



THE FLAMING CHALICE

Sunday Worship: 10:30 AM

SEPTEMBER WORSHIP THEME: "ABOVE EARTH'S LAMENTATIONS"

This month we explore suffering and redemption.

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BOARD NEWS

→ A deadline of September 25 was set for submitting plans for the Unitarian House plot.

→ Irene Boczek will be the new Director of Religious Exploration.

→ To encourage community and fellowship, committees are requested to avoid scheduling meetings between 10:00 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. on Sundays.

→ The Finance Committee will be asked whether it is desirable to schedule a presentation on Legacy Giving.

→ Installation of fans in the sanctuary is being considered. Please voice your opinion

SEPTEMBER SERVICE PREVIEW'S

September 4 **We Are One!**

Bob Britton, pulpit guest

Don't miss this special Labor Day Sunday service and the joyous music of solidarity! Like never before, unions are under attack and are an ever shrinking segment of the work force. Yet unions are still a progressive force in society for all – seniors, minorities, immigrants, LGBT – anyone banding together for their rights. "We're all in this together."

September 11 **Healing Water**

Rev. Katie Kandarian-Morris

Papa would tell me, "I s not a science, but the intuitive art of wooing nature." ~ W.H. Auden

It's the ten-year anniversary of the al-Qaeda attacks on the United States. It's also the date we recognize as the first big church Sunday of the year. How can our gathered waters serve as a healing mechanism for our grief, and that of the nation we live in? Bring a small amount of water today to represent your travels.

September 18 **Prayers of an Agnostic**

Rev. Roger Jones, pulpit guest

Sometimes life seems so unfair and painful. At other times, life seems so full of beauty and blessings. How to respond if one is not a friend of prayer and praise? Even if we are not sure there is any Divine Attention being directed our way, it may help!

September 25 **Requisite Lamentations**

Rev. Katie Kandarian-Morris

What can we learn from the grief we experience in our lives? How might we take it and use it for good? Today we'll introduce our congregational "common read" project, "The Death of Josseline (YO-suh-leen): Immigration Stories from the Arizona-Mexico Borderlands"



Hospitality Sitting With Gladness KATIE'S BAY VIEW

Last May, at the annual meeting of our congregation, where we hold the annual elections as well as do the business of the church, we voted to change the name of the Membership Committee to Hospitality and Membership. This name change was recommended to the congregation after much consideration and thought and because the change would be reflected in the bylaws of the church. So as this came up for a vote, one of our members, a person of color, was concerned about the use of the word hospitality. Did we really mean it, or were we simply using it as a superficial term to dress us up?

Many spoke to her worry by reaffirming that when in using the word hospitality, we meant it in the spiritual sense, as made known in the monastic community of St. Benedict, where the practice is listening. There it is known as radical hospitality, and it means to make room for "the other" for the more marginalized, for those who are often left out of community.

I have taken this concern as a caution, however. I know, that for the most part, our community tends to be homogenous. For us to cultivate a practice of hospitality, we might want to look at the way we do things—everyday, common things, things we do without thinking because they have become second nature to us. How do we welcome new people at the door, show them to the sanctuary? What elements of worship might seem exclusive rather than inclusive? Do we invite newcomers to stay for coffee, even when they haven't stood up to introduce themselves? Do we chat with them after saying hello? Do we share the peace during worship? After worship, do we run off to a meeting when our newer members might need to deepen connections? Sometimes making room for "the other" can be as simple as accepting someone new, learning to "listen" rather putting ourselves first.

As we enter the month of September, as we mark with ceremony the importance of our time spent together in community, let us step above our own needs to look out for others. Then, we find, hospitality sitting with gladness.

Love Katie

We remember our member **Frank Bruins**, who passed away on July 16th. His memorial service will be held at the church on November 19th, at 1pm.

Frank Burton is recovering from two knee surgeries. He is also celebrating 80 years!

Marge Schwab also celebrates 80 years!

Wendy Robertson is recovering from knee replacement surgery.



Ron Morris, Rev. Katie's husband, lost his father in August.

Ann Chappell lost both her mother and dog in August.

Diana and Roy Dickerson celebrated 25 years of marriage.



SKUU BOARD NEWS

By Andy Hansen—SKUU Board President

Hello, Starr King family and friends.

I write this on August 14th, 2011. **Seventy-six years ago today**, Franklin D. Roosevelt signed the Social Security Act into law. It was a great humanitarian piece of legislation and makes me proud. Yet, the shouting controversy over Social Security (and economic justice generally) has never much abated and today the system seems ever more acutely endangered, politically and financially.

Seventy years ago today, British Prime Minister Winston Churchill and President Franklin D. Roosevelt announced the Atlantic Charter, establishing a vision for post-World War II settlement. Among the Charter's assertions were that all peoples had a right to self-determination, there was to be global economic cooperation and advancement of social welfare, the participants would work for a world free of want and fear, and at the conclusion of the war, the aggressors and all parties would pursue a common disarmament. Eight European nations, the Soviets and the Free French quickly signed on.

This Charter seems to accord in spirit with several key UU principles. Yet Churchill and Stalin pressed the idea that the "self-government" clause applied only to Axis aggression, and not to English (India) and Soviet (Balkans) occupations. Roosevelt, for wartime expediency, accepted these distortions of the Charter's plain language.

Sixty-four years ago today, with the end of British colonial power in India, Pakistan and India divided into two states, predominantly Muslim and Hindu respectively. The partitioning was hasty and widespread rioting resulted. Yet both nations were seeking legitimate self-rule and freedom of religious expression – can't argue with that, right?

Alas, they're *still* arguing, and killing, and oppressing and being oppressed.

I've been pondering the juxtaposition of great and generous humanity, the striving of the human spirit for freedom, the zeniths of loving-kindness of which we are capable, with the cynical self-interest, theological rigidity, short-sighted social perspectives and sometimes just downright cruelty of which we are manifestly likewise capable. Indeed, great humanitarians are not without hurtful error and oppressors to some may be genuinely affirmative to many. We are humans with deeply primitive needs and sophisticated, soaring creative intellects; either or both can be expressed. As are humans, so are nations. And religions.

I love Unitarian Universalism because I see it as accepting the challenge of our perverse personal and social fallibilities. It seeks integration, forgiveness, self-government, love and an "arc of history that bends, inexorably, toward justice." I can't think of a community more supportive of the ideas I cherish as we swim together in these turbulent seas. Yet I know I too have error, even hypocrisy, and I suspect that we as a religious community are so afflicted also.

To state the point succinctly, *do we live as we teach?* Do I? Infinite strands of this great interdependent web respond to *our own* vibrations. I seek to be nurturing, loving and compassionate, ever clear-sighted about my own biases, selfishness and incivility. I make a big difference! You do too! May our presence each day bless this world.

★★★

Our Back to Church BBQ/Potluck kicks off directly after worship on September 11th, 2011, a tender anniversary for our nation. But what better day to gather together and affirm our deep pleasure, in that moment, in having one another?

I look forward to seeing you there.

Warmly,



Religious Exploration

By Irene Stefanko Director of Religious Exploration

Martha Graham, the inspired choreographer and dancer, once said "There is a vitality, a life force, an energy, a quickening that is translated through you into action, and because there is only one of you in all time, this expression is unique. And if you block it, it will never exist through any other medium and will be lost." This quote grounds my work in religious exploration; that is, to nurture the hope that all of our unique and precious vitality flow into existence. My name is Irene Stefanko, and I'm excited to be serving as your Director of Religious Exploration for the next year.

Exploring the world with children and youth is a passion of mine. Whether the adventures occur while teaching a religious exploration program, mentoring youth to imagine and realize improvements in social justice, or when combing the beach for marine treasures with my partner, Jerome, and children, Alexa and Nicholas. As for this year, I think Dr. Seuss said it best, "oh, the places we will go."

Currently the Religious Exploration Council, Rev. Katie Kandarian-Morris and I are hard at work preparing for this year's religious exploration programs. We are planning to offer childcare for infants and toddlers, Funshops for preschoolers and a curriculum called Principles for UU and Me for school-age children. As you read this, that curriculum is being personalized for the children here at Starr King. In addition, we are hoping to meet with the middle and high school youth and their parents/guardians so that together we can identify the best religious exploration plan for these youth.

Soon you'll receive a survey via Survey Monkey that we'll use to register for these programs, gather your thoughts regarding religious exploration, and identify fellow explorers interested in volunteering with these programs during the upcoming year. As you know, volunteers are the lifeblood of these programs, and we are deeply grateful to all of those who have, and will volunteer to help offer them. I'm looking forward to meeting you on Sunday!

SEPTEMBER FUNSHOPS (AGES 2-4)

DATE	ACTIVITY	LEADER	ASSISTANT
Sept. 4	Bubble Art	Irene Stefanko	Volunteer Needed
Sept. 11	Feelings Workshop	Irene Stefanko	Volunteer Needed
Sept. 18	Lady Bugs	Dave Middleton	Ruth Kuftin
Sept. 25	TBD	Volunteer Needed	Volunteer Needed

PRINCIPLES FOR UU AND ME (AGES 5-11)

DATE	TOPIC	TEACHER	ASSISTANT
Sept. 4	PROGRAM WILL BEGIN SEPTEMBER 18		
Sept. 11	Ages 5-11 will participate in the FunShops 9/4& 9/11		
Sept. 18	Introduction to UU Principles	Allison Prout	Volunteer Needed
Sept. 25	TBD	Mary Keisling	Volunteer Needed

SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS



1. Caroline Cady

15. Terri Owen

6. Daniel Hitchings

20. Carey Sanchez Para

9. Ruth DeSmidt

28. Allison Fink

11. Marilyn Mosher

29. Parker Bugosh

14. Kirk Smith



New Member Bio

ALLEN WILLIAMS

Since finding Starr King U.U. Church I have realized that U.U. is exactly what I believe is the answer to the question of the Great Mystery of Life. To me it is all a question, there is no dogma that I hold higher than reason -- Yes I hold dear my skepticism. I am recovering from evangelical Christianity. I was raised in a church that taught that all gays go directly to HELL. I could not accept that philosophy and through my journey I have found a spiritual home in Starr King. I have a deep sense of the belief of the first U.U. Principle: The inherent worth and dignity of every person. I also strongly agree with the second Principle: Justice, equality and compassion in human relations. I want to give all of you a heart felt "Thank You" for being who you are.

Namaste, Allen Williams

WELCOME BACK BBQ

SUNDAY SEPT 11TH

STARR KING'S ANNUAL BARBECUE

AFTER CHURCH SERVICE

BRING YOUR OWN PLATES, UTENSILS & SOMETHING TO SHARE

THE GRILL WILL BE GLOWING;

VEGGIE BURGERS AND HOT DOGS WILL BE SIZZLING

COMMITTEE CORNER

Grounds and Landscape

Our History & Philosophy: Since our vision, mission and plan were approved by the Starr King board in June 2002, the Grounds and Landscape Committee, co-chaired by Carol Henrie and Walt Korus, has worked steadily to create a harmonious landscape of native and Mediterranean plants to enhance the spiritual and social environment of Starr King Church and to demonstrate UU principles. We think of our work on the Starr King grounds as a ministry not only to our members and visitors but to the wildlife that shares this beautiful locale. The several ecosystems on our grounds provide opportunities to install a variety of habitats.

Our Accomplishments: Over the past 10 years, our primary objectives have been as follows:

- *Eliminate all pesticide and herbicide use on the grounds, using natural controls such as mulching, solarisation, cover-crop competition and manual weeding and cultivation.*

In addition to safeguarding the health of our members and resident wildlife, because our property adjoins San Lorenzo Creek, we are stewards of a riparian system. Our property is crossed by numerous underground streams finding their way to the creek, and every substance we use travels to the waterway. It's a slow process, but we continually extend the space we are wresting from invaded-grasslands status by manual weed-removal, mulching and replanting. For this work especially we would greatly appreciate help, as "many hands make light work" and weeds are relentless.

- *Remove invasive plant species and thirsty cultivars and replace with waterwise natives.*

We have removed dozens of invasive species, including a huge stand of *arundo donax*, cultivars, and poplar and eucalyptus trees; ivies and periwinkle need to be addressed.

- *Restore native plants and establish habitat for wildlife.*

When you enter the Starr King grounds, we hope you notice the native and Mediterranean-type plants specifically chosen for this landscape, plants that evolved to endure wet winters and dry summers. (See the photos accompanying this article.) We use drip irrigation to help plants get established, keeping water use to a minimum by appropriate plant choice and by heavy mulching. In addition to suppressing weeds, as it decomposes, mulch nourishes the soil ecosystem and all the critters — invisible to us — who keep it healthy and friable. Walt continues to find amazing plants that through their life cycles replenish soils and nourish and shelter wildlife.

- *In support of our Seventh Principle, create a series of "demonstration gardens" that educate the congregation about stewardship of the landscape through plant choices, visible signage, and various cultivation practices such as terracing, interplanting and mulching, and drip irrigation.*

We believe in nurturing our grounds. You can't miss the bird and squirrel feeders, tended by Terry and Mike Preston. More subtle is the role of plants that also nourish wildlife, as well as many varieties of native bees and other insects. We compost and return elements to the earth to replenish our soils; all of you have come to support our composting efforts so that now it's second nature. Our grounds reflect the cycles of the seasons, the cycles of life, from birth to death and renewal.

- *Extend social space into the landscape.*

Before we built the terrace on the south side of the Sanctuary, the entrance to our church was a field of weeds! We set about to draw you out into the landscape. Now that the new social hall has been created and the sewer lines have been installed, we will be securing and expanding the children's play area, and we will extend the social area south of the Sanctuary so you may enjoy birdsong, bee hum, wind in our lovely oak and buckeye canopy, sunshine or rain and the beauty of the life cycle of plants native to our clime — the sacred on our doorstep. We hope our grounds inspire you to celebrate our Seventh Principle and to take some of these practices home to your own gardens.

We would love to hear your ideas or suggestions for the landscape, and we're happy to answer your questions about plants and habitat. The Starr King Grounds Committee welcomes new members. Please consider joining Walt Korus, Carol Henrie, Mike Preston, Terry Preston and Dick Albert in this important, rewarding work.



FESCO

Family Emergency Shelter COalition

By Donnie Rett FESCO Representative from Starr King Church

Lots of Opportunities to Help!

Jennifer Koney and I continue to keep the youth population (between five and twelve children) occupied for an hour and a quarter every Wednesday with crafts

and free-form fun. Robin Fink stepped in as a substitute recently, also. It would help to develop a list of willing folks who could substitute on an occasional basis.

We are also developing a plan to serve a meal to the residents of the Shelter and/or Banyan transitional housing (a longer term facility) on a regular basis – monthly, semi-monthly, or quarterly. I will be contacting some of you as soon as I have all the details of their requirements.

There is also a new program being developed by their staff for mentoring residents.

Let me know if you are interested in helping with any of these plans, or if you have other ideas that would benefit the Shelter. It is rewarding work.

Watch the bulletin board just inside the door of the social hall for news and events at the Shelter.

Donnie

GREEN SANCTUARY COMMITTEE

GOT ZUCCHINI? CORN, SQUASH, TOMATOES or any other fruits/veggies that are busting out of your garden?

If so, **SOUTH HAYWARD PARISH** could surely use any excess you might have. They accept all types of produce and can definitely use it now.

For those able to drop off produce, the hours are Tues/Wed/Thur. 9:00 - 5:30 or Fridays 2:00 - 5:30. If you'd like to contribute, but just don't have the time, they'd be happy to arrange a day to come glean excess fruits/veggies.

Their office is closed on weekends and Mondays, but you can call ahead of time to arrange for **drop-off/pick up. 27287 Patrick Avenue Hayward (510) 785-3663**

Coming Attractions:

- ➔ Darryl Ray will offer a one-hour information session on grey water basics, including L to L (laundry to landscape) systems that can be done without a permit (and in compliance with code). Fall (Sept-Oct)
- ➔ Green potluck -- let's do it again! It was so much fun we're going to do it again this fall. Tentative date is mid-October.
- ➔ Movie series -- Green Sanctuary will team with Social Justice committee to show movies about the earth and earth justice. We hope to start in September.
- ➔ The farm tour and Low Carbon Footprint class are coming in Fall (Sept-Oct)

Want to know how we accomplish so much at Starr King?

Want to be more active in your church community?

Want to see how your talents can help Starr King?

Plan to attend

THE COMMITTEE FAIR SEPT. 18!

After church on the back patio

SIGN UP NOW!

Enjoy a splendid dinner with good conversation and fun!

You and 6-10 other church members will share a potluck dinner at someone's home.



DON'T MISS IT!

This is a great way to get to know other church members in a small friendly group.

Be sure to sign up on the back table of the fellowship hall by September 24.

ASHLAND WEEKEND

SAVE THE DATES: MARCH 30, 31 & APRIL 1, 2012

MARK YOUR CALENDARS NOW

Watch for further details in

The **Chalice**, the **Sunday Announcements Sheet**, and via **email**.

The plays to be produced in March are:

Romeo and Juliet, **Animal Crackers**, **The White Snake**,

Triolus and Cressida and **The Seagull**

We will know by next issue which will be offered on which days!

UU PRINCIPLES REFLECTIONS FROM OUR MEMBERS

This is the first of a series of articles written by individual Starr King members. Members are encouraged to chronicle their personal successes or struggles in living one of the 7 UU Principles.

The editor reminds her readers that these are the personal views of the writer and that it is hoped that this series will encourage the practice of the 3rd Principle, “**A free and responsible search for truth and meaning**”

This month **Nancy Harrison** articulates her belief in, yet at times difficulty with, the 1st. Principle “**The inherent worth and dignity of every person.**”

Any member who would like to share his/her own experiences or efforts living the UU Principles, may send an article to editor@starrking.org.

To be included in the next issue of the Flaming Chalice all articles must be sent by the 2nd Sunday of the month.

I started writing this because the first UU principle isn't easy for me. I have difficulty perceiving "The inherent worth and dignity of every person."

I have no difficulty accepting the inherent worth of people who are different from me, or who are struggling to overcome the obstacles that life has given them. I'm fine with people of other races and cultures. I have some understanding of mental illness and of the pressures that lead people to behave violently toward others. I grasp some of the pressures and effects and limitations of poverty. I know many of the reasons why people turn to alcohol or drugs and get ensnared in addictive behavior. I know that many people who are parented very badly have difficulty coping with life.

But when I encounter adults who appear to have been completely defeated by whatever misfortunes they have encountered I feel sympathy for them, and wish they could be helped in some way, but I have great difficulty perceiving them as having any "inherent worth" or "dignity." I'm talking about those poor souls who wander the streets, not in touch with the outside world due to mental illness or drugs or alcohol or all of the above; and those who are locked away or hospitalized for the same reasons. I'm also talking about folks who are miserable and angry because they are very ill physically, in great pain, with no realistic chance of recovery, and wish only to die. And there are some people who for whatever reason survive by preying on others, or worse, get pleasure from abusing others, either without conscience or convinced that those whom they damage have no value. I'm talking about them too.

When I ask myself how I truly perceive such people, my first response is to see them as perhaps once having had worth and dignity, but as they are as having no worth, without justified claims to dignity, a drag on the rest of us. I can't say I've never thought we'd all be better off if they were dead. Clearly, when I think such thoughts I am not living up to the first principle.

However, I do see that if they could somehow heal or change they have potential worth and dignity.

After considerable reflection, I've concluded that for me to perceive the folks I've described as having worth and dignity I must hope that they can change. I have great difficulty engendering meaningful hope for such people. I know the statistics too well. But I know that some apparently hopelessly damaged people do overcome the odds. It can't hurt to hope that perhaps this person will be one of them. When I remember to hope I can perceive the inherent worth and dignity of each individual. I just have to remember to hope.

Nancy Harrison

ON GOING FUN AND UPCOMING ACTIVITIES

- BOOK CLUB** The book group will meet Thursday, September 8, 7 PM, at the home of Evelyn Cormier, 510-471-0475, to discuss the book “*Major Pettigrew’s Last Stand*” by Helen Simonson. All are welcome. The October book is “*The Jane Austen Book Club*” by Karen Joyce Fowler.
- CHURCH BOOKSTORE** The bookstore is open every 3rd. Sunday (September 18) after the service
- DRUM CIRCLE** Meets the 1st. Friday (September 2) from 7-9 PM. Come enjoy a fun and spiritual evening
- EVENING MEDITATION** Meets every Wednesday from 7- 8pm. Come practice meditation and reap its benefits.
- ELDER GROUP** Meets every 3rd Wednesday (September 21) at 12:00 noon. Bring your lunch and enjoy learning about and discussing topics of particular interest to our elder (self-identified) members
- FILM GROUP** Will meet Saturday, September 24, 2011 AT 7:00 P.M. at the home of Stuart Fink to watch “SOURCE CODE” (2011) starring Jake Gyllenhaal And Michelle Monaghan. Action sci-fi about a government plan to place a soldier in another man’s body to investigate a terrorist act. (RATED PG-13). Let Stuart know if you are coming and please bring a movie snack to share.
- JUUST SOCIAL CHANGE** Meets on the second Sunday (September 11) after the service, at 11:45 AM. All are welcome.
- MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE** Meets on the third Sunday of each month (September 18), **after** the service from 12:00 P.M.
- MORNING DISCOVERY** Meets in the library from 10 to 11:15 A.M. on first and third Wednesdays (September 7 & 21) All are welcome to join us to explore community and spirituality, discussion and shared silence.
- NO ROOM FOR RACISM** Vigils are held every third Friday (September 16) 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.
- STARR KING PARENTS** To join this active, informative and fun group, contact Sara Raymond at seraymond@gmail.com
- SKIFFLE** Meets 2nd and 4th Wednesdays (September 7 & 21) 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.
- SKIT** Improv. group meets in the Sanctuary on 2nd. and 4th. Thursdays at 7:30 P.M. (September 8 & 22)
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HOW TO REACH US

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Your Chalice Editor

Deadline:

2nd Sunday of the month.

Please put all contributions in writing.

Post to:

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newslettereditor@starrking.org

Church Office Summer Hours

Wednesday & Thursday

9:00am-1:00pm

Church Leadership

Board of Trustees

President: Andy Hansen

Vice President: Colleen Dino

Secretary: Nancy Harrison

Treasurer Frank Satterwhite

At Large Lea Casini

Roy Dickerson

Georgia Gruver

Glen Jacob

Donnie Rett

Mary Swain

Office Manager Kelli Abatangelo

Minister Rev. Katie Kandarian-Morris

Church Organization

Committee Chairs

Adult Religious Education – Chris Selig

Buildings – TBD

Chalice Editor – Georgia Gruver

Church Website – Beth Olgilvie

Committee Council – Colleen Dino

Communications Committee – Melody Appleton

FESCO – Donnie Rett

Fundraising – TBD

Hospitality/Membership – Diane Meyerson

Green Sanctuary – Stephanie Smith

Grounds – Carol Henrie, Walt Korus

Interior – Sherry Thomas

Kitchen Manager – Sherry Thomas

Pastoral Care – Karen Cook

R.E. Council – Doug Sprague

SKARF – Carey Sanchez Para

Social – Robin Fink

Social Justice – Evelyn Cormier

South Hayward Parish – Jim Forsyth

Sunday Coffee – Lavon Hodges

Ushers – Susan Blanc

Volunteer Coordinator – Karen Cook

Website – Beth Olgilvie

Worship Committee – Bob Meyerson