



THE FLAMING CHALICE

July 2015

Sunday Service Previews

July 5

Independence Day service: Citizen Tom Paine

Rev. Joy Atkinson

This service will celebrate American independence and explore the contributions and ideas of one of the most devoted and unique of the American revolutionaries.

July 12

Hallelujah

Christy Baker

The song "Hallelujah" by Leonard Cohen has been widely covered in popular media. The appeal lies in biblical and secular stories of betrayal and union. Cohen said, "The song explains that many kinds of Hallelujahs do exist. All the perfect and broken Hallelujahs have an

equal value. It's, as I say, a desire to affirm my faith in life." As a community, let us affirm such complexity in our lives.

Christy Baker graduated from Starr King School for the Ministry in 2011. She works at the Stanford Cancer Institute. Prior work has included community organizing and advocacy with UU Justice Ministry of California. She is passionate about spiritual formation, education and pastoral care as her ministry in our congregations and beyond.

July 19

Sacred Circle Dance as a form of Worship.

Long time Sacred Circle Dance teacher Maureen Atkins and Eric Gable will lead a special service that will move your spirit. All dances taught with intention and care. Sacred Circle Dance celebrates all things that make us human, honors the earth and all life forms.

July 26

Reader's Theater,
Al Murdach



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Words of Joy

by Joy Atkinson
Interim Minister

In just a few days as of this writing, several of us from Starr King Church will make our way to Portland, Oregon for the annual General Assembly of the Unitarian Universalist Association. Because this congregation pays its “fare share” to support the UUA, which costs close to \$100 for each of our 142 members, those of us who are delegates at the GA will get to wear ribbons on our badges that proudly proclaim Starr King Church as a fully supporting “fair share” congregation.

There is much that we receive from being a part of the larger denomination, including the support of professional denominational staff, the development of curricula for the religious education of children and adults, online resources and workshops for congregational life in such areas as worship, leadership development and fund-raising, a voice in the democratic process by which the denomination is run, a subscription to the UU World for every member of each congregation, and, especially important at this time in the life of Starr King Church, support for congregations undergoing a transition in ministerial leadership, with online resources for ministerial search committees and through the training, credentialing and continuing education of interim ministers.

Here is a list of some of the ways that supporting the larger UU movement both sustains and grows our faith, from the UUA website:

A Dozen Ways Our Gifts to Our Association Sustain and Expand Unitarian Universalism

- ♦ *When we choose to share our gifts with our wider Unitarian Universalist community, we invest in the extension of our common values and purpose in the world.*
- ♦ *We strengthen the connection between our congregation and our a Unitarian Universalist Association and beyond.*
- ♦ *We connect people of all ages with the great stories and teachings of our Unitarian Universalist faith.*
- ♦ *Our giving strengthens our covenant of mutual support and affirms our connectedness as congregations.*
- ♦ *We encourage generosity by modeling generosity.*
- ♦ *Together we create a better today and a brighter future for all beings through our attention and intention as generous givers.*
- ♦ *We make a positive difference for tomorrow when we invest in our wider community today.*
- ♦ *We spread the good news of Unitarian Universalism by exemplifying our principles in our daily lives.*
- ♦ *Our gifts to our UUA reflect our commitment to our relationship of interconnectedness, which nurtures cooperation, love, equity, and justice.*
- ♦ *We Stand on the Side of Love as we work to overcome oppression, fear, alienation, and loneliness.*
- ♦ *Our ministry and worship inspire hearts, enlighten minds, nurture spiritual growth.*
- ♦ *Our gifts enable us to heal and transform our world.*

The lay delegates from Starr King Church to the General Assembly this year are Jo Murdach, Beth Ogilvie and Bob Simoni. Ministerial delegates are myself and Rev. Michelle Favreault. We will report back on the highlights and major decisions of this year’s GA. Talk to us and we’ll be glad to also tell you how much fun it was!

Joy

Religious Exploration

July

Summer Fun Shops

<i>Date</i>	<i>Fun Shop Activity</i>	<i>Fun Shop Leader</i>
July 5	Sand & Sky	Robin Fink
July 12	Little Library Stroll	Allison Prout
July 19	Crafts & Fun	Lorie Miller
July 26	Electricity	Roy Dickerson

Summer Fun Shop Coordinator: Lea Casini 510-537-7419

President's Report



Diana Dickerson

Hello fellow members of the Starr King UU Church. I am Diana Dickerson and your incoming President of the Board of Trustees. I feel very privileged to have been chosen by you to fill the gigantic shoes of our outgoing President, Colleen Dino.

These past two years Colleen has been training me for my new responsibilities. She has been both demanding and supportive. I couldn't have asked for a more able teacher. Thank you Colleen!

As you all know, we are very busy now with the teaching and training we are receiving from Rev. Joy Atkinson and our Search Committee is readying for the big job of finding us a new settled minister. We will also continue to work together to maintain our facilities, improve where we need to, and to grow both support and friendship amongst the congregation.

This year we are going to have three representatives at GA; Jo Murdach, Beth Ogilvie, and Bob Simoni. I can't wait to hear about their experiences in Portland, Oregon.

With the help of Kirk Klausmeyer and his sister, the graphic artist, we are continuing to attempt to make our church easier to find. We are looking for more contrast to make it easier to read, reflective material to make it visible at night, and trying to get our curb painted red so parked vehicles can't block all of our efforts to be seen. Walt Korus has been taming our plants in the front area. Stay tuned for more on information on 'Sign Time.'

I am very excited to be working with so many terrific people in keeping our church and its families happy and healthy for all of us. Do not hesitate to speak to me or any board member if there is something we should know about or work on.

Putting Our Signs Where Our Mouth Is

By Heidi Green for ARMCA

Being a *Welcoming Congregation* is more than passing a resolution declaring ourselves one. We have flown the PRIDE flag, delivered sermons on the meaning of inclusion, founded a PFLAG chapter, celebrated same-sex marriages, and hosted workshops on all the letters in LGBT.

At the June Board of Trustees meeting, the Board took another step to send a consistent message to LGBT people and their supporters everywhere by voting unanimously to purchase signs for our four restrooms that signal our commitment to inclusion and welcome.

‘How does a bathroom sign signal welcome?’ you may be asking. A typical restroom sign has a male and a female figure on it, which is a signal in much of the world that a restroom lies beyond the door. However, that typical sign also signals an implicit belief that gender is divided into a binary that is male and female. While not intentionally a sign of *exclusion*, for transgender and gender non-conforming people, who may identify as neither or as some combination of the two, it sends a signal that they are invisible to us, that we haven’t considered them in our welcome.

The Board decided to follow UUA guidance on restroom signage and send a clear message of inclusion by adopting signs that have the words “**All Genders**” on them, both in English and in Braille. The term “**All Genders**” is hailed by those in the trans community, and all those who love them, as a simple but powerful welcome, not just to the restroom, but to the community in which the signs are displayed.

Some of you may be saying, ‘Hey, but the male-female symbol let people know who don’t speak English or read Braille that there is a restroom there. What about those people?’ We have an answer! The signs we selected DO have a symbol on them, a near-universal symbol for a restroom: a toilet. A genderless toilet. How simple is that? And for our two accessible restrooms, a toilet and a non-gendered person in a wheelchair.



Some of you are probably thinking of the many non-English-speaking people who come directly to SKUUCH from the airport as their first stop in the U.S., having just arrived from an Asian, African, Middle Eastern, or other country that uses squat toilets instead of seated ones, who may not recognize the toilet symbol. We are concerned as well, but have not yet solved that problem. Your input on a solution is welcome and will hopefully be reflected in the next generation of restroom signs.

All Gender restroom signs! Coming to a restroom near you!

Why *Black Lives Matter* To Us All

I think it's pretty safe to say that we, the members of SKUUCH, are deeply concerned about the increase in killings around the country of unarmed black and brown men at the hands of a few police officers, who subsequently escape prosecution. It is who we as UUs are that we reject the complacency in our society that allows this to take place without taking a stand against it. In fact, the UUA has made strong statements condemning the harassment, assault, and killing of black and brown people.

At the SKUUCH annual meeting on May 31st, the Anti-Racism Multicultural Alliance, with the Board of Trustees and the Peace & Justice Action Team, brought a resolution to the congregation taking that stand against these atrocities. After in-depth, respectful discussion, ARMCA withdrew the resolution in favor of taking sufficient time for the entire congregation to fully embrace what such a resolution means for us.

Here's the resolution debated at the annual meeting:

Black Lives Matter!

"No government is legitimate that does not show equal concern for the fate of all those citizens over whom it claims dominion and from whom it claims allegiance. Equal concern is the sovereign virtue of political community - without it government is only tyranny." -
Philosopher Ronald Dworkin

"To be UU means to live in tune with the great covenant of life, built on love, not fear. Love is an act, not just a state of being. To be UU simply means to go where we are called and act with love. ... Black lives matter and in working to undo racism we are building the be-

loved community so that all of our brothers, sisters, cousins, older and younger, can live without fear." -Bart Frost, <http://blue-boat.blogs.uua.org/2014/11/25/blacklivesmatter/>

1. We believe in the inherent worth and dignity of every person. We are especially concerned for those treated as disposable and dangerous on the basis of skin color.

2. We condemn the institutional racism, disguised as "public safety," that allows some police officers and vigilantes to kill black and brown people with impunity.

3. Our belief in the transforming power of love calls us to reach out to oppressed and oppressor alike to create a community that values the flourishing of all its people equally, irrespective of skin color or any other distinguishing characteristic.

4. Our commitment to justice, equity, and compassion in human relations demands that we stand up, speak out, and participate in the Black Lives Matter movement to end this injustice.

Black Lives Matter!

Some important questions came up during the conversation, questions that were also discussed in ARMCA, BOT, and PJAT meetings. We'll discuss all of them and more during the next few ARMCA meetings (first Wednesday of the month, 7 PM), and then arrange a special meeting of the congregation in the fall for the purpose of passing the resolution.

People agreed with the majority of the resolution. However, the second point raised concerns for some. "Condemn... institutional racism... disguised as public safety... allows... police officers... vigilantes... impunity" – all these require more discussion to understand why we used these particular words. If you have not read *The New Jim Crow* by Michelle Alexander, now is a good time to do so, as it addresses the second point exactly.

In addition, people wanted to know more about the Black Lives Matter movement, and why we are aligning ourselves with it. Why do we say black lives only? Don't all lives matter? And why just race, since police also victimize those with mental health challenges.

Rather than try to answer these questions in this article – as if there really are 'answers' to any of these, instead we believe these are opportunities to discuss more deeply – we invite you to join the dialogue at the ARMCA meetings. All opinions welcome!

By Heidi Green for ARMCA

Report from the Peace & Justice Action Team

Where do you get your news?

Do you depend on CNN, the *San Francisco Chronicle*, or one of the Bay Area News Group papers for your news? If you are progressive politically, are you getting news from sources which share your values?

Having spend much of my time for the last five years studying, eating, and breathing politics, I concluded that essentially all of the dominant news sources are biased, consciously or unconsciously, because they are controlled by American corporations.

This goes for print media such as our daily papers and popular weekly and monthly magazines, virtually all TV and radio stations (yes, even KQED, because of American Public Radios fear that Congress will cut off their funding), and the dominant online sources such as Yahoo News and Google News. (I read the **Daily Review** most days, mainly for coverage of state and local news, and it includes occasional excellent investigative reporting.)

The contents of many stories are free of bias, but here are two big, current stories which are biased in the dominant media reporting adheres closely to the Obama Administration propaganda line about

1) the fight in Washington over Fast Track and the Trans-Pacific Partnership, and

2) the situation in the Ukraine. In most reporting, the bias is in the choice of what stories to report.

As we discussed last month, the founding fathers knew that having an informed electorate is vital to our form of government, which is theoretically a representative democracy. If you are a Unitarian Universalist and have any interest in being informed about what is going on nationally and internationally, consider these news sources. Their reports are clearly based on progressive values, yet I firmly believe all of them adhere to, or quite close to, the truth, unlike Fox News, which is nothing but a right-wing propaganda machine.

The Progressive: Respected monthly magazine founded in 1909 by Senator Robert "Fighting Bob" La Follette, each issue features in-depth coverage of a few topics of news and culture. I find its coverage rather consistently useful.

The Nation: Respected weekly news magazine for over 150 years, with comprehensive stories on a few subjects. Sometimes more depth and more leftist bias than I find useful.

Daily Kos: Begun as a blog, has expanded to furnish one to three emails per day; some are stories, some, links to petitions, some, links to blurbs in other media. Also started the largest progressive political gathering in America, which is now known as Netroots Nation.

I've attended the last two Netroots Nation gatherings, the 2014 conference was attended by 3,000 progressives from all across America and featured dynamite speakers Vice President Joe Biden, Rev. William Barber (founder of the Moral Mondays movement on the East Coast), and Senator Elizabeth Warren. We expect a similar array of powerful leaders this month (July).

Reader Supported News, and AlterNet: two separate groups with online progressive coverage; one or two daily emails with headlines of several stories; click to read any story.

Be informed--set yourself up to receive news from a few of those sources!

by Frank Burton, Chair
Peace & Justice Action Team

Remember:
Democracy
Isn't a
Spectator
Sport!



STARR KING UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CHURCH

Need some durable medical equipment?

Due to the generosity of some of Starr King's members, we now have a variety of durable medical equipment available for loan.

Our current list of available equipment is below:

- *Leg Brace for use after cast removal*
- *Foldable walkers*
- *Crutches*
- *Canes*
- *Wheel Chairs*
- *Potty Chair*
- *Toilet Lift*
- *Shower Chairs*
- *Lower Leg Cushion*
- *Soft Foam Mattress Pad*
- *Knee Brace (size large)*

If you wish to borrow any of the equipment listed, call or write:
Georgia Gruver (510) 581-5380 or (510) 828-1753 or
gpgruver@comcast.net



CARY AND MAYA SANCHEZ-PARA-- Our deep condolences go out to CARY AND MAYA SANCHEZ-PARA with the loss of your father and grandfather.
PAT KELLNER— Happy 93rd. Birthday To Pat Kellner!

We offer our sympathy and support to Jens Dill and family on the death of Jody Distler-Dill on June 14. A memorial service will be held on July 12 at 4:30 to 6 PM at the Hill and Valley Club, 1808 B Street, Hayward.

For more information or to post your memories, visit www.jody.wellhall.org

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>Peace & Justice Action Team</i>	Meets on the SECOND SUNDAY of the month following 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

22577 Bayview Avenue
Hayward, CA 94541

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

A Welcoming Community

Church Leaders

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

President: Diana Dickerson
<president@starrking.org>

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

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

Board of Trustees

President: Diana Dickerson

Vice President: Will Fitch

Secretary: Frank Burton

Treasurer: Marilyn Moser

Members at Large:

Wayne Bennion

Betsy Dye

Stuart Fink

Kirk Klausmeyer

Sherry Thomas

Committee Leaders

Adult Religious Education: Vacant

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*