



# THE FLAMING CHALICE

## MAY WORSHIP THEME: I'M GONNA LEARN

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### BOARD NOTES

1. The treasurer reported that **income in the current year is \$10,000 below budget.** This is partially due to some congregants having not paid their PCD and UUA pledges.
2. The need for a new printer for the office was discussed. Various board members will research possibilities and the subject will be discussed at the next board meeting.
3. The board passed, with unanimous approval, the Hilltop Committee's recommendation that the hilltop be leveled and general clean-up done, and further action be postponed until our needs become more clear.

**REMINDER:  
Congregational Meeting May 19**

**Next BOT Meeting, Thursday, MAY 2nd, 2013 at 7 p.m.**

### MAY SERVICE PREVIEWS

**Sunday Worship: 10:30 AM**

#### May 5      Ambivalent Gratitudes

Rev. Jay Atkinson, pulpit guest

The homecoming of war veterans presents many of us with tensions between gratitude for their service and belief in our country's ideals on the one hand, and grave doubts about the legitimacy of our military action in Iraq and Afghanistan on the other. In addition, many veterans return more in need of compassion and healing than of traditional bombastic displays of military honor. As we look forward to Memorial Day later this month, how should our various gratitudes to them be nuanced and balanced against our legitimate prophetic protest against war and militarism?

#### May 12      All Kinds of Mamas

Rev Katie Kandarian-Morris and Darcy Baxter

We are mothers and mamas in all kinds of ways. From the mamas giving birth to the aunties raising up the children on the block, we will honor all the pain, joy, sorrow, and promise of mamahood ?

#### May 19      I'm Gonna Learn

Rev. Katie Kandarian-Morris

Today we celebrate all the time and talent given to Starr King Church, the gifts and glories of leadership, and those smallest contributions that make up a congregation that endows our world with goodness and justice. Come celebrate!

#### CONGREGATIONAL MEETING AFTER CHURCH TODAY

#### May 26      Building Your Own Theology

Roy King, Jr., intern minister and BYOT class

The responsibility for our tradition is to create a personal understanding of the world and our place in it. Those sharing today have initiated the task, and will share some of their wisdom.

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# What They Dreamed Be Ours To Do

KATIE'S BAY VIEW <sup>2</sup>



This first week in May marks 50 years from the Civil Rights Movement and in particular the Children's Crusade of Birmingham, Alabama. This was a particular time of tireless work for Martin Luther King, Jr. and other leaders. The task was the vision of justice for African-Americans and the non-violent fight against hatred.

It was late spring of 1963. Support for civil rights was waning, where protests and even Martin Luther King, Jr.'s imprisonment didn't bring the needed attention to their plight. The community's children were invited to take part, to become advocates for their own freedom and dignity.

In April, peaceful protesters were attacked with high-pressure hoses and vicious police dogs. Police Commissioner "Bull" Conner was notoriously racist, and his desire for power and resulting behaviors began to draw attention to the injustice in the city.

But in May, a controversial action was taken that involved children. Dr. King felt that if children were old enough to join their church (in the tradition, elementary school aged children could), then they were old enough to make a witness for justice.

One young boy spoke with clarity and conviction, *Daddy, I don't want to disobey you, but I have made my pledge. If you try to keep me home, I will sneak off. If you think I deserve to be punished for that, I'll just have to take the punishment. I'm not doing this only because I want to be free. I'm also doing it because I want freedom for you and Mama, and I want it to come before you die.*

Children left their schools and marched in the streets, holding hands, singing hymns of freedom. The children were met with violence. Bull Conner instructed that the fire hoses be turned up to high power. It knocked children down; it blew them into walls. The children were incarcerated, and after the jail cells were full, some of them even were kept in the stockyards as if they were animals.

Media began to descend on the city of Birmingham, and President Kennedy's authority brought needed attention and movement to encourage the Birmingham power structure to negotiations that eventually led to the Civil Rights Act of 1964.

Many leaders publically criticized King for putting children in harms way. Today, we might think that King's choice was a radical one. Our children are our most precious gifts. But from this privileged place, I can only imagine their struggle. From this place of freedom, I can only begin to understand their living. I have an acquaintance in Hayward who was one of those children attacked in 1963. She has dedicated much of her life to continuing justice work. What responsibilities do we have to change the world? What are we willing to risk? What do we dream?

In faith, *Katie*

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# President's Message

By Andy Hansen—SKUU President Board



"May Day! May Day!" May Day (May 1st) always has a dreamy quality to me, but not because I was a red-diaper baby, nor did we have regular need of emergency assistance. It's because I hold delightful memories of making little May-baskets with my mother and leaving them on neighbors' doorknobs, then away. There are so many fun parts to gathering lilacs and flowers from the garden, making the pretty baskets from colored construction paper, expressing loving sentiment, and of course, most of all, *ringing the doorbell and running away!* I don't know if we did this twice or many times but the sight of a May-basket still gives me happy feelings. Try it! Even if you don't deliver it by May 1st, it will give someone a happy surprise cheerfully sentimental conspiracy enough to do it again next year.



and grandparents' doorknobs, then away. There are so many fun parts to gathering lilacs and flowers from the baskets from colored construction paper, expressing loving sentiment, and of course, most of all, *ringing the doorbell and running away!* I don't know if we did this twice or many times but the sight of a May-basket still gives me happy feelings. Try it! Even if you don't deliver it by May 1st, it will give someone a happy surprise cheerfully sentimental conspiracy enough to do it again next year.

As many of you know, my mother Lois died this past April 13th. What a learning experience death is, reminding me again that life is at once durable and fragile, joyful and sad, lengthy and brief, complicated and very, very simple, here today and gone . . . today. A well-meaning friend pointed out to me that I am now an orphan, something that hadn't really occurred to me. It is quite obviously true, but came to me as a bit of a shock.

In our Unitarian Universalist principles we speak about being a part of the interdependent web of existence. It's a good concept, encouraging stewardship of the earth, our resources and our communities. It also dresses up in fancy attire a question that I have often asked myself about changed circumstances, even ones which are only marginally personal: "How does this relate to *ME?*" Actually, it's my favorite question.

Does the death of my last parent mean that I'm old, more mortal? That no one will love me again in the same way? That there is less support in my world? That there is less conflict in my world? Do I have to be/Am I already grown up? (At 55, no less.) My daily experience since Mom died is not much changed, now that I'm home again, from what it was before, yet my definition and my relative position in that ol' web has changed. Is this only a mental construct? Does it matter? Am I okay?

I'm sharing this contemplation on my mother's death with you because it illustrates the way life-experience stimulates reflection on that most-religious question: *What is meaningful for me?* It is an essence of what I want in my church. I value being a part of this UU congregation and denomination, believing that you profoundly respect my unique spiritual inquiry, without assuming that my answer will be the same as yours or even wanting it to be. I value your expecting the same combination of interest, support and deference from me. *Come sing a song with me, that I might know your mind.*

Warmly,





April Showers Bring May Flowers

What a topsy-turvy month was April! From dejection to relief, fearful hunkering down to resilient expansion—April swung our hearts and souls in dizzying turns. I look to May for a momentary pause from the disturbing events of last month. Right now, I am thinking of community, our congregation, and the marvelous and harmonious variety we see among our members. I am, In particular, reflecting upon the “Building Your Own Theology” class that I was privileged to participate in at Starr King church last winter and the fruits of which will be presented to the congregation at a service at the end of May.

“Building Your Own Theology” fosters an in depth searching for the roots and experiences of one’s own theological, spiritual or humanistic beliefs and a sharing together of these insights with the group. It is a perfect bridge between an individual’s open discernment of her special and unique spiritual experience and the group’s collectively sharing their reflections on a person’s truth. The best analogy I can muster for our class is that its result is like a collage with its multiple personal spiritual snapshots cohering together into one beautiful, but complex artwork. We can see nature-based theology grafted onto a humanistic ethics combined with a personal image of the Divine to whom we can lift up prayers. Such splendid diversity! Even our personal journeys can become collages of radically different spiritual experiences.

The class is a mirror of our congregation—a congregation, not of one body and one mind unified by one creed, but a collective eco-system of many who symbiotically and organically nurture the development of each other’s religious faith through love.

Shanti Roy

**MAY BIRTHDAYS**

|                 |                   |
|-----------------|-------------------|
| 7 EMMA MIYOSHI  | 16 BECKETT WAGNER |
| 14 PAT KELLNOR  | 21 KAREN KRAMER   |
| 16 LAVON HODGES | 29 CAROL HENRIE   |



# RELIGIOUS EXPLORATION

By Darcy Baxter Dir. of Family Ministry

Our worship theme for May is "I'm Gonna Learn." So, what have our children been learning? Well, you should probably ask them and hopefully there are a bunch of things they have been learning. But there is one lesson about which I feel particularly good, a lesson that social work Professor and researcher Brene Brown puts like this: "Feeling vulnerable, imperfect, and afraid is human. It's when we lose our capacity to hold space for these struggles that we become dangerous."

During one of our recent Sunday worship circles, one of the children shared real tears of sadness with us-- his favorite restaurant had burned down. As he shared this news, his lips quivered and sobs filled the circle. The children have been sharing various things in our weekly worship circle over the course of this year-- but this is the first time a child chose to share and embody his vulnerability and fragility so openly.

In these moments, I know many of us may feel the need to urgently react, to reassure him that it's okay, that they will probably build another restaurant, maybe one that is even better. Perhaps this is true, but I think it's important not to react so quickly with reassurances. Being human means feeling sad and vulnerable, as well as strong and happy. For me, religious community is one of the last places in our culture where we can have an opportunity to feel and experience vulnerability, imperfection, and fear without needing to 'fix it,' a place where there is nothing 'wrong' with our normal human experiences of loss, fear, and sadness. These emotions are part of our human experience that we too often, I think, try to repress and squelch down. But it's this repression and squelching which can make our feelings dangerous, to ourselves and others. What do I hope our religious community can teach our children about feelings of vulnerability, imperfection, fear and sadness? That it is okay to have them and it is important to share them in a place like our worship circle, where we light candles and place shells on our altar to remember our joys and our sorrows; where we embrace our full humanity and support each other as we make it through this complicated thing we call life.

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

## CHILDREN'S RE HAPPENINGS FOR MAY

| DATE   | ACTIVITY                                   |
|--------|--|
| MAY 5  | Webby Humans: Gifts for Mothers            |
| MAY 12 | Multigenerational Worship for Mother's Day |
| MAY 19 | Webby Humans: Simplicity                   |
| MAY 26 | Webby Humans: Tending Our Playground       |

**Infants and Toddlers Care in Fellowship Hall**

# THIS SUMMER: SHARE WISDOM, SHARE FUN! DEVELOP NEW RELATIONSHIPS

Everyone has a skill, talent or ability they could pass on.

This includes



**YOU** and **YOU**



The RE Council is looking for volunteers to spend a Sunday morning this summer with our children.

Teach the kids about ham radio?

Make a solar oven?

Press flowers?

Play on the playground?

Summer is a time when we loosen up in RE, focus on FUN, and emphasize **building relationships between the children and adults** in our congregation. If you are interested in signing up for a Sunday between June 16 and September 1, please talk to Lea Casini or send an email to [familyminister@starrking.org](mailto:familyminister@starrking.org).



Please send your thoughts and prayers of support to **Andy Hansen** and **Donald McKillop**. Andy's mother has died.

**Anne Chan** and **Aren** have added **Avery** to their family.

They are all doing well and Aren is a big brother!

# IMPORTANT UPCOMING EVENTS <sup>7</sup>

## *16th Annual Shelter Shuffle: Striding Toward Home*

**Saturday, May 18th, 2013  
Meek Park, Hayward**

### *Schedule for the Day*

- 8:45 AM Registration/ Check-in
- 9:30 AM Opening Ceremony
- 10:00 AM Send Off
- 11:00 AM Lunch/ Live Band/ Free Tours of Meek Mansion/ Face Painting
- Noon Closing Ceremony 50/50 Raffle

**5K walk      Family-friendly      Dog-friendly**

**Complimentary breakfast and lunch**

**Live band      Great Cause      50/50 Raffle**

**Free Tours of the Meek Mansion**

**REGISTER TODAY** at <http://www.firstgiving.com/fesco/2013>

[Click here to learn how to register and fund raise on-line](#)

## *Charting the Course of Justice: Help Map UULMCA's Future*

Join us to share your own experiences of working for change and help the UU Legislative Ministry of CA develop a compelling, effective vision for the next chapter of collaborative UU justice ministry in California. We welcome all interested in bringing Unitarian Universalist values to the public square.

May 4th at the UU Church in Livermore, Sanctuary, 2:00-5:30 pm

May 11th at the Berkeley Fellowship of UU's, Fireside Room, 2:00-5:30 pm

Questions: Contact Garner Takahashi Morris, [g.clairtm@gmail.com](mailto:g.clairtm@gmail.com) /925-586-8150, or visit [uulmca.org](http://uulmca.org)

# Proposed Change to Bylaws

## Article III NONDISCRIMINATION

As part of our Welcoming Congregation Renewal process, we're proposing to update the nondiscrimination clause in the bylaws as follows. If you have any questions about these terms, please ask **Heidi Green** or **Beth Ogilvie** before the annual meeting (May 19). Thank you!

### Proposed Change to Bylaws Article III NONDISCRIMINATION.

New text is in **red italics**:

The church does not discriminate in its membership, in the calling of a minister, in hiring practices, in its governance, in its activities, or in the use of its facilities on the basis of race, **color**, age, **sex**, gender **identity or expression**, sexual or **affectional** orientation, ethnic and national origin, social status, economic status, marital status, **veteran status**, or disability.

**Color** is included because dark-skinned people in our culture often suffer discrimination from lighter skinned people of all races.

**Sex** is included to distinguish it from gender identity or expression, any of which can be triggers for discrimination in our culture. One's sex (male, female) is usually assigned at birth based on the appearance of the body. Gender identity is an individual's deeply felt sense of themselves as male or female. Gender expression may be used to express or conceal one's gender identity.

**Affectional orientation** is included because what is generally called "sexual orientation" is far more complex than simple sexual attraction. Affectional orientation describes who a person forms lasting romantic relationships with. It includes people who identify as asexual (and thus are not sexually attracted to people, but may well form committed relationships based on non-sexual love and commitment), and those who are sexually attracted to people of one gender and romantically attracted to people of another gender.


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## Hungry for Change: Food, Ethics and Sustainability

Are you concerned about where your food comes from?



How  it is grown or raised?

What are the impacts of  your diet on this planet? and the interconnected web of life?



Join us: **12:15 pm to 1:45pm, Sunday May 5 and Sat. May 11.**

Questions?

See **Darryl Ray** or email him at [dalbertray@yahoo.com](mailto:dalbertray@yahoo.com)

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# ON GOING FUN AND UPCOMING ACTIVITIES

- CHURCH BOOKSTORE** The bookstore is open every 3rd. Sunday after the service
- DRUM CIRCLE** Meets the 1st. Friday 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 ELDERBERRIES** Meets every 3rd Wednesday 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, May 25, at 7:00 P.M. At Stuart Fink's Home. "Robot & Frank" (2012) Comedy-Drama Starring Frank Langella, James Marsden, Liv Tyler And Susan Sarandon.  
Set In The Near Future A Retired Thief Gets A Robot Companion As He Deals With Early Dementia (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 after the service, at 12:00 PM in the conference room. All are welcome.
- HOSPITALITY & MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE** Meets on the third Sunday of each month 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 All are welcome to join us to explore community and spirituality discussion and shared silence.
- SKIFFLE** Meets 1st. Wednesday of the month 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 the 2nd. Thursday of the month at 7:30 P.M.

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# HOW TO REACH US

## Starr King Unitarian Universalist Church

22577 Bayview Avenue  
Hayward, CA 94541

Church Office: 510.581.2060

[office@starrking.org](mailto:office@starrking.org)

Parish Minister: Kathryn Kandarian-Morris

[minister@starrking.org](mailto:minister@starrking.org)

Cell Phone: 510.861.2914

Church President: Andy Hansen

[president@starrking.org](mailto:president@starrking.org)

Home phone: 510.301-6938

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

Webmaster: Beth Ogilvie: [webmaster@starrking.org](mailto:webmaster@starrking.org)

Newsletter Editor: [newslettereditor@starrking.org](mailto:newslettereditor@starrking.org)

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**Church Office Hours** 10  
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** Dr. Roy King, Jr.  
**Dir. of Family Ministry** Darcy Baxter

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## Positions

Adult Religious Education – Jennifer Koney

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, Beth Ogilvie, Henry Wagner

Communications Comm. – Melody Appleton

FESCO reps.– Donnie Rett, Jennifer Koney

Finance Committee— Keith Lewis

Fundraising Committee– Karen Cook

Green Sanctuary Committee– Colleen Saia

Grounds Care– Walt Korus

Hospitality/Membership – Dirk Dino

Interior – Sherry Thomas

Justice Alliance Frank Burton

Nominating Committee – Rebecca Parr

Pastoral Care Committee– Karen Cook

R.E. Council – Diana Dickerson

Social – Joyce Kinnear

Social Justice Committee– Mary Swain

South Hayward Parish Bd. Rep.– Terry Owen

Sunday Coffee – Roy Dickerson

Usher Coordinator Lavon Hodges

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](mailto:newslettereditor@starrking.org)

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