



THE FLAMING CHALICE

FEBRUARY WORSHIP THEME:
Om Mani Padme Om/ Simple Gifts/ Amazing Grace

INSIDE

Minister's Message Pg. 2

Wheel of Life Pg. 2

President's Message Pg. 3

E-Giving at Starr King pg. 3

Interning Pg. 4

February Birthdays Pg. 4

Religious Exploration Pg. 5

UU Family Camp Pg. 5

Fun Upcoming Events Pg. 6

UU Women's Retreat Pg.7

On Going Activities Pg 8

How to Reach Us Pg. 9

TO PONDER:

What Will My
Contributions
Add To Our
Starr King Community
This Year?

FEBRUARY SERVICE PREVIEWS

Sunday Worship: 10:30 AM

February 2 *Playground of the Spirit*

Rev. Darcy Baxter, family minister

Experts and pundits tell us that church needs to change to meet the challenges of the 21st century. So, what should church be and what does it have to do with "spirituality"? Do we need to change or just become more of who we are?

February 9 *Intersection of our Faith*

Rev. Katie Kandarian-Morris, with our guest, student Rabbi Benj Fried

Today, we welcome our friends, especially those from Congregation Shir Ami in Castro Valley. Where is it that the Jewish people and Unitarian Universalists come together? What can we do in our shared community to make a difference today?

February 16 *(Still) Standing on the Side of Love*

Revs. Katie Kandarian-Morris and Darcy Baxter MULTIGENERATIONAL

Valentine's Day might just be less mushy and more meaningful when we consider the power of our Love to transform the world. Should this be our mission?

February 23 *Om Mani Padme Om/ Simple Gifts/ Amazing Grace*

Rev. Katie Kandarian-Morris

Each piece of this cobbled together chant offers a message of love and acceptance. Is this where we find a message that might reach past its humble core to speak to us now, and again when we forget?



Our Public Ministries

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KATIE'S BAY VIEW

A couple weeks ago I heard about the aftermath of a foolish comment someone posted on their twitter account. You've heard the stories no doubt. They're frequent these days. Now, I know that only a small number of folks here even have twitter accounts let alone would make flip, caustic comments to an individual or to the world at large. But the first thing that crossed my mind when I heard this particular cringe-worthy publicized statement, was, why don't people consider the things they said to the outside world as their very own public ministry? Why not be more thoughtful as we open our mouths or type on our iPads or update our status or send out an email?

There was a time that I considered how it was we spoke to each other and to the greater universe as etiquette. I thought that a certain form of decorum or manners dictated how I behaved or what I put in writing. But now another way to look at comments, critiques or observations is actually as a form of public ministry. I consider this daily in my role as professional minister, but in these days of "shared ministry" we each have one, really.

Everyone who chooses to speak out in any form has a kind of community platform that can make a difference in the world. After all, we never know what exactly may go viral. And we can use this voice for harm or for good. It's our moral message.

It might be that you choose to stay off of social media and the like, but you never know when your act of common courtesy might be captured on the city's surveillance camera, or the wee camera of a small child's eye.

There's a proverb that says, "don't speak unless it will improve the silence." It may not always be easy to tell in the moment, but there's nothing wrong with taking one or two (moments) while trying to decide. It could be that a wise mantra like, "Stop. Think" might do better than being the first to respond.

I know I'm bound to make a mistake sometime, but if I consider what I do and say to be my form of public ministry, I feel called upon to be my best self. I will let my words serve my best interests in the hopes that you may be served well too.

*In The Common Good,
Katie*



Sending healing energy to **KAY ATHOS** after a fall.

Sending positive energy to **SUSAN FORSYTH** as she enters a new phase of her career.



Your 2013-2014 Board of Trustees



It's early January that I am writing this article for our February newsletter and I'm still feeling the love and teamwork that inspired those to develop a plan and complete the playground raising. We continue to thank all those involved in making this project happen. It has been exhilarating to feel and hear the buzz amongst our members, an energy that has sparked all ages.

Although it is the beginning of a New Year, we are only half way through our church fiscal year. This is the time we review our current budget and how we are managing our commitments. We begin planning for our Spring Canvass, and creating our "wish" budget for 2014-15. I reach out to each member, asking what your contributions to Starr King this year will add to our community.

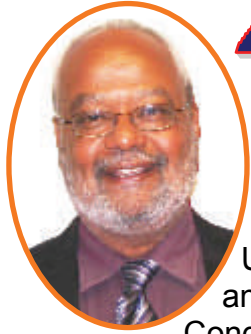
Our Leadership Retreat is scheduled for early February, and I'm excited to share this day with 26 members of our congregation. Our retreat planning committee has put a lot of work and thought into this year's agenda. Our day will be filled with discussions on "What connects us to our Faith?"; shared ministry or ministries; prioritization; goal setting, and planning for the next year. I look forward to sharing my retreat experience with you on Sunday, and in my next Chalice report.

In Fellowship ~ Colleen Dino

E-Giving Now Available for Starr King Church

**It is now possible to pay your pledge
or donate in other ways to Starr King**

To reach our e-giving page, go to www.starrking.org click on the Donate button on the right side. You can make one time or recurring contributions, either with electronic funds transfer (EFT) from your bank account, or with a debit or credit card. With debit or credit cards, please bump up your contribution by 3% (4% for AmEx) to cover the fee. EFT is a great way to make pledge contributions. It's greener (no paper checks) and saves a lot of volunteer time. To sign up for EFT without a computer, see Beth Ogilvie, beth@betho.us, 510-581-3782



Interning in February

Even though February is the shortest month, this year in February, Starr King Unitarian Universalist Church has a rich offering of events in line with our values and principles. Most exciting is our interfaith exchange with the Jewish Reformed Congregation Shir Ami of Castro Valley. Much of interfaith work involves the nominal appreciation of other faiths; with Shir Ami, we share common threads of history, worship and social action.

Historically, through the Unitarian Church of Transylvania, we, along with Eastern European Judaism, flourished along the frontier boundaries of Catholic and Early Protestant Christianity. Transylvania, at the time, was at the confluence of Islam, Judaism and the radical reformation, as represented through Unitarianism. The Edict of Torda from 1568 from the Kingdom of Hungary was a seminal attempt toward religious tolerance. Our very own Unitarian, Ferenc Dávid, wrote and proposed many of the tenets toward interfaith tolerance in this edict.

It can be argued that Unitarianism, Judaism and Islam all share the common feature of a Divine unity or simplicity, fostering a common language for expressing theology. But, Reformed Judaism and Unitarian Universalism, both embraced a similar love of reason in their interpretation of religious texts—Judaism through the Jewish Enlightenment in Germany, Unitarianism and Universalism through the political and scientific enlightenment in the United States.

Shifting from a literal interpretation of texts and rigid prescriptions for behavior permitted both Judaism and Unitarian Universalism to develop a strong foundation for justice, peace and humanitarian aid. With our common emphasis on rationality, clarity and social justice, I am excited to visit and, reciprocally, to welcome, Congregation Shir Ami to Starr King.

Shalom, Roy

February Birthdays

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|----|-------------------------|----|-------------------------|
| 3 | <i>Dick Albert</i> | 19 | <i>Meredith Schuler</i> |
| 4 | <i>Kelli Abatangelo</i> | 19 | <i>Alison Corson</i> |
| 8 | <i>Ellery Medilla</i> | 20 | <i>Lea Casini</i> |
| 8 | <i>Andy Hansen</i> | 21 | <i>Nancy Harrison</i> |
| 13 | <i>Bill DeSmidt</i> | 24 | <i>Eric Gable</i> |
| 16 | <i>Lee Berger</i> | | |
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RELIGIOUS EXPLORATION

By Rev. Darcy Baxter, Dir. of Family Ministry

We are in middle of the National Standing on the Side of Love campaign, the national UU campaign, which kicked off Martin Luther King Jr holiday weekend. And I have to admit something unpolitically correct: I got tired of listening to yet another bio of MLK. Why? Because as great a leader as MLK (or anybody) is/was, a movement like the Civil Rights movement was successful because of the hard work and sacrifices of hundreds and hundreds of regular moms, dads, brothers, sisters, aunts, uncles, grandmas, and grandpas. When I think about how Starr King forms the hearts, minds, and souls of our children and adults, I do not want us to think the only way to do good, to contribute to a "world community with peace, liberty, and justice for all," is to be MLK. (Quiz question: which UU principle did I just name?) Standing on the Side of Love campaign is about shifting our ideas of love from romantic and private to political and public. As Dr. Cornel West put it "Justice is what love looks like in public." For me, church is this bridge between private and public love. Church is the place where we practice, mess-up, and try again in love. The love and care of many folks is what raised our new playground and the love and care of our church can raise up so much more. This month, which houses both Valentine's Day and National Black History month, how can we express, be, and embody love? How can we teach our children and ourselves to express, be, and embody love? In the face of injustice and inequality, it is easy to get angry, fearful or resigned. But these emotions can take us only so far. This is one of the ongoing lessons of being part of church. Because in the words of civil rights activist Septima Poinsette Clark (often called the Grandmother of the Civil Rights Movement), "I never felt that getting angry would do you any good other than hurt your own digestion and keep you from eating-- which I liked to do!"

Blessings, Rev. Darcy



UU Family Camp

Mendocino Woodlands

ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS STARTING IN FEB. FOR TWO SESSIONS

July 12-19, 2014

July 20-26, 2014



Please see webpage below

<http://www.ncuucc.org/calendar/family-camp/>

VANCO Day

MARCH 9, 2014 12:00-1:00

VANCO is the service Star King is using to process our online donations. Come join us to see how easy it is to support your church community. This will be an overview and demonstration on how members can make donations easily through this online service.

The benefits include dramatically reducing administrative time to process checks as well as making it easier for you to give by automating the process. Please join us to find out more about this convenient service.

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.

**Women & Religion of the UUA Pacific Central Region
invites you to
The 2014 Women and Religion
Annual Women's Retreat**



February 28 - March 2, 2014

At Enchanted Hills Camp in the hills above Napa, California

The weekend includes lodging, meals, workshops for mind, body and Spirit, Conversations with new and old friends, a boutique, silent auction, and a book swap. New this year are an optional ropes course and Thursday evening arrival (for an additional fee; no evening meal). You may also come just for the day on Saturday.

This year's book group discussion: "The Fifth Sacred Thing" by Starhawk.

Join a wonderful group of women for a time away from the everyday world, with beautiful surroundings and delicious meals in a nurturing community.

Early Bird discount ends February 1st. Final registration deadline is February 19, 2014. See details and register online at <http://www.womenandreligionpcd.org>, or call Beverly Morgan (Registrar) at 650-366-6378 if you do not have Internet access.

ON GOING FUN AND UPCOMING ACTIVITIES

8

- 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 February 15, 2014 at 7:00 P.M. At Stuart Fink's Home. "The Sapphires" (2012) Australian Film About All Female Aboriginal Singing Group In The 1960's Entertaining Troops In Vietnam; Based Upon A True Story (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

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Webmaster: Beth Ogilvie: webmaster@starrking.org

Newsletter Editor: newslettereditor@starrking.org

Church Office Hours

9

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 – Diana Dickerson

Committee on Ministry-Bob Britton, Keith Lewis, Beth Ogilvie, Natalie Forrest, Zelma Nunez-Borja

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:

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Email to: newslettereditor@starrking.org
