



THE FLAMING CHALICE

January Service Preview

Sunday Worship: 10:30 AM

January 4, 2015 (New Year) Service
Your One Wild and Precious Life

Rev. Joy Atkinson

It's a New Year—a time for resolutions, perhaps, on how to live the rest of our lives most fruitfully. The service and sermon will explore the issue of time in our lives and how we might live more fully in this new year and beyond.

January 11, 2015

Significant Choices

Most people would agree that selecting our next settled minister is a very significant choice for our congregation. In this sermon, Bob Miess, our district's Ministerial Settlement Representative (MSR) since 2008, will discuss what makes an excellent significant choice, and 13 strategies for making excellent significant choices in all sorts of human endeavors. Bob has worked with more than 20 congregations, coaching them to successfully find their ministers. Following the service, he will meet with us to explain the details of the UUA's ministerial

search process, how it makes it possible for us to use the 13 strategies, and how we can best take advantage of it to make an excellent choice for our next settled minister.

January 18, 2015 (Martin Luther King Sunday)
A Dream Deferred

Rev. Joy Atkinson

The service will honor the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, and explore the phenomenon of white privilege. The sermon will include poetry and prose by Maya Angelou, Alice Walker, Langston Hughes and Dr. Martin Luther King.

January 25, 2015

The State of the Congregation

Rev. Joy Atkinson

At this approximate mid-point in the "church year," our interim minister will offer some observations on how Starr King Unitarian Universalist is faring in this transitional, in-between time, what the congregation's current strengths and special challenges are, and what the future might bring.

HAPPY JANUARY BIRTHDAYS!!!

<i>5</i>	<i>Sherman Lewis</i>
<i>7</i>	<i>Roy Dickerson</i>
<i>7</i>	<i>Walt Korus</i>
<i>13</i>	<i>Jay Durant</i>
<i>13</i>	<i>Doris Haskell</i>
<i>16</i>	<i>Mary Swain</i>
<i>18</i>	<i>Sophiana Carrell</i>
<i>19</i>	<i>Allison Prout</i>
<i>24</i>	<i>Mileva Saulo Lewis</i>
<i>25</i>	<i>Debbie Frederick</i>
<i>30</i>	<i>Ben Matthews</i>

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Words of Joy

by
Joy Atkinson,
Interim Minister

Happy New Year!

We begin another year, mindful of the time passing with surprising swiftness, aware of the tasks and goals we have yet to accomplish, aware as well of the nagging opportunity, as each page of the calendar turns, to create resolutions we may all too soon feel guilty about breaking. Instead of piling up regrets as we move through our lives, we would do well to keep in mind these words of Ralph Waldo Emerson—said to be words of advice he sent to his daughter Ellen, in response to a letter she wrote to him of a mistake she regretted making:

Finish every day and be done with it. You have done what you could. Some blunders and absurdities no doubt crept in; forget them as soon as you can. Tomorrow is a new day; begin it well and serenely and with too high a spirit to be cumbered with your old nonsense. This day is all that is good and fair. It is too dear, with its hopes and invitations, to waste a moment on yesterdays.

For the New Year, here are some more words of advice, by Judith Viorst, that I have kept for years. As I continue to participate in the amazing journey that is life on this precious planet, I still find in these sobering words a poignant reminder about the futility of clinging

to regrets, unrealistic expectations and disappointments:

Some Facts of Grown-Up Life

First the Bad News:

- 1. Life isn't fair.*
- 2. The question isn't "Why me?" It's "Why not me?"*
- 3. No matter how nice and bright and lovable and charming you are, not everyone is going to approve of you, or love you, or even like you.*
- 4. From time to time, it will rain on your parade.*
- 5 Every now and then, no matter how careful you try to be, you are bound to do something unbelievably stupid.*

Next, the Good News:

- 1. Unless you're hanging around with some really mean people, no one is going to remember the dumb things you've done.*
- 2. You don't have to have an opinion on everything.*
- 3. Virtually all the bad stuff in life is survivable, A lot of it is even eventually useful.*
- 4. Although you're not nearly as wonderful as you hoped for, you're not nearly as terrible as you feared.*
- 5. I've never met a grownup who, given the choice, would choose to go back to being a child.*

SKUUC Board Report January 2015

by Colleen Dino

We are still in the first year of our two-year interim with Reverend Joy. In January, we will begin the process of selecting our Ministerial Search Committee. To start, the board has formed a committee of six members (Kirk Klausmeyer, Diana Dickerson, Wayne Bennion, Mary Lasack, Ruth Desmidt, and Roy Dickerson) to poll the congregation. As we move into the very early stages in our search for a new settled minister, we are conducting a poll of the congregation to see who you would like to see represent us as members of the search committee. We will ask you to recommend five to seven people for this committee. You are welcome to recommend yourself as well as others.

On Sunday, January 11, we will have guest speaker Robert Meiss, Ministerial Search Representative (MSR) from the San Jose UU Church. He will be in the pulpit that day to speak to us about the congregations' ministerial search. Mr. Meiss is looking forward to meeting with the congregation after the service for further discussion and questions, with an additional meeting for board members and the minister.

Lunch will be provided for those who can stay, along with childcare so that everyone can attend.

Once we have selected five to seven members who are willing to sit on the search committee, the board of trustees will hold a special meeting of the congregation to vote on the slate of candidates. This special meeting is on the calendar for Sunday, April 19, which will be held in the sanctuary immediately following service.

I also attended the finance committee meeting on Thursday, Dec 18. We met with our canvass co-chairs--Bob Britton and Diane Meyerson--to discuss this year's canvass campaign, and reviewed the budget. The committee voted to discontinue using VANCO for credit card transactions. They are looking into other options which will be brought to their next meeting, scheduled for Tuesday January 20.

Wishing you ALL a healthy and prosperous New Year.

Colleen Dino

Religious Exploration for Children and Youth

by Rennie Twomley

Happy New Year!

Lessons and Activities for January 2015

January 4, 2015: Fair Groups

We will discuss and take a majority consensus, voting on snack options for the morning.

January 11, 2015: Witness For Justice

We will talk about the history of Martin Luther King, Jr., and make signs for the upcoming celebration on Monday, January 19. Watch for more information on this in the coming weeks.

January 18 2015: Worshipping Together

We will hear a story, *Worship at Camp Taylor*, and design a worship service for Religious Exploration.

January 25, 2015: Signs of Faithful Leadership

We will learn about Antoinette Brown and Olympia Brown, their similarities and their differences, then play a game called *Six Degrees of Separation*.

For more information or questions, please contact Rennie Tomley, Director of Religious Exploration, at [<dreskuu@gmail.com>](mailto:dreskuu@gmail.com).

Women and Religion Annual Retreat

The UUA Women and Religion Annual Women's Retreat is coming up on February 27 through March 1, in the beautiful hills above Napa. This year's theme is, *Generations of Women-- How Are We the Same? How Are We Different?* There will be workshops for body, mind, and spirit. Treat yourself to an inspirational, rejuvenating, nurturing weekend in the company of old and new friends. Registration information is available at [<www.womenandreligionpcd.org>](http://www.womenandreligionpcd.org). You may also contact Mary Ann Davis at [<balkandans@yahoo.com>](mailto:balkandans@yahoo.com) for more details.

ONGOING ACTIVITIES

Church Bookstore

Open on the THIRD SUNDAY of the month, after the service

Drum Circle

Meets on the FIRST FRIDAY of the month, from 7 to 9 PM, in the Sanctuary. Come enjoy a fun, but spiritual, evening. Open to all adults and mature children accompanied by an adult.

Evening Meditation

Meets on the THIRD WEDNESDAY of the month, from 7 to 8 PM. Come practice meditation and reap its benefits. Open to all.

Starr King Elderberries

Meets on the THIRD WEDNESDAY of the month, at 12:00 noon. Bring your lunch. Come enjoy learning about and discussing topics of particular interest to YOU! Open to all self-identified elders.

Justice Alliance

Meets on the SECOND SUNDAY of the month following the service, at 12:00 noon, in the Conference Room. Open to all.

Hospitality and Membership Committee

Meets on the THIRD SUNDAY of the month, following the service, at 12:00 noon.

Morning Discovery

Meets on the FIRST and THIRD WEDNESDAYS of the month, from 10:00 to 11:15 AM, in the Fellowship Hall. Join us to explore community, discuss spirituality, and share silence. Open to all.

SKIT (Starr King Improv Troupe)

Meets on the SECOND THURSDAY of the month, at 7:30 PM. Open to all.

Starr King Choir

Rehearsals are set as needed. For information, contact Jo Murdach at 510-581-6794 or <jo71murdach@yahoo.com>.

Starr King Unitarian Universalist Church

Church Office Hours: Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday; 9:00 AM to 2 PM

22577 Bayview Avenue

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

Office Manager: Kelli Abatangelo

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Church Leaders

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

Director of Religious Exploration: Rennie
Twomley
<dreskuu@gmail.com>

Church President: Colleen Dino
<president@starrking.org>
Home phone: 510-213-3499

Board of Trustees

President: Colleen Dino

Vice President: Diana Dickerson

Secretary: Frank Burton

Treasurer: Marilyn Moser

Members At Large:

Wayne Bennion

Lea Casini

Betsy Dye

Stuart Fink

Heidi Green

Kirk Klausmeyer

Positions

Adult Religious Education: Vacant

Anti-Racist Multicultural Alliance: Regina
Fassano

Buildings: Bobby Robinson

Chalice Editors: Kathryn LaMar; Allison Prout

Church Website: Beth Ogilvie

Committee Council: Diana Dickerson

Communications: Melody Appleton

FESCO Representative: Vacant

Finance Committee: Keith Lewis

Fundraising: 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: Karen Cook

Religious Education Council: David Middleton

Social: Joyce Kinnear

Social Justice: Mary Swain

South Hayward Parish Representative:
Terry Owen

Sunday Coffee: Roy Dickerson

Usher Coordinator: Lavon Hodges

Worship Committee: Lu Middleton