



THE FLAMING CHALICE

JANUARY WORSHIP THEME:

Ise Oluwa (God's work is permanent.)

INSIDE

Minister's Message Pg. 2

Wheel of Life Pg. 2

President's Message Pg. 3

Interning Pg. 4

What is an Intern Minister? Pg. 5

Religious Exploration Pg. 6

January Birthdays Pg. 6

Fun Upcoming Events Pg. 7

Ashland Reservation Form Pg. 8

On Going Activities Pg. 9

How to Reach Us Pg. 10

TO PONDER:

**How is
Starr King
Important
to Me?**

JANUARY SERVICE PREVIEWS

Sunday Worship: 10:30 AM

January 5 *Taking a Good Look* -

Rev. Katie Kandarian-Morris, and Rev. Darcy Baxter

This multigenerational service will invite us to do the spiritual work of letting go, using Buddhist precepts to help us learn to move through difficult times, and to learn to acknowledge what is. We'll participate in the ritual of burning off something we'd like to let go and see where that might lead us. Come, join in this fiery New Year's celebration!

January 12 *By Whose Authority?*

-Rev. Sue Magidson, pulpit guest

We love the questions, including questioning authority. We stand up for justice, believe in freedom of conscience, but sometimes, we UUs can get carried away in distrusting authority figures, even the ones we elect to lead us.

January 19- *Where are We Going?* -

Roy King, Jr., intern minister, and Rev. Katie Kandarian-Morris

The Reverend Doctor Martin Luther King ushered in an era of concern for social justice and civil liberty for the oppressed. But what are the pressing justice concerns of the 21st century? What are the complex identities that stretch the limits of our understanding?

January 26 *Stand By This Faith* -

Rev. Katie Kandarian-Morris

Celebrating fifteen years since ordination, here is an exercise in examination of ministerial faith, dedication and current sustenance. What does belief and practice do to keep hope alive?.



Starr King Celebrates its Diamond!

KATIE S BAY VIEW ²

Happy New Year, 2014! This year will mark the 60th anniversary of Starr King Unitarian Universalist Church, first established in 1954 as Starr King Unitarian Fellowship. For sixty years this congregation has kept its liberal light shining in southern Alameda County, initially bringing Unitarian, then after the merger in 1961, Unitarian and Universalist values to our communities of Hayward, Castro Valley, San Lorenzo, San Leandro, and other nearby cities.

It was out of a desire to provide a warm and welcoming place close to home, a community to raise their children with liberal religious values, as well as a strong dislike for the McCarthyesque loyalty oath being signed in their existing Unitarian congregation that first urged them on.

These young leaders were inspired by the wave of excitement and evangelism in our faith during this post-war and baby-boom time called “the fellowship movement.” By 1958, there were 323 new fellowships formed, with nearly 75 percent of membership comprised of folks new to Unitarianism. These new congregations were created with the intention to be fully lay-led, with the majority of the congregation engaged in the “work of the church.”

Here, at Starr King, the congregation grew to an understanding and appreciation of professional ministry, in 1962 welcoming their first minister, Rev. Charles Blackburn and then officially adopting the change from “fellowship” to “church,” welcoming in the addition of Universalism at the time of the merger. I’d like to think that these dedicated leaders recognized that this congregation would endure, long beyond their own fellowship, that their beacon of light would shine long beyond their days and that their children’s children would still have need of this saving message.

Now, at the 60-year mark, this church has made a new commitment to growth, being compelled by our faith in the power of this open and free faith to ensure its endurance long past our own generations.

I’m excited for this year ahead. I invite you to bring your vision and dreams to what Starr King Unitarian Universalist Church can be, to what we can become in the next decade. Our founders would be glad, and they would likely expect no less of us. In the words of one of our most iconic and lofty hymns, ours is to “hope their hopes and seal them true!”

*Love,
Katie*



WENDY ROBERTSON and her knee are healing.



Your 2013-2014 Board of Trustees



Here is a brief overview from our December Board meeting

Budget Items:

At our Annual Meeting we approved a budget of \$130,000, which means it takes approximately \$11,000.00 per month to pay our bills.

The total disbursements for November were \$14,419.00, which included liability insurance and property taxes. The total receipts received were \$10,848. This month we borrowed from savings to cover the short fall. Frank Satterwhite also mentioned that we need to contribute our fair share to UUA/PCD in the amount of \$3,328.00, which we will address at our January Board meeting.

Playground update:

David Middleton presented on behalf of the R.E. Council, and the families of Starr King, the final proposal and request for funding the new playground. David has consulted with several church members on the type of ground cover to be used, safe fall zones, and type of play equipment for the size of our play area. David will also be meeting with Gerald Mosher on the location of any underground pipes or cables that run under the current playground before construction. This project has an enormous amount of support and energy behind it and they wish to get started right away. The projected cost is \$4,973.00. Funding for this project will come from the interest earned on the endowment fund as capital improvement. The project could be completed as early as the end of January.

Retreat:

The retreat sub-committee has extended an invitation to our retreat to include members of the Committee on Ministry, Board of Trustees, Ministerial Staff, and Committee Chairs. Linda Leskowski has agreed to facilitate our retreat, and has offered follow up consulting to keep us committed to our goals. Our retreat will be held at the Ashland Community Center in Hayward on Saturday, Feb 8th.

Committee on Ministry (COM):

COM shared their November meeting minutes with the Board of Trustees, along with an invitation to attend their December meeting. COM has been reviewing their mission of "shared ministry" and would like to include the Board on possible changes to their committee.

Fellowship Hall:

In January, we will begin testing an acoustic foam sample for the ceiling in Fellowship Hall. This is primarily to see if the type of foam we have selected will work for this area. If successful, we'll put a team together to complete the project.

Happy New Year *Colleen Dino*



Interning in January

As I think about this New Year, 2014, I find myself looking toward the allure of Unitarian Universalism. Not so much our strong values and principles, but the heritage of our 19th century theologies and what hope they hold for our future path. Universalism, in particular, in its time, boldly proclaimed the utter goodness of humankind and the non-existence of eternal punishment. We Universalists have been and continue to be optimistic about humanity despite the trends of the 20th century toward pessimism from the World Wars, the Holocaust, and our impending destruction of the earth's climatic balance.

The trend toward pessimism and the religious idea of "original sin", the Christian notion that we were born faulty from an inherited badness reaching back to the dawn of humanity, holds much traction in the secular world. Substitute, the psychoanalytic "id" or the genetic predisposition to mental illness, personality disorder and substance dependence for "original sin" and you have the helpless despondency of our age. Here salvation is from medication or cognitive behavioral therapy that correct our inherent imbalance rather than salvation through Christ or a personal redeemer. Yet, I see little difference between these models of human behavior—both tend to image human beings as passive and stricken by fate.

But there are alternatives. And feeling in a cheery mood, I am drawn to alternate ideas of humankind's destiny. One such spiritually rich concept is that of "original blessing"—a term coined by the former Dominican priest, Matthew Fox, as an antidote to the idea of "original sin". Fox's proposition actually got him kicked out of the Dominican order for unorthodoxy by the then cardinal Ratzinger, later, Pope Benedict XVI. Fox set up the University of Creation Spirituality in Oakland to teach the wisdom of the Christian mystics who found the world imbued in love and spirit.

I say that if we Unitarian Universalists could team up with other optimistic movements—particularly those that furnish spiritual disciplines that gird up our sense of the blessedness of life, we truly would have an irresistible blessing to offer our fragmented and chaotic world!

Peace Roy

DON'T FORGET!

ASHLAND DEPOSIT DUE JAN. 1

See pg. 8 for registration form

What Is An Intern Minister?

Have you ever wondered what exactly Roy's role is as our Intern Minister?

The Intern Committee (Heidi Green, Al Murdach, Kirk Smith, Colleen Saia, Suzanne Quijano) has been working with Roy for over a year now. We feel it would be helpful to start a dialogue about Roy's role as he enters his final half year with us.

To understand what Roy brings to Starr King requires understanding what a minister is: both the duties of the profession, and how the calling to ministry changes who a person is forever.

Most people think of a job as something you leave behind when you leave the office at the end of the day. Being a minister is different. It is not what you do, it's who you are. The language describing ministry hints at it: ministry is a calling. It is a powerful voice (or inner sense) that compels one, often from an early age.

If you talk to Roy or Katie about ministry, they talk easily about the various responsibilities of being a minister. As an Intern Minister, Roy has come to Starr King to take on the full spectrum of what a parish minister does: leading worship, providing pastoral care, creating and delivering religious education, engaging in prophetic outreach, even performing mundane but essential church administration.

However, when you talk to Roy and Katie about their calling to ministry, the conversation goes much deeper. They look at each other for words to explain the whole body, whole life experience of the call to someone who has not felt it. Katie starts, "When Roy is in the pulpit, he is obviously a minister; when he is chatting with someone during coffee hour, he is still a minister; even when he is at the grocery store, he is always a minister." She goes on, "When I'm on a plane, I'm a minister. When I go for a walk, I'm a minister." When asked whether being at home or with friends is the only time she can 'take off' her minister's robe/role, she explains that it is not like a robe, but rather, it is her skin, and her heart. At her essence, a minister is who Katie *is* in the world, with *everyone*. Part of her role as Roy's supervisor is to counsel him on how to live his calling comfortably within that 24/7 skin. Being a minister is living with your heart open in every encounter, seeking and speaking truth, being fully engaged.

For Roy, the last year plus has been a time of tremendous growth, easing into this newly acknowledged calling that requires many skills different than those he learned in his 29 years as a psychiatrist. A psychiatrist must hold back, keeps his or her heart in check, and goes home at the end of the day. The opposite of how a minister lives his or her job.

Roy is becoming more at home in his minister's skin, but he needs our help to take it to the next level. In our final five months with Roy—the deepest part of our relationship with him—Roy needs each one of us to reach out to his minister-self. Roy's long-term goal is to be a part-time parish minister and part-time community minister. Roy welcomes conversations about problems, requests for help, feedback on his style of preaching or other ministry work, or any uncomfortable topics you are willing to raise. Between the Intern Committee and Katie, we have seen Roy take on every kind of conversation with grace and courage. He appreciates the hard questions and the courage it takes to ask them! We invite you to participate in the journey of growing a minister. In the process, you will be enriching our family.



RELIGIOUS EXPLORATION

By Rev. Darcy Baxter, Dir. of Family Ministry

I do not recall where I heard this bit of spiritual wisdom, but it is one of my favorites: "The hardest part of meditation is getting your butt onto the pillow." I have a regular prayer and meditation practice and inevitably I will get "off track" with it sometimes. And then I have to have the humility to begin again and the courage to not make it a big self-punishing deal. I just need to simply and undramatically begin again.

January is the month when so many of us try to begin again. And honestly, 'beginning again' (and again and again) is an important spiritual skill. Because life is not straight-forward or simple. In this new year, what would you like to begin again? What would you like to try again without beating yourself up for not sticking with it consistently? And what do you teach your children about 'beginning again?' Do they watch you beat yourself up over falling off whatever wagon it is you have fallen of? Or do they see you simply start again.

Church is a place where we get to begin again and find support for that oh-so-difficult first step of "getting our butts on the pillow.". And it never ceases to amaze me that once I have actually sat down to pray and meditate, it comes much more easily than I expect it to. In December, we focused on the lessons of Advent around patience and hope-- now, in the new year, let us embody those lessons and be patient with ourselves as we begin again, and again, and again.

Blessings,
Rev. Darcy

JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

- | | | | |
|----|----------------------|----|---------------------------|
| 5 | <i>Sherman Lewis</i> | 16 | <i>Mary Swain</i> |
| 7 | <i>Roy Dickerson</i> | 18 | <i>Sophiana Carrell</i> |
| 7 | <i>Walt Korus</i> | 24 | <i>Mileva Saulo Lewis</i> |
| 13 | <i>Jay Durant</i> | 25 | <i>Debbie Frederick</i> |
| 13 | <i>Doris Haskell</i> | 30 | <i>Ben Matthews</i> |



STARR KING CHOIR

JOIN US

Do you love to sing? Join the Starr King Choir.
No auditions. All welcome.

We meet every Sunday from 9:15 to 10:15 am before the service.
We sing approximately once a month for the service.

For information, please contact Jo Murdach
jo71murdach@yahoo.com

NEXT CIRCLE SUPPER

FEB. 22

If you enjoy talking to members of the church over food, then circle supper is for you!

Sign up on the sign-up sheet to attend one of our suppers on February 22.

You will get together with a small group of people at someone's home on Saturday, February 22.

Each person brings a dish to share for the dinner.

Let us know if you have dietary restrictions and if you are interested in being part of a family friendly dinner.

Sign up by Sunday, February 9 to ensure hosts have enough time to coordinate the dinner.

Ashland Reservation Form

-- March 29-30, 2014

DEPOSIT: \$120 per person will be due by January 1, 2014

ACCOMMODATIONS: We will be staying at the lovely and centrally located Plaza Inn. Rooms are large and comfortable. The hotel rate includes a great breakfast; late afternoon snacks; as well as cookies and tea/coffee after each evening play. The hotel is within walking distance of the theater, shopping and many fine restaurants.

FINAL PAYMENT DUE: February 25, 2014

YOU MAY PICK UP YOUR TICKETS AT THE INFORMATIONAL MEETING AT STARR KING CHURCH IN HAYWARD (TBA).

ALTERNATIVELY, YOU CAN PICK UP THEM UP FROM THE TRIP COORDINATOR IN ASHLAND.

Your friends are welcome! If you would like to invite additional friends to join you for the weekend, feel free to forward this information and reservation form to them.

PLEASE RETURN THIS FORM WITH YOUR DEPOSIT CHECK BY JANUARY 1, 2014:

RESERVATION:

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

PHONE: _____ EMAIL (REQUIRED): _____

AMOUNT ENCLOSED: \$ _____ (\$120.00 PER PERSON)

ROOMING WITH: _____

___ 2 nights

___ 3 nights (add Fri Mar 28 - \$70.00 per person will be added to your final bill)

Make check payable to Starr King Unitarian Universalist Church (SKUU)

Mail this form and your check to: Terri Owen, 5240 Crane Ave, Castro Valley, CA 94546

AND ON GOING FUN UPCOMING ACTIVITIES

9

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 January 18, 2014 at 7:00 P.M. At Stuart Fink's Home. "Star Trek Into Darkness" (2013) Sci-Fi Adventure With The Crew Of The Enterprise, A Great Villain And A Well Written Script. See It Again Or For The First Time (Rated Pg-13). 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 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 the 4th. Thursday of the month from 7 to 9 PM. If you're considering coming for the first time, best to give Bob Meyerson a call at 510 581 2037.

SKIT

Improv. group meets in the Sanctuary on the 2nd. Thursday of the month at 7:30 P.M.

STARR KING CHOIR

Meets every Sunday from 9:15 to 10:15 am before the service. For information, please contact Jo Murdach jo71murdach@yahoo.com

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

Cell Phone: 510.861.2914

Church President: Colleen Dino

president@starrking.org

Home phone: 510. 213.3499

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: Colleen Dino

Vice President: Diana Dickerson

Secretary: Nancy Harrison

Treasurer: Frank Satterwhite

At Large: Frank Burton

Lea Casini

Betsy Dye

Stuart Fink

Wendy Robertson

Mary Swain

Office Manager: Kelli Abatangelo

Minister: Rev. Katie Kandarian-Morris

Intern Minister: Dr. Roy King, Jr.

Dir. of Family Ministry: Rev. Darcy Baxter

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, Keith Lewis, Beth Ogilvie, Henry

Wagner

Communications Comm. – Melody Appleton

FESCO rep.– 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 – David Middleton

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 – Lu Middleton

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
