



Newsletter

*Starr King Unitarian-
Universalist Church of
Hayward California*

August 2015

THE FLAMING CHALICE

August Service Preview

Sunday Worship: 10:30 AM

August 2

The Meaning of Life

Jane Ramsey

A free and responsible search for truth and meaning: These are not empty words. Why are we here? What is the point of our existence? Questions arising during our lifetime can become more focused as we face our mortality. Unitarian Universalism is a faith which may well have a way to help you find your answers.

August 9

Active Mysticism

Rev. Earl Koteen

There's always been a tug of war in UUism between mysticism and activism. Rev. Earl W. Koteen, Environmental Justice Minister, UU Ministry for Earth, and a lifelong UU, has bounced from pillar to post searching for integration. Please join us to explore how mysticism can inform our activism and *vice versa* to add compassion and renewal to our justice work.



August 16

Pathways to Redemption: Climate Justice/Just Transition

Rev. Kurt Kuhlwald

Rev. Kurt Kuhlwald has served 8 congregations as minister. He is Community Minister, Endorsed, and Founder of "Outrider Ministries." As UUs we must commit to respond to the challenge of climate change; to shift from a carbon based economy, and advance Human Rights through Climate Justice.

August 23

What Happens When We Die

Jim Craig

Popular opinion is that the majority of people who are religious main concern is immortality. What do you think? The service will include an open Q&A and discussion.

August 30

Soul Poem

Rev. Joy Atkinson

What is spirituality? What are the components of a spiritual journey? Joy will explore five steps on the spiritual path: longing, intention, mindfulness, surrender and connection.

What's Inside

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WHEEL OF LIFE

- Congratulations to Glen and Margarita Jacob on their 35th Anniversary
- Congratulations to Roy Dickerson , who was called to Washington to receive the award for “Outstanding Technician of the Year” from the FAA.
- Happy 85th birthday to Bob Stortz!

RETURN OF THE BOOK CLUB

The Starr King Book Club hopes to relaunch our book group this fall and we need information from interested book readers.

We know that either Monday or Friday works for most people. We need to know which day suits your calendar, and then whether you would prefer an afternoon or evening time. You can let Donnie Rett know at bdrett146@att.net, or Evelyn Cormier at ev.cormier@comcast.net.

Please be sure to send your email or phone number so we can finalize the details and move on to some stimulating or just fun reading.

Words of Joy

by
**Joy Atkinson,
Interim Minister**

*Fare forward, travellers! not escaping from the past
Into different lives, or into any future;
You are not the same people who left that station
Or will arrive at any terminus,
While the narrowing rails slide together behind you;
And on the deck of the drumming liner
Watching the furrows widen behind you....*

*Fare forward, you who think that you are voyaging;
You are not those who saw the harbour
Receding, or those who will embark.
Here between the hither and the farther shore
While time is withdrawn, consider the future
And the past with an equal mind...*

(Excerpt in *The Dry Salvages*, from the Four Quartets, by T. S. Eliot)

An interim period in the ongoing life of a congregation provides an opportunity to step back and look at where the congregation has been, where it is now and where it may go in its next “era.” It is an “in-between time”—a time “while time is withdrawn,” as T.S. Eliot says, to look at the past, assess present operations and point toward the future. We have done this together in several venues during the past year, and will continue on this journey in the new church year that is almost upon us.

In dealing with transitions in our own lives and in the lives of our religious communities, we become aware of how what seem like small changes over time can add up to major transformations. We are never the same travelers who first embarked on the journey, nor will we be the same ones who arrive at the next port. As Heraclitus put it, “You cannot step twice into the same river.” It, and we, flow inexorably into the next phase. Nor can we step into quite the same congregation twice. Although there is continuity with the past, a congregation will transform itself from month to month and year to year as its people and its identity shift and readjust to changing times.

We will soon begin our second interim year together—a time to examine these changes and to plan for the future. I look forward to returning and to seeing you all again after some weeks away—some of those weeks spent tackling innumerable projects in my home in Berkeley—I never seem to step into the same HOUSE twice, let alone the same flowing river!

Speaking of flowing rivers: don’t forget to bring some water from your summer activities to add to the communal bowl at our Homecoming Water Communion service on September 13th. See you all soon. May we *fare forward* together fruitfully in this next interim year.



Joy

President's Report

by Diana Dickerson

August 2015

Greetings, I keep hearing that the summer months are slow. Which summer was that? I know the leadership of SKUUC are all very busy and have been for quite a long while.

Walt Korus and Collin Carroll have completed our fire abatement with the help of two workers from the day labor center in Hayward. It feels good to know that we are in compliance with the county recommendations.

Thanks to Garald Mosher, we will soon have our parking lot resealed and restriped. At this time we do not have a firm date. As soon as we have that, we will get the word out about when we will have to keep that area vacant for the work and the drying time.

The board is working on having a list of people we could contact to take care of issues that come up that would be handled by our 'Building Maintenance Committee' if we had one. At this point in time it is not active due to the difficulty of finding people with the time and willingness to be on the committee. If we can compile a list of occasionally willing and able folks and their particular strengths, we could call for help when needed. We are asking for occasional helpers and compiling a list at our next meeting. Please let a board member know if you are able to help out.

It is sad that two of our members died recently, Jody Distler-Dill and Pat Kellner. They will both be missed. Rev. Joy left her vacation behind to do both memorial services. She did a wonderful job. Sherry Thomas and Colleen Saia coordinated the refreshments with great skill. Betsy Dye did a great job with the sound for Pat Kellner's memorial service. I really appreciate my fellow Starr King members who continue to keep the bar so high.

In Fellowship,
Diana Dickerson,
Board President



Summer Funshops

The RE Council

| Date | Topic/Facilitator |
|-----------|--|
| August 2 | Singing and the Banjo with Lorie Miller and Bob Meyerson |
| August 9 | ???Mystery??? with Al and Jo Murdoch |
| August 16 | Solar Power, with Roy Dickerson |
| August 23 | Drums and Rhythm, with the SKUUC Drum Circle |
| August 30 | Music and Song Writing. With Bill and Ruth DeSmidt |

Fall Kickoff Potluck / BBQ sponsored by the RE Council

Mark your calendar for September 13. After church on that day all church members are invited to gather at Lake Chabot for great food, games for all ages, and fantastic company. A patio boat ride around the lake will also be a part of the festivities. We ask those attending, who are willing, to sign up to bring a dish to the potluck. Joyce Kinnear has already agreed to bake one of her famous homemade desserts and David Middleton has promised to bring a savory mystery dish. Please look for the potluck sign up sheet at the back table of the church. We look forward to seeing you there!

Event Location: 17930 Lake Chabot Rd, Castro Valley, CA 94546 Onsite parking is \$5, but street parking is available and free!



And The Search Is ON . . .

by Heidi Green

The last weekend of July, the Starr King Search Committee spent almost two days working very hard to turn ourselves into a team ready to do what it takes to find the best minister for our congregation.

Bob Meiss led the retreat, held at San Damiano's Retreat Center in Danville. (The only place I've been with designated Friar Parking – for the Franciscans of course!) He worked as hard as we did, with lots of exercises to turn us into a team, and lots of groundwork laid that set us up for success.

The most important thing we accomplished was to determine who would be taking which responsibilities to get us through the months ahead. There are 12 roles, and each role has both a lead person and a back-up person. A very comprehensive approach. Everyone took two or more roles, except our lead Chair, Jennifer Koney, who has quite enough to do.

One of my roles is Publicity Secretary, to keep the congregation informed of our process and progress. I'll do this with Chalice articles, announcements, even a bulletin board. All members of the Search Committee are also happy to answer questions and take comments. We won't tell you who we are considering as possible ministers until we present our selected candidate in the spring, but we can tell you everything else, and we welcome your engagement.

It took all afternoon Saturday to negotiate the roles. See below, we were punch drunk by the end of the effort!



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But it was worth it, because the exact right person is in every role! It sounds crazy that that could be true, but read the list below, and you'll see. The first name is the main person in the role, the second name is the back-up who will support and cover as necessary.

- Chair – Jennifer Koney, Lu Middleton
- Recording Secretary – Lu Middleton, Rebecca Parr
- Publicity Secretary – Heidi Green, Sara Raymond
- Congregational Record Editor – Natalie Forrest
- Congregational Record Taskmaster – Karen Cook (keeps Natalie on task)
- Web Editor (Creative) – Heidi Green, Sara Raymond
- Web Editor (Technical) – Bob Simoni, Sara Raymond
- Arranger – Sara Raymond, Bob Simoni
- Reference Check Lead – Rebecca Parr, Lu Middleton (we'll all help with this)
- Congregation Survey / Focus Groups– Heidi Green, Natalie Forrest
- Treasurer – Karen Cook, Lu Middleton
- Negotiating Team – Bob Simoni, Rebecca Parr
- Committee Clown – Karen Cook, Heidi Green

Stay tuned, and know that THE SEARCH IS ON!



General Assembly 2015 Report Part 1

Action of Immediate Witness: Support the Black Lives Matter Movement

by Beth Ogilvie

The 2015 General Assembly approved a Statement of Conscience (SOC) on Reproductive Justice and three Actions of Immediate Witness (AIWs). These are now available on uua.org. Our own website <http://starrking.org/ga> has a summary of GA 2015 and links to various elements including the SOC and the AIWs. We will publish these four documents in the *Flaming Chalice*, one per month, starting with the Action of Immediate Witness on Black Lives Matter. This AIW is reprinted in its entirety below.

Support the Black Lives Matter Movement

2015 Action of Immediate Witness

WHEREAS, Unitarian Universalists strive for justice, equity and compassion in human relations;

WHEREAS, Unitarian Universalists have a goal of world community with peace, liberty, and justice for all;

WHEREAS, allowing injustice to go unchallenged violates our principles;

WHEREAS, the Black Lives Matter movement has gained powerful traction in conjunction with recent tragic events involving, in particular, police brutality and institutionalized racism that target the black community;

WHEREAS, Tanisha Anderson, Rekia Boyd, Michael Brown, Miriam Carey, Michelle Cusseaux, Shelly Frey, Eric Garner, Freddie Gray, Trayvon Martin, Kayla Moore, Tamir Rice, and Tony Robinson are just a few names of people who were recently killed by the racism that exists in the United States today;

WHEREAS, people of all ages and races are killed by law enforcement, yet black people ages 20-24 are seven times more likely to be killed by law enforcement;

WHEREAS, mass incarceration fueled by for-profit prisons and racially biased police practices drive the disproportionate imprisonment of black and brown Americans;

WHEREAS, the school-to-prison pipeline is an urgent concern because 40% of black students are expelled from U.S. public schools and one out of three black men is incarcerated during his lifetime; and

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WHEREAS, we must continue to support the Black Lives Matter movement and Black-led racial justice organizations;

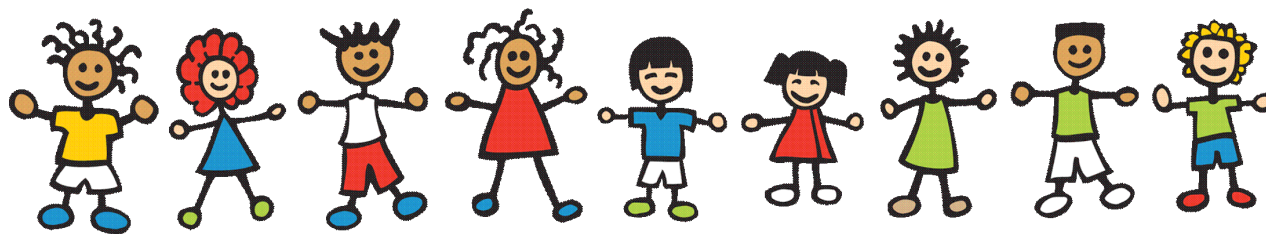
THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the 2015 General Assembly of the Unitarian Universalist Association calls member congregations to action, to become closer to a just world community, and to prevent future incidents of this nature;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the 2015 General Assembly urges member congregations to engage in intentional learning spaces to organize for racial justice with recognition of the interconnected nature of racism coupled with systems of oppression that impact people based on class, gender identity, sexual orientation, ability and language;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the 2015 General Assembly encourages member congregations and all Unitarian Universalists to work toward police reform and prison abolition (which seeks to replace the current prison system with a system that is more just and equitable); and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the 2015 General Assembly recognizes that the fight for civil rights and equality is as real today as it was decades ago and urges member congregations to take initiative in collaboration with local and national organizations fighting for racial justice against the harsh racist practices to which many black people are exposed.

No matter who you are, black lives matter, and a system of fair, transformative, and restorative justice that is accountable to communities is something to which each of us has a right. Unitarian Universalists and our greater society have the power to make this happen. Let's do it!



Displaying the American Flag **by Marilyn Mosher**

Recognizing that displaying the American flag is a sensitive issue for some in the congregation and to honor the principle of democratic process within our congregation, the Board of Trustees has discussed display of the American flag at three meetings over the past year. At its July 2 meeting, the Board approved a motion stating that the American flag may be flown on two occasions each year--Independence Day and Veterans Day. Thus, on the Sundays closest to these two national holidays, the American flag may be placed at the entrance to the property, along with the rainbow flag. While the Board expects that this action will settle the issue, please feel free to seek out any of the current Board members if you would like further information.

ONGOING ACTIVITIES

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| <i>Anti-Racism Multicultural Alliance</i> | Meets as needed. Check the church calendar (www.starrking.org/calendar). |
| <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. |
| <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 & Justice Action 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>Small Group Ministry</i> | Meets twice a month for a predetermined number of months. Registration is required. Contact sgm@starrking.org for more information. |
| <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 and Thursday; 9:30 AM to 2:30 PM

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

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<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: Diana Dickerson
<president@starrking.org>;
<daesworkgd@comcast.net>
Home phone: 510-786-2922

Board of Trustees

President: Diana Dickerson

Vice President: Will Fitch

Secretary: Frank Burton

Treasurer: Marilyn Mosher

Members At Large:

Wayne Bennion

Betsy Dye

Stuart Fink

Kirk Klausmeyer

Sherry Thomas

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 & Justice Action 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