



THE FLAMING CHALICE

Sunday Worship: 10:30 AM

APRIL WORSHIP THEME: "The Truth Liveth"

This month we explore the interdependence of our community and connections.

Our special plate this month will be on Sunday April 22nd, Earth Day.

The special plate will go to the UULM for Water Justice. (see Pg 5)

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BOARD NEWS

Canvass: Letters for outstanding dues pledges will go out in May

Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) It has been determined that existing insurance will protect the church from any damages resulting from the activities of the CSA.

Wedding and Memorial Services Policy

Changes: The Board approved a \$50 maintenance fee for these services, and an adjustment in the memorial service policy to include services for nonmembers with very close relationships to members.

Committee Optimization Workgroup: is developing questions for leaders of the church's 40 groups to evaluate the current status.

Approval of Committee Chairs: Dirk Dino was approved as the new Hospitality and Membership Chair and Chris Selig was approved as the new Worship Committee Chair.

New Director of RE: A Subcommittee was created to assist in the search for a new Director of Religious Exploration

APRIL SERVICE PREVIEWS

April 1, The Fool's Gift

Led by Rev. Sonya Sukalski, pulpit guest

Proverbs says, "The fool is always beginning to live." Indeed, it takes a certain amount of foolishness to begin something new. Recognizing the playfulness a fool can bring to any pursuit gives us energy, imagination, and passion for the journey ahead.

April 8, Let Love Bloom

Led by Rev. Michelle Favreault, pulpit guest

This Easter Sunday we will celebrate the power of transforming LOVE with our annual Flower Ceremony. In parable, story, and song we will consider the unfolding possibilities of hope in our midst.

Please bring a bloom to share in our ritual of remembrance and renewal. Easter Bonnets encouraged!

April 15, In Love, Difference, and Humility

Led by Darcy Baxter, pulpit guest

As UUs, we believe that difference is good and that we should bring our differences together in community. Living with difference requires humility, love, and patience-- let us explore humility and how it sustains our living, healing, and worshipping together.

April 22, For the Earth

Led by Rev. Sonya Sukalski, pulpit guest

Unitarian Universalists are moved to a renewal of spirit and openness to the forces that create and uphold life on this beautiful blue ball. Join us to reconnect with our source of sustenance and recognize nature's eternal truths with which our tradition is connected. This is an intergenerational service.

April 29, Walking in Other's Shoes

Led by the youth and children of this beloved congregation

Deep empathy grounding the beloved community is what our children imagine for their future. Explore this idea with the youth and children as we worship together. You're welcome to bring and donate a pair of new shoes to South Hayward Parish so that we may all have what we need to walk in this world.



SKUU BOARD NEWS

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By Andy Hansen—SKUU Board President



*When that April with his showers sweet
The drought of March hath pierced to the root
And bathed every vine in such liquor
Of which virtue engendered is the flower....*

*Opening lines of The Canterbury Tales
by Geoffrey Chaucer*

Greetings. As has become my wont in composing these notes to you, I've spent a Sunday afternoon and evening enriching my mind about the month now upon us (April, presently). I've circled the calendar 53 times, yet I'm routinely surprised to find more in the passing months and seasons, religiously, culturally and aesthetically, than I knew before. I hope I'm offering you some small surprises as well.

April, its name thought to be rooted in the Feast of Aphrodite, is redolent with religious and spiritual significance. Buddha's Birthday is traditionally observed on the 8th. In the Christian tradition April brings the conclusion of Lenten observance and the holy days associated with Easter. It is the month of rebirth and renewal, as Chaucer alludes, when what is dry and spent is kindled once again with essential nourishments -- for parched things, water; for the Christian soul, redemption; for farmland, the planting of seeds; for the human eye that has grown tired of Winter's more austere charms, the thrilling promise of buds on what weeks ago were merely branches and twigs. Even in our age of cockeyed, unseasonal weather, these natural transformations still intoxicate the eye and the spirit. April is also National Poetry Month; poetry is a nurturer that renews the inner life for many of us.

April's theme of renewal is also reflected in Earth Day on the 22nd, and the first Arbor Day celebration was inaugurated in Nebraska City, Nebraska on April 10th, 1872, when more than a million Nebraska trees were planted. Thus April is not only about the promise of natural bounty but about reflection on our human responsibilities in this interdependent web of existence. It is not enough that we be objects of renewal; we must also be its agents.

But religious significance and social responsibilities, however heartfelt, may chastise our natural human exuberance, so April 1st is a special day dedicated to pranks and trickery. Doesn't a sober spirit also cry out for the nurturance of humor and deflated pretense? The tradition in which our "April Fool's Day" manifests is first seen in the Persian celebration of Sizdah Bedar, in 536 B.C.E., and now this institution of April silliness and laughter is venerated in many cultures and nations.

Our local Unitarian Universalist organizations are also tended in April, with the Pacific Central District Annual Meeting on the weekend of April 27th. District Assembly is a wonderful, lively and interesting experience, held in Oakland this year, and all are welcome to attend. You can find registration information at PCD-UUA.org.

Finally, please mark all your calendars for Starr King's own Annual Meeting on May 20th after worship service, as your participation is essential. All are welcome, and anyone who has been a member for 30 days is entitled to vote. We will be sending electronic packets of written materials to all members in advance, so that you can participate efficiently and effectively while treading lightly on our environment. (Individual arrangements for hard copies can be made through the church office.)

This is your family -- *claim your voice!*



Warmly,





Religious Exploration

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By Irene Stefanko Director of Religious Exploration

“Three quarters of the miseries and misunderstandings in the world would finish if people were to put on the shoes of their adversaries and understood their points of view” Mahatma Gandhi

The youth and children of this congregation will be exploring this idea with the congregation during a worship service they are offering on April 29, 2012. In the Religious Exploration program the children have recently been exploring their feelings, the feelings of others, as well as notions of empathy and beloved community. At the worship service the youth and children they will deeply explore these ideas with the congregation by imagining walking in another person's shoes.

The Religious Exploration program offered to the children at Starr King Unitarian Universalist Church is based on the Way Cool Sunday School methodology and generally offers about two weeks of learning, one week of doing and one week of worshipping on a particular theme. The themes explored by the children for the last year have been the seven UU principles. The children's enthusiasm for the 'doing' or living into their learning is evidenced in their desire to include 'doing' into this worship. So that everyone in our community may have what they need to walk in this world, the children invite you to bring a pair of shoes to donate to the South Hayward Parish. We hope to see you there.

CHILDREN'S RE HAPPENINGS FOR APRIL

DATE

ACTIVITY

APRIL 1	This week we are going to 'do' the 4 th principle. The 4 th principle says that each person must be free to search for what is true and right in life. This week we will be going to the library right here at SKUUC!
APRIL 8	For the next month we'll be exploring and practicing the idea that all people have a right to use their conscience and vote in the things that concern them. This week we'll explore and practice using our conscience.
APRIL 15	This week we'll continue exploring the 5 th principle by considering and practicing the use of the democratic process in our class.
APRIL 22	Multi-generational service. Unitarian Universalists are moved to a renewal of spirit and an openness to the forces that create and uphold life on this beautiful blue ball. Join us to reconnect with our source of sustenance and recognize nature's eternal truths with which our tradition is connected. This is an intergenerational service.
APRIL 29	Multi-generational service led by the youth and children of this beloved congregation will explore the role of deep empathy in the creation of beloved community. Beloved community is what our children imagine for their future. Explore this idea with the youth and children as we worship together. You're welcome to bring and donate a pair of shoes so that we may all have what we need to walk in this world. These shoes will be given to the South Hayward Parish.

Infants and Toddlers Care in Fellowship Hall

IMPORTANT DATES FOR YOUR CALENDAR 4

Sunday, April 22

**Celebrate Our Beautiful, Precious Earth and
Learn Some of the Many Ways We Can Enjoy and Preserve It
at the STARR KING**

EARTH DAY FAIR

The Starr King Earth Fair will be immediately after morning worship on April 22. You'll find **goats** and **chickens** and **eggs** from a **Community Supported Agriculture** farm.

Fun activities for the young and young at heart, **water justice awareness** (what is it? what can we do?), **water saving contest**, spotlight on **our native plant landscape and wildlife refuge**, the **launch of our improved recycling program** at SKUU and **info on home recycling**, **signups for classes and outings**, and...more!

"Hungry for Change?" That's the title of a course on food, ethics and sustainability that will be offered later this spring. Sign up with Darryl Ray at the Earth Fair.

Want to **Freecycle** something?-- There will be a Freecycle Table. Bring things you don't want that others might be able to use. Only **items in good condition**, please.

We hope you'll mark your calendars and plan to attend.

If you want to share your knowledge, consider having a booth at the fair!

Contact Stephanie Smith at st2smith@yahoo.com

Saturday, April 7 - Passover Seder Potluck

Join us for this Family-friendly Religious Festival

Watch for Sign-up Sheet on Table in Fellowship Hall

April 27 - 29, 2012

Pacific Central District of the UUA District Assembly 2012

"Transforming Ourselves and the World!"

Visit the PCD District Assembly 2012 web site for information and registration

Saturday, April 28. Next Circle Supper

**Enjoy a small group (6 to 10) potluck dinner at a member's home.
Come and have a delightful evening of conversation and food.**

New members and friends are especially welcome.

Sign-up Sheet on Table in Fellowship Hall

APRIL BIRTHDAYS

3	Andrea Kuftin	14	Caroline Mazur
6	Eric Bugosh	14	Georgia Gruver
10	Katie Kandarian	16	Molly Hitchings
10	Karen Carrell	21	Andy Matthews
11	Frank Satterwhite	30	Bill Schuler



Congratulations to **Lisa Sciandra , Andrew Bronstein and Samuel** on the birth of their daughter and sister, Nora.

Support for **Roy Dickerson** whose mother died.

And many more to **Dick Albert** who celebrated his 80th birthday.

OUR SPECIAL PLATE APRIL 22
Millions of

Human Right to Water Campaign

Californians lack access to safe, affordable water for drinking, cooking and cleaning. In an increasingly uncertain hydrological future we must recognize the human right to water in California. UULMCA is one of the founders of the Safe Water Alliance.

The **Sunday Coffee Committee** is a really good way to meet people get to know the SKUU congregation. Currently, we are asking various SKUU committees to sponsor a coffee hour. This helps introduce the committee members to the congregation and helps the congregation find out what each committee is all about. If your committee would like to sponsor a Sunday Coffee Hour, you can e-mail me at LavonH6661@comcast.net or call me at **487-8362**.

Thanks, Lavon Hodges

GREEN SANCTUARY - two years and going strong! ⁶

As we approach our two year anniversary of being a **Green Sanctuary**, we felt it was worth showing what we have done since we were accredited. We continue to be strong in our commitment to being an eco-friendly church, as well as educating our congregation to the importance of being "green." Here are just a few of the additional things we have done in the last two years:

WORSHIP: We continue to have Equinox, Solstice, Flower and Water Services; Earth Day is now scheduled as an annual event.

ADULT RE: We continue to teach composting and Low Carbon Diet Classes. Two new classes from the NW Earth Institute are coming up: "Hungry for Change: Food, Ethics and Sustainability," and "Voluntary Simplicity." Look for sign ups at the Earth Fair!

CHILDREN'S RE: The academic year of September 2011- June 2012 is dedicated to the Seven Principles. One module dedicated to the environment. Environmental awareness is often built into other modules. The youth are made aware of how all of our everyday choices affect the earth, and how important it is to take care of the earth so the earth can take care of us.

ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE:

- 1) We have added the **South Hayward Parish's food pantry**, "**Urban Orchards**," program to our commitment. Our congregation has donated hundreds of pounds of their own fresh produce.
- 2) We have an organic egg CSA (see localharvest.org for info on what a CSA is) at our church through Sunnyslope Family Farm in Castro Valley. So far members have donated over 50 dozen organic eggs since September of 2011. We are particularly happy about this, as there is a real need for more protein sources for the elderly.

LANDSCAPE AND GROUNDS:

Installed a mason bee house, a bat house, two bird houses, several different bird feeders, seed and suet cake feeders.
Growing organic vegetables year around with 2 more raised beds. This makes a total of 3.
Improving the composting area with 3 working compost bins and cleaning up the weeds to make it more accessible.

ENERGY CONSERVATION: We upgraded the Sanctuary. This, along with the new buildings, reduced electrical bills by 33%!

OTHER: Green potlucks - We encourage members to bring food that is sustainable in one of several ways (organic, local, less packaging, less meat, or other ways to have less impact on the planet). We provide cards for people to share what's "green" about the food they bring. By sharing our tips we help each other learn more about sustainable food. We have had 2 potlucks in 2010 and 2011 and plan to have at least one each year.

We continue to have our other "green" efforts in place in the kitchen, office, etc. For a complete list of what we have done, are doing, and will be doing, see our church website at

<http://starring.org/>

ON GOING FUN AND UPCOMING ACTIVITIES

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- BOOK CLUB** The book group will meet Thursday, April 12, at 7 PM, at the home of Donnie Rett (510-276-0545) to discuss *Well Schooled in Murder* by Elizabeth George. All are welcome. Please let Donnie know if you plan -to attend.
- CHURCH BOOKSTORE** The bookstore is open every 3rd. Sunday (April 15) after the service
- DRUM CIRCLE** Meets the 1st. Friday (April 6) from 7-9 PM. Come enjoy a fun and spiritual evening
- EVENING MEDITATION** Meets every Wednesday from 7- 8 PM. Come practice meditation and reap its benefits.
- STARR KING ELDERS** Meets every 3rd Wednesday (April 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, April 21, 2012 At 7:00 P.M.
"The Topp Twins: Untouchable Girls" (2009) Entertaining Documentary About Popular Country-Western, Yodeling, Comic, Twin Lesbians From A Small Farm In New Zealand (Not Rated). Stuart Fink's Home Let Stuart Know If You Are Coming And Please Bring A Movie Snack To Share.
- JUSTICE ALLIANCE** Meets on the second Sunday (April 8) after the service, at 12:00 PM. In the conference room. All are welcome.
- MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE** Meets on the third Sunday of each month (April 22), 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 (April 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 (April 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 (April 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. (April 12 & 26)

HOW TO REACH US

Starr King Unitarian Universalist Church

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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

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Tuesday, Wednesday & Thursday

9:00 AM-2:00 PM

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

Mary Swain

Office Manager: Kelli Abatangelo

Minister: Rev. Katie Kandarian-Morris

Religious Education Dir. Irene Boczek

Committee Chairs

Adult Religious Education – Chris Selig

Buildings – Bobby Robinson

Chalice Editor – Georgia Gruver

Church Website – Beth Olgilvie

Committee Council – Colleen Dino

Committee on Ministry-Bob Britton, Doris Haskell, Dirk Dino, Diana Dickerson, Keith Lewis

Communications Comm. – Melody Appleton

FESCO – Donnie Rett, Jennifer Koney

Finance — Keith Lewis

Fundraising – Karen Cook

Green Sanctuary – Stephanie Smith

Grounds – Carol Henrie, Walt Korus

Hospitality/Membership – Dirk Dino

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, Meg Jurich

Sunday Coffee – Lavon Hodges

Ushers – Susan Blanc

Volunteer Coordinator – Karen Cook

Worship Committee – Chris Selig

Publishing Deadline:

2nd Sunday of the Month Prior to Publication.

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

Post to:

Georgia Gruver

2932 Tribune Ave.

Hayward, CA 94542-

Email to:

newslettereditor@starrking.org
