

This Week on the Peak



Mission Peak UU - Fremont, CA The Home of Liberal Religion in the Tri-Cities and Beyond! November 29, 2023

Dear Sandra,

This newsletter will be finding our email inbox right around the start of the new month. As I reflect back on November, one of the things that was special about this month was the chance to celebrate and mark the South Asian festival of Diwali (pronounced deeVALee). Many thanks to those of you who were able to join, who brought tasty food, who shared your children and your friends with us that evening. As we gathered around the small altar set up for a short pooja, I was struck by how much that part of the night felt just like Diwali at the home of our Hindu friends, the ones we usually visit as a family on Diwali: friends new and old gathered together, some families, some individuals, all peering at the flame and wondering what it and the new year ahead holds for them.

Using the Wonder Box during Time for All Ages the last few second Sunday services at MPUUC has got me exercising my "wonder" muscles more and more. I wonder what other holidays we could gather together for on a Saturday evening in Cole Hall? I wonder what it would be like to explore the intersection of culture and religion, of "family" culture and religion? I started to imagine future potluck gatherings that feature one or two religions, as explained by the people who grew up in that faith, not as a means of filling our heads with knowledge and understanding of that religion so much as a chance to hear how one person's family worshiped and the foods or symbols, songs or idols, that still hold some power for them, as individuals, now as Unitarian Universalists. Some of you know that I was raised as a Jehovah's Witness for most of my childhood. If I were to reflect on what I still hold of value from that experience it would probably be some of the songs we sang, maybe a memory of the many potluck weddings and baby showers I attended within that congregation, probably my well-used childhood bible would be there on the altar. I imagine for my kids, they will remember the snack table at our home congregation and the egg hunt at Easter, singing the hymns in service and hearing great music, probably also helping build the tinsel labyrinth for the Winter Solstice. Do you have an experience of growing up in a faith that you would want to explore? Could we order some delicious food from a nearby restaurant, like we did at Diwali, to help us taste our way into your childhood experience? Please reach out to me if this piques your curiosity. And stay tuned in the new year to see if I can get this idea off the ground for a few fun



fellowship opportunities in 2024 :)

yours in deepening community connection at Mission Peak,

Ariel

This Sunday's Service:

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



You Gotta Own It

My daughter shared that insight in the middle of our raft trip of 24 days through the Grand Canyon in December, 2019. It was cold. I was suffering and the Canyon is the ultimate "no way out only through" experience. "Ya gotta own it, Dad," where "own" is embrace and love and "it" is me, who I am here and now. That "a-hah" moment and phrase have become my guide, touchstone and koan in more adventure, study, personal growth and then the solitude, isolation, limitations and disruption of navigating the pandemic. My hope is that our reflections together reveal a helpful touchstone or two for you as we enter this Holiday season together.

Rev. Jim McKinley will lead the service and assisting will be Paul K. Davis. David Gibbons will be Worship Host and Peak Performers will provide our music.

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: Guest at Your Table

For the next four weeks we are asking you to set an extra plate at your table. The cost of

one meal, each night for 28 nights buys us the chance to see the connection between the difference that's needed and the difference we can make. Guest at Your Table Boxes are available in Cole Hall or [online](#). You can access the stories of [this year's hosts](#) as well as seeing the [difference you can make](#). Together, let's learn about people directly connected to human rights work, reflect on our own lives, and raise funds to advance justice in communities near and far. Thank you for the love that turns into justice.

Black & White Auction

Thanks for making the Black and White
GALA a GREAT SUCCESS!!!

There are still items available!

Folks who want to acquire the remaining items
can see what's available at the Black & White Gala webpage at MPUUC.org:

https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1mc6pR_YRdJd3ZWs8F6KxX4y4VWurBo2CdIPA_GWvr0o/edit?usp=sharing

If you'd like to purchase, please email Colleen at colleenag@sbcglobal.net.



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

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.

FELLOWSHIP CORNER

Men's Fellowship Coffee Time this Friday



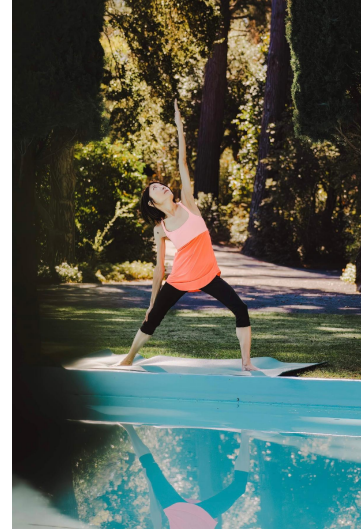
The next joint Mission Peak UU and First United Methodist men's fellowship coffee time will be this Friday, December 1, at 10 a.m. at Suju's Coffee on Stevenson Blvd at Blacow in Fremont. There is a range of coffees, teas, and juices, plus breakfast pastries and a variety of breakfast egg sandwich dishes are available. If possible our tables will be set up in the area on the east side of the room toward Sundale Ave where there seems to be less noise from other groups which facilitates our conversations. (If that area is occupied look around, the group will be in some other area.) If you know

someone who might enjoy the fellowship feel free to bring him along.

Please let John Holmes know if you plan to come so enough tables can be arranged for our group. (holmesfam@comcast.net) Hope to see you there Thanks, John

Pop-up GENTLE YOGA class Friday December 8th from 10:30-11:45AM

Fellowship meets fitness in Cole Hall! Registered Yoga Alliance teacher Makiko Kambayashi will lead this gentle yoga class, blending elements of Hatha and Yin yoga, incorporating a variety of postures that are coordinated with breathing to enhance flexibility and balance. She will personalize your practice with the use of props to meet your individual needs and offer a guided meditation. All levels welcome. Coffee and tea to follow the class. RSVP required by end of day Wed Dec 12/6 [here](#) or with an email to dre@mpuuc.org



December fellowship opportunity, **Saturday December 9th**, cookie decorating and holiday singalong with our choir director, Von! Please click [here](#) for flyer.

A festive flyer for a 'Cookies & Carols' event. The background is red and yellow. It features illustrations of a gingerbread man, a Christmas tree, and snowflakes. The text reads: 'MPUUC INVITES YOU TO Cookies & Carols BRING A DOZEN (OR MORE) PLAIN COOKIES TO DECORATE AND SWAP. WE'LL PROVIDE THE SPRINKLES, ICING, AND SINGALONG! Saturday, December 9th, Cookie decorating 3pm - 5pm **Come at 2:30 for an optional kids' singing practice! Cole Hall, 2950 Washington Blvd. RSVPs encouraged to lnewstrom@gmail.com All ages welcome!' There is a small tag that says 'All ages welcome!' and a snowman illustration at the bottom right.

JUSTICE CORNER

This annual event offers a month of spiritual nourishment, political grounding, and shared practices of faith and justice.

Each week, you can expect to receive several different kinds of offerings, each from a different voice within Unitarian Universalism.

Within each weekly theme, which will connect with one of our intersectional justice priorities, we plan to offer prayers, blessings, grounding, and meditative practices, a story or time for all ages,

A graphic for the '30 DAYS OF LOVE' event. It features a red background with a white heart icon and the text 'SAVE THE DATE' in a stylized font. The dates 'JANUARY 15 - FEBRUARY 14, 2024' are prominently displayed. Below the dates, it says '30 DAYS OF LOVE' in large, bold letters. At the bottom, it reads 'spiritual nourishment for the long haul'.

as well as a reflection from one of Side With Love's program and field staff.

To get an idea of what to expect or to enjoy some meditative breaks during your lunch this month, see last year's offerings at sidewithlove.org/30daysoflove2023.

Anti-Racism Anti-Oppression Committee (ARO) Recommendations

SURJ (Show Up for Racial Justice)

Show Up for our Partners' Long Term Vision

Our partners are leading with vision and breaking ground, investing in the space, people, and strategy required to build a humane society that will support their communities to thrive after centuries of racism.

- **TGI Justice Project (TGIJP)** secured a permanent home in San Francisco this year — one that will hold their long-term vision of a Black Trans Cultural Center and political home for TGIJP members within the city they helped build.
 - **Sogorea Te' Land Trust** is growing their repatriation work in Lisjan territory, returning to the cultural knowledge and practices that were lost in colonization. In partnership with Movement Generation, 43 acres of land in the unceded Bay Miwok territory of the San Francisco East Bay Area were returned to Indigenous care earlier this year.
 - **Initiate Justice, Ella Baker Center, and Californians United for a Responsible Budget** are working strategically on securing long-term change through legislative action. In 2024, our partners will be supporting bills that will help establish polling centers in county jails, allow incarcerated people in California prisons to vote, and engage youth facing restitution in restorative justice, community service, and employment. All this, while steadily working on closing California prisons.
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8th Principle Learning

Rev. Sofia Betancourt, PhD

Our Unitarian Universalist commitment to empowering a free and responsible search for truth and meaning alongside an encouragement to spiritual growth continues to inspire me toward a fuller and deeper examination of the critical moments and complex ideas of life.

It is in this spirit that I send my love and care to you all, Beloveds, on this [#Thanksgiving](#) holiday that is also a [#NationalDayOfMourning](#). On this journey of spiritual exploration and risking new understandings, it is good to be in community.

Watch the National Day of Mourning event via livestream with the link in the comments. [nationaldayofmourning](#)

Denominational Affairs

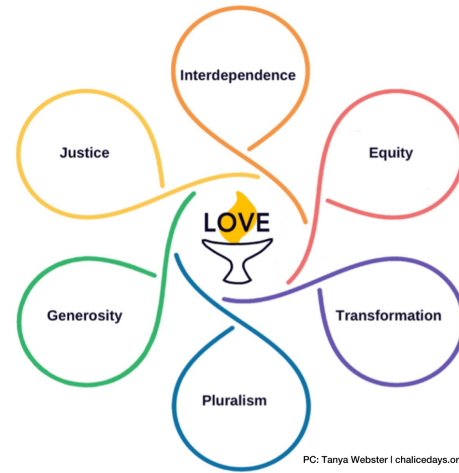
DEADLINE of 5pm ET on February 1, 2024 for submitting any new amendments to the Article II Commission

After extensive engagement with UUs across our faith tradition, the Article II Study Commission have completed their Final Proposed Revision to Article II of the UUA Bylaws. Links to the text and

additional important information are in this email, including a deadline of 5pm ET on February 1, 2024 for submitting any new amendments. The Commission's letter that follows lifts up all of the creative energy around the process, reflecting generations of UUs actively shaping our faith.

(A submission form, information links, and the remainder of the letter are in the link below)

Click [here](#) to read more



Board Briefs

Board briefs from November 2023 MPUUC Board meeting.

The board met on Thursday, November 9, 2023.

- On 11/8/2023, Cole Hall was broken into, but nothing was taken. A police report was made, and repair will be made within 3 weeks.
- At the congregational meeting on 10/29, the congregation approved the endorsement of the California Reparations Task Force after changing the word “study” to “support.”
- The Board voted to authorize a transfer of 4 hours of Ariel's extra 9 hours (during the sabbatical) during the month of December to Von to prepare music for the holidays.
- The Board unanimously approved the charter for the Publicity Committee.
- The Publicity/Outreach Committee has placed an ad for MPUUC in *The Tri-City Voice* that will run for 1 year.
- The Board agreed to have the Candle Service on Christmas Eve at 5 p.m.



The next board meeting will be via Zoom on Wednesday, December 13 at 7 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

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

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) and our treasurer, Jay Steele. (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 and treasurer@mpuuc.org.
- Please send any questions to both the treasurer email (treasurer@mpuuc.org), which is being monitored by Jay Steele and also to Sandra (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 and treasurer@mpuuc.org immediately and note that our broker information changed this year.

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.

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

Representative Ro Khanna (202) 225-2631

Senator Alex Padilla (202) 224-3553



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