



THE FLAMING CHALICE

Sunday Worship: 10:30 AM

DECEMBER SERVICE PREVIEWS

Worship Theme: Light One Candle

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Virtually all communities of faith have some type of celebration or festival during the month of December.

This month's Chalice highlights the symbols of these various communities.

5 **We Light This Chalice** ~Rev. Katie Kandarian-Morris

The flaming chalice is a central symbol of our tradition. Congregations across the world light this fire as a sign for entering into worship. Let us consider its meanings and origins, and why it might be a fitting way to kick off a month filled with light.

8 **7PM Wednesday Meditations on Silence** ~Sharon Wylie & Marla Bacina

Come, take time in this mid-week evening, to pause in the rush of the winter holiday season, to sing together, to read poetry together, to listen together, and to simply BE...together.

12 **The Transylvanian Unitarian Symbol and its Meaning for Us** ~Rev. Levente Lázár, Rev. Katie Kandarian-Morris and Sharon Wylie

Our lives are surrounded by symbols. In our homes, on the streets, even the letters we write are a kind of symbol. Why do we need and use symbols? Today, come consider what the Transylvanian Unitarian Symbol of the dove, serpent, mountain and crown represents as seen through the eyes of the visiting Balázs Scholar.

19 **The Best Pageant Ever** ~Lane Campbell, Rev. Katie Kandarian-Morris & Sharon Wylie

INTERGENERATIONAL SERVICE: Today on this Sunday before Solstice and Christmas, we'll join together to celebrate the holidays. We'll create a Christmas pageant on the spot, so come prepared to join in the fun and be on the lookout for magical moments. The special collection today goes to FESCO (Family Emergency Shelter Coalition).

24 **7pm Christmas Eve Signs of Joy** ~Rev. Katie Kandarian-Morris & Sharon Wylie

Come join us on this quiet night. Take an hour to reflect on the meaning of the night with words of inspiration and the singing of carols. Tonight's special plate will fund the minister's discretionary fund, which will help people in need.

26 **Boxing Day: A Day of Goodwill** ~Worship Committee

Is Boxing Day really a holiday all about boxes? Come join us in a day of Goodwill and Generosity and learn the true meaning of Boxing Day.



Light One Candle KATIE'S BAY VIEW

As I write this, still pre-Thanksgiving day, I am even now filled with the gratitude of this congregation's generosity at our Thanksgiving intergenerational service. So many people brought canned goods for South Hayward parish and such a number contributed to the special collection to help sustain the food program. We collected \$1300 from just this one Sunday service. I felt proud to deliver the food and funds to the director. We have a generous community.

Yes, this is the time of the year when we consider generosity of spirit, when gift-giving sits at the top of our lists of important undertakings, when we not only think of ourselves, and our loved ones, but acknowledge those around us who may be struggling, this year especially. In the months of November and December in particular, we are encouraged and requested to give. With all of the various stresses that come with the many demands during this time, our giving as a gathered community seems like one of the major antidotes to that worry. When Sharon, Lane and I reflected together after worship that day, we were filled with the warmth and energy you inspired in the service.

We can carry on this warmth and energy as we move through this holiday month and into the coming year. It's good for us to remember that the fragrance always stays in the hand that gives the rose. More than that, these gifts demonstrate our faith in action. This congregation lives our values through gifts to the community all year long through its special plates. I wonder what other ways we can reach out?

The theme for our worship this month "Light One Candle," was inspired by the song written by Peter Yarrow, of Peter, Paul and Mary. Yarrow wrote the song celebrating the Macabbee's fight for justice and the continuing search for justice of the Jewish people. He wrote it in 1985 for the peace process in Israel. We haven't yet reached peace in Israel nor in other areas in the Middle East, but as we light one candle or give one gift, or Welcome a Guest at Your Table, or continue to remember that our efforts matter, we will carry on our mission of making a difference in the world. The song's chorus repeats the lyrics and ends with those same words, "Don't let the light go out!" May we too, keep our light shining bright and strong.

With the Love and Light inspired by the season,

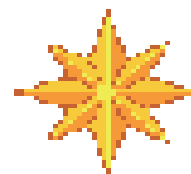
Katie

DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

- 4 Devlin Clark
- 7 Mary Lou Schuler
- 13 Zelma Nunez-Borja
- 13 Stuart Fink
- 24 Chris Selig
- 27 Natasha Bugosh
- 29 Glen Jacob
- 31 Janet Durant



Christmas



Star of
Bethlehem

WHEEL OF LIFE

Frank Burton is recovering from hospitalization. He appreciates your cards and calls.

Jean Falkowski is recovering from back surgery and is recuperating at home.

Most sincere condolences to the family of long-time member Bill Gaylord, who passed away Monday, November 29th.



The Reason for the Season

Intern-al Combustion

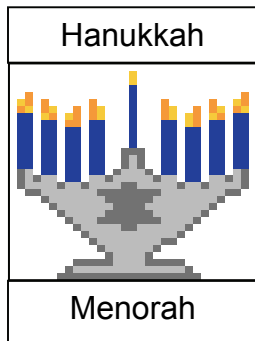
December is a month full of religious holidays: Hanukkah in the Jewish traditions, Hijra and Ashura in the Muslim traditions, Bodhi Day in the Buddhist traditions, Yule (winter solstice) in the Pagan traditions, and of course, Christmas in the Christian traditions. Additionally, Kwanzaa, although a secular holiday, also holds spiritual significance for many in its celebration of African American heritage.

For most of us, December is a very busy month.

Whatever holiday you may be celebrating (or perhaps rejecting), most of us experience some gift giving, some food, and some time with friends or family in December. Perhaps we send holiday cards around. Perhaps we decorate the house.

There is so much going on, and so many traditions to follow, that it can be easy to lose sight of the reason for the season. What is it? Well, that's for YOU to answer. What is important to you about the winter holidays? What tradition makes you smile? What is it you like best, above all else?

For me, the reason for the season is the joy and comfort of our connections to one another. I like to send holiday cards and an annual letter to my friends and family (by email, these days, to save paper). I like to take some time to visit with friends. I like to find ways to connect with my family, especially now that our connection is long distance. And I like to spend quiet time with my partner, Peter. For me, this love and friendship is what the holidays are all about.



What you love might be different. Maybe you love choosing thoughtful gifts for your loved ones, to show how much you care. Maybe you love to decorate your house inside and out, to experience beauty wherever you look. Maybe you love to cook or bake delicious foods, to share your talents with those around you.

Whatever it is that you enjoy most about December, I invite you to remember it and make sure it is front and center to your holiday plans. There IS a reason for the season, and you know best what that reason is.

May the many joys of the holidays be yours.

*Bright Blessings
Sharon*

Internship Committee

Hello from the new SKUUC Internship Committee! The role of the Internship Committee is to support our intern minister Sharon Wylie. Our overarching goal is to help Sharon develop and hone the skills of ministry by listening, advising, and evaluating. The members of the committee are chair Meg Jurich, Glen Jacob, Al Murdach, Sara Raymond-Wagner, and Chris Selig. Should you have any questions, comments, or feedback, please feel free to talk with us at church. And please get to know Sharon while we have her with us this year.

SKUU BOARD NEWS

By Roy Dickerson, SKUU Board Member at Large



later

A few years ago I heard an advertisement for Starr King Church on the radio. It struck a responsive chord with me and a few days later when I was in the area I tried to find it but drove by without seeing a church. It was a whim which brought me to Bayview that day so I was satisfied with a quick look at an unfamiliar neighborhood. A couple of years later I felt a little more impassioned about finding a church community and looked a little harder for the church in the labyrinth of our urban hills.

Once we found our church Diana and I found warmth that welcomed us and ideas that challenged us. Both of us have become more involved with committee work and this has been incredibly rewarding. Diana loves children and so the Religious Exploration program was a natural fit for her. I have been involved as an usher, coffee hour, and have been on the board for a little over a year.

The board meetings occur once a month and cover a variety of church business; subjects as diverse as the sewer line replacement, green sanctuary policies, special events, and health care education programs are discussed and decided. The discussions that ensue are often lively although sometimes there is a consensus from the start. The board is a blend of members who have years of experience and wisdom and those of us who are relatively new and hopefully shake things up to provide different viewpoints. Probably one of the biggest subjects has been church membership and reaching out to the community.

Over the last couple of years there have been changes in our church; the most visible changes are the addition and beautification of our sanctuary and our new members and children in the community. The growth is a welcome change and I think most of us wish the membership to grow and become ever more inclusive. So when during a board meeting the issue of signage came up and it was decided to replace the wooden sign at the gate Terry Hunt and I felt this was something we would get involved with. It took several months to decide on a design for the new sign and get on with the construction. Dick Albert and Walt Korus did a great job with the brick work and hopefully you are happy with the enhanced visibility.

In retrospect Diana and I might not have been ready for a church community and it was good to have waited until I searched a little harder and so maybe it should be a little tough to find our sanctuary; something like Shangri La in Hilton's "Lost Horizons". On the other hand life is short and we have something special here that should be easy to find. That is why I wanted to get involved with the work to get a more visible church sign placed at our entrance. I wanted the path to our church to

ROY DICKERSON

Synopsis of OCT. Board Meeting

- ✕ A first draft of a new policy for renting our facilities was discussed.
- ✕ Plans are being developed for a Board Retreat with the Committee on Ministry.
- ✕ Dedication of our new building will be on March 13, 2011. Plans are being developed.
- ✕ Our new sign is up. It still lacks lighting and a rainbow flag.
- ✕ The Board agreed that the church will create a FESCO Welcome Home Kit for Christmas.
- ✕ Plans for the grounds were discussed, including permanent fencing for the playground, replacing Unitarian House with a full size labyrinth and meditation site, and improving the social space adjacent to the Fellowship Hall. All improvements are on hold until Ora Loma's plans for new sewer lines are known.

Next meeting: November 4, 2010



Religious Exploration Sacred Exchange

By Lane Campbell-DRE

At the beginning of the winter holiday season, I am reminded of a round written by Joseph and Nathan Segal in Singing the Living Tradition:
From you I receive, to you I give, together we share and from this we live.

What I love about this song is that it so simply states: everyone has something to offer and everyone has needs. These offerings can take many forms like a hug, a listening ear, a shoulder to cry on, the advice you needed to hear in that moment, a hand ready to help. We are endowed with these gifts as human beings and it is our responsibility to share them.

In a Unitarian Universalist congregation I used to attend, we would sing "From You I Receive" in pairs facing each other. Each person would hold their hands out in front of them, making a bowl shape, creating movement out of the song to show gratitude for one another. It is a beautiful experience to sing this song looking into the eyes of another human being, to show them deep gratitude for the mutual exchange of relationship.

Around the winter holidays, there is such a huge focus on gift-giving. In our workplaces, homes, and schools, we are encouraged to bring presents to the folks in our lives, the people we are in relationship with.

This time of year brings stress to our lives as we become busy with holiday parties, school events, and shopping. Finding that perfect present can be a lot of pressure. The myriad obligations of these holidays can become overwhelming.

In the lines of this song, we are reminded of the sacred exchange made in the human encounter. It is not a requirement to bring material possessions, only your presence and an open heart. It is worth reflecting on the sacredness of each encounter whether it's at the grocery store, at work, at school, or in your home. Where are you giving? Where did you receive something that fed your soul?

Al-Hijira &
Ashura



Let us remember this song in the hustle and bustle of the winter holiday season. As we gather with family and friends, we acknowledge Crescent Moon and rejoice that, "...together & Star we share and from this we live." In coming together, we are able to share in the gifts of the spirit each one of us has to offer. These relationships are life-giving, they are what sustains us through difficult times, what we have to offer a fellow human being when times are bad. May we be generous with the Spirit this holiday season, and may the Spirit sustain us through the winter.

*Blessings and Love,
Lane*

DECEMBER FUNSHOPS

- 5** **Gift Wrapping for FESCO** with Sylvia Brandon-Perez and Diana Dickerson
- 12:** **Animal Homes** with Colleen Dino
- 19:** **Intergenerational Service Congregational Holiday Party To Follow Service**
- 26:** **TBD** with Mary Kiesling

ADULT RE

Religious Education and Spiritual Growth For Adults at SKUU Church

STILL TIME TO REGISTER: contact Chris Selig (510-633-0628) or scottncris@comcast.net

PARENTS AS RESIDENT THEOLOGIANs

This two-part course will help parents explore ways of talking to their children about religious and spiritual issues. Childcare will be provided.

Taught by the Reverend Katie Kandarian- Morris and Sharon Wylie

Saturdays, January 22 and February 5

10 am to noon Fellowship Hall, Starr King UU Church

DEALING WITH GRIEF AND LOSS

All of us experience loss in our lives, and with it comes grief. This class will focus on dealing with loss and grief, and will help give tools for helping with others' grief.

Led by the Reverend Katie Kandarian-Morris

February 27 12:15 pm to 2 pm Fellowship Hall, Starr King UU Church

Save the date!
CIRCLE SUPPER
January 29, 2011

REFRESHMENTS NEEDED

Anyone interested in bringing refreshments for the Christmas Eve Service, 12-24. See Lavon Hodges, Sunday Coffee Chairperson.

Many thanks.

CAN YOU HELP OUT?

Do you have a skill you would be interested in sharing with the kids at

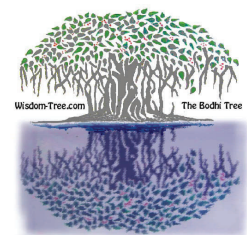
SKUUC? How about a hobby or interest?

We would love to have your ideas and participation in leading a FUNShop for our children.

A FUNShop is a one-time activity teaching kids a skill or concept related to UU identity and values.

Please contact Lane Campbell with your ideas and/or any questions dre@starrking.org.

Bodhi Day



Bodhi Tree



FESCO NEWS

**by Nancy Harrison:
SKUU Representative to FESCO Board**

The new committees for the Family Emergency Shelter Coalition have been formed and will be meeting very soon--we all hope with good results for FESCO's future. But in the meantime I started paying attention to FESCO's new Welcome Home Kit idea. Rather than collecting anything anyone wanted to donate and hoping that some of it will be of use to clients, FESCO is now trying to collect things that clients are sure to need. I couldn't help thinking the original list was just too short, so, with encouragement from the FESCO staff, I started adding items.



As I was doing it, I was picturing a young unmarried mother of two who has been at FESCO for a few months, diligently working to save enough money to get her own apartment. Now she's moving her children, with their clothes and personal possessions. They have an apartment with appliances, mattresses, a table and chairs, and not much else. She has very little money, but she goes shopping for groceries, buys some spaghetti, canned sauce, and salad makings, comes home and then realizes she's got no way to cut anything up, open a can, or boil a pot of water. Or maybe she's a bit better prepared than that and manages to make dinner, with leftovers--and has no way to save the leftovers except to leave them unwrapped on a dish in the fridge. That night there's no laundry basket, so dirty clothes go on the floor. Clean ones stay in the garbage bags in which they arrived, because there are no hangers. The apartment needs cleaning, but she has no tools--not even rags. One of her children gets a scrape, but she has no antiseptic and no bandages. It goes on and on. How much resilience does she need to avoid getting quickly discouraged? Look carefully at the list of items in the Welcome Home Kit. Don't give any item you think is not needed by that young mother.

The Sunday Coffee Committee serves farm trade coffee in our newly remodeled kitchen in accordance with our newly accredited green

Sunday Coffee Committee

sanctuary. Joyce & Scott Kinnear enjoy being on the Sunday Coffee Committee for several reasons, they both believe in the value of food to ease & improve social occasions, we both like to chat with everyone at church & coffee gives us that opportunity, & we both love to eat baked goods & this gives us a chance to have one piece each, Doug Sprague says: I enjoy coffee service because it allows me to interact with many more people than usual. I am usually somewhat uneasy in the social hour so coffee service gives me a purpose, plus an opportunity to talk, albeit, briefly, with lots of people. Another virtue of being on the coffee committee is there are no

COMMITTEE CORNER

committee meetings. I myself enjoy trying out new bread recipes for everyone to enjoy at coffee hour,

Ashland Shakespeare Festival

Join us for two days and nights of plays, shopping, time with friends, great meals out and MORE on Friday and Saturday, March 25 and 26, 2011! With actors talk date TBD.

Let us know if you want to stay over on Thursday night for an additional charge (the 24th), as well.

We have rooms booked at the group rate.

Price: \$225 per person/double occupancy (slightly less if you opt to only see two plays)

Deposit: \$100, due by December 15, 2010

Accommodations: We will be staying at the lovely and centrally located Plaza Inn. Rooms are large and comfortable. The hotel offers great breakfasts, as well as cookies and peanut butter after the plays!



PLAYS

"TO KILL A MOCKINGBIRD"

It's a sin to kill a mockingbird. Based on the Pulitzer Prize-winning novel that, 50 years later, still prods our national moral conscience. A 1930's Alabaman town's history of racism and the struggle for equality has an indelible effect on a young girl's understanding of right and wrong.

"MEASURE FOR MEASURE"

by Shakespeare. Who legislates morality? The Duke's authoritarian deputy, Angelo, is hell-bent on stamping out moral decay. Angelo is sternly incorruptible—until he meets Isabella, a religious novice whose desirability arouses him. Rauch's vigorous, modern production of Shakespeare's tragicomedy is a toxic mix of our timeless obsessions—sex, religion and politics.

"IMAGINARY INVALID"

by Moliere. Is there a doctor in the house? The wealthy Argan is a housebound hypochondriac with every disease in the book. Lurking around are quacks only too happy to (mis)treat him. Family troubles, including a money grubbing wife and two headstrong daughters, add to Argan's miseries. Original songs, satirical bite and the requisite bawdiness. Warning: Excessive laughter may be hazardous to your health.

Please return this bottom portion to Crystal Carroll (Ashland@starrking.org) or Diane Meyerson by December 15, 2010 with a deposit of \$100 per attendee.

Number of Attendees _____ Name(s) _____

Address _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

In previous years, some attendees found that two plays better suited their interest and/or energy level. If you decide (ahead of time) that you will attend only two, your final cost will be adjusted accordingly. Please let us know if you wish to attend only two plays.

ON GOING FUN AND UPCOMING ACTIVITIES

EVENING MEDITATION meets every Wednesday from 7- 8pm. Come practice meditation and reap its benefits.

SKIFFLE meets 2nd and 4th Wednesdays (Dec.8 & 22) from 7 to 9 PM..If you're considering coming for the first time, best to give a call to Bob Meyerson at 510 581 2037.

MORNING DISCOVERY meets in the library from 10 to 11:15 A.M. on first and third Wednesdays (Dec. 1 & 15) All are welcome to join us to explore community and spirituality, discussion and shared silence.

MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE meets on the third Sunday of each month (Dec. 19), after the service from 12:00 P.M.

BOOK CLUB The book group will meet Thursday, December 9, 7 PM, at the home of Donnie Rett(510-276-0545) to discuss *strawberry Fields* by Marina Lewycka. All are welcome. The January book is *Bad Things Happen*.

JUUST SOCIAL CHANGE meets on the second Sunday (Dec. 12) after the service, at 11:45 AM. All are welcome

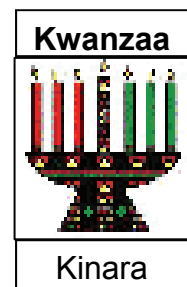
SKIT improv. group meets in the Sanctuary on 2nd. and 4th. Thursdays at 7:30 P.M. (Dec. 9 & 23)

NO ROOM FOR RACISM vigils are held every third Friday (Dec. 17) from 4 to 5 P.M. at the intersection of Jackson-Mission-Foothill. An opportunity to stand for your values! Sponsored by South Hayward Parish.

SKARF: (Starr King Against Racism Forever) is made up of a group of people who wish to address the issue of racism. SKARF meets the 4th. Wednesday (Dec. 22) of each month at 7 PM in the church sanctuary. Everyone is welcome.

CHURCH BOOKSTORE: is open every 3rd. Sunday (Dec. 19) after the service

FILM GROUP . Will meet on Saturday, December 11th at 7:00 P.M. at the home of Stuart Fink. "Eagle Eye" (2008) Thriller from Steven Spielberg starring Shia Labeouf, Michelle Monaghan and Billy Bob Thornton. Two strangers thrown together by a mysterious call and face danger together (Rated Pg-13). Let Stuart know if you are coming and please bring a movie snack to share.



HOW TO REACH US

Starr King Unitarian Universalist Church

22577 Bayview Avenue
Hayward, CA 94541

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office@starrking.org

Parish Minister: Kathryn Kandarian-Morris
minister@starrking.org

Home phone:
510/537.6565

Church President: Darryl Ray
510/206-9457

president@starrking.org

Church Website: <http://www.starrking.org>
Crystal Carroll, webmaster

Church Office Hours

Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday
9:00am-1:00pm

Church Leadership

Board of Trustees

President: Darryl Ray
Vice President: Andy Hansen
Secretary: Nancy Harrison
Treasurer: Frank Satterwhite
At Large: Roy Dickerson

Colleen Dino
Donnie Rett
Georgia Gruver
Terry Hunt
Mary Swain

Office Manager Kelli Abatangelo

Minister: Rev. Katie Kandarian-Morris
Religious Education Dir.: Lane Campbell
Intern Minister: Sharon Wylie

Church Organization

How to Reach Your Chalice Editor

Deadline:
2nd Sunday of the month.
Please put all Contributions
in writing.

Post to:
Georgia Gruver
2932 Tribune Ave.
Hayward, CA 94542-1639

Email to:
editor@starrking.org

Adult Religious Education
Bookstore
Buildings
Endowment/Memorial Fund
FESCO
Grounds
Interior
Kitchen Manager
Membership
Committee on Ministry
Nominating
Pastoral Care
Pledge Secretary
R.E. Council
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Social Justice
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Sunday Coffee
Volunteer Coordinator
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Evelyn Cormier
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Bill Schwab
Nancy Harrison
Carol Henrie, Walt Korus
Lavon Hodges
Sherry Thomas
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Kirk Smith—convenor
Doug Sprague—convenor
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