A little effort by each of us will make a big outreach movement!

Thank you,  
Your Outreach Committee



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## Service project collaboration with FUMC

Our neighbors at First United Methodist Church have invited us to join them in a service project. If you are interested in this collaboration and want to join the discussion please let Ariel know, she's making a plan to meet with them over zoom in order to talk about the possibilities. The projects they have been involved with in the past have focused on collecting donations for both the local food pantry and shelter for unhoused people, as well as backpacks for kids who need them. We can share the service projects MPUUC has found fulfilling and in our collaboration together make a larger impact in our community. For more info: [DRE@mpuuc.org](mailto:DRE@mpuuc.org)



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Are you a person who spends time pondering the question: am I **doing enough to help combat climate change**? Do you sometimes feel paralyzed and unsure what step to take next? The UUA sponsors Side With Love, a public advocacy campaign that seeks to harness love's power to stop oppression. They have a Climate Justice Campaign that is offering wonderful workshops and supporting UUs to take spiritually grounded, optimistic climate action. Some upcoming workshop titles include:

- [Abolitionist Visions for Climate Justice](#) - May 25, 7ET
- [Go Green to Get Green: How to get Energy Efficiency Grants for Congregations Webinar](#) - June 1, 5ET
- [Green Sanctuary 2030 Orientation](#) - June 7 Green Sanctuary 2030 Orientation, 7ET
- [Climate Justice Brainstorm! Green Sanctuary Community Meeting](#) - June 14, 7ET

Check out their [website](#) and let Ariel know if you're planning to join one of these online workshops, she'd love to meet you there!

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## FELLOWSHIP CORNER

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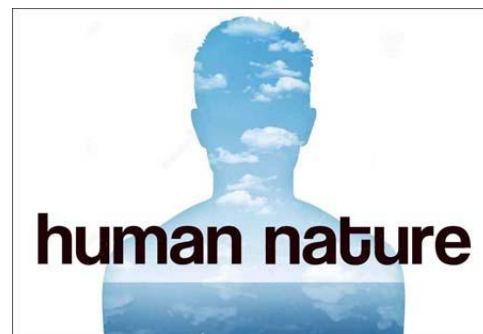
### Experience Human Nature at Its Finest!

Saturday, June 3, 2023  
1:00–3:00 p.m.  
Don Ramie's house  
35982 Cabral Dr.  
Fremont, CA 94536

There's a party at Don's house and you're invited! Don has made a set of intriguing cards with quotes from books by leading psychiatrists and social psychologists. We will take turns drawing a card and let the discussion begin!

Snacks and drinks will be provided, but you will need to get your own transportation. Or call Don if that's a problem.

Sergio, the friend of our congregation from Nicaragua, will be there to show that human nature is truly universal! Don's brother, Jerry, might also show up to prove he's human as



well.

Any questions, call Don at (510) 791-6842 or write an e-mail to [donramie2@gmail.com](mailto:donramie2@gmail.com)

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## JUSTICE CORNER

### Two Steps For Immigration Justice: For Asylum, For Afghans & Vets You Are Needed Now By Our Immigrant Neighbors



Immigrant communities, both those who have arrived in the U.S. and those that are arriving at our borders are being let down by our federal legislators.

- On one hand, proposals are being circulated that would virtually eliminate pathways to humanitarian protection or extend Title 42-style expulsions for two years – except with even fewer protections and no exemption for unaccompanied children. Together these render an asylum system out of alignment with our Unitarian Universalists values
- On the other hand, negotiations for bi-partisan, bi-cameral legislation are languishing despite urgency as Afghan parole status will expire during the Summer of 2023.

But we can help our legislators meet the moment, and overcome the challenge.

Click [here](#) to continue reading

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The UU Justice Ministry of CA is committed to supporting the justice ministry and work of Mission Peak UU Congregation and invites any member to participate in this upcoming circle as a way for UUJM of CA to hear what is going on in our community as well our individual and congregational justice priorities. These circles are open to all who are interested in justice ministry in a UU context and helping to grow our impact both locally and statewide in California.

UUJMCA Justice Listening Circles  
29 or 31 May 2023  
6:30 PM (PT)  
[ZOOM Registration](#)

To learn more about the UU Justice Ministry of California. [click here](#)

To learn more about our current campaigns. [click here](#).

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

The **United Visions Project** is building out a program this spring and summer to train volunteers to engage in text conversations with Americans in regions vulnerable to far right radicalization. Partnering with SURJ and People's Action, join for a [two-day training Wednesday, May 24 – Thursday, May 25, 6-9 pm ET](#) to gain skills to engage in these conversations– and plug into future organizing.



Join SURJ and our partners this summer at the [22nd Century Conference: Forging a People-Powered Democracy](#). This conference will gather the pro-democracy movement to weave relationships, sharpen strategies, and equip people with skills and resources to

effectively block the rise of the authoritarian right while advancing pro-democracy strategies and campaigns. We'll convene onsite in Minneapolis, MN on July 6-9, 2023 with limited online access.

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## 8th Principle Learning

*Omar*, by Rhiannon Giddens and Michael Abels

Share:

Premiered on May 27, 2022 at the Spoleto Festival USA in Charleston, S.C., an innovative and compelling opera about enslaved people brought to North America from Muslim countries, a musical work that respectfully represents African as well as African American traditions, expanding the language of the operatic form while conveying the humanity of those condemned to bondage.

[Click here to read](#)

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## Denominational Affairs

Please find updated information on the UUAGA conference June 22-25, 2023 in the link below.

Join us online or in-person in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania

[Click here for more information](#)



## 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 our temporary treasurer, DeAnna Alm. ([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. If you are submitting a reimbursement request, please send to both [office@mpuuc.org](mailto:office@mpuuc.org) and [treasurer@mpuuc.org](mailto:treasurer@mpuuc.org).
  - 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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## Board Briefs

Board briefs from both May 2023 MPUUC Board meetings.

The board met on Tuesday, May 9, 2023, and on Tuesday, May 16, 2023.



- Approved spending the \$500 currently in Fellowship Budget by rolling it into the restricted Fellowship Fund.
- Approved accepting delegation of authority to approve operating expenses and reimbursements. The purpose of this is to increase clarity, speed, and efficiency of reimbursements while maintaining necessary oversight.
- Discussed the upcoming Annual Meeting, which will be on Sunday, June 4, 2023.
- Voted for Volunteer of the Year. Results will be announced at the Annual Meeting on June 4.
- Discussed potential candidates for the 2023-24 Board of Trustees, assigned board members to reach out to those members, and discussed the results. Additional outreach is to be conducted this month to fill leadership positions.
- Scheduled an additional Board meeting for May 16, 2023 to further discuss leadership positions and the 2023-24 budget.
- Approved special summer collections for June (Sandwich Squad), July (Esthetics), and August (Fellowship).
- Discussed Widening the Circle to reach out to our own congregation to enable growth, and to light a fire under people to get them to say yes to leadership roles. Noted that establishing diversity is real work, and that we are a real voice, an antidote to those who are trying to submerge diversity.
- Approved a budget to present to the congregation at the Annual Meeting on June 4.



The next board meeting will be via Zoom on Tuesday, June 13 at 6:30 pm.

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

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

**Save the dates!** Or at least one date,  
for a **Spit and Polish Party at MPUUC**  
*Fri July 7th from 9:30-11:30am*  
*and / or*  
*Sat Aug 5th from 9:30-11:30am*



Come lend a hand to make our spiritual home at Cole Hall inviting to all! We'll be washing windows, vacuuming the perimeter, wet mopping, wiping out drawers and all manner of cleaning projects to get our physical space ready for a new congregation-year. More details and the chance to sign up for specific tasks coming in the weeks ahead. For now we hope you'll pick a date and save it! Questions? Comments? Reach out to Graham Bell or Ariel Smith-iyer who are leading this effort.

warmly,  
Ariel

**ACT NOW!**

**Call your Elected Officials!**

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

Assembly Member Alex Lee 408-262-2501  
Representative Eric Swalwell 510-247-1388 or go to [house.gov](http://house.gov)

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



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