



THE FLAMING CHALICE

JANUARY SERVICE PREVIEW

Sunday Worship: 10:30 AM

Worship Theme: **The Fire of Commitment**

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2 Eating, Ourselves Alive

~Aija Simpson

How do we make choices about what we eat? How can we make decisions around our consumption that not only do less harm, but actively bless the world? Come consider what it means to be an ethical eater in a complicated world.

9 Blaze the Thoughts Away ~Rev. Katie Kandarian-Morris

Rumi reminded us in poetry how our thoughts and speech can often be an accident but fill up so much space in our lives that there is little room for much else. Let's use our traditional burning off ceremony to consider which of those thoughts and words we might like to release. Please return your Guest at Your Table boxes today.

16 Remembering Dr. King

~Sharon Wylie

Martin Luther King, Jr. is celebrated as the pivotal leader in the African-American Civil Rights Movement of the 1960s. But now it is more than 40 years since his assassination, and it is easy to forget—or not know!—that Dr. King's teachings still have relevance for us today. Let us gather together to grieve, to be challenged, to be inspired, and to remember.

23 Building Your Own Theology ~Rev. Katie Kandarian-Morris, Sharon Wylie and BYOT class

Based on the assumption that everyone is their own theologian, Unitarian Universalism asks us to use our values, life experience and richness of religion to develop our credos. Come, consider what this year's class has discovered, and possibly consider your own.

30 Wrestling With Privilege

~Sharon Wylie

Understanding race and class privilege is an important part of resisting oppressive systems in our culture, but it's also important spiritual work. Come consider how understanding privilege and marginalization enhances your own healing and wholeness.

SAVE THE DATE

Sunday
March 13th, 2011
at 4:00pm

**Building Dedication
Day**



Welcoming, Hospitality and Belonging in the New Year

KATIE'S BAY VIEW

On to the second decade of our now not so new century. We've got much to look forward to at Starr King Unitarian Universalist Church. In March (mark your calendars now for March 13th at 4pm), we'll be officially celebrating the addition and rejuvenation of our building. As we've been getting ready, we've been fortunate to welcome many new folks into our midst. We are greeting families of all ages and compositions, young and old. We are meeting many new children and welcoming them into our religious exploration program and community at large.

We've constructed a new sign that waves a welcoming flag to help make us more visible from the street and to make it clear to people who might frequently feel marginalized that we are a Welcoming Congregation. Similar to our recent work to become a Green Sanctuary, back in 2003, our congregation studied a curriculum to become *officially* welcoming. We often take that recognition for granted, when so many of us feel safe and accepted wherever we go. The recent news of the repeal of "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" is a bold reminder that this world is not always friendly to individuals of varying sexual and gender orientations. Our hospitality is one of our greatest assets. The UUA website says it well:

We believe that our first Principle, respecting "the inherent worth and dignity of every person," applies equally to people of all sexual orientations and gender identities/ gender expressions. Unitarian Universalism has intentionally reached out to BGLT people and their families. Our Welcoming Congregations have completed a program to enhance their welcome of all people. Unitarian Universalism is one of the few religions that ordains openly bisexual, gay, lesbian, and transgender people. Our BGLT clergy (who are permitted to partner or marry) participate fully in our faith community as pastors in some of our largest congregations.

I feel so fortunate to belong to a faith that has been a leader in standing on the side of love, and in offering a spiritual and religious home for all. As we begin this new decade, let me express a true welcome to all of you, whether you have been crossing the threshold here for many years or just a week. Your complete and authentic self is a gift you bring to this congregation.

Let us welcome in the new year with gratitude for this place, and for all who step inside our door. In faith,

Katie

JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

- 5 Sherman Lewis
- 7 Julia Cady
- 7 Walt Korus
- 13 Jay Durant
- 13 Doris Haskell
- 16 Mary Swain
- 18 Sophiana Carrell
- 25 Debbie Frederick
- 28 Geir Jordahl

WHEEL OF LIFE

Condolences to Diane and Bob Meyerson on the passing of Diane's father. We send our best to Diane's mother who is in failing health.



Learning To Love Our Luggage

Internal Combustion

It's a new year, and there's lots of talk (as usual) about fresh starts, clean slates, and starting over. The past, it seems, is just luggage weighing us down, and if we can leave it behind, we can move forward faster, lighter, and unencumbered.

My experience is that this is not only impossible, but also undesirable.

Besides, who really wants to get where they're going without their luggage?

Sure, our suitcases can be heavy. Some of us have quite a bit of the past—even the immediate past (like...yesterday)—weighing us down: struggles with addiction, unresolved conflict with family, unfulfilling relationships, depression. Like suitcases without wheels, these experiences threaten to drag us down. And with the new year comes the intriguing possibility that we have arrived in a new land, and—if we choose—we can leave our luggage behind.

We imagine that in this new place we'll be better people: folks who exercise regularly, eat and drink in moderation, never fight with our partners or friends, keep the house clean, remember everybody's birthdays, and arrive on time for work every day. And maybe we even manage to do some of these things for a week or two.

But by February most of us find that our lives have not changed significantly, that we've returned to our old habits, and that we have not, actually, arrived in a new land at all. The luggage we thought we'd left behind is right by our side, like those stories you hear about pets who travel across the country to return home. Where did this suitcase come from? we wonder. I thought I left this behind.

What this illusion of lighter travel always misses is that wherever we go, we bring ourselves. We're the common denominator of our lives, the one who can't say no to a second helping, the one who refuses to see a doctor (or a therapist), the one who can't just smile and let a snide comment pass unanswered.

What we think of as "luggage" is, I would suggest, our memories and history, the reminders of who we are in the world, the evidence of our humanity. Oh yes, here in my bag I find that moment I snapped at my mother and made her cry. How I would like to forget that I am that person who did that.

But just like that moment the airline tells you your luggage is lost, we find that without our bags of memory and history, we are adrift. I may not want to be the woman who made her mother cry, but who am I if not the woman who has been forgiven by her mother?

Change is possible, always, and I would suggest the key is not to leave your luggage behind, but to open up your bags and take inventory. Repack, if you need to. Buy a new bag for your things. But you need to know what's in there because you're not going anywhere without it.

My email address is internminister@starring.org.

*Bright Blessings
Sharon*



SKUU BOARD NEWS

By Terry Hunt, SKUU Board Member at Large

An Outsider's View of Transylvania

Last Sunday after Rev. Lavente Lazar, Unitarian minister from Transylvania, gave the sermon, several of us were eagerly searching the Map of Romania in the coffee room to locate Transylvania. If there is such an interest... let me tell you about my trip there. Last Summer I a chance to tour Transylvania with the chorus (I pinch hit in as a basso, since they had a weak base section) of the First Unitarian in SF. We had the good fortune to be accompanied by ZIZI, a woman who had been intern at the SF UU church but had grown up in Transylvania and Hungary. She had lived thru communism and Ceausescu era, witnessing the dreadful persecution and eventual tragic death of her father—a Unitarian minister. She was an authority—if anyone could be—and gave freely of her knowledge. The choir performed at several Transylvanian churches, but particularly at the Main Unitarian and central meeting and theology center in Kolozsvar (Cluj)—the capitol city, currently sponsoring a conference of the Unitarian Partnership Association.

We sopped up much of the history of Transylvanian Unitarianism. As a history buff, I was overwhelmed—we saw cities going back to the thirteenth century, once European centers of great importance, often peopled from other parts of Europe such as Saxony. Transylvania flipped back and forth between Catholic, Protestant, and finally Unitarian flavors, depending on what foreign country (Austria, Hungary, or the Ottomans) annexed it, and varied from religious intolerance and persecution to tolerance and then back again. It is a beautiful region, in a high mountain plateau, surrounded by the Carpathians, and in the early 1900's a very fertile and productive area.

But the other side of the story is that Transylvania suffered the fate of many other lesser European countries at the conclusion of the first world war. Since Transylvania had long been part of the Hungarian Empire, finally part of the Austro-Hungarian Empire, it fought with Germany against the allies (Britain, France, and Russia) and thus was on the *losing* side of the war. At the Treaty of Trianon the victors deliberately broke up the Austro-Hungarian empire into as many pieces as they could, and Transylvania became no longer part of Hungary, but simply a *region of Romania*—never mind that linguistically, religiously, and culturally Transylvanians had little in common with the Romanians: Transylvanians being largely Hungarian, Magyar speaking, and Unitarian/ Catholic/ Protestant, while Romanians were of a different ethnic origin, spoke Romanian (a romance language), and were Eastern Orthodox. So the Native Transylvanians, whose forbears dated back to Roman Times, became an *enclave of an ethnically different country*. The official language, civil jurisdiction, and educational system became Romanian.

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 5)

An Outsider's View of Transylvania (cont. from page 4)

What aggravated the situation was the aftermath of the second world war: Romania became part of the communist bloc slavishly dedicated to serving Russian economic and industrial demands. Ceausescu became a willing servant of Russia and aggressively implemented the plan to make all farms into collective farms, and forcibly move the agricultural villagers into new industrial centers. These were the newly made cities with the rapidly built six-story apartment blocks (lacking elevators and other niceties). Ceausescu literally plowed-under whole villages in Transylvania, seeing them and their ethnic differences as something to be exterminated for the good of Romanian unity and productivity. Unfortunately Ceausescu even botched this plan: his industrial plants focused on producing materials so polluting and toxic that they had to be abandoned years later. (Today any drive along Transylvanian roads takes you past literally *miles* of abandoned skeletons of huge industrial factories and housing blocks—all sporting a ghostly industrial gray.)

A number of American UUA churches saw the plight of the Transylvanian village churches as an opportunity to help, and the *Partnership program* was born. We visited several village churches that were Partnership adoptees: many people on the trip from other UUA churches had joined the group just to visit such a Partnership church they were sponsoring. For example, a group from the SF UU church had raised enough money to purchase a sizable dairy in a village, with the aim of providing jobs for the villagers; the Oakland UU Church had funded a bakery and the making of ethnic handicrafts to raise money for another village church. Both projects to us seemed troubled: the dairy jobs had failed to attract the village youth, who preferred the 8 AM to 4 PM jobs in the city and were leaving the villages for city life (the age-old story in all countries), the bakery had not worked out, and the handicrafts project was not yet producing the results hoped for. But the people behind the partnership projects continue to be full of hope and energy and are successful fundraisers (the SF group is called “Project Hope”). Meanwhile the picturesque villages become lucrative real estate locations for country homes for the urban Romanians, and the villagers cannot afford *not* to sell out and move to the cities. So the Transylvanian villages continue to decline.

So getting to see Transylvania was intriguing but alas bittersweet. The future of Transylvania will never be anything like its golden age of the past. The future looked rather bleak to us, but perhaps no better or worse than other countries which were so long part of the Warsaw Pact.

TERRY HUNT

Synopsis of Dec. Board Meeting

- ✘ The Board and Committee on Ministry will attend a joint retreat currently scheduled for January 15
- ✘ With the addition of the office staff, the board sub-committee writing the SKUU Rental Pricing Policy should complete its work in the near future.
- ✘ Dedication of our new building will be on March 13, 2011. Plans are being developed.
- ✘ Our new sign is up with its solar lighting and new and welcoming rainbow flag.
- ✘ The Board agreed to provide some professional expenses for our intern.
- ✘ Rev. Katie asked that the Board re-nominate Linda Laskawski as our UUA Trustee. This will be taken up at the next meeting.
- ✘ **Next meeting: January 6**



Religious Exploration A Time of Newness

By Lane Campbell-DRE

Have you ever stayed awake until midnight on New Year's Eve? I have memories of being a little kid and waiting to watch the ball drop in New York City on the television. My brother and I would try our hardest to stay up the entire night, but often never made it. Around 11:00pm or so, we would inevitably fall asleep on the couch in our living room, surrounded by snacks and drinks from the evening's festivities. When I would wake up the next morning, something felt different. Something always feels different in January, even though it is difficult to explain.

Perhaps it is the rest we all must take after the winter holiday season. Even if people aren't celebrating Christmas, the holiday affects the people in our community and the places we all go. After all of that emotion and energy is riled up, many of us need to take some time to rest and recover, to hibernate like some of our animal friends do. For folks in school, you are given a little time off in the beginning of January just for this very reason.

Maybe what feels different is the change in seasons. Winter solstice came last month and the days are beginning to get longer again, the nights getting shorter. Our pace of life changes with the cycles of the day. More daylight often means we are able to stay out later. It also means that hopefully, we will be a little warmer.

Or it could be that the reason we feel something different is because this time of year means new beginnings. The first of January marks the beginning of the year for many of the people living in the United States. Some celebrate the occasion by making a change in their lives. Others take this as a time for reflection on the past year, remembering the joys as well as the heart-ache. January is a time of rebirth, when we give ourselves permission to try something new, when we acknowledge another year has passed and a new one is beginning.

May you be held in the warmth of this season,

Out of the light and darkness we all come

To rest, to try something different, to be together.

Our hearts are open and ready for newness,

May we remember to draw on this sustaining feeling

For the rest of the year to come.

*Amen, Blessings and Love,
Lane*

JANUARY FUNSHOPS

January 2	Creation Myths	Ruth Kuffin	Diana Dickerson
January 9	All Ages Service		
January 16	Simple Spanish Phrases	Sylvia Brandon-Perez	Lea Casini
January 23	Taking Care of Our Pets	Mary Swain	Mary Kiesling
January 30	Building Dedication	Colleen Dino	Diane Meyerson

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

HIGH SCHOOL YOUTH

ARE YOU INTERESTED IN CONS?

If you are between the ages of 14 and 18, ElectionsCON is coming up February 18-20th.

Keep a look out for registration forms coming soon.

A GREAT BIG THANK YOU

Nursery Attendant(s) for January are Doug Sprague and Natalie Forrest?

In February, Donnie Rett. will be taking charge of the infants.

ARE YOU LOOKING FOR A WAY TO HELP SKUU?

Are you interested in hosting a FUNShop for the kids at SKUUC? All you need is a skill you can share with them or an idea for an activity- we provide the supplies and someone to assist you. Working with the kids is both fun and rewarding- they have lots to teach us as well.

Please contact Lane Campbell, Director of Religious Exploration, at dre@starring.org to sign up.



FESCO NEWS

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

25th Anniversary Celebration

The Family Emergency Shelter Coalition was founded in 1986, 25 years ago this year. The first Shelter, now known as Les Marquis House, wasn't actually opened until 1988. FESCO is planning two years of activity to celebrate 25 years of surviving and becoming increasingly effective. The goal of the 25th Anniversary Celebration is to get the whole community to take ownership of FESCO and ending homelessness in Alameda County. FESCO currently has support from 13 or so churches, a couple of businesses, and one school. We will be seeking many more of each, plus organizations of all types. With widespread community support FESCO can perform its mission despite declining government and foundation support. A new website is coming; there will be new materials; there will be leadership. All that's needed is lots and lots of help. If you have skills or connections that you can see being helpful, please offer them. If you just have some time, I'll be asking later. You'll be hearing more about this.

The Starr King Unitarian Universalist
 Worship Committee Really belongs to the
 entire congregation. For the activities we do in the
 Sunday Worship Experience.

WORSHIP COMMITTEE

So, what, in fact does this committee do? Before listing some of our activities, I think the best way for you to understand would be for you to attend one of our monthly meetings. (Third Thursday of each month at 7 PM in the sanctuary.) These meetings help to plan and schedule Sunday Services, including on occasion having the committee itself put together a service for times when our Pastor will be away from the pulpit.

The most obvious role of our members is as worship associates during the services. However, I'd really like to emphasize that while that role is most visible, one need not wish to be a worship associate to be a valuable member of the committee. Many other tasks are involved, such as staffing our sound system, volunteering to provide music, and simply sharing your own ideas to improve or enhance those Sunday Morning Hours.

Since resuming the role of Chair of the Committee, and speaking to members of the congregation, I feel it is necessary to remind all of us that there are no "secret" committees here at Starr King Church. One does not have to make a commitment to join to attend our meetings....maybe just come and later mull over whether in fact this committee might be a good one for you to consider joining. Our meetings are most often attended by Rev. Katie, of course. But we are not simply there to give thumbs "up" to every idea. These meetings can be a positive creative force; one which effects every member of the congregation. We are not a group of "Altar Boys," rather an integral part of the overall worship experience.

I invite you to ask any questions, and I emphatically invite you to attend our next meeting. (Jan. 17th.) I have been a member of this committee for nearly ten years. For me it one of the most rewarding experiences of being a member of this church.

COMMITTEE CORNER

SPECIAL EXTRAS



Don't Miss Out CIRCLE SUPPER January 29, 2011

Sign up for a dinner with a small group and bring a dish to share.

This time we will have one family-friendly dinner, so if you have been interested, but worried about child care, this is the dinner for you! Sign up by January 13 to participate.



THANK YOU

Thanks to all of you who attended dad's memorial and for all the cards, emails and kind words. Having a church family has made the loss more bearable.

Wendy Robertson

Durable Medical Equipment

Do you have a walker or a bath bench or the like sitting in a closet that you could lend to someone? If so, you know how expensive these items can be.

SKUU is starting a list of durable medical equipment members can lend to other members. If you have something to lend, please tell Beth Ogilvie (510-581-3782, beth@betho.us). If you have a temporary need coming up, contact Beth or send a message through any member of the Pastoral Committee.

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 (Jan. 12 & 26) 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 (Jan.5 & 19) 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 (Jan. 16), after the service from 12:00 P.M.

BOOK CLUB The book group will meet Thursday, January 13, 7 PM, at the home of Jo Murdach (510-581-6794) to discuss the book Bad Things Happen by Harry Dolum. All are welcome. Please let the hostess know so she can plan accordingly. The February book is The Help by Kathryn Stockett

JUUST SOCIAL CHANGE meets on the second Sunday (Jan. 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. (Jan. 13 & 27)

NO ROOM FOR RACISM vigils are held every third Friday (Jan. 21) 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 (Jan 26 of each month at 7 PM in the church sanctuary. Everyone is welcome.

CHURCH BOOKSTORE is open every 3rd. Sunday (Jan. 16) after the service

FILM GROUP Will meet on Saturday, January 22, 2011 At 7:00 P.M. at the home of Stuart Fink. "The Sorcerer's Apprentice" (2010) Fun Adventure And Fantasy Starring Nicholas Cage. Sorcerer Recruits Average Guy As His Protégé To Defend N.Y.C. Against A Villain (Rated Pg). . Let Stuart know if you are coming and please bring a movie snack to share.

HOW TO REACH US

Starr King Unitarian Universalist Church

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Church Office: 510/581.2060
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510/537.6565
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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

Adult Religious Education	Chris Selig
Bookstore	Evelyn Cormier
Buildings	Dick Albert
Endowment/Memorial Fund	Bill Schwab
FESCO	Nancy Harrison
Grounds	Carol Henrie, Walt Korus
Interior	Lavon Hodges
Kitchen Manager	Sherry Thomas
Membership	Diane Meyerson
Committee on Ministry	Kirk Smith–convenor
Nominating	Doug Sprague–convenor
Pastoral Care	Karen Cook – convenor
Pledge Secretary	Marilyn Mosher
R.E. Council	Russ Menk–convenor
Social	Robin Fink
Social Justice	Evelyn Cormier
South Hayward Parish	Jim Forsyth
Sunday Coffee	Lavon Hodges
Volunteer Coordinator	Karen Cook
Worship	Bob Meyerson

How to Reach Your Chalice Editor

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