



THE FLAMING CHALICE

**NOVEMBER WORSHIP THEME:
"YONDER COME DAY!"**

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BOARD NOTES

Approved change of title from "RE Director" to "Director of Family Ministry"

The classroom renovation has been completed. As the number of students grows the RE program will transition into the restored spaces. The Committee on Committees presented a progress report. It was proposed that a distinction be made between **GROUPS** which support fellowship and **COMMITTEES** which support the functioning of the church as a whole.

The date for this year's Board Retreat was set for Jan. 26, (This date was changed to Feb. 2, at the November meeting)

NOVEMBER SERVICE PREVIEWS

Sunday Worship: 10:30 AM

Nov. 4 *What We Talk About When We Talk About the Weather*- Rev. Katie Kandarian-Morris, Elena R. Vera , pulpit guest

Come consider the effects of climate change on our everyday routines and conversations.

Nov 11 *The Welcome Table* -Rev. Katie Kandarian-Morris, Sara Lamnin and Ralph Morales, pulpit guests

This congregation is a committed member of South Hayward Parish, the consortium of congregations gathered to build and maintain a just and nurturing community. Today we'll here what's going on at the parish, through two of the dedicated staff members.

Nov. 18 *Yonder Come Day!* -Roy King, Jr. and Darcy Baxter

MULTIGENERATIONAL SERVICE

As we gather in religious community before we gather at our tables for Thanksgiving, let us be grateful for this community, this faith, this day ahead! All ages are welcome to celebrate together in this service as we pay attention to what we do best all together.

Nov. 25 *Naming the Goodness and Tracing Its Source* -Rev. Erika Hewitt, pulpit guest and Rev. Katie Kandarian-Morris

Where does the good stuff in life come from? The way we explain goodness reveals much about our religious assumptions. There's no such thing as being TOO grateful, so join us on this post-Thanksgiving Sunday to keep your thankfulness flowing.



Tapestry of Faith

KATIE'S BAY VIEW

Settling in. As the seasons change, and we tend to move indoors, we're also adjusting to new ministry team members. I'm enjoying doing this good work with Darcy and with Roy, and I'm hoping you are finding time to get to know them, too. I'm hoping you've been able to make time to read their columns/blogs. All three of us are writing for the newsletter and those same pieces can be found as entries on the website under the "blog" heading. If you are a parent, you'll be getting Darcy's Weekly Updates, and if you aren't but you want to, let me know, and I'll make sure you get added to the list. I send out a Weekly Update too—let me know if you haven't seen that. We want you to receive the communication you desire.

As part of our settling in, we are creating Religious Exploration, not only for children, but for adults as well. The majority of the offerings at SKUUC are still in the planning stages, but we've already kicked off the reading portion of our Common Read with the book *The New Jim Crow*. Roy King, Jr. will lead *Building Your Own Theology* beginning in January. Darcy Baxter will be coordinating a casual gathering for Parents as Resident Theologians. I will lead a class called, *What We Choose: Ethics for UUs* and in the spring, another class, *Odyssey Writing for Elders*. Also in January, we are planning on participating with another congregation in Jubilee: Anti-racism Training, and I plan to invite in my colleague to lead a dream workshop sometime this coming year.

Usually, when we think of religious education (or exploration), we think of children. But we know that one of the draws of this Unitarian Universalist tradition is the love of learning. Our tapestry of faith, and the opportunity to engage in ongoing, adult learning, nurtures Unitarian Universalist identity, spiritual growth, a transforming faith, and vital communities of justice and love.

Your schedules are full. So we'll do our best to offer fewer sessions so that you don't have to commit to something long term—unless you want to. As always, we have wonderful ongoing groups at church like Morning Discovery, Evening Meditation, the book group, SKIT (Starr King Improv Theatre), and the Elderberries. Let me know if you'd like to be involved, or if there is something you'd like to make happen.

Together, we're learning, growing, changing and making this the world we dream about.

With gratitude, Katie



Our deepest sympathies to **Janet Durant**'s Family on her recent passing.

We send our prayers and caring to the family of **Joan Forsyth** on her recent passing

Andy Hansen and **Donald McKillop** enjoyed Donald's 55th High School Reunion.



President's Message

By Andy Hansen—SKUU Board President

November greetings! It's going to be a full month! Keep your eyes out for news of the Welcoming Congregation Refresher Program, which will examine how we are doing with "inclusive language." And November kicks off with *Dia de los Muertos*, the Day of the Dead, giving us the opportunity to remember and appreciate those who have transcended the Great Mystery before us. Celebrating *Dia de los Muertos* is a warm tradition at Starr King and the altar created for it is always affecting.

Dia de los Muertos is a tender and loving reverie, but an aura of spookiness hangs about it; those we love who have died may have a continued existence in an unseen Other World. Conjecture about the nature of that Other World is no casual inquiry!

Some of us think that life ends when life *as we know it* ends. I lean toward this myself. But it confounds me to think I end with death, since I have never known an existence in which "I" was not a central feature. On the other hand, I confess to a tiny suspicion that when my eyes close in death, that just might be *the end of you too*. In our largely Judeo-Christian tradition, the specter of damnation clings to death even for those who "don't believe," and folklore tells us that those who step too near the Other World may sometimes be plucked unexpectedly into it, on a one-way ticket.

I don't know what the "truth" is about another plane of existence but I find it arresting that we in our culture conflate our beloved decedents with a sphere which has distinctly threatening vibes. Like mythic images of Devouring Mother or Murderous Child, we sense with unease that what is most dear to us can be transformed into our destruction. Like the barrier between the quick and the dead which is said to become permeable on November 1st, we harbor a special fascination for things which are at once marvelous and perilous.

At the end of November we celebrate Thanksgiving, to acknowledge with thanks the gifts life has bestowed upon us. We celebrate our continued existence with a bounty of food, because all bounty echoes absent privation. Our gratitude is informed by awareness that the gifts of this world are not bestowed equally; we set aside this special day to notice and be humbled by our good fortunes and invite others to draw near our cozy hearths. November, you are all about shifting boundaries, whether of existence or circumstance.



tasty drink, and revel in our extravagant cosmos?

November brings the Leonid meteor showers in mid-month, peaking around the 17th. The Leonids are often easily seen at this time of year. They were so vivid in 1833 that many, many people thought The End was at hand; the illustration at left depicts that event. If you find yourself away from the city lights on a clear night, why not grab a blanket, a friend and a

Thermos of some hot

Warmly





Gratitude and Grace

Gratitude and grace. Two words with a common root. Both concepts signify the free exchange of kindness or thanks or blessing and in this month of November, the month of Thanksgiving, we turn our spirit to the joy we feel in the presence of grace with an intention of gratefulness or gratitude. When I think of our Californian lifestyle replete with ambition, deal making, and entrepreneurship, I sense that the moments for gratitude are few and awkwardly intersperse between goal directed activities. But we should make room for grace, for those unbidden times when beauty, love, or compassion roars into our anxious souls.

Hindu philosophy talks about the contrast between a “monkey god” and a “cat god”. A cat god, like a mother cat, carries her kittens by the scruff of their necks, while a monkey god requires her offspring to cling to her back as she cavorts among the trees. To me, the Divine is both like a monkey and a cat; like kittens, we can experience grace from universe, from the world, from our communities and friends as though we were lifted up without effort or demand from us. On the other hand, like monkeys, our actively giving thanks or offering gratitude is a reaching out to the Divine or our common humanity, so that we might acknowledge our relationship to others beyond ourselves and so that we would covenant to reciprocate that unsought for grace that we have blessed with.

So gratitude and grace, monkey and cat, Thanksgiving and receiving gifts, all come together during this month of November, lying right between harvest and winter.

*Peace,
Roy*

NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS

<p>2 LESLEY HITCHINGS</p> <p>2 BOB MEYERSON</p> <p>3 DIANA DICKERSON</p> <p>8 BOB RETT</p> <p>11 JORDAN LOWELL BAKER-BLANC</p>	<p>14 HANK WAGNER</p> <p>17 KEVIN BABBIDGE</p> <p>20 BOBBY ROBINSON</p> <p>21 ALYSSA JOY BAKER-BLANC</p> <p>30 TERRY BABBIDGE</p> <p>30 SUSAN BLANC</p>
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RELIGIOUS EXPLORATION

By Darcy Baxter Dir. of Family Ministry

Moral GPS -

This is what a teacher graciously pointed out to me after leading children that day. The lesson was centered on this idea of a "Moral Compass." What I did not think about was this: is a compass something our children will understand or ever actually use, whether they are 4 or 9 years old? Moral compass, what an antiquated notion. The lesson really should have been "Moral GPS."

"Education at its best—this profound human transaction called teaching and learning—is not just about getting information or getting a job. Education is about healing and wholeness. It is about empowerment, liberation, transcendence, about renewing the vitality of life. It is about finding and claiming ourselves and our place in the world." --Parker Palmer, from *To Know As We Are Known: Education as a Spiritual Journey*

If we are going to teach our children to claim their place in the world, we do need to instill in them a moral navigation system, whether it's a compass or a GPS. And this question of 'instilling', of how we communicate meaningful lessons to children, was the topic of discussion during a Saturday morning meeting with the RE teachers for this year. We engaged in rich discussion over this quote from Parker Palmer. One teacher commented "You know, we are going to make mistakes and that's okay. We can model how to make a mistake. We can model imperfection." In other words, we can model being human in humane ways. That's how we teach.

I think if there is something I can promise this congregation, it is this: I will model imperfect humanity, over and over again. It is easy to get caught up in the details. I will probably pick another outdated learning prop in the near future. But whether we are navigating using a compass, a GPS, or the stars, I believe we are on similar journeys and looking for some good company to help us along the way; to help our children find their ways. For me, that is what church is about: good (and imperfect) company. Church is about focusing on relationships, not just the details. Because when our child's GPS' battery dies, she is going to be real glad somebody in the congregation brought along that compass.

*Blessings,
Darcy, D.F.M.*

CHILDREN'S RE HAPPENINGS FOR NOVEMBER Infants and Toddlers Care in Fellowship Hall

DATE	ACTIVITY
NOV. 4	GENEROSITY AND UUISM
NOV. 11	GIVING AND RECEIVING
NOV. 18	MULTI-GENERATIONAL WORSHIP
NOV. 23	SHARE AND PLAY DAY

STARR KING WELCOMES ANNE CHAN AND HER SON AREN WANG

I'm new to Unitarian Universalism, but fell in love with the SKUU church after visiting for the first time. It was the first UU church I ever stepped into. I grew up Catholic and was an active member of the Catholic church for many years. I still love some aspects of Catholicism, but needed a more liberal faith in my adult years.

My son, Aren Wang, loves going to Fun Shop and insists on going to church, even if Mom prefers to relax at home on Sunday morning.

When I'm not busy homeschooling him, I work as a career counselor and psychotherapist. I am also passionate about mentoring and diversity issues, and I consult with corporations and organizations looking to increase diversity or improve mentoring efforts.

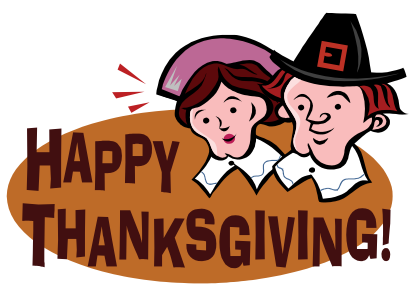


STARR KING THANKSGIVING

Thanksgiving Dinner will be served at Starr King November 22 at 3:00 p.m.

Come early to visit, unwind and/or help. A signup sheet is now on the back table in the social hall so you can indicate what you might contribute.

Our Fellowship Room is as comfortable as your own living room. Make yourself at home with friends and extended family. Invite someone to join you!



Don't stay away because you haven't signed up. Plans do change! Signup is primarily to be sure we have the essentials covered. Hope to see you on the 22nd. For more info:

Contact Donnie Rett, bdrett146@att.net



Appreciation for Our Communications Committee Members

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By Melody Appleton, Communications Committee Chair

The Communications Committee maintains our website, newsletter, email platform, social media presence, and facilitates and makes recommendations for guidelines and procedures involving church communications.

The mission of the Communications Committee is to inform and engage our congregation and the wider community in a way that reflects our shared principles and passions.

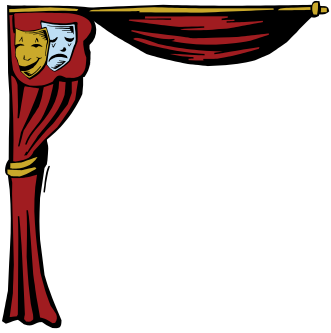
As we near the end of our second year, I want to pause and publicly thank the members of the Communications Committee for their dedication and commitment:

- Georgia Gruver, Editor, The Flaming Chalice newsletter. The Flaming Chalice is a monthly publication with articles from Katie and the president of board of trustees and committee news and events.
- Betsy Dye, Facebook administrator (facebook.com/starrkingchurch) and podcast manager. Betsy edits the audio recording of the service, extracting the sermon and uploading it as a podcast. She also maintains our Facebook page, keeping the discussions lively and adding tons of pictures of our activities.
- Nancy Harrison, Yahoo group (StarrKingSPARK@yahoogroups.com) administrator. Duties include approving new members and moderating the list. Nancy wishes she had more work to do approving new members and moderating the list, so please sign up and give Nancy more to do.
- Beth Ogilvie, Webmaster. Duties include making changes to the website, trouble-shooting technical issues, and collaborating with the editor on website architecture.
- Katie Kandarian-Morris, Minister. Katie provides input on issues involving communications, the community, and the congregation, writes and sends a weekly email to members, and writes a monthly article (blog) for the newsletter.
- Colleen Dino, Board liaison
- Frank Satterwhite, Board liaison
- People not on the Committee who perform important communications functions:
- Kelli Abatangelo. Kelli maintains the church calendar and directory, and emails weekly announcements from the order of service.
- Linda Miyoshi, Blog posts. Linda uploads blogs posts and service descriptions, and makes text changes to the website as needed.

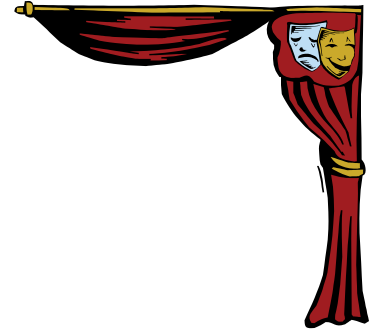
If you're interested in volunteering for any of these important tasks, now or at some time in the future, please let me know. Ideally we'd like to have more than one person trained in each key role. If you have any of the following skills: text editing, layout, web programming, photo editing or even just basic computer skills, please consider contributing your talents to the church communications effort.

Beth's Ogilvie addendum:

I want to add my thanks to Melody for all the time and effort she puts in on many different projects and processes. A partial list includes running the committee, editing website content, website architecture, and emails communications.



Ashland 2013



Annual trip up north to see
Shakespeare, other plays and to have
fun!

We will enjoy a weekend with each other, while watching great plays, eating wonderful food and shopping in fun places.

Details:

DATES: Friday, March 22 through Sunday March 24 (extra night before or after may be arranged for an additional \$70 per person).

PLAYS: Friday evening: Taming of the Shrew
Saturday afternoon: My Fair Lady
Saturday evening: Two Trains
Sunday morning: Talk by an actor

COST: \$265 per person, double occupancy for hotel and plays—arrange transportation and meals on your own; additional nights are \$70 per person. If you are single, we will attempt to find a roommate for you. If you must cancel after March 3, 2013, we will attempt to get the tickets for plays reimbursed, but the hotel room cost is non-reimbursable after that point in time.

DEPOSIT: \$100 per person by January 1, 2013

FINAL PAYMENT DUE MARCH 3, 2013.

PICK UP TICKETS AND ATTEND INFORMATIONAL EVENT
ON SATURDAY, MARCH 16, 2013 at STARR KING UU CHURCH OF HAYWARD.

Give payment to Joyce Kinnear or Donnie Rett.
Mail to 2040 Grove Way, Castro Valley, CA 94546.

RESERVATION:

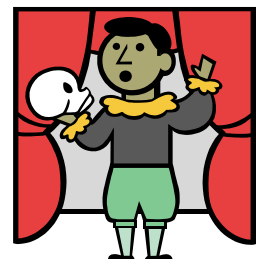
NAME (S): _____

PHONE: _____ EMAIL (REQUIRED): _____

AMOUNT ENCLOSED: \$ _____

ROOMING WITH: _____

___ 2 nights ___ 3 nights



SOS

The Pastoral Care Committee needs your help! If you are ill or scheduled for surgery and would need help, please let Reverend Katie or someone on the committee know. We are able to provide meals, rides to doctors/hospital, grocery shopping and the like. Please help us to provide care for our fellow members.

Committee members: Diana Dickerson
 Jody Dill
 Doris Haskell
 Al Murdach
 Karen Cook

WHY SHOULD I CARE ABOUT GAY RIGHTS?

By Bob Meyerson

I think the first response to that is to question the very idea of “gay” rights. I think the proper context is “civil” rights. And therein lies my answer to the question. I grew up in a largely ethnic area, where my religion was in the minority. I was not just a Jew, I was, (depending on the protagonist of the moment, a “dirty jew,” a “cheap jew,” a “Christ Killer,” a “commie jew,” and a few other hopefully forgotten terms. I had a grammar school principal of German origin who had lost a son in the war, “fighting for YOU people.”

In the 1960’s I became one of millions of marchers to secure civil rights for African Americans. My own Mother could not understand this....”You’re not a N----r, let them fight for themselves...it’s not your fight.”

But it WAS my fight. I don’t know if it was my own background of being on the receiving end of bigotry.....I’d like to think I had come to this simply because it’s right...but we are all creatures of our own experiences.

I was probably typical in that while I was aware of gay people, (only we didn’t use the term ‘gay.’ There were other non-nuanced terms, most insulting and crude,) it was only in the past twenty years or so that they were more than just a blip on my radar. I began to find that some of my co workers and friends were ‘not the same.’ And in sharing friendships, I began to understand and empathize with some of the daily struggles and insults these people were undergoing....and there is nothing heroic or self sacrificing in my conclusion that the LGBTQ communities deserve every degree of freedom that I enjoy....that racial minorities deserve....that EVERYONE deserves. To live and love in peace. These are not “special rights.”

These are civil rights....rights for humans, whomever they may be. For me there can only be one stance on the subject. And if I cannot understand that these struggles are simply a matter of right and wrong, and if I don’t do what I’m able to right those wrongs, then I myself do not deserve those rights. I guess it’s too complex for many....for me it’s just the right thing to do...not heroic, not even noble....just the right thing to do. The selfish truth is that I must live with myself, and bigotry of any kind is not compatible with that.

ON GOING FUN AND UPCOMING ACTIVITIES

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BOOK CLUB The book group will gather Thursday, November 8, at 7 PM, at Joyce Kinnear's (510-885-0781) to discuss the book *Little Bee* by Chris Cleave. It is a most interesting read. Please feel free to attend if you just like to talk about books even if you haven't read the selection. All are welcome but please let Joyce know so she knows what to plan for. The December book is *House Rules* by Jodi Picoult.

CHURCH BOOKSTORE The bookstore is open every 3rd. Sunday (Nov.18) after the service

DRUM CIRCLE Meets the 1st. Friday (Nov. 2) 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 (Nov. 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 The Film group will meet on Saturday, November 24, 2012 at 7:00 P.M. At Stuart Fink's Home. "Sherlock Holmes: A Game Of Shadows" (2011) An Action Film Starring Robert Downey Jr. And Jude Law; Sherlock Holmes Faces Evil Professor Moriarity (Rated Pg-13).

Come, Enjoy! Let Stuart know if you are coming and please bring a movie snack to share.

JUSTICE ALLIANCE Meets on the second Sunday (Nov. 11) after the service, at 12:00 PM in the conference room. All are welcome.

MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE Meets on the third Sunday of each month (Nov. 18), 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 (Nov. 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 (Nov. 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 1st. Wednesday of the month (Nov. 7) 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 (Nov. 8 & 22) at 7:30 P.M.

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 Ogilvie: webmaster@starrking.org

Newsletter Editor: newslettereditor@starrking.org

Church Office Hours
Tuesday, Wednesday & Thursday
9:00 AM-2:00 PM

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Church Leadership

Board of Trustees

President:	Andy Hansen
Vice President:	Colleen Dino
Secretary:	Nancy Harrison
Treasurer	Frank Satterwhite
At Large	Frank Burton
	Lea Casini
	Georgia Gruver
	Glen Jacob
	Wendy Robertson
	Mary Swain
Office Manager	Kelli Abatangelo
Minister	Rev. Katie Kandarian-Morris
Intern Minister	Roy King
Dir. of Family Ministry	Darcy Baker

Committee Chairs

Adult Religious Education –

Anti-racist Multicultural Alliance-Beth Ogilvie

Buildings – Bobby Robinson

Chalice Editor – Georgia Gruver

Church Website – Beth Ogilvie

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 – Colleen Saia

Grounds – Carol Henrie, Walt Korus

Hospitality/Membership – Dirk Dino

Interior – Sherry Thomas

Kitchen Manager – Sherry Thomas

Nominating Committee – Rebecca Parr

Pastoral Care – Karen Cook

R.E. Council – Diana Dickerson

Social – Joyce Kinnear

Social Justice – Mary Swain

South Hayward Parish –

Sunday Coffee – Roy Dickerson

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
