

THE FLAMING CHALICE

Sunday Worship:10:30 AM

OCTOBER WORSHIP THEME: HAILS A NEW CREATIONThis month we explore the creation and creativity as divine inspiration!

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BOARD NEWS

- Board retreat set for January 28, 2012
- Approved two ceiling fans for Sanctuary and new copier for office
- Committee will discuss & report to board on guidelines for the use of the sanctuary.
- The date for the Service Auction set for February 25, 2012.
- Safety, appearance and placement of the playground equipment discussed.
- Approval of new groups was discussed.

OCTOBER SERVICE PREVIEWS

October 2 Creating a Minister Rev. Katie Kandarian-Morris

This is Association Sunday, set to support and affirm the work of our Unitarian Universalist Association. The focus of this year's celebration is "excellence in ministry" knowing that strong ministry is essential to strong congregations. Our **special collection** will go to the UUA.

October 9 The Promises We Make Rev. Michelle Favreault, pulpit guest

Have you ever made a promise and found it hard to keep? As people of faith how do we support one another in deepening our commitments, living our values and sharing in the spiritual work of forgiving ourselves and one another when we miss the mark?

October 16 Creating Space in Our Hearts Rev. Katie Kandarian-Morris

In our hymnal is printed this quote from William F. Schulz, "This is the mission of our faith: to teach the fragile art of hospitality." How might we begin to live our mission?

October 23 A Compassionate Life Rev. Katie Kandarian-Morris BRING A FRIEND SUNDAY

Our world is becoming increasingly polarized. Selfishness chooses to ignore our deep interconnectedness. How can we transcend our petty boundaries and create peace?

October 30 Spirit of Life Rev. Katie Kandarian-Morris

MULTI-GENERATIONAL SERVICE

Today we'll celebrate El Dia de los Muertos by remembering our loved ones who have gone before us. Please bring photos or mementos for the altar.

Room for a New Creation KATIE'S BAY VIEW



A number of years ago when I was perusing the bookstore shelves in search of a new journal, I was encouraged to choose the one without lines. But the

lines are there to keep my handwriting neat, I protested, so that it doesn't slope down the page or get smaller or larger. The lines help keep me on task, with each page matching the one before. Those line-less books are for drawing, not writing!

When I was at the halfway point of my internship year, my teaching minister told me that I had spent enough time on the "doing" of ministry and I now needed to focus on the "being" of ministry. How to *do* that? That was the more difficult half of the year.

Never a fan of the 50's sitcom *I Love Lucy*, I somehow keep seeing that scene of Lucy and Ethel trying to please by wrapping chocolates passing at an incessant pace, finally shoving them into their necklines, hats and squirrel-cheeked mouths.

Where is there room for creativity when the belt is speeding by? How can I practice ministry when there's no space for reflection? How can we have vision when all the pages are already lined out for us?

Not many vocations have what feels like the luxury of a sabbatical. Ministry is one of the few. Yet, as I prepare for a time of rest, a time to "rest and let the ground lie fallow" I know that room will be created on the page, the conveyer belt will decelerate, the mind and heart will find room for the being.

On my sabbatical, on which I will mostly stay close by and focus on my love of music, I will strive to find ways to bring more creativity to our vocal community. For this four-month period from January through April, I've got plans to take lessons, and for doing a bit of research, but mostly, I want to make room on my page to let the spirit move me. I hope that during the time I'm gone, you'll do some exploration of your own, whether that's in new insights from worship, taking on a new role at church or finding your own creative voice. I will share more details about the sabbatical in worship, and the sabbatical committee is taking every measure to make sure details are in place so that things run smoothly while I'm gone. In May, when I return, we can share with each other all that we've learned.

In the meantime, I'm going to try to consider my blank page (no lines), the importance of "being" in ministry, and the fact that more chocolates pass me by than I could ever manage, as good examples for my creative spirit. To "hail a new creation," I need room for the old to pass away and for everything to become new.





Our prayers and sincere condolences to **Nancy Harrison** and her family, on the passing of her husband Lynn.

Rev. Katie and family are celebrating the marriage of son Eric Bugosh to Marisa Ramirez.

Ruth DeSmidt joyfully turned 50!

SKUU BOARD NEWS

By Andy Hansen—SKUU Board President

Hello, Starr King Family.

I'm writing this "October article" on September 11th, 2011, in accordance with our Flaming Chalice submissions deadline. As may be true for you, I've been giving extra thought in the last few weeks to how I wanted to engage this special day. It is the tenth anniversary of a painful bookend in history that in some ways divided our lives "before the Twin Towers fell" from what living has been like afterwards.

Frankly, I've been wary of this anniversary; I didn't wish to ignore or avoid *reflections* about 9/11/01 and yet I felt a shrinking disinclination to relive the *shock and grief* I felt that day. I recently heard a psychologist on National Public Radio say that she was aware of no data indicating that revisiting those vivid images of destruction would be therapeutic. That suited me just fine, and miraculously, I've managed to get through the last few weeks without seeing the Twin Towers fall on television or the internet.

How wonderful it was, then, to be with many of you at our Starr King worship service this morning and listen to Rev. Katie's compassionate and perceptive sermon describing how the trauma of the 9/11/01 attack weaves into the fabric of life, including other life-traumas. She seemed to me to be saying that compassion requires us to be ready to comfort one another and ourselves *in an inviting way* when trauma is evoked, as we can't always know what other painful memories will emerge. I also took comfort from the good old hymn *There is a Balm in Gilead*, which reminds me that discouragement will come but that succor will also come, and that it *doesn't matter* if I don't know the answers or can't see my way, so long as I can keep compassionate love at the center of my endeavoring.

And what a seeming MULTITUDE of happy, engaged kids were with us at worship today to enjoy Irene Boczek Stefanko's delightfully hand-crafted story about creating life and beauty where once there was waste and bleakness.



It was SO NICE to have our Fall Barbeque & Potluck this afternoon, too! This event seems always to be so happy and relaxed. I even saw a first-time Starr King visitor stay for the potluck, which made me feel great. Thank you to the efficient planners, volunteers <u>and</u> participants who made this pleasing, friendly communion possible.

I'm grateful to live in our special Starr King community. I hope you also are finding congregational life satisfying. If something hinders your participation or enjoyment in our community, please let us know. Rev. Katie's door is always open in spirit, and you can email me directly at President@StarrKing.org.

May you find pleasure this month in our sunny autumn, possibly in some fresh apple cider, and most definitely in the beauty of your own Being.



Religious Exploration

By Irene Stefanko Director of Religious Exploration

G.K. Chesterton said "Education is simply the soul of a society as it passes from one generation to another." While I view the religious education or exploration as a collaborative adventure, these words remind me how the present and future are connected in the Religious Exploration (RE) program here at Starr King Unitarian

Universalist Church. I am also so grateful to Rev. Katie, the RE Council, those who build fences to keep the children safe, and all of the volunteers who teach and care for our children with such tenderness. This passing of the soul isn't possible without them.

Currently we are offering 3 programs. First, child-care is offered for infants and toddlers during Sunday services by wonderful loving volunteers. In order to properly plan, we ask that you sign up at http://www.signupgenius.com/go/infanttoddler on the Friday before a service to let us know if you will have a wee one in childcare on Sunday. Similarly if you would love the chance spend time with littlest ones, you are always welcome as a care-giving volunteer.

For the pre-school and school-age children we just finished an incredible month of FunShops. We explored the interconnected web of existence by studying Ladybugs, we thought about feelings on 9/11, we made bubbles knowing that one source of wisdom is experience, we learned about the many different ways we communicate via music and rhythm, and we learned about community at an ice cream social. Either last month, or over the course of last year, many in the congregation offered their wisdom to the children via FunShops. Our deepest gratitude to you all.

On September 27, 2011 we started this years RE program for pre-school and school age children. We will be offering a curriculum for the children called Principles for UU and Me modified for the particular needs of this congregation. During this school-year, the children will explore the UU principles with their minds, their hands, and their hearts. Throughout the year we are planning on many field trips and social justice projects. We hope that you might come and learn with us. During the first month of the program the children will be introduced to the seven UU principles and then the second month we'll dive right into the 7th principle -- respect for the interdependent web of all existence of which we are a part. On October 23, families who are interested can join us at the Hayward Shoreline Interpretive Center so that we can commune with the wet part of the interconnected web of existence. And on November 6, the Insect Discover Laboratory will be visiting us here at SKUUC so that we can get up front and personal with the some of the insects in the great web!

Last, we talked with the Youth to introduce them to the religious exploration opportunities available in the district and to talk about what they would like to do together during the next year. SKY, the youth program will begin on October 2, 2011. Youth are asked to sign up each week at http://www.signupgenius.com/go/areyou7 if they plan to come so we'll know who's coming and can plan properly. The emphasis this year will be on UU history and social justice.

So we're off to a grand start in Religious Exploration and one last ENORMOUS thank you to the entire congregation for making that possible.

CHECK OUT THE UPCOMING RE ACTIVITIES FOR ALL STARR KING YOUNG PEOPLE, AS WELL AS PLANS FOR ADULT RE ON THE NEXT PAGE (45.5)

RE HAPPENINGS FOR OCTOBER

Infants and Toddlers: Care During Worship Preschool and School Age:

DATE	ACTIVITY
OCT. 2	Making Promises
OCT. 9	Making Chalices, Bringing Light
OCT. 16	Interconnected Webs
OCT. 23	Interconnected Web and Plastic; Family Outing to Shoreline Interpretive Center at 1 PM
OCT. 30	Multigenerational Service
NOV. 6	Insect Mania - Insect Discovery Lab Visits

SKY (Starr King Youth): Begins on 10/2/11 11:40 to 12:40 Sundays

ADULT RE

Coming Soon in Adult Religious Education

This year in Adult RE we'll be offering some great workshops and discussions. Watch the newsletter and the web site for more information.

The Rev. Katie is planning more sessions of <u>Parents as Resident Theologians</u>. Dates and topics will be announced soon.

For our <u>church common read</u>, the Rev. Katie has chosen *The Death of Josseline: Immigration Stories from the Arizona-Mexican Borderlands* by Margaret Regan. We'll be selling the book at church and organizing discussion groups. This is a great tie-in to the June 2012 General Assembly in Phoenix, Arizona, which will focus on immigration and border issues.

Please SAVE THE DATE: Saturday, December 3 The Rev. Mark Morrison-Reed will be here to help us continue the work begun by our anti-racism groups. The Rev. Mark served as co-minister of Unitarian Universalists congregations in Rochester, New York and Toronto with his wife, the Rev. Donna Morrison-Reed. He is author or editor of several books, including Black Pioneers in a White Denomination and In Between: Memoir of an Integration Baby.

OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS 7 Wendy Robertson 8 Scott Kinnear 19 David Miyoshi 25 Frank Perry



New Member Bio Will Fitch

I'm a native Californian, born in Palo Alto, where I grew up. Both my parents were Unitarian, and I was active in the youth group. My life has taken a different turn since my wife of 16 years passed away in 2009. After a period of mourning, upon reflection, I decided to join the Starr King church. This was a good decision since I am meeting enjoyable people.

I enjoy traveling, having relaxing mornings in the weekends and going to the theater. I have been working at PG&E for over 30 years, and

continue to enjoy the opportunity to expand my knowledge.

Worship Committeeby Bob Meyerson, Chair

While we still have much to do in 2011, the Worship Committee is looking beyond the new year to the beginning of 2012. As most of you know, Rev. Katie will be taking a Sabbatical during the first few months of 2012. While a Sabbatical Committee will be in place, and Rev. Katie has already scheduled speakers for some Sundays, the Worship Committee is already beginning to assure that the Sundays not scheduled will be filled with meaningful worship services.

In that vein, we are seeking input from all members of the congregation for ideas that might provide the impetus and inspiration for a Sunday service.

The committee meets the third Thursday of every month, at 7 PM in the sanctuary. All members of the congregation have an open invitation to attend our meetings. For new members it is a non-threatening way to look into this aspect of church life.....and maybe consider joining the Worship Committee at some point. We are always looking for ideas, and Worship Associates to participate in Sunday Services.

But while the Worship Associates are visible, there are many aspects and duties of the committee other than that singular role. In the meantime, should you have any ideas which might lend themselves to a Sunday Service, feel free to speak with Rev. Katie or any member of the Worship Committee.....keeping in mind that whether in the pulpit or away on vacation or sabbatical, Rev. Katie has the final word on the conduct of Sunday Services.

COMMITTEE CORNER Being a member of this committee, and current chair, to me it is the essence of my reason for being a member of Starr King Church.

GREEN SANCTUARY COMMITTEE

Got Zucchini? Corn, Squash, Tomatoes or any other fruits/veggies that are overflowing 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. **Call ahead of time to arrange for drop-off/pick up. (510) 785-3663**

WHY I DONATE MY FOOD

I was drowning in squash, and it got to the point where people saw me coming and said, "No more!" The Green Sanctuary mentioned the Urban Orchards program through South Hayward Parish. They will come glean my fruits and vegetables, or I could deliver it to them. This fresh, local produce, along with other food collections, helps to feed the needy.

I decided to drop off my patty pan squash. I called, and they said, "Sure, bring it in!" When I got there I saw two ladies in the parking lot comparing their bags of groceries. I walked around the corner to find a long line of elderly people sitting, waiting for their bags. A helper there took one look at my squash and, said, "Oh, those are different. They look like flying saucers!" We laughed, and he proceeded to take them to the food pantry. I noticed the shelves did not have much in the way of canned goods.

I was so moved by this encounter, and as I drove away, I thought, maybe they take eggs! I pulled over, called them back, and told them about our fresh farm eggs. They said, oh yes, they would take them. Then I thought about our eggs that we are selling. Sometimes our customers cannot pick up their eggs, and have arranged for others to get them. I sent an email to them and mentioned this program. If they could not pick up their eggs on a particular week, we would be happy to "donate" their share to the Urban Orchards program.

The response was so positive! They were happy to have this option, knowing that it was going to a good cause. This week I am taking some chard, collards, beans, and corn, and next week we already have some eggs that are being donated by our customers.

So, why am I telling you about this? Because this is a great environmental justice project for our church, and more importantly, a great thing to do. We have many wonderful gardeners at Starr King, and it would be exciting to see the impact we could make. If you have extra fruit or produce, why not give them a call? They can come pick it for you, or you can deliver it to them. And if you do, let us know!

South Hayward Parish 27287 Patrick Ave., Hayward – 510-785-3663 T-W-TH – 9AM-5:30 PM, FRI 2PM-5:30PM



WATCH FOR THESE ACTIVITIES

- → 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 soon.
- → The farm tour and Low Carbon Footprint class are coming in the Fall .

HOLIDAY BAZAAR NOVEMBER 13 AND 20 - 2011

Purchase your gifts and at the same time help out Starr King.

Plan to attend one or both Sundays, immediately after church.

If you are making something to donate please deliver them to the church by Saturday, November 12

SERVICE AUCTION

FEBRUARY 25, 2011

Be thinking of a service you would like to donate.

A sign-up sheet for Service Donations will be coming soon Or email Sherry Thomas at sherrthom1@sbcglobal.net



ASHILAND WEEKEND MARCH 30, 31 & APRIL 1, 2012

The plays to be produced in March are:
Romeo and Juliet, Animal Crackers, The White Snake,
Triolus and Cressida and The Seagull
Stay tuned for more information

9-19-19-19-19-19-

UU PRINCIPLES REFLECTIONS FROM OUR MEMBERS

Unfortunately, there were no member submissions, this month, for our "Personal Understanding of the UU Principles." column.

Being an eternal optimist, I look forward to reading and publishing all forthcoming articles in the coming months

The 2nd Principle to be discussed is "Justice, equity and compassion in human relations." If you would like to share your thoughts, Please submit your remarks to: newslettereditor@starrking.org by October 10, 2011.

The drum circle to be held in our sanctuary on October 7, from 7 to 9 PM, will mark our half-year anniversary. Drumming has certainly become an ear- and brain-opening experience for me, and I want to make sure that everyone in the congregation knows that you are always welcome--even if you have never drummed before. Even if your parents/guardians/teachers/friends told you to stay away from music because you had a tin ear or couldn't carry a tune in a basket. They were WRONG! If you can perambulate and vocalize, as well as breathe and have a beating heart, you indeed have rhythm and will fit right in.

We are all beginners on this journey, and have no intention of leaving people out or behind. Yes, people get more comfortable with their instruments, and become more mindful of listening to others, experiencing group dynamics, and contributing in their own unique way the longer they attend, but even beginning beginners can step out onto the path and join in within seconds!

We do learn lessons along the way, but they are the kinds of life-lessons we need to be constantly reminded of anyway, and who knows, if a learning comes through one of your non-dominant intelligences, it may stick around for a while longer. Here are some examples of "lessons" I have learned on my path and have tried to pass on: Enjoy the journey. Don't worry. Keep it simple. You have a body--Play it (vocalize, move your feet, clap your hands, snap your fingers, hit your thigh). Never hurt yourself; breathe deeply, maintain the posture of a marionette suspended from the ceiling, relax into the rhythm, stop and adjust (change position or instrument) when your start to feel uncomfortable. Suspend all judgments, even (or especially) of yourself. Don't over think anything (try just doing, not thinking). Contribute what you can and what you feel. Mistakes don't exist, but different ways of accomplishing things do. Only good things happen when you let yourself go. Some of these lessons are from the universal "rules" of drum circle etiquette, but they seem to apply to lots of areas of life, too.

Drumming can be a part of your individual spiritual practice, as well as a group activity. Some of the rhythms we use in our circle can put an individual practitioner into a trance, but provide a wonderful background rhythm for others to improvise and play off of when performed in a group. All of the rhythms we use are "universal" rhythms--meaning that they are found in cultures all over the world, not just in one region.

I am continuing to explore other aspects of drumming. The "journeying" or shamanic circle I participate in last spring has disbanded, but I have discovered a "Drumming as Spiritual Practice" group in Berkeley that meets every other week, a really playful group that meets monthly also in Berkeley, and several other circles that meet on the peninsula or in San Francisco that I haven't had the time to explore. I am now commuting down to Santa Cruz weekly to play in a djembe ensemble class (we are learning culturally specific ways of playing, but new concepts are introduced at a glacial pace, so we will be ready for the next step when the preceding ones are completely embedded within us). In all the circles I am learning to listen and play with the group while following the leader as we change tempo, but in the Santa Cruz one we are learning exclusively by ear and by feel, because in Western culture we tend to rely way too much on vision, analysis, and effort, whereas in indigenous cultures the rhythms are passed on orally (aurally) and accompany movement in everyday life.

Please let me know if you would like to either join me in this exploration, or be informed of other drumming opportunities I hear of. And do please join us at our monthly circle right here at SKUUC. It's FUN, and we only PLAY music, not work at it!



COME ONE, COME ALL - SPREAD THE WORD!

ANOTHER GREAT WEEKEND IN ASHLAND

Twelfth (or so) annual fun trip north. Purpose is to enjoy each other's company and to see several plays produced by a world-class company.

Lodging - Plaza Inn, as in the past. Attendees arrange their own transportation.

Further details (welcome, group dinner, back stage tour(?) TBA.

Arranged by Starr King Unitarian Universalist Church in Hayward.

PARTICULARS:

DATES: Friday, March 30 - Sunday, April 1

(extra night before or after may be arranged ahead at our special rate . . .must be done **early**, as this depends on how full the Plaza is)

PLAYS: Fri. evening - The White Snake

Sat. afternoon - Romeo and Juliet

Sat. evening _ Animal Crackers

(Sun. morning) - Talk by actor

COST: \$250.00 per person, double occupancy

DEPOSIT: \$100. due by January 1, 2012

Full payment due March 1, 2012

CONTACT INFO: Donnie Rett – <u>bdrett146@att.net</u>

15902 Wellington Way

San Leandro, CA 94578

(510)276-0545

Further info to follow. Watch your email and/or Starr King's weekly announcement sheet and *The Flaming Chalice*.

Reservation Form:	
Name:	
Phone:	_ Email:
Amount enclosed:	
Rooming with:	

ON GOING FUN AND UPCOMING ACTIVITIES

BOOK CLUB

The book group will meet Thursday October 13, 7 PM, at the home of Donnie Rett, 510-276-0645, to discuss The Jane Austen Book Club by Karen Joyce Fowler. All are welcome. Please let Donnie know if you plan to attend. The November book is *The Lacuna* by Barbara Kingsolver.

CHURCH BOOKSTORE The bookstore is open every 3rd. Sunday (October 16) after the service

DRUM CIRCLE

Meets the 1st. Friday (October 7) 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 (October 19) 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, October 15, 2011 AT 7:00 P.M. at the home of Stuart Fink to watch "Win Win" (2010) Starring Paul Giamatti, Amy Ryan And Jeffrey Tambor. Comedy About A Struggling High School Wrestling Coach Rated R For Language). Let Stuart know if you are coming and please bring a movie snack to share.

JUUst SOCIAL CHANGE

Meets on the second Sunday (October 9) after the service, at 11:45 AM. All are welcome.

MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

Meets on the third Sunday of each month (October 16), after the service at 12:00 P.M.

MORNING DISCOVERY Meets in the fellowship hall from 10 to 11:15 A.M. on first and third Wednesdays (October 5 & 19). 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 (October 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.

STARR KING PARENTS To join this active, informative and fun group, contact Sara Raymond at seraymond@gmail.com

SKIFFLE

Meets 2nd and 4th Wednesdays (October 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.

SKIT

Improv. group meets in the Sanctuary on 2nd. and 4th. Thursdays at 7:30 P.M. (October 13 & 27)

HOW TO REACH US

Church Office Summer Hours

Wednesday & Thursday 9:00am-1:00pm

Church Leadership

Starr King Unitarian Universalist Church

22577 Bayview Avenue Hayward, CA 94541

Church Office: 510/581.2060

office@starrking.org

Parish Minister: Kathryn Kandarian-Morris

minister@starrking.org

Home phone: 510/537.6565

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510/301-6938

president@starrking.org.

Church Website: http://www.starrking.org

Webmaster Beth Olgilvie, webmaster@starrking.org

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-

Email to:

newslettereditor@starrking.org

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