

This Week on the Peak



Mission Peak UU - Fremont, CA The Home of Liberal Religion in the Tri-Cities and Beyond! February 21, 2024

Dear Sandra,

This intro piece is all about OWL, Our Whole Lives, the comprehensive human sexuality curriculum proudly created by the UUA in collaboration with the United Church of Christ. MPUUC has a wonderful tradition of offering OWL classes in the 7th -9th grade level but did you know there is more to OWL than that age group? Let me ask you a few more questions:

- Do you believe all children should be loved and cared for, respected and valued as unique individuals?
- Do you believe that sexuality is a natural and healthy part of living?
- Do you understand that all touch, talk and expectations around behavior of young people are what help them learn about sexuality?
- Can you imagine that teaching children to value people of all ages, genders, races, ethnicities, sexual orientations, income levels and physical and mental abilities helps them learn about justice and inclusivity?
- Do you also believe that information about sexuality, human development and sexual health should be presented to children in positive, accurate and developmentally appropriate ways?



If you answered yes to these questions then you might be just the sort of ideal person to join me in teaching a section of OWL for kindergarteners-1st grade sometime in the next 6-18 months.

Last month I had the privilege to attend the OWL training offered in LA for elementary grades. I joined folks from four other area UU congregations who want to offer this education to the kids in their communities- it was so enlivening! We talked about how peer pressure works and how OWL uses it for good. We learned how very powerful the presence of one LGBTQ+ adult can be in the lives of children. We led lessons from the curriculum and offered feedback to our peers leading lessons. We took a trip to an imaginary coffee shop.

The good news is that you don't need to travel to attend training, they're also offered online. The elementary level training is being offered through the UUA several times in the

coming 6 months, during March, May and October in evening classes. Please reach out to me if you'd like more information about this program or to be inspired about how OWL could serve the needs of our MPUUC community and beyond.

Yours in all things children at youth,
Ariel Smith-iyer
RE Coordinator

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.



Mental Health Resources for Children and Youth

Children and youth in the United States are in the midst of an unprecedented mental health crisis. To help address this, the UU Mental Health Network contracted with 5 UU DREs to curate a toolkit of mental health resources for children and youth. This service will talk about that toolkit, illustrate its content and use, talk about the role of trusted adults, and the importance of a religious response to this crisis.

Rev. Barbara Meyers will lead the service and assisting will be Mark Rahman. Melissa Holmes will be Worship Host and Jo Ann Schriener and Knuti VanHoven 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%.

February's Share the Plate for our 2024 Love Hero – Patrick Hebbert

Donations for Patrick's legal pursuit of Asylum will be collected until March 3. Please know that your donations to this specific Love Hero collection are not tax deductible.

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



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. This week, Rev. Greg will be away, but we have a SPECIAL TREAT: Our Sabbatical Minister Rev. Jim McKinley will join the group to help listen us toward our truth. Our topic will be exploring ways we be mentally healthy and well resourced – especially during anxious times. And for those of us who have learned to deal with the world's chaos and our own anxiety, how can we be a positive influences for others? The Midweek Discussion Group welcomes all voices who wish to participate in discussion on interesting topics. The link to the conversation can be found if you [Press here](#)

New Members

Welcome to our new members! Here is what they tell us about themselves. We look forward to getting to know them better and fully making them a part of our Mission Peak beloved community.

[Bio of David Johnson](#)

[Bio of Joshua Gray](#)

[Bio of Isaac Haugen](#)

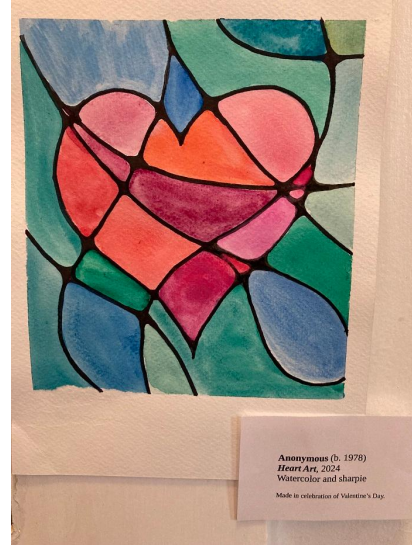
FELLOWSHIP CORNER

**Pot-luck dinner and gallery walk- featuring
your art!**

Saturday, March 23rd 5:30-8pm in Cole Hall

Let's come together to share a meal and to share our creative endeavors! Maybe your kiddo made a beautiful painting or put together an amazing report for school. Maybe you have a bit of embroidery or a new song you

want to share. Whatever it is, you're welcome to bring it this night and lay it out in the "gallery" where we all can admire it, learn a bit more about each other and nurture the growth affirmed in the congregational mission. RSVP requested [here](#). Contact Ariel with questions or if you need help dre@mpuuc.org. If you want a card made to go along with your art, fill out this [form](#) by March 20th.



Fremont Earth Day with our partners at Tri-City Interfaith Council
Saturday April 20th



JUSTICE CORNER

Unitarian Universalist Service Committee (UUSC)

Supporting Burma's Struggle for Freedom and Safety

February 1 marked the three-year anniversary of Burma's attempted military coup, which our partners and people across the country continue to respond to and resist. [Watch a short new video](#) that reminds us all what's at stake and how we can keep the world's attention focused on securing justice for the people of Burma.



UUSC Response to the ICJ Decision on Genocide

Following the International Court of Justice's recent ruling on the humanitarian crisis happening in Gaza, UUSC calls on the United States and the rest of the international community to provide financial support to relief agencies attempting to save lives on the ground in Palestine.



Anti-Racism Anti-Oppression Committee (ARO) Recommendations



Thursday, February 29 • 6:00 – 9:00
pm
[Equity in the Jury Box: A Black
Perspective](#)



Join Legal Services for Prisoners with Children and All of Us or None for a meaningful event and discussion on tackling racial equity in the jury system. The event includes an exclusive documentary screening of *Judging Juries*; a panel discussion with notable voices like Brendon Woods, Pamela Price, and Chesa Boudin; and breakout sessions. This event will be a great opportunity to delve into topics like jury system barriers, community engagement, and policy changes. Check out a clip from *Judging Juries* [here](#). This is a free event but please RSVP.

Location: The New Parkway Theater, 474 24th Street, Oakland

Wednesdays, March 13 – May 8 • 6:30 – 9:00 pm
[Spring 2024 Study & Action Program](#)

There is a lot to be angry, sad, and anxious about in the world right now. So much of what's happening isn't new: violence, genocide, injustice, and hate is deeply rooted in our history. So is the fight for justice and freedom. The wisdom and insights of Black women first formed the path toward collective liberation, and their teachings have kept many of us on that path to this day.

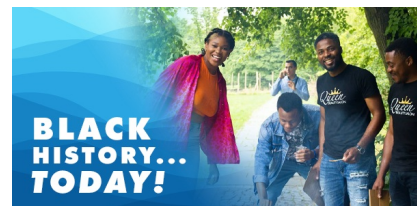


Join us for Study & Action to find purpose, joy, community, and power in learning our history and fighting for collective liberation. Part of this series will focus on the history of Palestine and the many interconnections with the Black liberation movement in the United States

8th Principle Learning

Connect to and Learn from Black History Month

Throughout February, we're lifting up the courageous work of Black-led organizations, such as UUSC partner [Alliance for Black Justice Poland](#). They are a beacon of hope that fills a crucial role in aiding Black and Brown individuals during the Ukraine crisis, providing transportation, legal aid, healthcare, and other support.



Denominational Affairs

General Assembly 2024 June 20-23. GA is a Virtual Program in 2024. For details about scholarships and early bird registration (March 15 deadline)

Click [here](#) for more information



Pacific Western Regional Assembly: Registration Opens January 4! Mark your calendars for April 19-20, 2024!

Elevate your Unitarian Universalist experience by immersing yourself in the 2024 Pacific Western Regional Assembly. This is more about more than geography; it's a community of individuals like you, representing local UU congregations and communities. Your active involvement is not just valued – it's indispensable. Whether you choose to participate virtually or in-person at the inspiring First Universalist Church in Denver, this gathering promises an enriching and enjoyable experience, fostering connections among individuals and congregations. Friday evening kicks off with a compelling keynote conversation between our UUA president, Rev. Dr. Sofia Betancourt, and the new President and General Minister of the United Church of Christ, Rev. Dr. Karen Georgia Thompson – both remarkable women of color dedicated to justice work. More details can be found [here](#).

Board Briefs

Board briefs from January 2024 MPUUC Board meeting.

The board met on Tuesday, January 16, 2024.

- The board discussed the plan presented by John Schaefer for the canvas this spring, including two congregational events to be held on March 17 and April 7, and voted unanimously to accept the plan and timeline.
- The board continues to learn more about the City of Fremont's overnight parking program at churches and how MPUUC may work with FUMC to do this on our campus.
- MPUUC has been recertified as a member congregation of the UUA.



The next board meeting will be via Zoom on Tuesday, March 19, 2024 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

Outside Mission Peak

You are invited to a free program on gun violence prevention, sponsored by the League of Women Voters of Fremont, Newark and Union City.

Please share this invitation with your friends, neighbors, and communities. *Save the Date* and join us! (Details below)

Sponsors a free event

Beyond Thoughts and Prayers: Responding to Gun Violence

Saturday, March 2, 2024 at 10:00 a.m.

Niles Discovery Church, 36600 Niles Blvd., Fremont, CA

Gun Violence has been an issue of public health and safety in our nation for many years and it worsened during the pandemic. No other developed nation has as many guns, as much gun violence, or as many gun deaths as the U.S.

LWVFNUC will feature speakers from Brady United Against Gun Violence. Brady is one of America's oldest gun violence prevention organizations, and its history of success goes back decades. Learn facts about gun violence, Brady's programs to reduce gun violence, and what you can do to support sensible change to keep our nation safer.



Kath Tsakalakis is a Brady National Board Member, NorCal Regional Council Co-Chair, and co-leads the San Francisco Brady Chapter. She worked for 20 years in strategy consulting, including two years in South Africa where she survived an armed carjacking. Her understanding of guns from three years in the British Army has turned out to be very relevant to life as an American citizen. Kath finds hope in the overwhelming support from a majority of Americans for background checks on gun sales. She supports Brady "because of the mission, strategic focus on practical initiatives and the can-do approach."



Shikha Hamilton is Vice President of Organizing at Brady and has worked on the issue of gun violence since 2000. She's held various roles with Brady, including Chapter Leader, State Chapter President, and member of the Board of Trustees. Shikha is a licensed attorney in California and Michigan. She uses her skills to support efforts to prevent gun violence and to help others advocate for sensible gun laws. She is most proud of her work in California where she lives and continues to work with local chapters to pass laws that have been instrumental in reducing CA gun deaths by 51%.



Toni Shellen is Past President of the Tri-City Alameda County Brady Chapter and served as a member of the CA Brady Executive Committee for ten years. She is a Bay Area native who earned her degree and teaching credential at San Jose State University and went on to teach elementary school in the Fremont Unified School District. She was a founding member of Pax Christi Fremont, and is a member of the Tri-City Interfaith Council and the League of Women Voters FNUC. Toni believes we must work to end gun violence to leave the world a better and more peaceful place for children today and future generations.



"Being Good Neighbors": an Interfaith Symposium

Join us on Saturday, March 16th, 2024, from 4:00 PM to 8:30 PM for "Being Good Neighbors": an Interfaith Symposium. We will gather together at Washington Hospital West, as we strengthen cross-cultural communal bonds and learn how to better support their Muslim and Jewish neighbors in the Bay Area during this time of increased intolerance and violence. This event will feature interactive "Meet Your Neighbor" conversations, a Panel entitled "How to Be Good Neighbors to Muslims & Jews In Our Community" with distinguished speakers, a community dinner to break the fast of Ramadan, and a Havdallah ceremony concluding Shabbat, the Jewish day of rest. Advanced registration is required by Tuesday, March 12th, at <https://bit.ly/BeingGoodNeighbors>.

"Being Good Neighbors" is open to people of all backgrounds. This event is sponsored by Tri-City Interfaith Council, and is supported by its Community Partners. Don't miss this opportunity to help make our Tri-Cities a more connected and supportive community for all its residents.

Rewarding volunteer opportunity! Deliver meals to seniors SOS Meals on Wheels Fremont, Newark, Union City M-F, 10:30am - 12:30 pm 10-15 clients per route Contact John, 510-244-0165

John@sosmow.org

www.sosmow.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.
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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.

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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