



THE FLAMING CHALICE

Sunday Worship: 10:30 AM

JANUARY WORSHIP THEME:

"Inmost Calm" This month we explore the sources that sustain us.

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JANUARY SERVICE PREVIEW'S

January 1, Letting Go

Led by Glen Jacob, pulpit guest

Have you been carrying heavy bags of guilt and regret? Join the worship committee for our annual burning off ceremony, and perhaps start the new year with a lighter load.

January 8, Mysticism

Led by Rev. Barbara F. Meyers, pulpit guest

The first source of our UU Living Tradition is the direct experience of transcending mystery and wonder, affirmed in all cultures. Come explore mysticism and how it has affected the lives of humans across cultures and across history.

January 15, One Love: A Musical Tribute to Dr. King

Led by Hans York, pulpit guest

A Starr King favorite, musician and songwriter Hans York will lead us in reflecting on the life and work of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Let us gather together and sing!

January 22, Holy Books for Humanists

Led by Chris Selig, pulpit guest

Holy books provide inspiration and sustenance for religious people the world over. But where do humanists turn? Inspired by A.C. Grayling's *The Good Book*, members of the Worship Committee will share from the sources that lift us up.

January 29, Touching the Void

Led by Rev. Sonya Sukalski, pulpit guest

When seeking our inmost calm, letting go of business, or busy-ness, we often touch not only calm. When you touch what your spirit shrinks from, what are your options?

HAPPY
NEW
YEAR



SKUU BOARD NEWS

By Andy Hansen—SKUU Board President



Plain Living

Greetings! Welcome to 2012. I love January's quieter calendar, blander foods and relative lack of retail exhortation. I enjoy January's refreshing regularity. Holiday expectations are a done deal; they were met, or they were unmet.

Personally, I don't make resolutions, so my January regimen is not cluttered with seasonal attempts at self-improvement. In my experience, resolutions are too often a set-up for disappointment and the unpleasant sheepish feeling of coming to terms, after roundly declaring The New Leaf, with the difference between wishing for personal change, and actually changing.

January is also a time to dispense with the magical thinking and nostalgia of October, November and December. I find that magic both charming and wearing. Instead, January provides a day to consider the unmagical but practical, visionary and fundamentally heartening work of Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Observance of MLK Day urges me to reflect on social justice and injustice, to see what is not yet achieved in the present. Yet I feel awe and gratitude for the many shoulders we stand upon today, women and men who spoke out, risked, influenced their generations and often toiled anonymously for a fairer and more peaceful world. Join our community celebration of Dr. King at Hayward City Hall on MLK Day! Selections from his writings will be read aloud and "justice music" performed by local school choirs.

Starr King also begins a schedule of speakers and programs specially arranged for the Ministerial Sabbatical, which will run from January 1st through the month of April. Our Worship Committee and Rev. Katie have planned extensively to make this a fruitful and interesting time in our Worship schedule, and I look forward to many new perspectives.

Finally, January 2012 brings the annual day-long joint retreat of Starr King's Board of Trustees and Committee on Ministry, on Saturday the 28th. Charged with caring for the interests of Ministry and Stewardship at Starr King Church, this group will be considering your many suggestions for our congregation's near-term and longer-term development. We hope to leave this busy retreat day with a solid basic framework for a new Five-Year Plan in hand.

I wish you peace, quiet, rest and regularity for your precious January days!

Warmly,



“Who says Unitarian Universalism's Principles are easy?”

By [Meg Barnhouse](#) From “UU World” November 23, 2009

“The UU Principles are demanding enough to make me whine.”

As the New Year begins and resolutions are being made, I thought it appropriate to print a part of Meg Barnhouse’s essay remaining faithful to the 7 Principles. Ms. Barnhouse is one of the funniest, most down-to-earth, spiritual writers I have ever read. With her gracious permission I reprint a part of her essay “**Who says Unitarian Universalism's Principles are easy?**”

“Years ago I came into this Unitarian Universalist community of faith. I’m home. I listen to people talk sometimes about liberal religion as if it’s a thin gruel, watered down to please everyone. Our Seven Principles, they complain, are either too much like a creed or so general as to be meaningless.

My experience of the Principles is that they are deeply demanding. The first one asks me to affirm and promote the inherent worth and dignity of every person, which means that I can no longer subscribe to the cheerful Calvinist doctrine of the total depravity of human nature. It sounds grim, but really, if you are in fact starting with a totally depraved nature, the opportunities for self-congratulation abound: “Hey, I didn’t knock over a 7-Eleven this afternoon, even though money’s pretty tight. I’m doing well!”

Now I have to struggle with the worth and dignity of people who do unspeakably awful things, whereas the doctrine of total depravity made that one a no-brainer. I’m supposed to value the democratic process, hearing the voice of everyone equally, allowing everyone to have a say. The UU Principles are demanding enough to make me whine.

For those who feel they are thin gruel, I have a suggestion. Let’s stick something onto the end of every Principle that will stop people from smiling and nodding comfortably as they are read. How about attaching “beginning in our homes and congregations” at the end of each Principle?

Then we’d be faced with affirming things like “the goal of . . . peace, liberty, and justice for all, beginning in our homes and congregations.” Everyone who has raised children knows that peace is often at odds with liberty and that justice demands a disturbance of the peace. To put those three together in one Principle is outrageous and lovely. It’s easier to think about working towards them in a global context than in the context of Cheerios and pajamas, car keys and cleaning up one’s bedroom.

“Justice, equity, and compassion in human relations, beginning in our homes and congregations” is a sobering ideal. I don’t know about you, but I have sat in meetings about right relations and seen people get testy with one another. Some of the nastiest behavior I’ve seen was long ago at a community workshop for peace activists.

Lao Tse, quoted in the back of our hymn book, says peace in the world begins with peace in the home, which begins with peace in the heart. If I start with my own heart, the demands of our Principles get even heavier. Peace and compassion in my heart? Justice too? Freedom as well? Affirming the worth of every person all the time, not only with my words and my behavior but in my secret heart?

For me, the heart of the liberal faith is to be connected to something greater than yourself; to wallow in the Spirit of Life, Love, and Truth; to have fair trade coffee and important conversations; to stand for love and to stand against quibbling, complaining, and flouncing off in a huff; to move toward being in right relationship with ourselves, one another, and the planet.

For me, this faith isn’t a thin gruel. It’s not even a rich and hearty gruel. It’s walnuts and bananas, pancakes, mangoes, arugula, ginger, and avocado. The feast is prepared with effort, enjoyment, persistence, and commitment. Care to join me?

“The Rev. Meg Barnhouse, a [uuworld.org](#) columnist, is senior minister of the First UU Church of Austin, Texas, and the author of several books, including *Did I Say That Out Loud? Musings from a Questioning Soul* (Skinner House, 2006). She is also a humorist, singer-songwriter, and commentator for “Radio Free Bubba” on North Carolina Public Radio. Her website is [megbarnhouse.com](#) “ Her books and music can be purchased through the [uuabookstore.org](#) or at [outlawhillarts.com](#)



Religious Exploration

By Irene Stefanko Director of Religious Exploration

“
At times our own light goes out and is rekindled by a spark from another person. Each of us has cause to think with deep gratitude of those who have lighted the flame within us.” Albert Schweitzer

This time of year I gather boxes of small votive candles, a box of matches and buckets of gratitude and head to the beach. As I sit, lulled by the rhythm of the salty swells, I take a candle, whisper a gratitude to the cosmos, then set alight a wick. I light candle after candle, scattering words of appreciation into the breeze, hoping that they will make their way to the ears of those who have contributed to my life. This year I'll need a trailer full of candles to acknowledge all of those here at Starr King church that have enriched my life, as well as the lives of our children.

I'll need candles for all of those on Religious Exploration Council including Doug Sprague, Diana Dickerson, Bobby Robinson, Mary Keisling, Lea Casini and Ruth Kuffin. I'll ignite candles to thank all of those who volunteered as teachers, funshop leaders, and funshop assistants including Allison Prout, Mary Keisling, Karen Carrell, Robin Fink, Diane Meyerson, Natalie Forrest, Regina Fassano, Lavon Hodges, Al Murdoch, Linda Myoshi, Roy Dickerson, Joy Johnson and I am certain others. I'll light candles for Georgia Gruver, Beth Oligive, Melody Appleton, Linda Myoshi, and Kelli Abatangelo for getting information about the Religious Exploration program out into the Starr King community. I'll set candles ablaze for those who have made the Holiday parties so special including Robin Fink, Carol Henrie, Karen Carrell, and Diana Dickerson, as well as others whose names escape my porous memory at this moment. I'll set alight candles for all of those who improved the children's play area including Bobby Robinson, Carol Henrie, and many others whose names I don't know. Gosh, and that's just the candles since September!

I'll light candles for all of those who care for the babies and infants during worship including Donnie Rett, Diane Meyerson, Zelma Nunez-Borja, Natalie Forrest, Doug Sprague and Lavon Hodges. I'll light candles for the Story-tellers whose stories enchant young and old alike including Doug Sprague, Glen Jacob, Diana Dickerson, Lea Casini, Allison Prout, and Stuart Fink. I'll put a match to candle for Rev. Katie Kandarian-Morris whose liturgies awe and support provides me critical guidance. I'll light candles for all of those who bring the children to church and Religious Exploration. I'll light 25 more candles for all of those who have helped the children but I have neglected to mention by name but for whom I am none-the-less deeply appreciative of their support. Last, a candle will blaze for each child and each youth, as each is a gift to each other, to our church, and to me.

RE HAPPENINGS FOR JANUARY **Preschool and School Age:**

DATE	ACTIVITY
JAN. 1	A Simple Act of Kindness, 2nd Principle
JAN. 8	The Unforgettable Pen Pal, 2nd Principle
JAN. 15	Martin Luther King Celebration
JAN. 22	A Simple Act of Compassion, 2nd Principle
JAN. 29	A Simple Act of Fairness, 2nd Principle

Infants and Toddlers Care in Fellowship Hall



JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

5	Sherman Lewis	16	Mary Swain
7	Julia Cady	18	Sophiana Carrell
7	Walt Korus	25	Debbie Frederick
13	Jay Durant	28	Geir Jordahl
13	Doris Haskell	30	Ben Matthews





Doris Dunbar-Haskell is recovering from hip repair surgery.

Stuart Fink and his family are mourning the loss of Stuart's brother, Alan.

Evelyn Cormier and her family are mourning the loss of her sister, Marge.

Heidi Green's husband, James, is recovering from ankle surgery.

BOARD NEWS

- **The board reviewed the revised Facility Use Policy and Agreement: This will be the guideline for the use of the Starr King property.**
 - **Update on 2012 Board Retreat: The board and the Committee on Ministry will discuss plans for the future of Starr King**
 - **Hilltop Usage Plan committee report: The committee is still reviewing all the ideas presented by the membership.**
 - **Update on Service Auction set for February 25th.**
 - **Board reviewed the final pre-sabbatical plans.**
 - **The board discussed the possibility of having a half-time intern for 2012-14.**
 - **Next BOT Meeting: Thursday, January 5th, 2012, 7 p.m.**
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GRIEF GROUP

The grief group will be meeting monthly while Rev. Katie is on sabbatical. We will be meeting on the following Saturday's in the beginning of 2012; the dates are as follows: January 21, February 11, March 17, April 14. We've been meeting for approximately 6 months to a year. The grief group isn't just for people who have lost someone close to them. Loss and grief can come in many forms. You could be grieving the loss of a job, loss of income, loss of youth, loss of a pet; any kind of loss is appropriate to process in the grief group.

It is a safe place to come to feel supported no matter what the source of your grief. We explore healthy ways to heal our grief, some of which are journaling, reading and of course talking about our grief in a supportive community.

Look for the announcement in the Order of Service every Sunday or look at the Starr King Calendar. Please feel free to come and join us. For inquiries please contact Kelli in the church office or Regina @ 510 409 9187. Namaste!

Special Opportunity for Bay Area UUs in January 2012

From the UU Legislative Ministry of California

We sit in the shade of trees we did not plant... (Peter Raible)

We are writing this to let you know how important January 2012 is to the future of the Bay Area. We can give a gift to Bay Area kids for generations to come.

What's up? Many of us are deeply concerned about the climate crisis. Turns out that the Bay Area can play a significant role. During the next 25 years, California law requires each region to make a substantial commitment to reduce greenhouse gas pollution while still incorporating more people. How do we do that in the Bay Area when we are expecting to grow by another 2 million folks?

It is not just a matter of getting us all into hybrids, nice as they are! It turns out that land use decisions are a crucial component. They affect our climate, our health and the very fabric of our communities. Being able to afford to live near your job and to walk, bike or hop on transit, reduces pollution, improves public health, and strengthens family & community life.

All over the state regions are now required to create Sustainable Community Strategies. Decisions made in 2012 & 2013 will prioritize the use of about \$200 billion and will shape the Bay Area for generations to come.

As Unitarian Universalists who care about both sustainability and equity for the disenfranchised, we are partnering with outstanding Environmental Justice organizations to learn more and get involved. We want to make sure that as land use, housing and transit decisions are made, the concerns of historically marginalized communities are at the table.

In each of the nine Bay Area Counties, from Santa Rosa to Santa Clara, public input **workshops are being held in January 2012.** We hope UUs will attend the [One Bay Area Winter Workshop](#) in their county. **Environmental justice allies are needed!** Find more info on the [Bay Area Climate Plan here.](#)

You are invited to learn more:

[Creating Sustainable Bay Area Communities](#) [Environmental Justice Forum](#)

Saturday, January 7 from 1 to 4 pm

UU Fellowship of Berkeley, 924 Cedar St, Berkeley

Trainers include:

Lindsay Imai, [Urban Habitat](#) & Six Wins Network

Mahasin Abdul-Salaam, [GENESIS](#)

Rick Marshall, Napa County Deputy Dir. of Public Works and UULMCA Board President

Rev. Earl Koteen, [UULMCA Consulting Minister on Climate Justice](#)

Amy Petre Hill, UULMCA Board and Climate and Water Justice Team

Cost: \$15 at the door. No one turned away for lack of funds.

RSVP: On [Facebook](#), email [Amy Petré Hill](#) or call 510.272.9029

Sponsored by: the UU Legislative Ministry, CA and the Berkeley UU Fellowship.

Please plan this coming year to give a gift to the future.

Let's bring our "Green Sanctuary" values into the public square.

With many thanks and blessings,

Rev. Lindi Ramsden Senior Minister & Executive Director

Rev. Earl Koteen Consulting Minister on Climate Justice

PS Here are two other ways to help during 2012!

1. Check out [Climate Plan](#). Watch the [One Bay Area video](#).

2. Email the [Rev. Earl Koteen](#), UULMCA's Consulting Minister for Climate Justice, to become a part of UULMCA's Bay Area Climate & Community Sustainability Network. Both experts and novices are all welcome!

IMPORTANT DATES FOR YOUR CALENDAR

Jan. 21st. CIRCLE SUPPER Sign up sheet is in the Fellowship Hall

Jan. 22nd. "Inside Job" UU Just Social Change film
2:45 to 3:00 in the Sanctuary. Everyone Welcome

Feb. 25th. Service Auction Sign up forms to donate services are available in the Fellowship Hall

M u s i c

Do you have an instrument and no place to play?

Do you feel a beat but haven't been able to express it?

Starr King has a group for you!

Join SKIFFLE or the Drum Circle for the camaraderie of other musicians and "wantabe" musicians no matter what your level.



DRUM CIRCLE
1st Fri.
of the Month



SKIFFLE
1st Wed.
of the Month

ON GOING FUN AND UPCOMING ACTIVITIES

- BOOK CLUB** The book group will meet Thursday, January 12, 7 PM, at the home of Natalie Forrest and Doug Sprague (510-886-1480) to discuss the book Missing Mom by Joyce Carol Oates. All are welcome. Please let Doug & Natalie know if you plan to attend. The February book is Farm City by Novella Carpenter
- CHURCH BOOKSTORE** The bookstore is open every 3rd. Sunday (January 15) after the service
- DRUM CIRCLE** Meets the 1st. Friday (January 6) 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.
- STARR KING ELDERS** Meets every 3rd Wednesday (January 18) 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** The Film group will meet on Saturday, January 28, 2011 At 7:00 P.M.at Stuart Fink's Home "Safety Last!" (1923) Silent Film Comedy Classic Starring Harold Lloyd (Not Rated) (In View Of Recent Early Film Tributes By "Hugo" And "The Artist"). Let Stuart know if you are coming and please bring a movie snack to share.
- JUUST SOCIAL CHANGE** Meets on the second Sunday (January 8) after the service, at 11:45 AM. All are welcome.
- MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE** Meets on the third Sunday of each month (January 15), 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 (January 4 & 18). 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 (January 20) 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 1st. Wednesday of the month (January 4) 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. (January 3 & 17)
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HOW TO REACH US

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

Church President: Andy Hansen

president@starrking.org

Home phone: 510/301-6938

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

Webmaster Beth Olgilvie,

webmaster@starrking.org

Church Office Hours

Tuesday, Wednesday & Thursday

9:00am-2:00pm

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
 Religious Education Dir. Irene Boczek

Committee Chairs

Adult Religious Education – Chris Selig

Buildings –

Chalice Editor – Georgia Gruver

Church Website – Beth Olgilvie

Committee Council – Colleen Dino

Committee Ministry-Bob Britton, Doris Haskell,

Dirk Dino, Diana Dickerson, Keith Lewis

Communications Comm. – Melody Appleton

FESCO – Donnie Rett

Finance — Keith Lewis

Fundraising – Karen Cook

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 – Joyce Kinnear

Social Justice – Evelyn Cormier

South Hayward Parish – Jim Forsyth

Sunday Coffee – Lavon Hodges

Ushers – Susan Blanc

Volunteer Coordinator – Karen Cook

Worship Committee – Bob Meyerson

Publishing Deadline:

2nd Sunday of the Month Prior to Publication.

Please put all contributions in writing & keep articles under 500 words.

Post to:

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