

# This Week on the Peak



## Mission Peak UU - Fremont, CA The Home of Liberal Religion in the Tri-Cities and Beyond! December 20, 2023

Dear Sandra,

Looking back, forward and around  
Beth Schaefer

Greetings and happy holiday wishes to all of you, no matter how you celebrate the special days of winter and the transition into a new year!

I'm your President, Beth Schaefer. Looking back at the past six months, I'm pleased to report that your board of trustees – with the help of every single volunteer in the congregation – has strived to do its very best to guide and support several events and movements this year. By way of a few (probably not all – forgive me!) examples: We've supported and learned through Rev. Greg's sabbatical; welcomed and collaborated with our dear friend, Rev. Jim; we held a fun and financially successful auction; welcomed several new members; continued our popular hybrid services; wrote letters to influence key elections; and we endorsed the California Reparations Task Force. We've had numerous festive and educational events organized by Ariel, and Von has brought new light to our choir. Now, as we celebrate Christmas and the New Year, we're looking forward, and plan to adopt some new projects during the second six months of our tenure. I want to take this opportunity to let you know about a couple of things we, your board, are envisioning and supporting for the coming year.



One exciting opportunity is that we will get to accompany another immigrant – Patrick Hebbart, a refugee from Nicaragua – as he seeks asylum in the United States and works toward becoming a U.S. citizen, employed, with emotionally supportive friends and family. Meredith Miller led us brilliantly through a similar process with our friend Sergio in recent years and she and Paul Clifford are very generously planning to do this again. More volunteers are welcome, says Meredith. Contact her about what you can do. We're fortunate to be given this opportunity to make a real difference in the world of immigration in our country, one person at a time.

Another project that we plan to get up and running again soon is becoming a Welcoming Congregation. This is a specific designation from the UUA indicating that we are knowledgeable, emotionally aware and active in the lives of LGBTQ+ folks so that we may better welcome and support them in our congregation. Mission Peak was an early adopter

of this program when it was created several years ago, but our membership has lapsed. Michelle Wallace is looking into what actions we must take so we may once again proudly carry this designation and become an ever more open, caring place. This too is a gift: to have the chance to try to make a positive difference in the lives of fabulous, but often oppressed, folks in our community. Contact Michelle to learn more or help out.

As a child, my most prized Christmas gifts were toys and books. These days, my husband, John, and I often give each other IOU's for future concerts or other activities we can share. This works best for us now because it offers a chance to not just hold an object (which is great too!), but also to *do*, to take action. To me, meaningful engagement in projects like those I've described above, things that make a difference, are some of the best gifts we can receive. May you look around you and see the things that you value and that you can affect – take those gifts and enjoy!

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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.**



### **Christmas Eve "Carols and Candles"**

In the pause of Christmas Eve, we bring light, and our light, to the light of the world. We recall holiday moments that heightened time and gifted notice and memory. We "create" Christmas spirit anew with stories, songs and candles. Join us and linger a while for homemade cookies and cider.

5PM service, no 10AM service this Sunday

Rev. Jim McKinley will lead the service and assisting will be Rev. Barbara Meyers. Steve Wallcave will be Worship Host and a variety of musical presenters 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 Sunday **December 24**, Christmas Eve Service

A tradition at Mission Peak is to have a special collection at our Christmas Eve Candlelight Service to contribute to the Ministerial Discretionary Fund. The fund is used to meet needs that arise in our community during the year. It is dispersed by Rev. Greg and the Encouragement Team with love. It has been used to help get people to a medical appointment; get food when they or a family member is ill; prevent an eviction; pay an unexpected bill, or bring flowers - in this way we share our care and treasure and prove that being "in community" is action and not simply words. If you write a check to MPUUC, please include "Minister's Discretionary Fund" in the Memo line and know that you can contribute at any time. Your generosity turns into loving care all year long.

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## Share the Plate: Guest at Your Table

We are still collecting through January 7.

Please make your check payable to MPUUC with GAYT in the memo line.

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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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## 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](#)

**Please note the link has changed as we are using a different Zoom account.**

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## JUSTICE CORNER

On International Migrants Day, [make a generous donation to support UUSC and communities of faith in our collective efforts to lessen discrimination, mistreatment, and exclusion for people in migration.](#)

Governments are increasing restrictions on people's movements, pushing many families in migration to make dangerous journeys that put their lives at risk — instead of providing safe and regular pathways to escape war, conflict, climate disasters, and economic insecurity. (Read more by clicking [here](#))



**Image Description:** International Day of People With Disabilities surrounds a circular logo that includes drawn images of bodies in blue, green, red, and orange, with a star on the top and braided insignia on



INTERNATIONAL DAY OF  
PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES

the sides. <https://idpwd.org/>

According to the United Nations, the world population is over 8 billion people and more than one billion people, or approximately 15% of the world's population, live with some form of disability; 80% live in developing countries. (Read more by clicking [here](#))

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

### SURJ Statement on the Destruction of the Menorah at Lake Merritt



SURJ Bay Area unequivocally condemns the hateful, antisemitic destruction of the menorah at Lake Merritt. The menorah is a sacred symbol to the Jewish people. The vandalism against the menorah is part of a rise in antisemitism. It is a hate crime designed to divide us, create fear, and marginalize our local Jewish community. It failed to do that. (Read more by clicking [here](#))

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DAILY • 12:00 – 12:30 pm  
[Jewish Voice For Peace: Power Half-Hour for Gaza](#)



Many of us are grieving, angry, scared, and confused. Wherever you are, you are needed urgently now to act to interrupt the genocide against Palestinians in Gaza. Join Jewish Voice for Peace in channeling our grief and fear into action. "Power Half-Hour for Gaza" is being held on Zoom daily. Call on Congress to demand they stop fueling violence, get messaging resources for having hard conversations with people in your life, and help counter the media narratives beating the drums of war against Palestinians.

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## 8th Principle Learning



# DIGITAL SECURITY 101 FOR CONGREGATIONS



Monday, January 22 & Monday, February 5

4:30pm PT - 6:30pm PT /  
7:30pm ET - 9:30pm ET

[bit.ly/DigitalSecurityForCongregations](https://bit.ly/DigitalSecurityForCongregations)



[Rev. Sofia Betancourt, PhD](#)  
[December 15 at 9:35 AM](#)

Shared with Public

What an excellent new resource and opportunity for UU congregations and communities to gather and discuss shared experiences dealing with online harassment, fraud, and other forms of cyber attacks - issues that unfortunately, are all too familiar to many of us. I am grateful to our Side with Love team for developing this offering.

There is a \$100 cost for a team of up to 5 attendees for both sessions. Gather your team and register today - details are in the link in the comments.

<https://secure.everyaction.com/hTjyoDCOHkqZWkANBs4sVQ2>

## Winter Solstice Refugia Worship

seeking shelter, wonder, and healing of the earth

**December 22**  
**6:00 pm**  
**at St. Anne's Episcopal**

At this time of the Winter Solstice, we give thanks to the Earth for this period of rest and darkness which has led us to explore the deep wisdom within ourselves. This interfaith service will be held on the labyrinth and will offer the opportunity to pray, sing, move to allow participants to release all that has not served them and draw in hope for the new year.

St. Anne's | 2791 Driscoll Road Fremont, CA 94539

*Refugia (reh-FU-jee-ah) is a biological term describing places of shelter where life endures in times of crisis, such as a volcanic eruption, fire, or stressed climate. Ideally, these refugia endure, expand, and connect so that new life emerges.*



At this time of the Winter Solstice, we give thanks to the Earth for this period of rest and darkness which has led us to explore the deep wisdom within ourselves. This

interfaith service will be held on the labyrinth at St. Anne's Episcopal Church and will offer the opportunity to pray, sing, move to allow participants to release all that has not served them and draw in hope for the new year. The service will be followed by a time of fellowship. Dress for the weather. Please share with anyone you think might be interested.

<https://fb.me/e/326SeWE1b>

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## Outside Mission Peak

### Volunteer opportunities with Youth Voter Movement

Mission Peak has a long tradition of voting activism, from our early days with our "Children's Advocacy Forum" work with the UU Service Committee's project "Promise the Children", through letter writing with Vote Forward to encourage voting in the last several elections and our work as volunteers with UU the Vote and the local YOUTH VOTER MOVEMENT (YVM), voter registration project. 2024 offers more opportunities! YVM has a busy schedule of student-led voter registration events at our local high schools beginning on January 24 through February 15. For more information and dates please fill out this [form](#)

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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 our treasurer, Jay Steele. ([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 Jay Steele 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 and note that our broker information changed this year.

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### Making announcements

If you've ever had an announcement you wanted to share about an upcoming MPUUC event or meeting but didn't know how, you're in luck. This [Announcement Sheet](#) will go directly to Sandra, our Administrator (to put in the OOS); or to a Board Member (to announce at a Sunday service. Deadline for posting Sunday announcements is Thursday at 5pm.

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## 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



Mission Peak UU | 2950 Washington Blvd Fremont CA | 510.252.1477 | [missionpeakuu.org](http://missionpeakuu.org)



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