



THE FLAMING CHALICE

**JANUARY WORSHIP THEME:
ISE OLUWA**

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BOARD NOTES

Committee Optimization Report:

As the report recommended, the board will now focus on leadership development and seeking ways to provide back-up support for groups of one

Survey Results : The results of the Congregation-wide survey were reviewed. The COM published the results in pdf. format, Dec. 17

Board/COM Retreat The upcoming Board/COM Retreat was discussed. Questions raised by the survey from the Committee on Ministry will drive the question of what needs doing. Results from the Board's Committee Optimization efforts will lead toward a discussion of improved leadership development efforts.

JANUARY SERVICE PREVIEWS

Sunday Worship: 10:30 AM

Jan. 6 *Letting Go of Certainties* –Rev. Katie Kandarian-Morris, Darcy Baxter, Roy King, Jr.
MULTI-GENERATIONAL WORSHIP

Gail Sheehy describes creativity as letting go of certainties. Worship is the perfect place for that experiment. Today's service will also give an opportunity for all ages to participate in the burning bowl ceremony where we drop in something negative that we'd like to let go.

Jan. 13 *Holy Curiosity* –Darcy Baxter and Rev. Katie Kandarian-Morris

One of the teachings of liberal religion is to "never stop questioning." Questioning, doubting, seeking--these are essential to our religious tradition. Essential, though at times exhausting. Is there a time for trust? When is our curiosity holy? When is it harmful?

Jan. 20 *A Genuine Leader* –Rev. Katie Kandarian-Morris and Roy King, Jr.

"A genuine leader is not a searcher for consensus but a molder of consensus." Martin Luther King, Jr. used his leadership to build a movement of leaders during his life and a legacy after his death. We'll learn about some of them. Monday we'll join together in celebrating King's words at our annual march and parade.

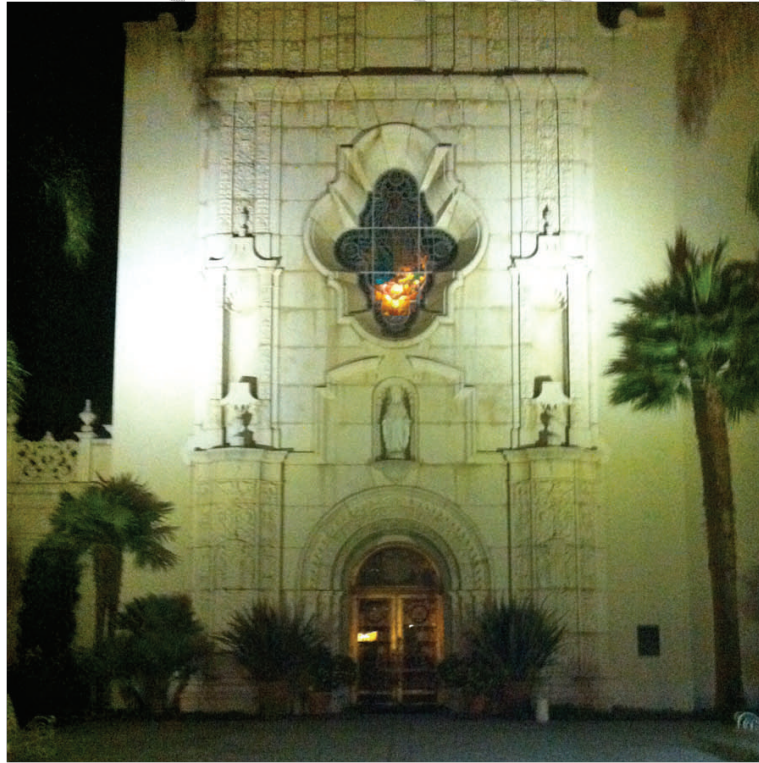
Jan. 27 *Universalism: A Theology for our Times* –Roy King, Jr.

We are Unitarian Universalists, but, too often, the Universalist side of our tradition gets neglected by our congregations. Today, we will explore how a theology of Love can furnish us an antidote to the fragmentation rampant throughout our culture.



Wishing You A Very Happy New Year

KATIE'S BAY VIEW 2



What do I imagine for the year ahead? What do I wish for our community? I ask for you to make worship a priority, as worship is the main place for our coming together as a community. I ask for you to find spiritual practices that make your heart happy, whether it is to take and share photos of bits of beauty in your world, or in folding your laundry, or creating dates for your regular walking or hiking, or in cooking your evening meal.

I believe that in these days of overly scheduled time, we must be intentional about our choice to be in religious community. I believe that Starr King Unitarian Church is a such a quality place for encouraging and reminding us of important values, a place for spiritual growth, and a place to find healing comfort and mark life's passages.

I wish you a very Happy New Year as well as all these things above!

Love Katie



Loving thoughts for the Robinsons, Holly's grandmother died.

Jan. 12 at 2 pm we will celebrate Janet Durant at her memorial service.

Jackie Beggs is recovering from knee surgery.

Lesley Hitchings is recovering from double eye surgeries and doing well



President's Message

By Andy Hansen—SKUU President Board



A New Year is upon us! Some of us greet the new year with resolutions about behavior to begin or extinguish, goals to reach, mistakes to avoid. I'm *not* one of those people, but I'm always interested in hearing about other people's resolutions because there is a traditional opportunity for fresh starts as the year begins, and I like to hear about change.

I honor the long Judeo-Christian doctrinal traditions of Christmas and have a warm regard for many parts of it that I don't even believe in; I just like having it "there," as one ancient vision of comfort and renewal and celebration. I like the feeling of reverence that comes with the Yuletide, even though the things I myself revere are less conventional. But like many of us, I also heartily welcome January's leaner social calendar and more austere diet. A good January holiday is Martin Luther King, Jr. Day: respectful, hopeful, community-based, and while in some ways a spiritual and religious observance, it is tied to religious *values* rather than religious doctrine. A good January diet is filled with fruits and vegetables (remember them?). A good January goal is saving money instead of spending it, a good task is cleaning a closet or garage -- unromantic life-maintenance and a return to mundane but necessary concerns are January tonics I greatly enjoy!

Do you know what your Starr King Board of Trustees does? How it selected? How you can participate? We try to publicize the activities of your Starr King BOT but know that it's an ongoing need. With that in mind, we'll be having an after-church presentation this month about the nature and customary concerns of the Board of Trustees, how its decisions are made, and from whence its authority derives. Keep your eyes out for the announcement of this presentation, as YOU are the stakeholder we are trying to reach.

Our Starr King Board of Trustees and Committee on Ministry are preparing for their annual joint retreat on February 2nd, 2013, to work on challenges and plans for the coming year and map a way forward in terms of church governance and program development. I think we will be focusing a great deal of our retreat time on Leadership Development at Starr King, and I expect it to be exciting and fruitful. The people who represent you on these bodies are very dedicated and engaged; they and I look forward to this work.

I wish you many good and homely tasks this month, deep breathing, new possibilities.

Warmly,





INTERNING *By Roy King* 4

Musings on Stigmas and Sin

It's hard to imagine times more in need of love. We were rent apart as individuals, communities and a nation by the horrific shootings in Newtown. I see from a CNN post the words of Rep. Tim Scott of South Carolina; the appointee to replace Sen. Jim DeMint, who hinted that he may oppose any gun control legislation in the Senate, declaring that the greater issue is one of "moral decay." He also apparently followed with the statement that "mental illness should be a major part of the conversation."

Wow, as a committed UU and of a Universalist theological bent, it occurred to me that "moral decay" and "mental illness" have supplanted the notion of "original sin" from Christian theology. The early Universalists and many Unitarians in America were courageously and vociferously opposed to the idea of original sin--namely, that all humans have inherited Adam's moral flaw. Many felt that God was too good to pre-condemn human beings. What if moral decay and mental illness, both of which are attributed to certain individuals in our society, serve as the new original sin? We tend to view these days many psychological conditions, such as Asperger's Syndrome or psychosis, as inherited or biological flaws. Like Tim Scott, many of us would ascribe to the horrific to the marginal acts of "deranged" individuals, ignoring the systemic flaws in our society.

I believe that the social isolation, competitiveness and lack of communal bonding that are rampant in America are the structural sins that feed chaos, despair and confusion, rather than differences in moral beliefs or susceptibility to psychological illness.

If so, then Universalism with its fundamental values of loving, respecting and dignifying all could be the antidote to fragmentation, could be a balm that soothes the rage and violence so prevalent in our culture today. A salvation of all through loving-kindness, instead of marginalization of a few through labeling.

*Peace,
Roy*



JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

5	SHERMAN LEWIS	16	MARY SWAIN
7	ROY DICKERSON	18	SOPHIANA CARRELL
7	WALT KORUS	24	MILEVA SAULO LEWIS
13	JAY DURANT	25	DEBBIE FREDERICK
13	DORIS HASKELL	30	BEN MATTHEWS



RELIGIOUS EXPLORATION

By Darcy Baxter Dir. of Family Ministry

The teachers were working with the children on Solstice and why we had so much darkness this time of year. "Some animals deal with the darkness by hibernating." So of course when it came to work on the Advent calendar (again!), one of the children said "I'm hibernating! I can't do it."

As parents, many of you know that one has to pick your battles. And a key part for me of a UU religious education is supporting children's independence and creativity AND their respect and consideration for their community.

"Okay, you want to hibernate? You can hibernate, but you REALLY need to hibernate. Hibernation means sleeping, resting, and being quiet." I led the child over the couch and placed a pillow on him-- "Okay, here is your hibernation den. You can stay over here as long as your are hibernating."

"I want to hibernate too!" said another child. I repeated the rules, gave them a pillow, and went back to the table where the rest of the children were working on their Advent calendar tiles.

Why is it if I asked them to be quiet and still, they would barely last 15 seconds? But letting them hibernate and opt out of the main activity? Those children were quiet on that couch "hibernating" for a good 20 minutes.

For me, participating in religious community, doing (or trying to) regular spiritual practices is about growing in wisdom about navigating these push/pull situations. What battles do I choose? When do I just go with the flow?

In the New Year, Natasha Arakawa and I will be starting a monthly gathering of parents to explore questions like these, support one another in our spiritual journeys, and figure out how to talk with our children about difficult topics like God and evil. I look forward to sharing more time together with many of you addressing these important issues.

Blessings in the New Year!

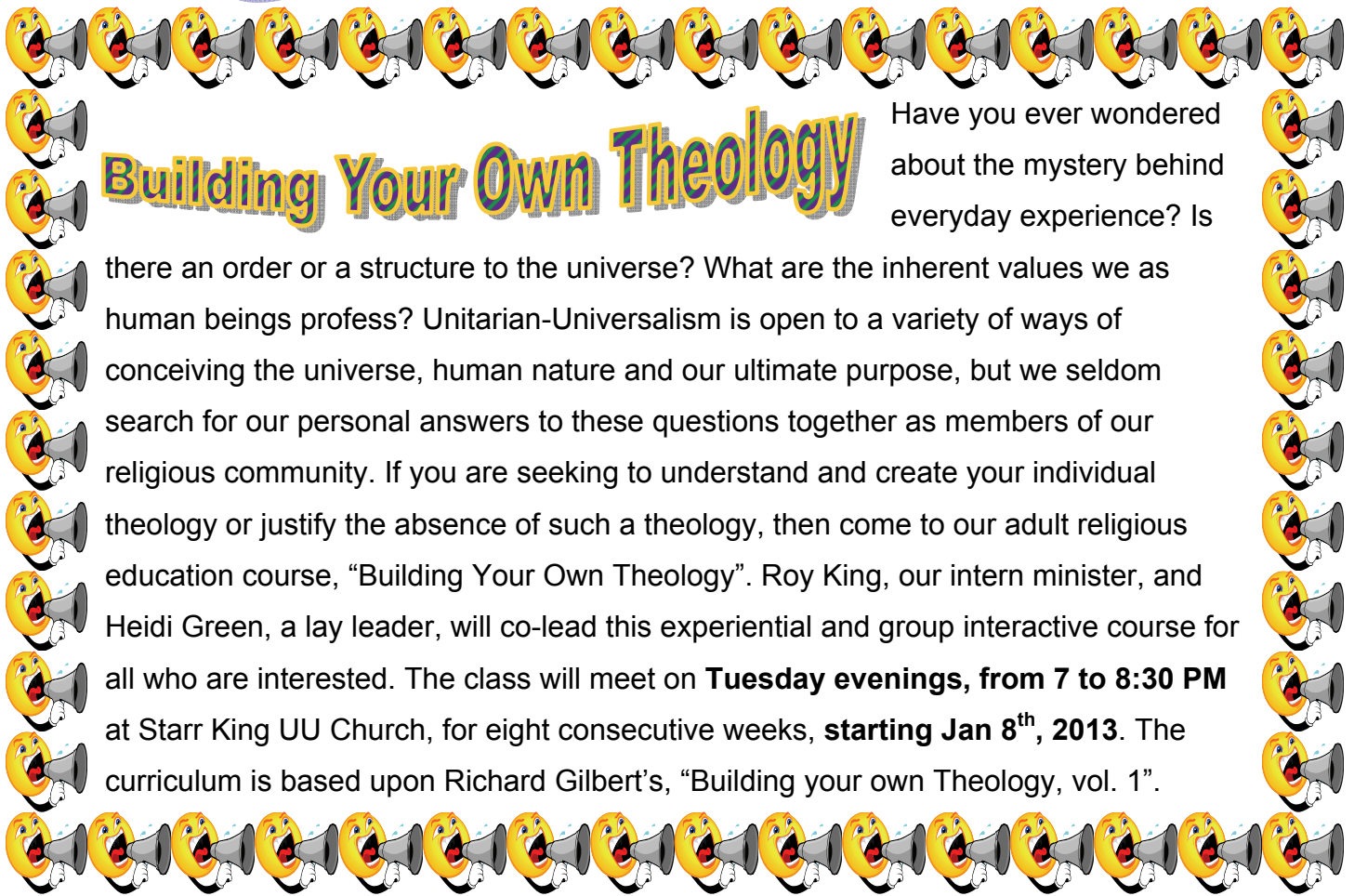
Darcy, D.F.M.

CHILDREN'S RE HAPPENINGS FOR JANUARY

Infants and Toddlers Care in Fellowship Hall

DATE	ACTIVITY
JAN. 6	MULTI GENERATIONAL WORSHIP-- LETTING GO CEREMONY
JAN. 13	UUISM AND YOUR FAVORITE SPORT
JAN. 20	LESSONS FOR LIFE THROUGH SPORTS
JAN. 27	THE GOOD AND THE BAD IN SPORTS

CALENDAR ALERT



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".

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>.

CIRCLE SUPPER COMING SOON!

Want to meet new people or get more acquainted with others at church?

Join a group for a potluck dinner at someone's home on Saturday, February 5.

You will be assigned to a small group of people and can expect a great night of fun conversation and excellent food! Please sign up on the sign-in sheet on the Fellowship table no later than Sunday, January 20 (Please schedule early, as too many late attendees make it hard on the hosts). Please let us know if you are willing to host, if you have any dietary requirements and if you prefer family-friendly dinner. Please supply email address so that we can notify you easier.

STARR KING WELCOMES Not So New Member⁷

HEIDI BRUINS GREEN



One of my first memories of growing up Unitarian is standing in the stairwell of our church, craning my neck to look up at the enormous painting of Mary that Sam, one of our more colorful members, had painted on that huge white space. The sheer overwhelmingness of that gorgeous lady left no doubt in me that Mary had indeed been the 20-foot tall black lesbian depicted.

Though, now that I think of it, maybe that was actually meant to be Jesus.

I was born and raised a Unitarian, but I'm not a lifelong UU. Like many raised in our eclectic community, I've shopped around. Growing up a UU, I became well acquainted with a number of other religions and their beliefs and practices, but I had no idea what being a Unitarian meant. We never

studied that. Perhaps we were too self-conscious about proselytizing to teach our own kids about Unitarianism.

I was born in Sacramento and raised in Bakersfield, so my roots are in the Central Valley. But the Bay Area is the first place I've lived that has felt like HOME to me. I left Bakersfield in 1975 to get a Bachelors degree in Women's Studies at UC Santa Cruz. Ten years later I got an M.B.A. at UC Davis. I left Bakersfield engaged to my high school sweetheart, a young man a year older than I. By the time I had my M.B.A., I was living with the woman who would later become my wife.

My entire life, I have been an activist. My mom used to say my first civil rights march was in the womb. My parents were very active in civil rights in Bakersfield. My dad worked closely with Cesar Chavez. My mom taught me to be a strong, proud woman. No one can fight for everything without burning out. I've found I have to pick my battles or get burned out. For me, the issues that pull at my soul are interrupting racism and LGBT issues in the workplace. I am hugely grateful to people who take on other, equally important work to make our world a better place.

Even before getting my M.B.A., I was an accountant. With the M.B.A., I ascended to the ranks of corporate management at Procter & Gamble, was promoted several times, and relocated to Cincinnati Ohio for 12 years, mecca to Proctoids. Cincinnati is a racist and homophobic city. I learned how to be a better leader at work, and how to be a better activist the rest of the time.

My work evolved into more creative endeavors while in Cincinnati. I moved out of accounting and finance, and into learning and development. I'm now a contract instructional designer, focusing on designing and developing eLearning or online training programs. It is like being able to do crafts all day. I love it!

I've lived in the Bay Area for nine years now. James and I married in October of 2003. His daughter Morgan lives with us. She's 27 and got her M.S.W. in May. She is smart, ironic, and amazing. Her brother Nick has lived with us at different times. He's 23, and just got a job at FedEx Office, is starting junior college in January, and, is moving to the East Bay early next year. He had some struggles, but is getting on his feet, and I suspect will do amazing things with his life. The four of us have developed a strong, loving family unit. I have my fingers crossed that, while I never had kids of my own, I may one day have grandkids!

My activism continues: the Anti-Racist Multi-Cultural Alliance and helping with the Welcoming Congregation refresher at SKUUC, as well as conducting research on the experience of bisexuals in the workplace and building a national bisexual organization. I can imagine both my parents watching me sometimes, and saying "that's our girl!"

WELCOMING CONGREGATION REFRESHER PROGRAM ⁸

UPDATE

By Beth Ogilvie

Many thanks to everyone who attended the kick-off meeting on October 7 of the Welcoming Congregation Refresher Task Force. Our website starring.org now has several related pages:

Webpage for the Welcoming Congregation Refresher Program: <http://starring.org/WelCongRefresh/>

BGLTQ blog: <http://starring.org/category/blog/bgl tq/>. Blog posts include notes from the first Task Force meeting on October 7.

Since the task force meeting we have distributed the UUA's [inclusive language guidelines](http://www.uua.org/lgbtq/welcoming/ways/200008.shtml) through the Committee Council to all the committees. If you're not on a committee or didn't get a copy, please see <http://www.uua.org/lgbtq/welcoming/ways/200008.shtml> or ask Beth for a copy - and then everyone please study it and start incorporating it. We all need practice.

We are planning several BGLTQ related activities including:

- * **Raising Gender Healthy Children**, a workshop for parents (March?).
- * **Dispelling Myths about Bisexuality** - an overview for everyone (April?).
- * **Trans/Queer focused worship** (July?) with Heidi's husband Jamison Green, a leader in the transgender rights movement, as pulpit guest.

Please sign up to help with one of these events! Talk to Darcy for the Raising Gender Healthy Children workshop and me for the others.

**Next meeting of the Welcoming Congregation Refresher Task Force:
January 20, after worship, 12:30.**

Please come whether you came to the first meeting or not.

PCD Leadership Workshop
January 26, 2013
UU Church of Berkeley

8:00 AM Registration, Continental Breakfast
9:00 AM - 4:00 PM Workshop
Rev. Robert Latham and
Rev. Jeanelyse Doran Adams

This is an interactive workshop designed for congregational teams of leaders and active, dedicated congregants. Teams will work together to learn how to develop and use language that can change their congregations and extend a welcoming invitation to the world.

We will do this by focusing on the current cultural revolution. Can we seize this opportunity to change the direction of our history, which is currently in decline? We know the power language has to transform and give direction; we also know the necessity of becoming the shapers rather than being the shaped.

ON GOING FUN AND UPCOMING ACTIVITIES

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BOOK CLUB The book group will meet Thursday, January 10, 7 PM, at a place to be determined to discuss the book *The Probable Future* by Alice Hoffman. She is an excellent writer. This book is about a group of capable women living in the Northeast and how they deal with their complex lives. Stay tuned for the location. 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 (Jan. 21) after the service

DRUM CIRCLE Meets the 1st. Friday (Jan. 4) 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 (Jan. 16) 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 26, 2013 at 7:00 P.M. At Stuart Fink's Home. "Bernie" (2011) A Dark Comedy Starring Jack Black, Shirley Maclaine And Matthew Mcconaughey; Town Mortician Romances Hated Wealthy Widow (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 (Jan. 14) after the service, at 12:00 PM in the conference room. All are welcome.

MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE Meets on the third Sunday of each month (Jan. 21), **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 (Jan. 5 & 16). 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 (Jan. 18) 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 (Jan. 2) 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 (Jan. 10 & 24) 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 10
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 – Terry Owen, Georgia Gruver
Sunday Coffee – Roy Dickerson
Ushers – Susan Blanc
Volunteer Coordinator – Karen Cook

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
