

Who are Your Heroes?

Mission Peak UU Congregation presents an award each February to a member or group in our area who has been courageously showing up to challenge oppression and violence. Our nomination period is open now! Contact Rev. Benson by Dec. 10 with your suggestions and a few words about your nominee and why you are nominating them.

Does someone or a group in the Tri-Cities area (Fremont, Union City, Newark) or Milpitas come to mind? Is there someone who has inspired a local movement for love? Is there an organization or individual who has faced oppression, discrimination, and prejudice with grace and inspired determination? The goal is to recognize love's power to challenge exclusion, oppression and violence based on sexual orientation, gender identity, immigration status, race, religion, or any other identity.

Here are some ideas for people or organizations you might consider nominating:

- Local legislator who has sponsored legislation such as anti-bullying bills, domestic partner benefits, voting rights for convicted felons, driver's licenses or in-state tuition for undocumented individuals, etc. Anything that lifts up communities who have faced discrimination and marginalization.
- Community leader or group who has vocally supported religious freedom and racial justice.
- Local public librarian, teacher, or parent who has fought censorship in schools.
- Head of a local interfaith coalition, immigrant rights, or LGBTQ advocacy organization that promotes respect, inclusion, and compassion daily.
- Members of the Gay-Straight Alliance at a local high school.
- Educator, administrator, or guidance counselor who has worked to alleviate bullying.
- Clergy member or lay leader who has exemplified faith in action.
- Religious communities and congregations that have been targeted with hate crimes.
- Individuals who have committed acts of civil disobedience so they could elevate the importance of a social justice issue.
- Local community center, museum, or gallery that faced criticism for showcasing a thought-provoking exhibit.
- Students who have risked deportation to advocate for the DREAM Act or DACA, and those who have stood in strong solidarity with them.
- Communities of color on campus or locally that have dealt with vandalism or hate speech.
- University or college president, professor, or administrator who has spoken up for the DREAM Act.
- Military chaplains or members of the military that have spoken out for greater inclusivity.
- Individuals who actively and passionately engage in registering people to vote, poll watching, and ensuring the protection of voting rights for People of Color.
- Ordinary person who has used their extraordinary power to shine the light on injustice or faced great personal risk to fight for a cause they believe in.