



THE FLAMING CHALICE

March Service Preview

Sunday Worship: 10:30 AM

March 1

Transcendence and Transcendentalism

Rev. Joy Atkinson

The religious, philosophical and literary movement of the 1830s known as American Transcendentalism emphasized personal religious experience over tradition, ecclesiastical authority and scripture. The sermon will explore how Transcendentalism transformed our Unitarian and Universalist traditions, and its relevance to our lives and to Unitarian Universalism today.

March 8

This One Life

Guest speaker Rev. Mary Ganz

Who are we? What are we called to do? As Unitarian Universalists, how do we balance our activist passion to make a better world with our need to be held in spiritual community? -- or, in the words of E.B. White, "to save the world or to savor it."

Rev. Mary Ganz is a minister with the Faithful Fools Street Ministry, who recently returned to the Bay Area after eight years serving congregations on the East Coast.

March 15 Canvass Sunday

Someone With Skin

Rev. Joy Atkinson

What do we want to receive from being in a religious community like Starr King Church? What are we prepared to offer one another to make sure that this congregation survives and thrives, and lives into its promising future?

March 22

Inspiration through Improvisation

Worship Committee and SKIT

An unusual and interesting lay led service presented by the Worship Committee and our SKIT group. Many of today's worship elements will be made up on the spot.

March 29 Palm Sunday

Not My Will...But Thine

Rev. Joy Atkinson

We accomplish so many things in our lives by sheer acts of will. But what happens if we can't control a situation? How can we let go enough to let something unfold in its own time, of its own accord? The sermon will explore the sometimes useful discipline of yielding and surrender.

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Page 8!

Giving from a Grateful Heart

**Please be our guest for brunch
Canvass Sunday March 15, 10:30**

**Give thanks for unknown blessings already
on their way.**

- Native American Prayer

HAPPY MARCH BIRTHDAYS!!!

- 1 *Marian Babbidge*
- 4 *Colin Carrell*
- 8 *Bill Hitchings*
- 10 *Audrey La Pell*
- 11 *Ray Oducayen*
- 12 *Darryl Ray, Rebecca Parr*
- 13 *Margarita Jacob*
- 14 *Sara Wagner*
- 16 *Renee Ray*
- 17 *Ruth Kuftin, Shea Robinson*
- 19 *Greg Kuftin*
- 22 *Karen Cook, Kelsey Kramer-Stone*
- 26 *Sherry Thomas, Maya Para*
- 28 *Bryne Golec, Susan Clark, Brian Johnson*



Words of Joy

by
**Joy Atkinson,
Interim Minister**

ADULT EDUCATION CLASS—THE TRANSCENDALISTS

Note: Rev. Joy will offer a five-week adult education class on the Transcendentalists this spring. Readings will include works by Ralph Waldo Emerson, Margaret Fuller, Henry David Thoreau and others. Check the table in the social hall to sign up and indicate date preferences.

If we could distill our liberal religious tradition down into one word, one likely candidate would be the word "freedom." In this congregation, we offer freedom from creeds and dogma, so that we can be individually free to make up our own minds about religious questions. We also want freedom for ourselves and all people--freedom from poverty and oppression, from fear and discrimination, from a religious tyranny that seeks to impose a particular set of values on everyone. We Unitarian Universalists cherish the freedom to speak out, to express ourselves, to dissent. Fortunately, we enjoy religious freedom in this country, thanks in large part to early visionary Unitarians and Universalists like Thomas Jefferson. John Adams, and Universalist physician Benjamin Rush--a signer of the Declaration of Independence.

But, when annual canvass time comes around, we need to remember that, within our own religious institution, our freedom is **not** free--it has a price. In order to carry on here at Starr King Church the legacy of individual religious freedom without restraint of creed and dogma that our religious forebears struggled for, we need to support this religious institution with our time, our participation and commitment, and with our dollars. As you think about the friendships, the fellowship and the freedom that this church offers, you may

find that you want to support it financially, as fully as you can--that it is a pleasure, and not a burden, to write out that pledge check.

On Canvass Sunday, March 15th, we will have a shorter service, to be immediately followed by a Canvass Brunch. We hope you will stay and join us for the meal, for warm fellowship, and for some conversation at the tables about the congregation. There will be a Canvasser at each table, and you will have an opportunity to make your pledge to the church for the next fiscal year. If you can't attend the brunch, a canvasser will contact you shortly after the canvass event.

Dag Hammarskjold once said: "Each morning we must hold out the chalice of our being to receive, to carry and to give back." Our lives are about receiving, carrying and giving back. May you receive, carry for a time and then pass on the flame of this unique religious community, by participating and volunteering your time here, and by making as generous a pledge of financial support as you can.

Warmly, with an eye to the future of this wonderful congregation.

Joy

SKUUC Board Report

March 2015

by Colleen Dino

Ministerial Search Committee

These past two months members of the board and nominating committee have been busy polling the congregation on the names for our Ministerial Search Committee. We have received responses from 74 our members, and have created a short list of 15 names from our poll. The next step is to ask these members to get involved in the most important work of our transition; selecting our next called Minister.

The work of the Search Committee can be very spiritual and rewarding as well as challenging. If you look around Starr King, you will find there are still a few members from our last search committee. Each one has a story to tell. I challenge you to find out who these members are and talk with them about their memories of being on the committee.

The most important thing for our candidates to remember is that you have been chosen by your peers as a leader in our congregation, you bring your whole self to this community. This is your chance to begin building a relationship and vision with the entire congregation.

Special Meeting of the Congregation

The Board of Trustees will call a special meeting of the congregation on *Sunday, April 19* following Sunday Service to elect the members of our search committee, as stated in our by-laws, Article XI, Minister, under section A:

- A. Selection: The initial selection and recommendation of a minister to the member-

ship shall be the responsibility of a Ministerial Search Committee, consisting of no less than 5 members, elected by the membership at an Annual or Special Meeting of the membership.

March Board Meeting

Karen Cook, member of the Finance Committee, will present the proposed 2015-16 budget to the board. The Finance Committee has done a tremendous amount of work on this next budget, which will include an additional line item for our Search Committee in the amount of 8,000.00.

Our Canvass Kickoff is on *Sunday, March 3*. The Canvass Co-Chair members are Bob Britton and Diane Meyerson if you have any question on the budget or pledging prior to our kickoff date.

This year the board and finance committee will present the proposed budget to the congregation prior to the annual meeting this year with a special Budget Informational meeting on *Sunday, May 3*. This will allow everyone the opportunity to see the budget and ask questions before our Annual Meeting, which will be held on *Sunday, May 31* following Sunday Service.

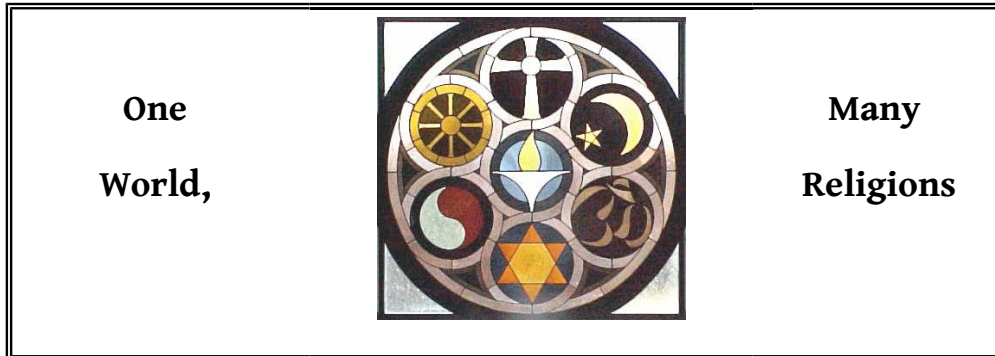
In Fellowship,

Colleen Dino

SKUUC Board President

Religious Exploration for Children and Youth

by Renniss Tomley



One
World,

Many
Religions

Children's Religious Exploration will spend March and April introducing the world religions. We will use the book *One World, Many Religions, the Ways We Worship* by Mary Pope Osborne. These lessons will culminate in visits to local churches, synagogues, and mosques, beginning with the Hindu Temple in Livermore. Before the visit, we will dine together on delicious Indian food at a restaurant in Pleasanton. More information will be coming, and a sign-up sheet will be available soon.

3/1/2015: Judaism. The children will hear the story of Abraham and Sarah. We will explore

3/29/2015: Buddhism. We will hear about Siddhartha, who later became known as Buddha, and his revelation. We will learn of the Four Noble Truths, the Eightfold Path, and the striving of Nirvana and worship rituals at home and at temples and shrines. We will also learn of Zen Buddhism and meditation.

4/5/2015: Easter Sunday, An Intergenerational Service followed by a special event.

4/12/2015: Islam. We will listen to the story of Muhammad and his message from Allah. We will be introduced to the Koran and the 5 pillars

the Ten Commandments, The Torah and the holidays that honor events in Jewish history.

3/8/2015: A special event! SKIT visits RE!!!

3/15/2015: Hinduism. The children will learn about the universal spirit called Brahma, the World Soul, the many gods and goddesses, and the individual worship practices in the homes and Hindu worship in temples.

3/22/2015: Celebrating the Spring Solstice. We will have a special story of Ostara and Eostre and later create and assemble papier mache eggs.

of Islam. We will also learn about the pilgrimage of Muslims to Mecca and the rituals that are performed there.

4/19/2015: Christianity. We will hear the story of Jesus, listen to the prayer Jesus taught his disciple "The Lord's Prayer", including modern variations, and explore the sacraments or rituals that most Christian religions celebrate.

4/26/2015: Confucianism and Taoism. The children will explore these ancient Chinese religions through stories and activities.

The RE theme these next coming months can be extended at home. Here are some resources that parents might share with their children.

Read about different religions. Even very young children can be exposed to various religions and faiths through books. Here are a few titles that you might consider:

- [What Do You Believe?](#) (age 6 and up)
- [The Kids Book of World Religions](#) (age 8 and up)
- [One World, Many Religions: The Ways We Worship](#) (age 8 and up)
- [A Faith Like Mine](#) (age 10 and up)
- [The Belief Book](#) (ages 6 and up)

Visit various places of worship. You can visit other places of worship. Even if you don't believe what is being preached, you and your children will learn how many of the values are the same across a number of religions. Virtues such as kindness, generosity, patience, faithfulness, love and more are valued by many.

Demonstrate your religious practices. Act consistently with your belief system and demonstrate your beliefs to your children every day. Share your own faith journey. Make it a way of life. Help your child understand the importance of practicing their beliefs every day. Designate time for quiet reflection, gratitude and prayer, together as a family.

SKUUC Earth Fair

Save the Date!

Sunday April 26th @ 11:30 a.m

To participate, please see Colleen Saia.

More details to follow for April.



Giving from a Grateful Heart

2015-2016 Canvass

By Bob Britton & Diane Meyerson

You won't want to miss our church service on March 15. Plans are being put in place *now* for us to celebrate our accomplishments and make a commitment to our beloved community with a **Grand Brunch** in the Sanctuary. March 15 is our Canvass Sunday. Since we all care about the future of Starr King Church, you will want to be there. We have much for which to be grateful.

This is the time of year when work has begun on a proposed budget to fund our mission in the coming year, beginning July 1st. To plan for the coming year, we will be asking you to examine what Starr King means to you, and pledge what you can to continue our community of love, spirituality and commitment.

Our past church year has seen a lot of changes. We have an Interim Minister, Rev Joy Atkinson, who has committed to us for a two-year term after the departure of our long time minister, Rev Katie Kandarian. We have a new Director of Religious Exploration, Rennie Tomley, who is leading our more-vibrant-than-ever children's and youth RE program.

We have been blessed to have Rev. Joy to guide us through this transition and the process of finding a new settled minister. Her years of experience to assess the state of our congregation and what we are seeking as we go forward has been and will be invaluable.

The past year has made us realize that we cannot take anything for granted. We need every member of Starr King who values their church to join with us in community on March 15 as we make those commitments of a grateful heart that will ensure the continuation of our mission.



SEDER DINNER—APRIL 3

We invite you to the annual Seder Dinner on Friday, April 3. This dinner and celebration of our past and religious freedom is a wonderful family event for all ages. Doors will open at 6 pm, with the service (dinner included) beginning at 6:30 pm. There will be a sign-up sheet in the Fellowship Hall for the dinner dishes. Hope to see you there!

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

We warmly welcome the following members to SKUUC. They joined us at the ingathering ceremony held on February 15.

Mary Ann Davis

Mary Ann is an artist who teaches middle school Art in San Lorenzo Unified School District. She drums with Eden Aoba Taiko, and she enjoys Contra, Zydeco, and international folk dance. She has two grown children-- Liz, in Manhattan, and Andy in Los Angeles. Mary Ann is a returning member of Starr King. She says that even though she's been gone for about 10 years, Starr King family has never left her heart, and she feels at home here.

Lorie Miller

Lorie is retired from a 30-year career as an Early Interventionist. She likes to dabble in

gardening, writing, and reading. She is a nature lover, and is dedicated to the statement, "Let there be peace on Earth and let it begin with me."

Mary Shields

Mary retired from working as a nurse practitioner in family planning and women's health. She worked for the last 20 years of her career at Planned Parenthood in Hayward. She volunteers for Meals on Wheels, and will soon participate in the "Paws to Read" program at San Leandro Library--children reading to dogs). Among her interests are live theater, poetry reading and writing, yoga and travel.



Upcoming Concert: Tribute to Pete Seeger

Please keep Saturday evening, April 18 open. Members of Starr King Church will be doing an evening presentation honoring our late UU brother, and folk music legend, Pete Seeger. Pete died last year in his 90s, and his legacy spanned over 80 years.

Along with the choir, other music will be provided by Church Members. And as was traditional in Pete's concerts, audience participation is encouraged for the more familiar songs.

Included in the program will be many of Pete's own compositions, but also the songs of others which became Pete's when he sang them.

This event will begin at around 7 pm. Bring something to drink and a snack to share.

Starr King Drum Circle Turns 4!

With our May meeting, the Starr King Drumming For Spirit Drum Circle begins our fifth year of drumming! We still get a "core" group of at least 3-4 people at our first-Friday meetings, and usually have 6-8. You do NOT need to have any musical or percussion experience or education to begin finding your own rhythm and place in our circle, and we even have a plethora of different instruments for you to experiment with. There is a saying in the drum-circle world that if you can breathe and have a beating heart, you have rhythm in you—allow yourself to find, express, and release it.

I have started a website for beginning drummers, and have a special page for SKUUC players that summarizes the gentle lessons we are continually learning:

<<http://spirithorsedrumsong.com/drumblog/lessons-from-starr-king-circle>>

Kathryn LaMar

Call for *Flaming Chalice* Articles

As you can see from the article about the drum circle above, I would like to be sure that the *Flaming Chalice* contains real news about the real activities going on in our community. Heidi's article about being an ally is another example. If you lead an activity on our activities page, or hold one of the positions listed on our contacts page, please help all of our members stay current about your "doin's" by submitting an article to the newsletter at least once a year. There is no limit on the number of pages we can have in an issue, but articles should not exceed a page (about 250 words). Just submit your article by the 20th of the month preceding publication, and see YOUR news in print.

Are YOU An Ally?

by Heidi Green for the Anti-Racism Multicultural Alliance (ARMCA)

What does it mean to be an ally? Are you one? How do you show it? As UUs, we believe in supporting the rights of marginalized groups. But what does that mean, and how do we do that?

Recently, I was introduced to the YouTube videos of the amazing Franchesca Ramsey (@Chescaleigh), an articulate and inspiring video blogger who covers racism, privilege, and other topics with a focus on growth, not guilt. She defines an ally as a “person who works for the equality of a marginalized group they are not a part of.” But being an effective ally is more than just saying you are one. Like any skill, we need to learn how to be allies. Here are Franchesca’s top five tips for would-be allies, taken from her 3½ minute (highly engaging) video blog (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dg86g-QIM0>).

Franchesca recommends to all of us:

1 Understand your privilege. Some people get hung up on the word “privilege.” Privilege does not mean you’re rich, that you’ve had an easy life, that everything has been handed to you, or that you’ve never had to struggle or work hard. All it means is that there are some things you will never have to deal with or even think about, just because of who you are. To be an ally to a group, you need to understand how you’re privileged *in relation to them*. If you can’t acknowledge your privilege, you can’t be an ally.

Here’s an example: There are 29 states where you can be fired for being gay, and 34 where you can be fired for being trans. If you’re neither gay nor trans, you can live in or move to those states, and never have to even think about that. THAT’S

PRIVILEGE.

* **Listen and do your homework.** No one is born knowing how to be an ally; it’s something we have to learn. Being in one marginalized group doesn’t make us experts in the experience of belonging to another marginalized group, though it can give us some insight. However, we can’t learn to be allies if we don’t listen and educate ourselves.

2 Speak up but not over. An ally’s job is to support, not speak over, the community members they’re trying to support. Franchesca says use your privilege, your voice, your access to educate others, but remember that you are more like a back-up singer than the front stage star.

3 Realize that you are going to make mistakes and apologize when you do. Nobody’s perfect. Unlearning old habits takes time, and we will trip and fall. But we can get back up and try again. It’s important to know that it’s not about our *intent*, it’s about our *impact*. We may have meant well, but we will occasionally say or do something that hurts or offends. So if you get “called out” on what you did, just sit on your ego for a minute and:

Listen → Apologize → Commit to change → Move forward.

Franchesca has more on apologizing:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=C8xJXKYL8pU>

4 Use ALLY as a verb. Saying we’re allies is not enough. We have to do our work on tips 1–4 above too.

ARMCA members are learning about *ALLYSHIP*, and we’d love to hear how you show up as an ally.



ONGOING ACTIVITIES

<i>Church Bookstore</i>	Open on the THIRD SUNDAY of the month, after the service
<i>Drum Circle</i>	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.
<i>Evening Meditation</i>	Meets EVERY WEDNESDAY of the month, from 7 to 8 PM. Come practice meditation and reap its benefits. Open to all.
<i>Starr King Elderberries</i>	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.
<i>Social Justice Committee and Peace and Justice Team</i>	Alternate meeting on the SECOND SUNDAY of the month following the service, at 12:00 noon, in the Conference Room. Open to all.
<i>Hospitality and Membership Committee</i>	Meets on the THIRD SUNDAY of the month, following the service, at 12:00 noon.
<i>Morning Discovery</i>	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.
<i>SKIT (Starr King Improv Troupe)</i>	Meets on the SECOND THURSDAY of the month, at 7:30 PM. Open to all.
<i>Starr King Choir</i>	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

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Office Manager: Kelli Abatangelo
<office@starrking.org>
Newsletter: <newslettereditor@starrking.org>

Church Leaders

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

Director of Religious Exploration: Renniss
Tomley
<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-Racism 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
Nominating Committee: Rebecca Parr
Pastoral Care: Karen Cook
Peace and Justice Team: Frank Burton
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