

July 31 Service Biographies

Our own LU MIDDLETON will kick us off by reading the Native African Prayer for Peace.

FRANK BURTON is a member of Starr King UU Church of Hayward.

Frank is a social activist with a lifelong history of support for peace and justice. Frank will read the Christian Prayer.

CHRIS LEAHY is a member of the UCC Church of Hayward. Chris will be reading the Zoroastrian Prayer.

Dr. MH KOYA is a former police officer, member of California Superior Court Staff, and currently publisher. Imam Dr. Koya is founder of "Interfaith America," and is chair of the Islamic Interfaith Circle. He has a long history of interfaith activities. Dr. Koya will read the Jainist Prayer.

DR. HARRY MANHOFF is currently the Rabbi at Temple Beth Shalom in San Leandro, and is a lecturer at St. Mary's College in Moraga. His academic achievements, include a Bachelor's degree from Yale and a Doctor of Philosophy from UC Santa Barbara. He was ordained at the Hebrew Union College New York. His major field of study is: Origins of Christianity. In addition to his professional life, Rabbi Manhoff is a Husband, Father and Grandfather. Rabbi Manhoff will read the Jewish Prayer for peace.

QUANNAH PARKER BRIGHTMAN, born in Oakland, is a Lakota Sioux and Creek Indian. He is National President of United Native Americans, Inc. In that capacity, he has testified against coal exports, Lobbied against GMO foods and fracking. He has led and participated in many pro-indigenous protests, and in anti hate crimes against indigenous people around the world. He is a leader in ending tribal corruption in Indian Gaming. He can be reached for scheduling workshops or as a speaker, at Qbrightman75 @hotmail.com. He will be reading the Native American prayer.

MARK COTTA VAZ is lifelong Catholic and a member of Our Lady of Grace Church in Castro Valley, where he is a lector and consecrated extraordinary Eucharistic minister. Mark will be reading the Baha'i Prayer.

DIANE MEYERSON is a member of Starr King UU Church. She is a retired paralegal, accomplished cook and gardener. She has held many positions with this church, and today will be reading the Shinto Prayer.

Dr. NOOR BILBEISI is a practicing Dentist at Pacific Bay Pediatric Dentistry, in Fremont. She is a Michigan Native, and has practiced her profession in New York and New Jersey prior to coming to the west coast. Dr. Bilbeisi will be reading the Muslim Prayer.

SUKHVINDER S. WARAICH is the Secretary of the Hayward Gurdwara Sikh Temple. He will translate the Sikh Prayer into English, as it is read in Gurmukhi by Sikh Priest HARMANPREET SINGH.

BEN VENKTASH, DABFET, FRSPH (UK) is a forensic mechanical engineer and operates as an independent consultant. He is currently the Chair of the American Board of Forensic Engineering and Technology. He has been with the Shiva Vishnu Temple in Livermore for 30 years, where he served as President of the temple for two terms. He is now serving as an adviser. Ben will be reading the Hindu Peace Prayer.

PRAKASH THAPA Will be reading the Buddhist Prayer for Peace.

Mr. Thapa hails from Nepal, and is now active in the Buddhist Temple in Menlo Park. He is active in promoting the burgeoning film industry in Nepal, and has written and directed films from his native country.