

Napier Initiative



SIXTEENTH ANNUAL CELEBRATION

Saturday, April 11, 2026
at Pilgrim Place

**Fostering Justice for All People
Caring for Our Fragile Earth Home
Nurturing Peace & Reconciliation**

TURNING OF THE WORLD

1. Let us sing this song for the TURNING of the world,
That we may TURN as one
With every voice, with every song,
We will move this world along
And our lives will feel the echoes of our TURNING
With every voice, with every song,
We will move this world along,
With every voice, with every song,
We will move this world along,
And our lives will feel the echoes of our TURNING.
2. "Zipper in" LOVING and LOVE
3. "Zipper in" HEALING and HEAL.

WE SHALL OVERCOME!

- 1 & 6. We shall overcome (3X)
...Someday
Deep in my heart, I do believe
We shall overcome some day.
2. We'll walk hand in hand (3X)
...Today
Deep in my heart I do believe
We shall overcome some day
3. We are not afraid (3X)
...Today
Deep in my heart I do believe
We shall overcome some day
4. We will live in peace. (3X)
...Today
Deep in my heart I do believe
We shall overcome some day.
5. Nosotros venceremos (3X)
...ahora
O en mi corazón, yo creo
nosotros venceremos

Message from the Napier Council Chair

Bienvenidos. We gather tonight to celebrate a community committed to learning across generations and to building a world shaped by justice, peace, and earth care. We are college students, senior learners, professors and college leaders, leaders from Pilgrim Place and the community, and donors who make our collective work possible. We are all people who care for the future of our planet and the flourishing of life—human beings, plant and animal beings, rivers and mountains, soil and air, small communities and global relationships. Tonight, you will meet some of the dreams and accomplishments of people who make Napier a movement that moves the world. Welcome to the journey.

– Mary Elizabeth Moore
Chair, Napier Initiative Council



This Evening's Program

Piano Prelude by Dave Lutz

Turning of the World

Cheryl Brown and Pilgrim Place Musicians

Welcome

Mary Elizabeth Moore
Chair, Napier Initiative Council

Karen Levin
Vice Chair, Pilgrim Place Board of Directors

Recognition of Key Partners and Volunteers

Mary Elizabeth Moore

Faculty Perspective on Napier Courses

Karl Haushalter
R. Michael Shanahan Dean of Faculty and
Vice President for Academic Affairs
Harvey Mudd College

Tribute to Jane Douglass

David Menefee-Libey
William A. Johnson Professor of Government,
Pomona College

Recognition of Fellows

Kay Kukowski
Co-Chair, Mentoring Team

Presentation of the Barbara Troxell Prize
and the two Paul M. Minus Awards

Mary Elizabeth Moore

Responses by Awardees

Closing Remarks

Mary Elizabeth Moore

We Shall Overcome

Cheryl Brown and Pilgrim Place Musicians

Reception to follow

The Napier Initiative

The Napier Initiative was established in 2010 by the Pilgrim Place community in partnership with the five undergraduate Claremont Colleges. This intergenerational program recognizes and encourages students who demonstrate promise in creative leadership to advance social justice, sustainable care of the earth, and global peace.

The **Napier Fellows** are graduating seniors nominated by their colleges who have demonstrated outstanding leadership and propose a hands-on project to carry out following graduation. Fellows have an opportunity for a mentoring relationship with a Pilgrim Place resident whose life experience aligns with the student's interests—often these relationships continue beyond graduation as enduring friendships. Grants of \$20,000 are awarded to two Fellows to carry out their proposals.

The **Napier Courses** have been developed in concert with the Claremont Colleges faculty and deans to encourage intergenerational learning. Elder participants are co-learners with the undergraduates, participating fully in the academic coursework, and creating a rich learning environment for all.

Napier Special Events and Projects provide opportunities for intergenerational interaction over shared interests, informal gatherings, meals, and community events.

Claremont Colleges Advisory Board is comprised of faculty and administrators designated by the five undergraduate colleges who advise Pilgrim Place leadership on program development, choose nominees to become Napier Fellows, and identify students for the Napier Courses.

Overall responsibility for these programs lies with the **Napier Initiative Council**, made up of Pilgrim Place residents and administrators, college representatives, and members of the wider community. The Napier Initiative is responsible to the Pilgrim Place Executive Leadership Team and the Board of Directors.



Napier Courses

During the 2025-2026 academic year, elders joined faculty and undergraduate students in seven intergenerational classes at the Claremont Colleges. Two elders from this semester shared their Napier Courses experiences:

“I have thoroughly enjoyed the three different classes I have taken through the Napier Initiative. I have been exposed to readings I would never have sought out on my own. I appreciate the college students' perspectives. The professors are each unique in the way they cover their subjects—so different from the way classes were taught when I was in college in the late seventies! I just love being on a college campus. The other day, I was attending a talk, and ran into two former classmates as I crossed the campus. How fun that was! I thank Pilgrim Place and the Napier Initiative for the opportunity to participate in these different classes.”

– Carol-Lee Marshall, *People & Power* (Community Organizing) Napier Course Elder

“The Napier Initiative was one of the incentives for us coming to Pilgrim Place because we value intergenerational interactions. We are more than pleased with the Napier intergenerational class we are engaged with currently. The seminar-style class provides for vigorous discussion and interaction with the undergraduate students from the Claremont Colleges. The students' depth of knowledge and insight are inspiring and challenging. Even though I have 50+ years on them, we engage with the material as peers. And they even respectfully listen to my contributions.”

– David Brown, *Gender, Crime, and Punishment* Napier Course Elder

UPCOMING NAPIER COURSES—FALL 2026

Infrastructures of Justice (POLI 134)

Professor Nancy Neiman, Scripps College

The course utilizes original case study research projects by students to consider the ways in which market activities can lead to just or unjust outcomes.

Community of Practice (ORST 173)

Professor Barbara Junisbai, Pitzer College

This course examines the ways that humans can and do collaborate, generating the rewards and problems that occur. Students are encouraged to seek ways to cultivate positive, inclusive organizational change.



Visit www.napierinitiative.org/courses to learn more or to apply for this fall's courses.

The Napier Initiative

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for its leadership grant supporting Napier Fellows, Courses, and Special Events & Projects

Special Thanks

We are grateful to the many volunteers who make
The Napier Initiative possible.

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David Adams, Douglas Ades, Margye Baumgardner, Ela Dec, Janet Evans (Coordinator), Laura Gallardo, Jill Grigsby, Richard Johnson, Kay Kukowski, David Lull, (Vice-Chair), David Mann, David Menefee-Libey (Vice-Chair), Elizabeth Moore, Mary Elizabeth Moore (Chair), Romarilyn Ralston, Rita Shaw, Isabelle Thacker, and Paul Turner

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Selectors: Becky Goodwin, Karen Greenbaum-Maya, Kathleen Greider, John Howell, Nelda Kendall, and Tom Leabhart

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Napier Representatives: Mary Elizabeth Moore (Chair); David Adams, Douglas Ades, Ela Dec, Janet Evans, Laura Gallardo, Paula Goldsmid, Kay Kukowski, David Lull, David Mann, David Menefee-Libey, and Elizabeth Moore

Napier Course Professors (2025-26 Academic Year)

Susan Castagnetto (Intercollegiate Center for Feminist Studies), Diane Selig (Claremont McKenna College), Tomás Sommers Sandoval (Pomona College), Claudia Strauss (Pitzer College), Sharda Umanath (Claremont McKenna College), and Werner Zorman (Harvey Mudd College)

Additional Special Thanks

Gene Boutilier, Ron Evans, Jane Hurd, Luis Mendiola, Debbie Spaulding, Rose Dorado, Todd Hecker, Unidine Team (Gail Anderson, Mark Claiborne, Suzanne Pereira, Frederick Wong, and Philippe Zufferey), Pilgrim Place Dining Staff, Pilgrim Place Musicians, Lew Fry and the Sights and Sounds team, Pilgrim Place Buildings and Grounds staff, and Pilgrim Place Housekeeping staff

Congratulations to Our 2026 Napier Fellows!

The Napier Initiative is delighted to have all five undergraduate Claremont Colleges represented in this year's cohort of 11 Napier Fellows.



Chidinma (Chi) Adi – Pitzer College

Chi intends to direct and produce an environmental humanities impact documentary short about Farm School NYC, a Black and Indigenous-led urban agriculture nonprofit based in New York City. Her short film aims to call attention to the cultural organizing work of urban farmers and inspire support for community-centered ecological interventions in the United States.

Mentor: David Bunje

Anna Behuniak – Claremont McKenna College

Anna will create the Community Agroecological Development Initiative (IDAC) in Cusco, Peru. She plans to do this over a year's period, collaborating with a local NGO, CEDEP Ayllu, working with rural communities. The goal is to relocalize food systems, strengthen community values, and slow agricultural ecosystem destruction.

Mentor: Douglas Lippoldt



Leilani Elkaslasy – Harvey Mudd College

Leilani will design and collaborate with a local business owner and Rotary Club of Cairo, Egypt, to create the Cairo Café Project—an accessible coffee shop in Cairo that can be fully operated by people with disabilities. Working with future employees, the project will identify physical and systemic barriers, prototype accessible tools and equipment, and design a sensory-friendly environment.

Mentor: Karyn Packard

Daniel Fernández – Claremont McKenna College

Daniel's project is called Civic Futures: Youth Leadership in San Juan Capistrano—a six-month civic engagement and leadership program, designed to empower a diverse group of high school students to understand their city's history, government, and change. The goal is to promote civic awareness and leadership among youth who feel disconnected from local decisions.

Mentor: Paul Cromwell



Nathan Flores – Pomona College

Nathan will work with state and federal governments in Yucatán, Mexico to build a migrant children's shelter named Casa U'ulab. This shelter will replace detention centers and the current cycles that criminalize immigrant children. His goal is to help build this shelter to become a community-based alternative to de facto detention by building child-centered programming and space.

Mentor: Sid Mohn

Napier Fellows 2026



Shengdi Ge – Claremont McKenna College

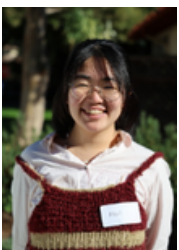
Shengdi will develop a program called “Home, Not Harm,” a three-month legal empowerment initiative designed for Asian American women who are victimized by domestic violence. The project includes 12 weekly workshops covering core areas: understanding domestic violence, immediate and short-term responses, and long-term legal remedies, including protection for undocumented women.

Mentor: Evan Freund

Esther Kang – Scripps College

Esther plans to sponsor health fairs and health education workshops to contribute to the humanitarian work of INSAN, an NGO serving underserved people in Southern California. INSAN provides food, health care, and education, and this project will expand their services and involve community volunteers in developing wider community support.

Mentor: Paul Turner



Mari Nishitani – Pomona College

Mari’s project will empower rural Nepali women in agricultural cooperatives through five-day experiential field trips to successful women-led cooperatives. The goal is to enhance the women’s inspiration and leadership capacity through digital literacy training, immersive learning of needed skills and knowledge, and space to explore the world outside their villages.

Mentor: Linda Goddard

Anya Sharma – Pitzer College

Anya plans to develop a volunteer program to promote literacy among older women in the Achham area of Nepal. She will work with a local organization SAMABIKAS, dedicated to women’s empowerment and resistance to gender-based violence. The project would expand the current work by bringing women together in safe houses to build community and increase their capacities to read and write.

Mentor: Sharon Rhodes-Wickett



Zumaya Toussaint-Farrell – Pomona College

Zumaya seeks to revitalize composting systems at Belmont Estate in Grenada. This is a CERES-certified organic farm, which is still recovering from Hurricane Beryl. Work will include a three-part workshop series with young people and farm staff, focusing on composting, sustainable farming, and ecological restoration. The work will also provide research data for future projects.

Mentor: Tamara Rhoads

Madison Wilson – Pitzer College

Madison’s focus is women’s empowerment in Uganda. She will work with local leaders to build community through women’s work and girls’ education in Pandiga Village. Working with the Wameku Cingwa Bagdad Women’s Association, the project will support the expansion of a small sewing workshop into a sustainable enterprise. Madison’s role is to support planning, training, and documentation.

Mentors: Douglas Ades and Ela Dec



The Ripple Effect of the Napier Initiative

Past Napier Fellows continue to uphold the values of peace, justice, and care for the earth, and we are proud to highlight these leaders and their most recent experiences.



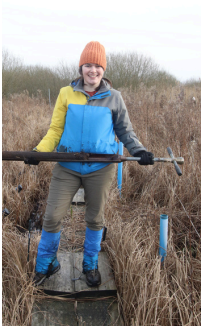
"I'm still actively engaged in my work from my time in Botswana. My initial work resulted in the founding of Botswana Genomics, a company that has now been operating for several years in the belief that foundational life-science ecosystem capabilities (in this case genomics) are essential to paving the way towards the initial vaccine development initiative. I recently left Amgen to join Machine Bio as a founder along with other KGI alumni, and our current focus is centered on new oncology treatments in radiotherapeutics."

- Eric Benjamins, 2016 Minus Awardee



"I finished my clerkship on the Second Circuit Superior Court of New York City and feel lucky to have landed at Boies Schiller Flexner, where I am learning a lot about being a litigator. I maintain a caseload that is mostly filled with pro bono cases, and for that I'm very grateful. I also am trying to do as much as I can in the atrocity crime world through Rerooted on the side, and I dedicate at least one day a week to Rerooted legal research, in addition to monitoring and checking in with interns throughout the week."

- Anoush Baghdassarian, 2017 Napier Fellow



"I have been a microbiology PhD candidate in a newly established research consortium studying rewetted fen peatlands, Wetscapes2.0. My particular research focus is on how shifts in fen microbiomes after rewetting affect carbon storage in the soil. I am still living in Greifswald, Germany, where I moved for the Napier Fellowship after graduating from Scripps College in 2022. I recently published the results of the research I conducted during the Napier Fellowship, in which my colleagues and I investigated what the impacts of severe drought have on nitrogen cycling microbes in rewetted peatlands."

- Anna Burns, 2022 Minus Awardee



"I have been working as a resident teacher in a 10th-grade English classroom in South Central Los Angeles and as a standardized test tutor. Additionally, I am working towards my master's in education and will earn my master's and preliminary teaching credential this summer."

- Cecilia Ransburg, 2025 Barbara Troxell Prize Awardee

The Legacy of Joy and Davie Napier



Davie Napier was known throughout the United States as a remarkable teacher of the Hebrew Scriptures and a prophetic preacher. From Yale University to Stanford University and then to Pacific School of Religion, Davie and Joy were deeply influential teachers and mentors to legions of students, drawing them into the struggles against racial discrimination, poverty, war, and environmental degradation.

The Napier Initiative honors their memory by continuing their work of nurturing young people into lives of creative justice work.

**WITH GRATITUDE TO
THE NAPIER COUNCIL**

**ONE OF TONIGHT'S MINUS AWARDS
WAS MADE POSSIBLE THROUGH
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The Napier Initiative



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We celebrate this year's fellows,
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Chi, Anya, and Madison, whose
leadership reflects the promise of
the fellowship.



Pitzer College President
Strom C. Thacker and
First Spouse Isabelle Thacker



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**FOR HER
INSPIRATIONAL
LEADERSHIP AND
CONTINUED
DEDICATION TO
THE NAPIER INITIATIVE**

**JILL GRIGSBY
AND
RETT BULL**

WARMLY CONGRATULATE ALL
OF THE 2026 NAPIER
FELLOWS AND WE WISH
THEM CONTINUED SUCCESS.

THE NAPIER INITIATIVE
DEMONSTRATES THE
LASTING COMMITMENT OF
OUR PILGRIM PLACE
RESIDENTS TO OUR
COMMUNITY'S CORE VALUES.
I AM HONORED TO SUPPORT
WORK THAT CULTIVATES THE
NEXT GENERATION OF
LEADERS WHO ALSO
ADVOCATE JUSTICE, PEACE,
AND CARE FOR THE EARTH.
CONGRATULATIONS TO THIS
YEAR'S NAPIER FELLOWS AND
THANK YOU TO ALL THOSE
WHO SUPPORT THESE
IMPORTANT EFFORTS.

—
TODD BARRETTA,
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PEACE, JUSTICE, AND CARE FOR
THE EARTH. I ALSO EXTEND MY
DEEP GRATITUDE TO THE MANY
DONORS AND VOLUNTEERS
WHOSE COLLECTIVE GENEROSITY
AND DEDICATION MAKE THESE
INTERGENERATIONAL LEARNING
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CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER,
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ARE BECOMING
REALITIES.

—
KAREN LEVIN
A PROUD
NAPIER INITIATIVE
ADVOCATE

IN MEMORY OF
REV. DEBORAH MCKEAN;
FRIEND, MENTOR AND
COLLEAGUE TO THE
NAPIER INITIATIVE.

—
PHIL MCKEAN,
PILGRIM PLACE RESIDENT

In Loving Memory of

Barbara



Troxell

AS ONE OF THE FOUNDERS OF THE NAPIER INITIATIVE
AND AS A FORMER NAPIER COUNCIL CHAIR,
BARBARA'S DEDICATED VISION HELPED DEVELOP THE
PROGRAM INTO WHAT IT IS TODAY.

A NATURAL LEADER, BARBARA'S INTERACTIONS WITH
STUDENTS, FACULTY, AND VOLUNTEERS TRULY SHAPED
THE NAPIER INITIATIVE, AND WE CONTINUE TO HONOR
HER LEGACY THROUGH THE BARBARA TROXELL PRIZE.

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