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## OUR NEW CHAPLAIN TEAM



DRUUMM chaplains have served our communities since the founding of our organization. As we have grown, we have been preparing to build new capacity to better support our members. After a year of design work, led by our Chaplains Danielle Di Bona and Hope Johnson, and in the wake of Hope's tragic passing, it is with gratitude and humility that we announce our new team. We'll be updating our website with this information as well. We believe spiritual wellness is a human right, particularly for Black, Indigenous, and Communities of Color who experience disproportionate trauma and harm. Pastoral care and chaplaincy is the support and love we offer each other within our beloved community.



# PASTORAL CARE FOR MEMBERS

Led by ordained Unitarian Universalist BIPOC Clergy, the DRUUMM Chaplain Team, in covenant with the DRUUMM Steering Committee, works collectively to provide care to DRUUMM Members through virtual and remote contact. The priority of our volunteer chaplains is to support our beloved DRUUMM Community and our Core Value of

## **Healing from Oppression:**

“In recognizing our systematic oppression and woundedness, we work towards personal and social transformation by providing sacred space to heal from internalized racism and other oppressions. By honoring the suffering, grieving and letting go, we engage in emotional release and catharsis. Seeking self-care, a safe and supportive community, and allies, we work towards collective liberation and healing.” - DRUUMM Values

## **DRUUMM Chaplains are available to you if you are experiencing:**

- Grief related to the loss or upcoming loss of someone important to you
- Illness (your own or of someone close to you)
- Stress or trauma in your faith community
- Challenges in racial justice organizing and transformation
- Other life transitions/situations

## **What the team can provide**

We know that grief, illness, solitude and immobility can have a profound impact on health and well-being.

You don't have to do this alone. Pastoral care is a spiritual practice that we all deserve.

## **We provide . . .**

- Support at time of death and grief over loss(es).
- Check-ins with those who might be struggling with transitions
- Connections with resources and referrals
- Consultations on difficult situations
- Compassionate presence
- Wellness and appreciation cards
- Holding you in collective prayer by our DRUUMM Chaplain Team

## **How to reach the DRUUMM Chaplain Team**

If you find yourself in a hardship or otherwise stressful situation our Chaplain team may be able to assist you. Communications are considered confidential. Every effort is made to maintain the privacy of a DRUUMM member. Just as important, if you are aware that a fellow member is in need of support, let us know your concerns. Always obtain permission before sharing details about someone's medical or personal condition with the team. Please let us know of your request or referral of someone via our online DRUUMM Pastoral

Utilize our online request form at [www.druumm.org](http://www.druumm.org) or email [chaplain@druumm.org](mailto:chaplain@druumm.org).

# CHAPLAIN TEAM MEMBERS



**Rev. Dr. Danielle Di Bona,  
Lead Chaplain**

Rev. Di Bona has served Unitarian Universalism for 30 years, and is the 2018 recipient of the Award for Distinguished Service to the Cause of Unitarian Universalism. In her retirement, she serves as the Palliative Care chaplain at South Shore Hospital in Weymouth, MA. She has served as a member of the UU Nominating Committee and on the UU Women's Federation board. She is the former President of the Diverse and Revolutionary Unitarian Universalist Multicultural Ministries, and continues to serve DRUUMM as Chaplain. Rev. Di Bona also serves on the Board of the Church of the Larger Fellowship. She is a Chaplain to the UUA Board of Trustees and Finding Our Way Home.

Rev. Leslie Takahashi is the lead Minister of the Mt. Diablo Unitarian Universalist Church, a position she has held since 2015. She has been active in many volunteer roles in the UUA, UUMA and at the local level where she participates now as part of the Faith in Action East Bay justice network. Her work has been published in many anthologies and she is the primary author of *The Arc of the Universe is Long: Unitarian Universalism and the Journey Towards Wholeness* and of *Widening the Circle of Concern: The report of the Commission on Institutional Change*. She is the mother of two children and two bully breed pups and loves walking, water and gardening.



**Rev. Leslie Takahashi  
Chaplain Team Member**

# CHAPLAIN TEAM MEMBERS



**Rev. Christina Shu**  
Chaplain Team Member

I'm a Unitarian Universalist minister serving as a hospital and palliative care chaplain in Los Angeles. I identify as a third generation Chinese-American cisgender, straight woman. I love serving our BIPOC UU community. I enjoy reading, tea-drinking, and snuggling with my rescue pitbull Myrtle.

Rev. Manish Mishra-Marzetti serves as Senior Minister of the First Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Ann Arbor, Michigan. He is a co-editor of the 2018-2019 UUA common read, *Justice on Earth: People of Faith Working at the Intersections of Race, Class, and the Environment*. He has served extensively in Unitarian Universalist leadership, including as a member of the UUA Board of Trustees; President of DRUUMM; Commissioner on the UUA Commission on Appraisal, co-authoring its report *Engaging Our Theological Diversity*; Secretary of the Board of Starr King School for the Ministry; and as an author and advocate of the 2007 General Assembly resolution confronting gender identity-related discrimination. He brings to the ministry his multicultural experience serving as a U.S. diplomat during the Clinton administration.



**Rev. Manish Mishra-Marzetti**  
Chaplain Team Member

# CHAPLAIN TEAM MEMBERS



**Rev. John Crestwell**  
**Chaplain Team Member**

Rev. John T. Crestwell, Jr. is a called minister "minister of equal standing" at the Unitarian Universalist Church of Annapolis. He was the founder and lead organizer of UUCA's AWAKE Ministries, an innovative approach to worship and small groups where he sought and successfully broadened the emotional, racial, and intercultural competencies of children and adults through contemporary worship, music, mentoring, life coaching, and community service.

Rev. John is a member of the UUA President's Council, and on the Intramural Review Board (IRB) under the National Institutes of Health in Bethesda, Maryland. He formerly served on boards for Hospice of the Chesapeake, the Unitarian Universalist Legislative Ministry of Maryland at the UU seminary, Meadville Lombard. Previously, Rev. John was an

affiliated faculty professor Theological in Chicago; and also an adjunct professor at Potomac College in Washington, DC, teaching Comparative Religion, African American History and Public Speaking.

Joseph Santos-Lyons (he/him pronouns) is a biracial Asian-American (Chinese and Czech) organizer and minister based in Antipolo City, The Philippines. With a background serving youth and young adult ministry in the UUA, and leading APANO, an Asian and Pacific Islander community based organization, Joseph's current calling is in cultivating a new cohousing, chapel and retreat space in Southeast Asia through the Center for Organizing, Renewal and Leadership.

A second generation UU, Joseph's theology is grounded in mutuality, liberation and the unknown. Joseph is the past president of DRUUMM, and working on a doctor of ministry with the Pacific School of Religion. He and his partner Aimee co-parent their three children, and stay engaged with the UU Church of the Philippines and the Church of the Larger Fellowship.



**Rev. Joseph Santos-Lyons,**  
**DRUUMM Consulting Minister &**  
**Chaplain Coordinator**

**Please let us know of your request or referral of someone via [www.druumm.org](http://www.druumm.org) or email [chaplain@druumm.org](mailto:chaplain@druumm.org).**

# ON BEING BILINGUAL

BY SARITA GONZALES

The fact that I am bilingual is living proof of my resistance to total assimilation into the dominant white culture. When I started school in kindergarten, I was discouraged from using Spanish even to communicate socially with my friends and relatives. If a Mexican American student spoke Spanish on the school grounds, we were often punished by losing our recess privileges. I was taught to be ashamed of the fact that a language other than English was spoken in my home.

This shame was so prevalent in my early schooling that by junior high school I pretended not to speak or understand Spanish. I remember that a new immigrant student who spoke only Spanish was enrolling into school. The school nurse asked me to translate for this student but I pretended that I could not help because I didn't know Spanish. I was so ashamed of being Mexican American that when other students asked me what I was, meaning what my culture was, I would say that I was French-Canadian.

In high school I started to learn more about my culture through my art teacher who introduced me to the famous Mexican

muralists. I was so inspired by the art and works of Rivera, Siquieros, Orozco, Kahlo and others.

I also discovered the joy of listening to Mexican music, watching Spanish television and recognizing that being Mexican was more normal than I have been taught. Even so, in high school I was denied admission into a Spanish class because the teacher said I just wanted an easy "A."

By the time I arrived in college, the Chicano and the United Farmworker movements were in full swing. I saw leaders, artists and academics who looked like me. But the prejudice against my Mexican-ness didn't stop. While I had a double major of Art and Spanish, my Spanish professors discriminated against Chicanos pretty blatantly, as noticed and witnessed by my white friends. Also in one of the papers I wrote for a Spanish Literature class the professor wrote in a big red marker that I used too many "Mexicánismos." He meant to tell me that the Spanish used by Mexicans was inferior to those used by Europeans.

# ON BEING BILINGUAL

I am a resister and I am proud to be a Chicana, Mexicana, Mexican American or Latinx. I have worked very hard to be fluently bilingual in English and Spanish. It came at a heavy price and I'm still recovering from the trauma to this day. I don't want white people to tell me how wonderful it is for me to be able to speak English and Spanish fluently when they do not know what it cost me.



**SARITA A. GONZALES, Ed.D.**

Sarita Gonzales has been a Unitarian Universalist since 1997 and has been an active Member of the UU Church of the Desert in Rancho Mirage, Starr King UU Church in Hayward and the First Unitarian Church of San Jose, all in California. Sarita attended public schools, graduated from San Diego State University and earned her doctorate from Harvard University Graduate School

of Education, She has spent the last three decades as an educator in urban school districts and retired as Associate Professor of Education from California State University, East Bay (Hayward). Sarita has served in numerous church leadership positions including board president, vice president and member at large along with serving as a worship associate. Professionally, she has been recognized for promoting quality educational programs for Black and Latinx students and for advancing the status of young women in secondary schools, especially in the fields of Mathematics and Science. In retirement, she spends her time volunteering in her church, painting, drawing, writing and playing mahjong.



### **Santa Familia de los Campos**

*A painting by Sarita Gonzales*

I recently read an article in the LA Times about people complaining that farmworkers were getting their Covid vaccine. Just here in Coachella Valley, 40% of the farm workers have contracted Covid. At the local Catholic Church there have been numerous funerals for farmworkers who have died from the virus. I was inspired to make a statement with my.

My latest art project has become an homage to the heroic farm workers who keep us fed. I'm calling this "Santa familia de los campos" or "Holy family of the fields." Acrylic with oil pastels.



# DENOUNCING ANTI-ASIAN VIOLENCE

*from the Steering Committee of the Asian Pacific Islander  
Caucus of DRUUMM, March 2021*

We denounce the current surge in anti-Asian violence and stand in solidarity with all Asian Americans and immigrants of Asian origin who have been affected. Additionally, we know that many of our APIC members and Asian and Pacific Islander Americans across the country have likely experienced some kind of anti-Asian racism in their lifetimes, from outright attacks to insidious ongoing microaggressions. Recent incidents of violence are merely reminders of the pain we have felt before. None of this is acceptable.

We believe that at the heart of this violence lies systemic racism and other forms of injustice that builds power by domination. We link this current anti-Asian violence with all racialized violence in the U.S. To us they have the same source — white supremacy culture. Ending anti-Asian violence is tied to ending all racialized violence, dismantling white supremacy culture, and choosing solidarity not division among our communities. Most importantly, we believe we can work to increase safety through expanded community leadership, without relying on more policing or punishment through incarceration.

We know that you have likely already read other statements denouncing this violence so we ask you to consider your own ways to take action:

- If you are a victim of anti-AAPI hate, go to [stopaapihate.org](https://stopaapihate.org) to report the incident so that there is better data to understand the extent of the problem.
- Read or get training on what to do if you experience or witness harassment or hate. Reach out to organizations that serve Asian communities to provide direct support in this time of increased vulnerability.
- Let your congregation's worship leaders know you want to share a reflection on this at an upcoming service. Or express your anger, fear or grief over these attacks during the joys and sorrows at your congregation's next worship service.
- Build Unitarian Universalist community with other Black, Indigenous and People of Color through DRUUMM- Diverse Revolutionary Unitarian Universalist Multicultural Ministries. Participate in UU programs like Beloved Conversations. Learn about and support BLUU- Black Lives of Unitarian Universalism.

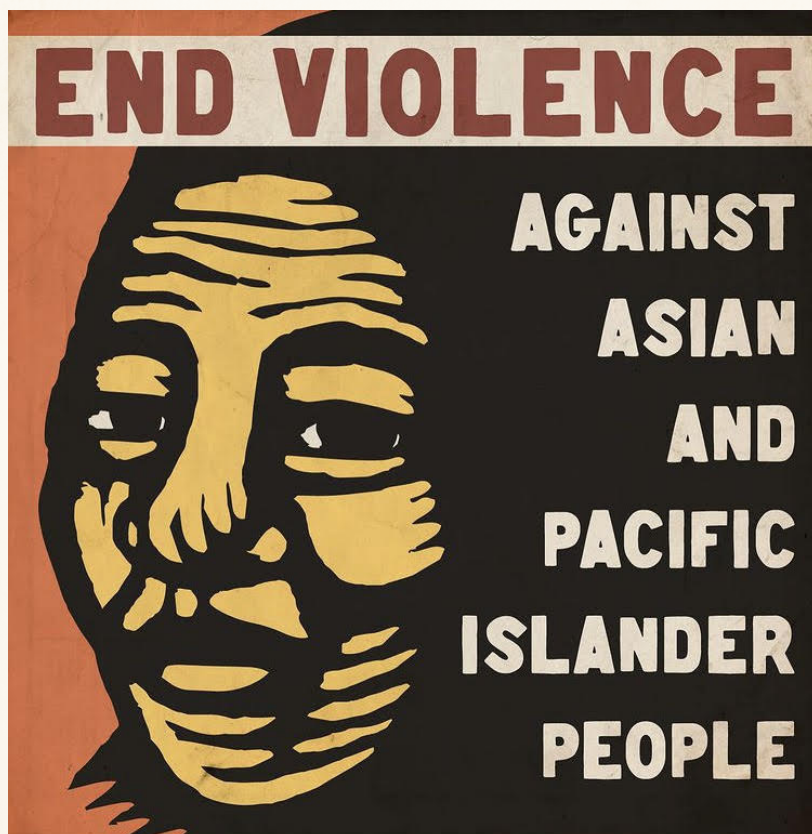
# DENOUNCING ANTI-ASIAN VIOLENCE

- Either write your own letter or work with your congregation to write a letter to your local newspaper no matter where you live, even if there isn't a large API community there. If you live there, then there is a need to address this issue.
- Challenge yourself to:
  - Understand how white supremacy culture operates and learn how to begin to dismantle it.
- Learn more about the long and diverse history of Asians and Pacific Islanders in the U.S.
- Know how the model minority myth works to support anti-Black racism

and find ways to dismantle it.

- Learn about the intersections of Asian American and Black history and unity.
- Push for comprehensive ethnic studies in all grades. Kids need this education, too.

As Grace Lee Boggs said, "change takes place in living systems, not from above but from within, from many local actions occurring simultaneously." We each have a role to play and our active care makes a difference. May we live from the truth of the inherent worth of all people and our interconnectedness with each other. May we work towards our collective liberation. May we all be safe.





# 2021 DRUUMM VILLAGE

June 21-27th 2021

Circle 'Round for Justice, Healing, Courage

DRUUMM Village begins on June 21, 2021, and finishes on June 27, 2021. Our community will gather, hold space, support and lift one another up for the work we will do before, during, and beyond the UUA General Assembly. On behalf of the Steering Committee Beloveds, I'd like to invite you to respond to a survey about DRUUMM Village programming.

Your responses will help better shape the schedule and the amount of time we will have for programming. Thank you in advance for your time and feedback.

The URL for this survey is [bit.ly: bit.ly/DRUUMMVILL](https://bit.ly/DRUUMMVILL)

Imari Kariotis

DRUUMM Assembly Conference Meetings Coordinator

[druummacmc@gmail.com](mailto:druummacmc@gmail.com)



# DRUUMM ORGANIZER DROP-IN

**DRUUMM Monthly Drop-In  
for Local Facilitators of BIPOC UU Groups**

**3rd Tuesdays at 8:00 PM ET/5:00 PM PT**

**Upcoming: April 20th, May 18th**

**90 minutes via Zoom**

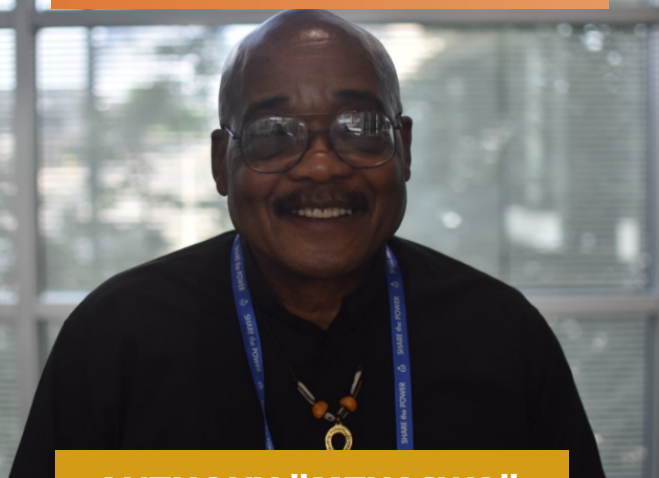
**RSVP: [jsantoslyons@uuma.org](mailto:jsantoslyons@uuma.org)**

## DRUUMM STEERING COMMITTEE 2020-2021

*The DRUUMM Steering Committee is made up of members elected to three year terms at our annual meeting. For more information you can reach them at [info@druumm.org](mailto:info@druumm.org).*

- President Ayanna Kafi Stringer, Georgia
- Vice President Mathew Taylor, California
- Secretary Janell Hill, Minnesota
- Treasurer Eric Huang, Texas
- Communications Co-Coordinator Rhiannon Smith, California
- Communications Co-Coordinator Nicole Pressley, Georgia
- GA Co-Coordinator Imari S. Nuyen-Kariotis, California
- Outreach Co-Coordinator Noel Burke, Missouri
- Outreach Co-Coordinator Kaitlin Dey, California
- UUA Liaison Michael J Crumpler, New York

## COLOR/FULL: ANCESTOR



**ANTHONY "MTUASWA"  
JOHNSON  
PHOENIX, ARIZONA**

### GOAL

Is really just to be present. To have to support Starr King, where I graduated from. They did a documentary about me.

I'm here to support DRUUMM and BLUU. This is my second GA, so I'm just catching up.

### GIFT

I bring decades of multicultural work. I'm recently graduated from Starr King and will be stepping into director of congregational life at the UU church of Phoenix. I look forward to using those experiences to benefit that congregation and the UUA at large.

## NOTATIONS

- DRUUMM SC hosted an interest session in February regarding the upcoming DRUUMM elections. For more information on open positions and the process, please email [info@druumm.org](mailto:info@druumm.org).
- Rev. Jennifer Simon has been named Racial Justice Minister of The Mountain Top, a new BIPOC centered UU Ministry supported by a coalition of Colorado congregations.
- A number of DRUUMM members who have completed seminary and the Ministerial Fellowship Committee process are preparing for ordinations this Spring.
- 150 BIPOC UU participated in the New Day Rising conference on challenging White supremacy. Julica Hermann de la Fuente, Cassie Montenegro, Joseph Santos-Lyons co-facilitated caucusing with support from Sana Saeed and Sunshine Wolfe.
- Rhonda Brown of the DRUUMM Organizing Project advisory committee preached and collected \$2,600 from our Eastshore congregation (Seattle) in support of future community programs.
- The Asian/Pacific Islander Caucus meets monthly for a virtual Coffee Hour. Find them on Facebook.
- Finding Our Way Home, the annual UUA sponsored gathering for Religious Professionals of Color, will be March 29th to April 1st and held virtually. For registration information contact Rev. Michael Crumpler at [mcrumpler@uua.org](mailto:mcrumpler@uua.org).



DIVERSE &  
REVOLUTIONARY  
UU MULTICULTURAL  
MINISTRIES

### The DRUUMM Beat Issue 19, Volume 2

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