



THE FLAMING CHALICE

DECEMBER WORSHIP THEME:
JUBILATE

INSIDE

Minister's Message Pg. 2
Wheel of Life Pg. 2
President's Message Pg. 3
Interning Pg. 4
December Birthdays Pg. 4
Religious Exploration Pg. 5
RE Classes and Activities Pg. 5
Important Upcoming Dates Pg. 6
New Member Bios Pg. 7
Adult RE Announcement Pg. 7
Supporting Gay Rights Pg. 8
Ashland Trip Information Pg. 9
Pastoral Comm. Needs Pg. 10
SKUU Christmas Dinner Pg. 10
Ongoing Activities Pg. 11
How to Reach Us Pg. 12

BOARD NOTES

Committee Optimization Report:

Nancy Harrison summarized the second draft of the Committee Optimization Report. Wendy Robertson has joined the committee.

Cottages/Hilltop update: Colleen Dino reviewed the history of this gradual decision-making process. The next step appears to be filling and leveling the hole left by the removal of the old office/farmhouse.

Leadership Development - A general discussion of this topic was led by Andy Hansen and Colleen Dino.

DECEMBER SERVICE PREVIEWS **Sunday Worship: 10:30 AM**

Dec. 2 *Preparing our Lives* -Rev. Katie Kandarian-Morris
Today is the first Sunday of Advent. What is it we are waiting for? What is our preparation? If not the Christ, what is it we prepare the way for?

Dec. 9 *The Light in Our City* -Roy King, Intern minister
Join us for stories of good news, of miracles of places where the light burned where we might not have expected it. We'll celebrate the Family Shelter Coalition (FESCO), and consider the ancient stories as well. Our special collection will go to FESCO.

Dec. 11 Tues 7 pm *Meditative Service* -Marla Bacina and Rev. Katie Kandarian-Morris
Come to a candle-lit sanctuary for an hour of peace on this mid-week night. Listen to beautiful piano, reflect upon seasonal readings, and sit for sustained periods of silence. Childcare will be available.

Dec. 16 *We Time-worn Folk Renew Ourselves* -Rev. Katie Kandarian-Morris, Darcy Baxter
Today we'll welcome the youngest among us as we dedicate our babies and young children, then consider how "we time-worn folk renew ourselves" as we grow through the years of our lives.

Dec. 23 *In a Big Warm Barn* -Rev. Katie Kandarian-Morris, Darcy Baxter, Roy King **MULTIGENERATIONAL SERVICE**
One of the most joyful Sundays of the year, this is the day where we gather all together to instantly create our pageant, sing together and celebrate ancient and modern Christmas altogether, as if in a big, warm barn

Dec. 24 Christmas Eve 7 pm *Jubilate* -Rev. Katie Kandarian-Morris, Roy King, Darcy Baxter
Come to church on Christmas Eve night with the whole family for carols, lessons and candle-lighting in the darkened sanctuary. Be in wonder and joy with the world. Tonight's special collection will go to the Minister's Discretionary Fund to help folks in our community.

Dec. 30 *Drink Water From the Sacred Well* -Ruth DeSmidt and Worship Committee
For a fresh start in the new year, come explore how we can turn a negative into a positive.



Merry, Merry Everything Good!

KATIE'S BAY VIEW

2

I've always been a fan of Christmas, the many secular bits as well as the more religious parts. In my house, we've not only got the originally Victorian inspired Christmas tree with its roots in American Unitarian history, but a menorah lit for Hanukkah, and more than one cultural style of nativity crèche.

Traditional holidays with their ancient roots are bound to have morphed and reformed over the years, and it seems that Christmas is the king of this practice. Each person I talk with has her own belief system about its importance or relevance, each person has his own practices, each family has their own ways of finding comfort and meaning in the holiday, including ignoring it altogether.

In recent years I have looked for new ways to find my own December meanings, instilling more time for spiritual practice rather than consumer to-do lists, making sure I send gentle thoughts and prayers honoring family rather than particular expectations. For I know I am not alone in noting the differences and various experiences of grief that have come upon us over the years. Creating and honoring holiday traditions is a value to me, yet I'm careful not to let expectations of what "should" be get in the way. Illness and emergencies are just as apt to happen in December as they are any other time of year—I better make room to be able to drop something!

Regardless of what happens this year, I will appreciate Christmas. Not for the new outlet mall, or the holiday foodstuffs, nor for the possibility of that special gift, but for the places where I still may find the discovery in something merry and good. And that might be in the warmth of nature brought indoors, of any tradition honored or renewed, of lights kindled, of love expressed.

May you find avenues for your joy: in religious practice, in spiritual or secular activity, in the bounty of human comfort or in a small piece of silence. May you have everything merry and good.

Love,

Katie

With gratitude, *Katie*



*We wish quick healing for **Jody Dill's**
dancing feet*

*We send our sympathy to **Betsy Dye** whose
94 year old Aunt Joan died.*



President's Message

By Andy Hansen—SKUU Board President

Hello, Starr King family. Did you find a state of mind that kept "thanks" firmly embedded in Thanksgiving? It's perhaps my favorite holiday and its glow of well-being generally lingers; rat-a-tat-tatting out a list of my gratitudes is always good practice. One of my foremost gratitudes is belonging to this spiritual community. You give me social warmth, focused worship, useful work and an opportunity to explore, discuss and learn from your moral compasses as I fine-tune my own.

December 1st is World AIDS Day, now in its 26th year of observance. More than 25 million humans have died from HIV in that span. Despite oceans of public health information and dynamic prevention/treatment innovations, there is still great ignorance, fear, stigma and mortality associated with HIV, abroad and at home. Consider talking to someone this month about your or their connection to this epidemic, and why you care.



The Board of Trustees (BOT) and Committee on Ministry (COM) are already at work planning their annual joint retreat, which will be on Saturday February 2nd. We retreat together annually, with our Parish Minister, to strengthen the bonds of shared ministry and stewardship between BOT and COM, learn from our respective wisdom (and error, sometimes), and plan for the year ahead. If you have thematic, ministerial (in the shared sense) or stewardship concerns, this is a great time to share them with me or BOT Vice-President Colleen Dino, COM Chair Bob Britton, Rev. Katie or anyone else on the BOT/COM so that they can be considered for our retreat agenda.

Are you fulfilling your potential as a leader at Starr King? Where might you add your talents and interests for our common benefit? Starr King has enjoyed initiatives this year from the Finance Committee and Committee On Ministry to educate us about what they do, do for us, and how *your* collective input and guidance is translated into pastoral, organizational and fiduciary management. The Board of Trustees is going to continue this trend with an after-church presentation in January 2013, in cooperation with the Nominating Committee. All these leadership bodies *stand in your shoes* as a congregation and *do your work* in helping Starr King to be a growing and stable enterprise. Starr King relies on steady waves of leadership development to identify and engage the people whose creativity, wisdom and energy will carry us into the future. I hope you'll take the time this January to attend the BOT presentation following Sunday worship and think seriously about ratcheting up *your* involvement as a Starr King leader.

With warm wishes for your holiday contentment,





Travels and Reflections

I had good fortune to spend a few days in Chicago just before Thanksgiving. Chicago is one of these fabulous “in between” cities, partaking of the East and the West Coasts. The weather was balmy and the people were amiable. I was attending and presenting at a Near Eastern archaeology conference; the attendees were from all over the world and discussed latest findings about the archaeology of Israel, Jordan, Cyprus and Syria.

What most surprised me was how rapidly, in the last half-decade or so, the archaeology of the “Biblical Lands” has shifted from concerns over kings, wars and biblical texts to commoners and peasants and goddesses. It was almost like the Occupy Movement—less concern over Saul and David—more interest in the resilience of the Judean farmers who intermixed with other peoples and persisted through wars, exiles, and famines. My talk was on the origin of the Philistines—you know, the Goliath people who settled along the coast of Palestine—and how their DNA is still recognizable in the DNA of modern people living in Israel. The Philistines likely came from the Greek islands or the Turkish coast and set up shop in towns such as Gaza, Ashkelon, Ashdod—cities we hear about today in the awful clamor of conflict between Gaza and Israel.

Yet optimism infused the conference. There was much talk of globalization and interconnectivity in the ancient world and adaptation to climate change and geological catastrophes. The biblical world was a realm both different from and similar to ours. Only through a progressive shift into more global and interrelated attitude of compassion did the people of the Bible survive. That is, in my view, the lesson for us today.

Shalom,

Roy

*Peace,
Roy*

DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

2	DEVLIN CLARK	25	HOLLY ROBINSON
7	MARY LOU SCHULER	27	NATASHA BUGOSH
13	ZELMA NUNEZ-BORJA	29	GLEN JACOB
13	STUART FINK	30	BILL SCHWAB
16	HENRY SPRAGUE	31	KAREN SWAIN
24	CHRIS SELIG		



RELIGIOUS EXPLORATION

By Darcy Baxter Dir. of Family Ministry

The darkness of December if upon us! Both stifling and cozy at the same time, there is something quite meaningful for me about these darkest days of the year. It makes an intuitive kind of sense that we would fill our schedules with family gatherings and big meals; that we would light candles, string lights across our doorways and windows, and decorate trees. It even makes sense to me that Christians would celebrate the birth of their savior-- out of darkness, we can emerge transformed. In the darkness, we need to hunker down with those we love and honor the depths of our connection to each other, to our inner most selves, and to the light which would not exist without the dark.

Of course, getting in touch with what we could call the spirituality of the season is difficult after hearing the 100th rendition of Jingle Bells (FYI: written by a UU minister) while standing in a long line for that gift which happens to be on sale and would be perfect for your child, mother, or brother. And big family meals are delicious, particularly if you are not the one having to prepare and clean up afterwards.

Consider: are there moments this December when you could take a few moments of rest to reconnect with the darkness and the light? What would that look like for you and your family? Our children watch us ever so carefully to figure out the meaning of these Winter Holidays. In addition to the blaring demands for presents and candy and more presents, can you also hear the small voice within? How can you help your children cultivate their own ability to hear that voice? Consider joining Rev. Katie, myself, and the Religious Exploration Council for the Dec 11th meditative service. Or check out my friend and colleague's Advent Calendar for Unitarian Universalist families: <http://www.pbase.com/bgreve/image/137648354>

Blessings,
Darcy

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

CHILDREN'S RE HAPPENINGS FOR NOVEMBER

Infants and Toddlers Care in Fellowship Hall

DATE	ACTIVITY
DEC. 2	GINGERBREAD AND JINGLE BELLS
DEC. 9	CHANUKAH
DEC. 16	SOLSTICE
DEC. 23	MULTIGEN. SERVICE: CHRISTMAS PAGEANT
DEC. 30	NO RE TODAY

CALENDAR ALERT

IMPORTANT EVENTS

DON'T MISS OUT!

Common Read 12/9

The book discussion of our common read will take place after the December 9th service at 12:30 in the sanctuary. We invite all those who are interested, provoked, concerned or eager to learn to attend the gathering.

Meditative Service Tues. Dec. 11th, 7:00 p.m.

Please plan on joining us for a relaxing, candlelit, . Take a few moments to escape the hustle and bustle of the holiday season to reflect in peaceful quite.

Child Dedication, Sunday December 16th

Has your child been officially welcomed into our church community? As adults we become members of the congregation. For our children, UUs do a child dedication ritual as part of a Sunday service. On Sunday December 16th, we will hold a child dedication for the children of SKUUC. If you would like your child/ren to be part of a child dedication ritual please email me at

familyminister@starring.org

December 16th Christmas Party After Worship

SKUUC'S annual Christmas party, putting up a tree, and decorating ornaments after the service. Please plan to stay a little later than usual after church!

Building your own Theology

(See Pg. 7 for more info.)

Roy King, our intern minister, and Heidi Green, a lay leader, will co-lead this experiential and group interactive course for all who are interested. The class will meet on Tuesday evenings, from 7 to 8:30 PM at Starr King UU Church, for eight consecutive weeks, starting **Jan 8th, 2013**. The curriculum is based upon Richard Gilbert's, "Building your own Theology, vol. 1".

Reproductive Justice: Creating A Service Honoring Roe v. Wade

As a Regional Organizer for the CA Religious Coalition for Reproductive Choice, Darcy is hosting an open informational and organizational meeting for those interested in creating a service honoring the messiness of justice work. The anniversary is January 22nd. For more information, talk to Darcy or visit <http://tinyurl.com/LegaciesOfJustice>.

Spring Ashland Trip New Notice

(See Pg. 9 for more info.)

Unfortunately, the Shakespeare theater in Ashland has made a very large increase in Saturday ticket prices for next year. To avoid a 60% increase, we will need to go back to the format with one play on Saturday and two on Sunday. Also, in order to see our three plays, we will need to change to the previous weekend (March 16 and 17). We are very sorry for any inconveniences this may cause. Please let us know if you have already paid and need to be reimbursed.

STARR KING WELCOMES WAYNE BENNION ⁷



Wayne Bennion was born in Santa Cruz, California, in 1954, but grew up in Hanford and Fresno. After a three-year stint in the Army, spent mostly in Germany, he took a job at Pacific Telephone in 1976, which took him to San Luis Obispo, San Francisco and San Ramon. Wayne has lived in Castro Valley since 1989. He received a Bachelor's degree in Computer Science from CSU Hayward in 1988, only (!) 17 years after graduating high school.

Wayne has ancestors who immigrated to Utah in the first year of the Mormon settlement there. He was raised in the LDS church and excommunicated from it at his request early in his adult life. Brief involvements with various congregations of the Metropolitan Community Church failed to make him a Christian.

In "The Importance of Being Earnest" by Oscar Wilde, Lady Bracknell says: "To lose one parent may be regarded as a misfortune. To lose both looks like carelessness." Wayne relates this to his life partners. He lost one to AIDS in 1992, and another to cancer in 2010. He has found comfort and healing here at Starr King since shortly after the second loss.

Wayne retired from the telephone company in 1998, expecting to have a short retirement before being carried off by HIV. He is constantly amazed, but grateful, to remain among the living.

Building your own Theology

Have you ever wondered about the mystery behind everyday experience? Is there an order or a structure to the universe? What are the inherent

values we as human beings profess? Unitarian-Universalism is open to a variety of ways of conceiving the universe, human nature and our ultimate purpose, but we seldom search for our personal answers to these questions together as members of our religious community. If you are seeking to understand and create your individual theology or justify the absence of such a theology, then come to our adult religious education course, "Building your own Theology". Roy King, our intern minister, and Heidi Green, a lay leader, will co-lead this experiential and group interactive course for all who are interested. The class will meet on Tuesday evenings, from 7 to 8:30 PM at Starr King UU Church, for eight consecutive weeks, starting Jan 8th, 2013. The curriculum is based upon Richard Gilbert's, "Building your own Theology, vol. 1".

WHY I SUPPORT GAY RIGHTS

8

By Georgia Gruver

When I was asked to write this article I thought it would be a fairly simple task. After all, why wouldn't I support Gay Rights? What makes it difficult is that it actually brings up a bit of a "pet peeve" of mine. I do not like to put people into "groups". I try to live in a way in which I support ALL peoples rights, to "group" them is to do everyone an injustice. To me rights don't come in groups, rights come as individuals.

We humans group people by the labels we give them. This makes it easier to discriminate and take away the inherent rights we ALL deserve. While some group identities are encouraged by the groups themselves, all too often these identities only encourage inequality. When people are treated as individuals it is much more difficult to eliminate their rights as human beings.

I guess it was this conviction which made it so natural to support our son when he "came out". To John and me it was a non-issue. Loy is a wonderful, caring, intelligent person and he and his partner (Larry) live a very normal life as two committed individuals. It is only when they are labeled as "gay" and viewed as part of a group, that I see the discrimination they must endure. I have seen Loy discriminated against at other times too. As a member of the "Asian group" he has often suffered from the hate encouraged by this requisite grouping

Where is it written that it is okay to treat someone in a disrespectful, hurtful way, because of who they love or because of the color of their skin or the shape of their eyes. This is why it is hard to say why I support gay rights, I support everyone's' rights.

I have always had what some might consider a simplistic view, but I believe that people are people and deserve a life of equality. I am just idealistic and optimistic enough to believe that a time will come when, to paraphrase Dr. Martin Luther King, all people will not be judged by the group they represent, but by the content of their character.

I can't say how or when I came to this life-long conviction, but it has been part of me for longer than I can remember. I grew up in an upper middle class, all white neighborhood in Oakland. While my family were politically conservative, we were taught to have a great deal of pride in what I might call the "Traditional American Values" of equality and fairness. We were brought up to believe that the US was truly a "melting pot" in which people of every nationality and ethnic group had the same chance to succeed. After all, we had just fought a World War to save these values from those who would remove them from the world.

In reality it might not have been true, but we were so immersed in these values, that as young people we believed they existed and as adults many of us have been fighting to make them truly exist for a very long time.

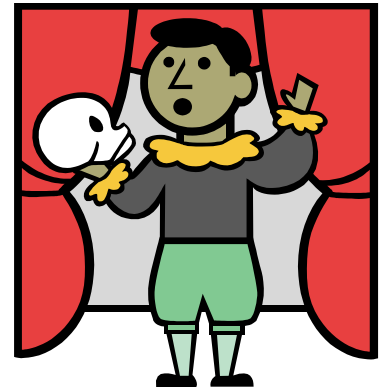
As an elementary teacher I resisted the labeling and grouping inherent in the education community. (How do you teach non-discrimination while you subtly demonstrate discrimination through your policies?) All of this seemed wrong at the time and still does.

I truly believe that if we could stop putting people into groups and encourage looking at each other as individuals, we could make a major dent in this most damaging human activity of discrimination..

I want to see a world in which no one is singled out, discriminated against, or bullied because they belong to one "group" or another. Where each individual is shown the respect they deserve and where **"The inherent worth and dignity of every person"** is a principle by which we all live.

BIG CHANGES !!!

Due to pricing changes by the theater, we have had to change the day of the week and dates for the Ashland trip. We apologize for any inconveniences. Please let us know if you have already paid and need a reimbursement. Thanks.



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: Saturday, March 16 through Monday, March 18 (extra night before may be arranged for an additional \$70 per person).
- PLAYS: Saturday evening: Taming of the Shrew
 Sunday morning: Talk by an actor
 Sunday afternoon: My Fair Lady
 Sunday evening: Two Trains
- 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 February 23, 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 FEBRUARY 23, 2013.

PICK UP TICKETS AND ATTEND INFORMATIONAL EVENT SATURDAY, MARCH 9, 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): _____

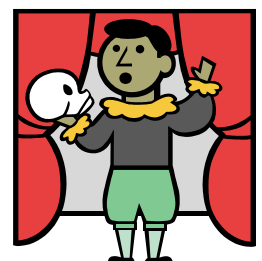
PHONE: _____

EMAIL (REQUIRED): _____

AMOUNT ENCLOSED: \$ _____

ROOMING WITH: _____

___ 2 nights ___ 3 nights



DURABLE MEDICAL EQUIPMENT

The Pastoral Care Committee has compiled a list of medical equipment that members own, that may be loaned short term. This list is due to be updated and we are asking for your help. If you have any of the following that you would be willing to loan, **please notify Beth Ogilvie:**

- Walkers
- Canes
- Crutches
- Shower/tub benches
- Raised toilet seats
- Wheel chairs

and anything else you might deem helpful to those with a temporary disability. Thank you



COME JOIN US FOR CHRISTMAS DINNER!



Christmas Dinner will be served at Starr King December 25th at 2:00 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. 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 25th.

For more info: Contact Dirk or Colleen Dino



ON GOING FUN AND UPCOMING ACTIVITIES

11

BOOK CLUB The book group will gather Thursday, December 13, 7 PM, at the home of Evelyn Cormier(510-471-0475) to discuss *House Rules* by Jodi Picoult. If you've known someone with Asperger's or Autism you might find this book quite an eye opener. All are welcome, having read the book, or just wanting to kibitz.
Please let Evelyn know so she knows for how many to plan.

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

DRUM CIRCLE Meets the 1st. Friday (Dec. 7) 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 (Dec. 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 The Film group will meet on Saturday, December 22, 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 (Dec. 9) after the service, at 12:00 PM in the conference room. All are welcome.

MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE Meets on the third Sunday of each month (Dec. 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 (Dec. 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 (Dec. 15) 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 (Dec. 5) 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 (Dec. 13 & 27) 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 12
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	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 Baxter

Committee Chairs

Adult Religious Education –
Anti-racist Multicultural Alliance - Regina Fassano
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
