



# THE FLAMING CHALICE

## Sunday Service Previews

**April 5**

### **Passover/Easter**

Practicing Miracles  
Without a License

Rev. Joy Atkinson

Join us for a celebratory service of the season, with singing, readings by our children, an egg communion, the choir and a homily. Children will join us for the first half of the service, and will then hunt for eggs, and pet food cans, on the grounds. Note: We will not celebrate the traditional UU flower communion during this service. Please bring flowers instead on the first Sunday in June, the date closest to the original Czech Unitarian flower service in 1923.

walk the streets, what still connects us?" Turns out, it's a good question to ask, anywhere we walk – even in congregational life. Join Rev. Mary Ganz and Melissa Fafarman in a service celebrating Faithful Foolishness.

sense of kinship with other living things that share this planet. The Earth Day Fair will take place on the grounds after the service, and during the service for our children.

**April 19**

Let It Be a Dance We Do

Rev. Joy Atkinson

On this Sunday, during which the congregation will elect a Ministerial Search Committee to begin the journey toward a new settled minister, our interim minister will explore some of the roles of the minister and the complex relationship of minister and congregation.



**April 12**

### **Faithful Fools Service**

What Still Connects Us-

Members of the Faithful Fools Street Ministry walk in the Tenderloin asking, "What holds us separate? What keeps us separated? As we

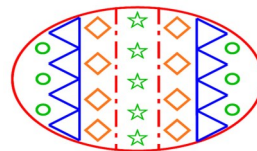
**April 26**

### **Earth Day Service**

Earth Teach Me

Rev. Joy Atkinson

The service will celebrate the 45<sup>th</sup> annual Earth Day and explore the principle of "biophilia"—our human



## Inside this issue:

Sunday Previews	1
Words of Joy	2
RE Update	3
RE Reflections	4
Canvass Update	5
Announcements	6
Wheel of Life	7
ARMCA article	8
Peace & Justice	9
Green Sanctuary	10
Earth Fair	11
FESCO Shuffle	12
Activities	13
Church Leaders	14

# Happy Easter

---

# Words of Joy

by Joy Atkinson  
Interim Minister

## Season of Laughter

---

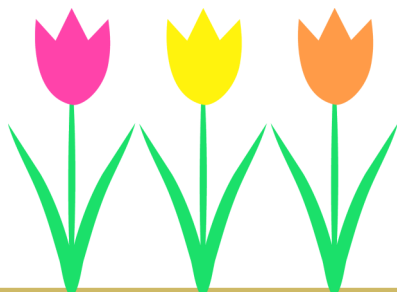
*I refuse to be intimidated by reality anymore. After all, what is reality anyway? Nothin' but a collective hunch. My space chums think reality was once a primitive method of crowd control. I made some studies, and reality is the leading cause of stress among those in touch with it. I can take it in small doses, but as a lifestyle I find it too confining.*

--Trudy the Bag Lady, played by Lily Tomlin in The Search For Intelligent Life in the Universe, by Jane Wagner

How often has someone really had you going on some disturbing piece of news, only to end it with a shout of "April Fool's!" April Fool's Day is a day dedicated to humor, usually in the form of these little pranks. Its specific origins go back to the initial confusion among French peasants when, in 1582, the Pope changed the calendar year. Up until then, the New Year was April 1<sup>st</sup>, a few days after the Spring Equinox. The Pope changed it to January 1<sup>st</sup>, a few days after the Winter Solstice. But that first year, in the absence of mass media, some peasants hadn't heard of the change, so they continued to celebrate the New Year on April 1<sup>st</sup>. Those who did so were the target of pranks, and were called April fools, or April fish, *poisson d'Avril*, after the young fish that appear in France in early April – fish that are easily caught.

The custom of tricks on April 1<sup>st</sup> spread to the British Isles, where people were sent to buy left-handed hammers (I could use one of those!) or pints of pigeon's milk, and the tradition was brought here by British settlers. Today we still are subject to, or plotters of, little loving acts of deceit.

With April Fool's Day, we enter a month whose name may come from the Latin "aperire," to open. Whether or not that is its etymology, April is a month of opening up: buds and bulbs tightly closed against winter burst open to reveal their color and scent, and the earth "laughs in flowers," as St. Ralph Waldo Emerson so aptly put it. This month, we can finally throw open our doors and windows to let in the warmed air. Our very lives seem to open up toward spring, and we have a hard time sitting still at our indoor desks. May we all be touched with the comic festival that is spring, and may each of you fully enjoy the season of playfulness, and at least at times, may you abandon all reason and the heaviness of too much reality, and become a frolicking April Fool!



Joy

---

# Religious Exploration



DRE  
Rennis Tomley

This month we will celebrate the Easter season with a special egg hunt that will also include a hunt for dog and cat food. The food we collect will be donated to the Hayward Animal Shelter who will use the donation to feed animals in need. Our Easter party will include the children handing out decorated eggs to the congregation and special baskets to take home.

We also continue this month on learning more about World Religions.

- ⇒ **4-5-2015, Easter Sunday.** The children will be in the Sanctuary for extended time this Sunday to help out with a special activity. Later we will hunt for eggs and dog and cat food, followed by a festive party.
- ⇒ **4-12-2015, Islam.** We will learn of Muhammed and Allah's message. The children will hear about the Koran, and special celebrations such as Ramadan and the pilgrimage to Mecca. The children will each make their own prayer rug to take home.
- ⇒ **4-19-2015, Christianity.** We will learn of the birth of Jesus and the teachings he shared in his life. We will learn of the certain practices of Christians such as Catholics and Protestants. We will learn the Lord's Prayer including modern variations.
- ⇒ **4/26/2015, Confucianism and Taoism.** Though the communist government in China discourages its people from practicing religion we will learn the ancient religions of China's history. We will learn of Confucius and his teachings of how to live a good life, that all people should be kind and courteous to others. . We will learn about Yin and Yang. We then will learn of Taoism and it's teachings that the ancestors connect the world of the living to the world of the gods.

---

# Religious Exploration



DRE  
Rennis Tomley

As we teach our children about the many different religions of the world we may ask how do we, as Unitarian Universalists, teach our children about spirituality and religion.

In the nineteenth century, William Ellery Channing proposed that we “do not see our task as stamping our minds upon the young, but rather aid them in putting their own stamp upon themselves.” The question is how we do that today. Our opportunity is to give our children language and tools designed to encourage the life of the spirit and to prepare them to deal with theological ideas.

Rabbi Sandy Eisenberg Sasso, defines spirituality as “inner belief”, a system that the universe and all the people in it are connected in ways we can’t see, that life is about more than just “me”. In other words, it’s not only “Is there a God?” but what Rabbi Sasso suggests is that you actively listen to your child’s guesses about things and that you explore spiritual concepts together, however your family is comfortable.

## **Places to discover spirituality**

Churches, synagogues, and mosques are all place where you can worship formally, with other members of a community, children can find their spirituality anywhere, outside in nature, at a museum, at school or in their bedroom.

## **Reading with your children**

Many good children’s books address topics related to kindness, justice, tolerance and fairness, all issues that could be considered “spiritual” in that they address all connectedness of all people and of living life with purpose. Rabbi Sasso suggests that “instead of “see how this story teaches us not to be selfish?” ask your child open ended questions like “what did you think was the most important part of this story? Or “what would you have done?”

## **Sharing with your children**

Kids benefit greatly from hearing out loud how we handle life’s ups and downs, it could be as simple as saying to your child “I’m really worried about Poppy today and my stomach hurts. I’m going to take a moment to do some breathing”. Then “Oh, I’m starting to feel better. I’m going to send Poppy some good thoughts.” Children having at least one parent who is openly spiritually inclined tend to continue exploring spiritual issues on their own into adolescence and adulthood.

## **Talking with your children**

You can designate an hour a week as unplugged (no electronics) family time. When a grandparent or a pet dies, when a natural disaster hits, when your child encounters something unfair, all of these are opportunities for your child to feel a connection to a larger universe for comfort.

And as with all aspects of parenting, fumbling is perfectly okay and expected says Rabbi Sasso. Teaching kids about spirituality isn’t about doing it perfectly. It’s more about asking deeper questions with your children and letting them see people living out their lives with meaning.

# Canvass Brunch Success -Now at 81% of our goal

Our Canvass Brunch was a big success. Over \$96,000 was pledged towards meeting our financial future. Combined with commitments of over \$25,000 from our Board of Trustees we have reached 81% of our budget goal of \$150,000 in pledge revenue.

Talking about money is not easy and Unitarian Universalists find it harder than members of other denominations. The service by Rev Atkinson, and the specially written songs performed by our choir, kept the mood light but reminded us that money is important. Without it we won't survive.

Everyone seemed to enjoy the food and many reported that they were enthused by the table discussions and were inspired to pledge accordingly. We welcome your comments so that Canvass Sunday next year

will be even better. We thank all who attended and made a financial pledge.

The Canvass however, is not over until we have met our goal. \$29,000 remains to be pledged, and is within our reach. If you are a member who has not yet pledged, please do. We need every member to make a financial commitment so that our budget can be met without cuts.

We are in the process now of making sure that every member who has not yet pledged will receive a pledge card either in person or through the mail. If you pledged last year, you should receive a personalized pledge card that indicates your prior year pledge as guidance. Blank cards are also available at the greeting table every Sunday. A basket for completed pledges will be kept at the church entrance.

If you have any questions about our budget or church governance prior to making your pledge, we want to answer your questions. Our Canvass Committee is committed to reaching out to every member who has not yet had an opportunity to pledge by phone, email or in person. Please welcome their inquiry should you receive one.

By Bob Britton, Canvass Co-chair

## **BROCCOLI CASSEROLE RECIPE**

10-12 ounces frozen chopped broccoli or 2 large heads of fresh broccoli cooked and drained

½ - 30 oz package of frozen hashbrowns, thawed

3 Tbsp butter

1 medium onion, minced

1 small minced red, yellow and/or orange bell pepper

3 Tbsp flour

dash pepper

½ tsp salt

3 cups grated medium cheddar cheese

2 cups milk

1 cup cream

3 large eggs, beaten

Heat oven to 350. Grease 2 1/2qt. casserole dish.

Mix hashbrowns and 1 1/2 cup cheese. Layer in bottom of the casserole dish. Add layer of broccoli.

Heat butter in skillet and saute onion and bell pepper until tender. Stir in flour. Add pepper, salt, and cream and milk. Heat over low heat until thickened. Stir in 1 1/2 cup cheese.

Add about 1/3 of the hot cheese sauce to the beaten eggs, stir; add back to the hot mixture, blend well and pour over broccoli.

Bake for 45 to 55 minutes or until knife inserted in the center comes out clean.

## **Budget Time (Summertime)**

Budget time, and the  
livin' ain't easy;  
Costs are jumpin', and  
inflation is high.  
Oh, your church ain't  
rich,  
And there's things that  
need fixin';  
And every committee  
wants a piece of the pie.

One of these mornings,  
We'll have more outgo  
than income,  
And we'll watch our  
bills,  
As they climb to the sky;  
So keep that morning';  
Off our calendar this  
year,  
When canvassers call,  
and ask to stop by.







# April Birthdays

3	Andrea Kuftin
10	Karen Carrell
11	Frank Satterwhite
14	Caroline Mazur
14	Georgia Gruver
16	Molly Hitchings
23	Henry Wagner
21	Andy Matthews
30	Bill Schuler

## Passover Seder Friday, April 3rd

We invite you to the annual Passover 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!

# WHEEL OF LIFE

- *Sherry Thomas is recovering from shoulder surgery.*
- *Keith Lewis is able to return to work after many surgeries and great home care from Mileva.*
- *Dick Albert is healing from a broken thumb.*

## Blindspot - Hidden Biases of Good People

As a political liberal and a dedicated UU, I believe in equality and justice for all. I'd like to think I'm not prejudiced, but unfortunately the evidence is against me. I sometimes catch myself having what I call "racist moments," or sexist moments, and recently I had an ageist/ableist moment. Examples:

- I once worked remotely with someone for 2 months before I discovered he was African American. I was *shocked*. He *hadn't sounded Black - he'd sounded southern like all the other North Carolinians I was working with*. I *honestly don't think it was worse or better that he was Black, but had I known earlier I'd probably have been extra polite with him, which is my awkward way of trying not to appear racist*.
- Sometimes when driving I notice another driver doing something crazy and catch myself thinking "It's probably a woman." Argh! I've been a feminist for 40 years and I still have thoughts like this.
- Recently I had dinner with my father in his retirement home and another resident joined our table. His head was lolling over to the side, and I thought "Oh no. He looks completely gaga and I'm going to have to

look at him all through dinner." But then he lifted his head and asked an engaging question, and it turned out he was very alert and "with it," and we had a lovely dinnertime conversation.

Blindspot - Hidden Biases of Good People, by Mahzarin Banaji and Anthony Greenwald, is about these hidden biases. It's for those of us who would like to think we don't have biases. It presents the latest research on bias and stereotypes, and it has tests we can take - or links to the online versions - to see what hidden biases we have. For me, the racial bias test confirmed my suspicion that I have a moderate preference for white people over black. Sigh. The book talks a lot about how difficult this can be to face, for those of us who have long thought we were free of all that. It's important not just for us as individuals but for the country - and the world. According to research, *explicit (conscious) bias has fallen dramatically since the 1960s, but implicit (unconscious) bias is as strong as ever, and has a powerful impact on what we see and feel, and how we treat people*. It's what prevents us from realizing the Universalist ideal of radical inclusiveness.

See <https://implicit.harvard.edu/implicit/> for a large suite of IATs - Implicit Attitude Tests. I hope many others will take these tests and then compare notes.

By Beth Ogilvie, for the Anti-Racism Multicultural Alliance (ARMCA)

Join us for.....

### **Pete Seger Tribute Concert**

**Saturday, April  
18th, 7:00 PM**

**Music will be provided by SKUU  
Church Members.**

**Bring something to drink and a  
snack to share.**



---

## This month's focus: Climate Disruption, Specifically, Fracking in Alameda County

You may recall that we sponsored a community forum about some of the local effects of Climate Disruption in February, 2014, at Castro Valley Library. This was co-sponsored with Hayward Area Recreation and Parks District, MoveOn.org, and other organizations.

One human activity which contributes a lot to Climate Disruption is “fracking.” Fracking (shorthand for hydro-fracking, acidification, and other extreme methods of extracting oil and gas from the earth) has grown to be a huge issue in the U.S, because of

- its contribution to Climate Disruption
- its use of large quantities of fresh water
- its too-frequent contamination of fresh water which had been suitable for drinking and irrigating crops
- the earthquakes it triggers
- many other reasons--ask for links to more info if you're interested

New York State has banned fracking. In California, a statewide coalition of environmental and faith-based groups has been fighting for years to ban fracking statewide. We've bumped up against intense lobbying by

the most profitable industry in history, the Oil and Gas Industry. While we were able to get a law passed in 2013 to regulate fracking, Governor Brown has blocked any statewide law to ban it.

So the environmental and faith-based groups have turned to limiting or banning fracking county by county. In Alameda County, we've been working for months with the Board of Supervisors to ban fracking, leading up to the Board now pursuing a path which is even broader--to outlaw any new or expanded oil and gas operations in the County.

### **You can join the action:**

The next step in the process of outlawing any new or expanded oil and gas operations in Alameda County will be a public hearing before the Planning Commission at 6:00 PM on April 6 in Hayward.

Pro-oil interests will be at the meeting to oppose the proposal which County Staff has put together to implement the policy the Supervisors asked for. Environmental and faith-based groups plan to be there too, speaking to support the proposal.

We also will rally outside before the hearing, starting about 5:15. You can join the action at whatever level you're comfortable with: Make a statement during the hearing in favor of banning new or expanded oil and gas operations (including fracking); or, make a sign and/or join the chants during the rally; or all of the above; or, just your presence at the hearing will show your support.

by Frank Burton, Chair  
**The Peace & Justice Action Team**

For more info, or to join email  
[frank.burton.now@gmail.com](mailto:frank.burton.now@gmail.com)

Remember:  
Democracy  
Isn't a  
Spectator  
Sport!

---

## My Green Step

I just got done with my first ever bike ride to and from church. I feel out of breath, out of shape and yet decidedly invigorated! My bike was ready this morning as I just got back from a vacation in Ventura, where we found tons of bike paths, accommodating drivers and maneuverable streets.

When I decided to try the ride from home to SKUU, although a short 1.47 mile route that MapQuest assured me was only a 6 minute ride, I was a little apprehensive. I expected tons of traffic, less than accommodating drivers, a much longer ride than predicted and some uncertainty as to how I was going to keep myself **and** drivers safe given my typical slow pace.

I was relieved, however, to find Sunday morning traffic slower and more relaxed than I anticipated. Drivers seemed to move easily around me, next to me and behind me. The ride turned out to be about 16 - 20 minutes going, about 10 minutes shorter than driving. I was able to gauge where to ride effectively and when to just move to the curb. Yes, I had to ride in the lowest possible gear...a couple of times, still felt like I was crawling and briefly walked the top portion of

“Kelly Hill,” but the adrenaline rush of making it there and back and early to boot, was worth every second.

Although I’ve thought about biking to church for a long time, I never took that next step. In fact, I hadn’t even decided to do it until late this morning. I had a million excuses and felt justified in most of them. Maybe it was the recent vacation, the time to reflect on what I wanted in my life: more exercise, better health and polluting a little less. Maybe it was the chance to try it out first, remember I did have the energy and ability to do it even though I’m out of shape and pushing 50, or the fact that we intentionally put our bikes in a location where we’d have quick access. Whatever the reason, the bottom line is that it didn’t matter. What mattered is that I took my first steps in preparing and then just did it.

While I don’t expect to bike to church every Sunday and can’t even say for sure when I’ll do it again, I know that I will. It’s my first green step. Maybe next time I’ll walk or carpool. Or maybe I’ll bike to the Farmer’s market or dare I say to work?! All I know is it won’t be consistent or the same every

time, but it will be more than what I’m doing now.

As we approach Earth Day, SKUU will have its annual Earth Day Fair. Besides being FUN and educational, most all of the booths will focus on helping you think about what your next green step might be, preparing the way and helping you to make it happen. Maybe your next green step between now and then could just be thinking about what area (s) you want to work on. Big or small, it doesn’t matter. It’s all one step greener. So think about it, come check out the Earth Fair and let us know how we can help you take your next green step!

By Colleen Saia, for the Green Sanctuary Committee





# ***Starr King's Earth Day Fair!***

## WHO

You and Sulphur Creek Nature Center, Sunnyslope Farms, 350.Org,  
Hayward Shoreline Interpretive Center and More!

## WHAT

Animals, Education, Art, Plants, and Information!

## WHERE

Starr King Unitarian Universalist Church, of course!

## WHEN

**Sunday, April 26th**

**10:30 a.m. Service**

Children will be able to meet the Sulphur Creek animals and attend the fair during the service! Please have them wear clothing that's ok to get dirty.

**11:30 a.m - Earth Day Fair**

\*If you'd like to have childcare so you can attend the fair after our service, please contact Colleen Saia.

## WANTED!

As always, we gratefully accept gently used items for the Freecycle table and any plants/seeds you'd care to share.

SKUUC Drumming for Spirit Drum Circle April meeting moved to the **SECOND** Friday of April, **April 10**. Same place Same time.....Hope to see you there!



# Time for FESCO SHUFFLE



Helping families gain stability  
and permanent housing

**FESCO Shuffle**  
Annual Walkathon

Saturday  
May 2, 2015  
San Leandro  
Marina Park

Otter & Mallard  
Picnic Sites

Get out.  
Get active.  
Give back.

Join hundreds of walkers as they take a step toward ending family homelessness.

Walk as an individual or as a team in this family-friendly, dog-friendly walk along the beautiful paths of the San Leandro Marina Park.

## Schedule

- 8:30 am Check-in/T-shirt pickup
- 9:30 am Opening Ceremony
- 10:00 am Walk Start
- 11:00 am Lunch & Entertainment
- 12:00 noon Closing Ceremony



## Sign up!

Online team sign-up at:  
<http://www.firstgiving.com/21524/18th-annual-fesco-shuffle>

[www.fescofamilyshelter.org](http://www.fescofamilyshelter.org)

For more information call:  
Joy Vail, Office Manager, 510-886-5473, x105

---

## 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 EVERY 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.

### ***Peace & Justice Action Team***

Meets on the SECOND SUNDAY of the month following 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

22577 Bayview Avenue  
Hayward, CA 94541

Phone: 510-521-2060  
Email: office@starrking.org  
Hours: M,W,Th 9:30 AM to  
2:30 PM



**A Welcoming Community**

## Church Leaders

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

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

**Director of Religious Explora-  
tion:**  
Rennie Tomley  
<dreskuu@gmail.com>

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

## 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

## Committee Leaders

**Adult Religious Education:** Va-  
cant

**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:** Colleen Saia

**Grounds Care:** Walt Korus

**Hospitality/Membership:** Dirk  
Dino

**Interior:** Sherry Thomas

**Peace & Justice Action Team:**  
Frank Burton

**Nominating Committee:** Rebecca  
Parr

**Pastoral Care:** Karen Cook

**Religious Education:** David  
Middleton

**Social:** Joyce Kinnear

**Social Justice:** Mary Swain

**South Hayward Parish Rep:**  
Terry Owen

**Sunday Coffee:** Roy Dickerson

**Usher Coordinator:** Lavon Hodges

**Worship Committee:** Lu Middle-  
ton



*Love is the Fabric of  
Community*