



Newsletter

***Starr King Unitarian-
Universalist Church of
Hayward California***

February 2016

THE FLAMING CHALICE

**Church Office Hours: Tues, Wed, and Thur;
9:30 AM to 2:30 PM**

22577 Bayview Avenue

Hayward, CA 94541 510-581-2060

Office Manager: Kelli Abatangelo
office@starrking.org

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

Newsletter: newslettereditor@starrking.org

Parish Minister (Interim): Rev. Joy Atkinson
minister@starrking.org

Church President: Diana Dickerson
president@starrking.org
Home phone: 510-786-2922

Director of Religious Exploration: Allison Prout
dre@starrking.org
DRE Office Hours: Wed, Thurs, 10:30 AM to
2:30 PM

Sunday Worship: 10:30 AM February Service Preview

Feb 7, 2016

Meet a Muslim Neighbor

Guest Speaker Hina Khan-Mukhtar

Too often, we hear about Muslim women from the media or from political pundits trying to rally the world to help "save" them from their religion and culture. But what do Muslim women themselves actually think about being Muslim? It behooves us to learn the truth from people who are fully capable of articulating their own opinions and sharing their own stories. Therefore, we invite one of our own Muslim neighbors to share her thoughts and experiences with us.

Hina Khan-Mukhtar is one of the founders of a home-schooling co-operative in Lafayette, California, which serves over 35 families in the East Bay. Besides teaching Language Arts to K-12 students, she is involved in interfaith dialogue. Hina is a monthly contributor to *The Muslim Observer's* "Raising Our Ummah" column, and shares parenting advice and ideas for nurturing childhood spiritual traditions for *Seeker's Hub*.

February 14 (Valentine's Day service)

I Love, Therefore I Am

Rev. Joy Atkinson

Love is an essential ingredient in nurturing human life and health. On this Valentine's Day service, the sermon will explore various facets and types of love in human experience.

February 21 (Evolution Sunday)

When I Heard the Learned Astronomer

Rev. Joy Atkinson

Evolution Sunday honors the Clergy Letter Project—an effort by clergy of many faiths to publicly support science education in schools and refute those who would replace science with "creationism." The sermon will take us on a journey around the universe and explore the interface of science and theology.

February 28

To Save or Savor

Rev. Joy Atkinson

Author EB White once wrote: "I wake up each morning torn between a desire to save the world and a desire to savor the world. This makes it very hard to plan the day." This year's "Leap Day," February 29, is a kind of bonus day that comes around only once every four years. We will pause from our everyday busyness, on this day before our "bonus day," to consider how we wish to spend the gift of time that has been given to us. How might we plan our days?

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Announcements and Birthdays

Colleen Saia has compiled a spreadsheet for all of our birthdays. You can see a complete printout on the welcome table at the back of the Social Hall. Please contact her with any additions or corrections.

February Birthdays

Date	Name	Date	Name
3	Dick Albert	19	Meredith Shuler Alison Corson
4	Kelli Abatangelo	20	Lea Casini
5	René castle (wife)	21	Nancy Harrison
8	Ellery Medilla Andy Hansen	23	Byron Shatz
13	Bill DeSmidt	24	Eric Gable

Wheel of Life



Sorrow for the passing of Diane Meyerson's mom.

Sorrow for the passing of Lea Casini's mom.

Sorrow for the sudden passing longtime, beloved member

Doug Sprague. See obituary at

<http://www.legacy.com/obituaries/insidebayarea/obituary.aspx?pid=177311268>

Joy for the successful surgery of Ben Matthews, Laurie's son!

Volunteer for FESCO Children's Activities

Our own Victoria Quijano is leading weekly children's activities at FESCO for her Girl Scout Gold Project and is looking for volunteers to join her. The craft nights, which have a sewing theme, are aimed at elementary school children. They will be on Wednesdays from 6-7 pm through the end of March. No previous experience necessary. Feel free to sign up for one night or come to them all. For more information, contact our FESCO representative Kathryn Lamar at dulciphile@yahoo.com. Victoria can be reached at 510-676-6003, or vquijano3@aol.com.

Words of Joy

***by
Joy Atkinson,
Interim Minister***

Valentine's Day and Love

There is no remedy for love but to love more. -- Henry David Thoreau

Valentine's Day is certainly a commercial boon, with billions spent on cards, chocolate, jewelry, and flowers,. But behind this day stands the basic human desire to express love. Our current Valentine's Day seems to be descended from ancient mating practices and medieval traditions of courtly love, although its exact origins are obscure. February 14 was originally a saint's day, named after two Christian saints with the same name, both martyred on February 14 in different years in the Third Century. We hear little about these two saints on February 14th nowadays. In England, the United States, and other countries, Valentine's Day has come to be more a day for lovers than a saint's day.

Psychologist Erich Fromm once said "love is the active concern for the life and growth of that which we love." He believed that love is a decision and a disciplined practice, not a passive feeling.

May we celebrate love this Valentine's Day and beyond with joy, whenever and wherever and it occurs: between lovers, between parents and children, among dear friends, and that expansive love that motivates us to work for justice, equality and a sense of connectedness with all people and the earth's creatures. It is a precious gift—the ground root of our being. Through love, we expand our vision, and our lives gain a sense of meaning and purpose.

According to Willard Gaylin, in his book *Caring*, the ability to love and care may be built right into our genes! How else, he asks, could we human beings, who also have aggressive tendencies toward other humans, have survived? Love is our salvation as a species.

So here's to the joyous, complex and many-faceted human experience we call love. May it bloom forth abundantly in your life!

Joy



President's Report

January 2016

by Diana Dickerson

Dirk and Colleen Dino finished 2015 by preparing a wonderful Christmas dinner. The other attendees brought side dishes and desserts to fill out the menu. We ate, we sang familiar carols, we had desserts, and then we pitched in to cleanup. It is a sight to behold when so many people work together. You all deserve a hearty pat on the back for another fabulous feast.

The Bay Area is finally getting the rain we have been asking for. The weeds in our yard are a beautiful shade of green. When Roy gave them a haircut they looked a lot like grass. This seems to me to be a good start for our new year. When I have to get in the car and drive somewhere, I confess to saying naughty things at our precious water. I don't really mean it.

Many of us attended the ARMCA sponsored screening of *Selma* on Friday, Jan. 15. Many of us remembered some of the incidents and the coverage of them back in the 60s. The movie was very well done and quite moving. I am looking forward to future movies.

The rain was good to our Martin Luther King Jr. celebration crowd. I am sorry to have missed it, but Roy brought back lots of good news about the march and the speakers. He was very impressed with the choir from a Methodist Church. I am really sorry I missed hearing that.

Seven or eight people from SKUUC attended the PCD Leadership Training in San Jose on Saturday, January 23. I am looking forward to sharing some of what we learn during the sessions. We always come back with good ideas and enthusiasm.

The Board will be reviewing all the things we learned at the Board Retreat. Reverend Joy will be doing a Visioning Workshop on February 28, after the service. This will be a chance for us to identify SMART goals for the near future. SMART goals are: Specific, Measurable, Attainable, Relevant, and Time-bound. We hope that we will be able to make a smoother transition by using these tactics.

In Service,
Diana Dickerson



RE Plans and Announcements

by Allison Prout

The Importance of Modeling our UU Values for our Children

Here at SKUUC, the month of January is dedicated to social justice in our RE classes, revolving around Martin Luther King Jr. Day. It is a great opportunity to discuss themes of racial inequality and to be inspired by the doctrine of non-violence that MLK promoted. What makes this month especially powerful for our children, is the opportunity to participate in real life social justice. They learn to stand up for what they believe in, our UU values of **treating people fairly and building a fair and peaceful world**, by marching in a peaceful demonstration. They express their values by coming up with slogans, making signs, and creating art that symbolizes those values.

I was recently asked why it was necessary for me to march in the MLK Rally? I marched because I want to

model social justice for our children, not just preach it to them. Living our values is much more powerful than simply reading and talking about them. Parents that demonstrate with their children are showing them how to stand up for their values of justice and fairness for all.

Thank you to all of the church members who showed up to march, thus modeling their UU values and encouraging our children to stand up for social justice. Actions “do” speak louder than word.

Thanks for all you do,

Allison



Starr King Church Lending Library to Open in March

by Beth Ogilvie

A year ago, Doug Sprague and I discovered a mutual interest in creating a lending library at church. This fall we finally got going: we obtained Board approval, and shelf space (thanks, Sherry Thomas). Doug donated many books and I a few. Doug ordered a stamp. We outlined policies and procedures, and drafted announcements. We planned to open the library on February 7, and Doug was going to do the honors.

I feel rather lost without Doug, but I want to continue the project, partly because a church library still seems a good idea and partly to honor Doug. Dick Albert has volunteered to help (thanks, Dick). I'm looking for additional volunteers, people who love books and can spare an hour or so a month. If enough people volunteer, perhaps each would only have to serve once every few months. If you're interested in working on

the church lending library, please contact me, Beth Ogilvie, at beth@betho.us or 510-581-3782. Thank you!

The goal is to have books reflecting the principles, practices, and issues of our church and the UUA—e.g., spirituality, social justice, philosophy, ethics, anti-racism, religious education, church governance, music, church leader development, and so on. If you have any books of that ilk you are willing to donate, please leave them in the book box next to the bookstore cupboard.

Evelyn Cormier will continue offering new and used books for sale in the church bookstore. The lending library, which will open for business some time in March, will be self-serve and always open, with a simple checkout procedure. Thus, we will be able to better serve the needs of our book-loving congregation.

From the Search Committee

Our Cup Runneth Over

By Heidi Green

Your Search Committee has been very busy during January finally getting to talk to ministers interested in applying to be our settled minister. There is such a richness in the quality of the conversations we have been having!

On January 2, we received the names of four interested parties. We have conducted phone interviews with all four, and checked most of the references they gave us. They are all of stunning high quality as well as being unique individuals. They are passionate, committed to the things you told us in the survey and focus groups you are committed to (to varying degrees, of course), and interesting people. We have decided to get to know all of them more deeply by inviting them to pre-candidate with us. We had made time available for up to four, so our dance card is full!

That means the Search Committee will miss most Sundays in February (except for Valentine's Day) and the first Sunday in March. We will spend those weekends getting to know our prospective settled ministers, digging into who they are and the challenges they will be taking on with us. They will get to know us as well, and get to know you through us, and we take that responsibility to heart.

Wish us luck in the journey!



UUA Women and Religion Retreat

This year's fabulous UUA Women and Religion (W&R) Retreat is March 3-6 at Enchanted Hills Camp, nestled in the hills above Napa. The theme this year is "Connections." If you're a first-timer to this retreat, the cost is only \$150 for two nights lodging and seven meals (there is an optional third night available). Give yourself this well-deserved gift of reflection and relaxation. Registration and additional details about the retreat are at www.womenandreligionpcd.org. Contact Mary Ann Davis, 510-828-9104, or balkandans@yahoo.com, for additional information.



And here is the complete information, for those of you who wish it, as announced by Bev Morgan, the retreat registrar.

Dear Beautiful Women:

This is your invitation to join us for the **Women and Religion Retreat** on March 3-6, 2016, at Enchanted Hills Camp in the hills above Napa, California. If you enjoyed yourself at past retreats and want to attend again, go to the W&R website and register: [http://womenandreligionpcd.org/..](http://womenandreligionpcd.org/)

Early Bird registration is \$210 this year (\$40 savings) if you register by February 1st, 2016, (2 nights and 7 meals). After that, it will be \$250 until registration closes on February 22nd. If you choose to come up on Thursday afternoon, add \$30 (\$240 Early Bird and \$280 after 2/1/16) for one additional night lodging and Friday breakfast for (no meals are served on Thursday, March 3rd, so be prepared and bring your own dinner, drinks and snacks). If you can only attend on Saturday, it's just \$50 and includes 3 meals.

If you have friends who have never attended but would enjoy the weekend retreat, please refer them to the website and tell them the FIRST TIMER price is \$150, a \$100 savings off the regular retreat price (no Early Bird discount).

Scholarships may be available. Please email me about your situation, and I'll consult with the retreat planning team and get back to you as soon as possible.

If you have questions that aren't answered at the website, email me back and I'll answer you or direct your query to another retreat planner. The theme this year is "Connections," and the (optional) reading assignment is *Bel Canto* by Ann Patchett. Come make this YOUR retreat.

See you at Enchanted Hills Camp!
Bev Morgan
W&R Retreat Registrar

Church Calendar For February, 2016

For details about any of these activities, go to starrking.org/calendar, and let your cursor hover over a particular event.

« Prev		February 2016					Next »
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	
1 * 7:00 pm Small Group Ministry	2	3 * 10:00 am Morning Discovery * 6:30 pm SCM Steering Committee * 7:00 pm Evening Meditation	4 * 7:00 pm Board of Trustees Meeting	5 * 7:00 pm Drumming Circle	6 * 12:00 pm Facility Rental		
7 * 10:30 am Worship Service	8	9 * 6:30 pm Small Group Ministry	10 * 12:00 pm Staff Meeting * 12:00 pm Small Group Ministry * 3:00 pm Pastoral Care Committee * 7:00 pm Committee Council * 7:00 pm Evening Meditation	11 * 7:30 pm SKIT	12	13	
14 * 10:30 am Worship Service * 12:00 pm Peace and Justice & ARMCA	15 * 7:00 pm Small Group Ministry	16	17 * 7:00 pm Evening Meditation * 7:00 pm RE Council	18 * 7:15 pm Worship Committee	19 * 5:30 pm Game Night	20	
21 * 10:30 am Worship Service * 12:00 pm Church Bookstore Open	22	23 * 1:00 pm Executive Committee Meeting * 6:30 pm Small Group Ministry	24 * 12:00 pm Small Group Ministry * 12:00 pm Staff Meeting * 7:00 pm Evening Meditation	25	26	27	
28 * 10:30 am Worship Service	29						