



Newsletter

**Starr King Unitarian-
Universalist Church of
Hayward California**

November 2015

THE FLAMING CHALICE

November Service Preview

Sunday Worship: 10:30 AM

November 1

**El Dia De Los Muertos/All Souls/Halloween/ Samhain
Service: Death, Remembrance, and the Meeting of
Two Worlds**

Rev. Joy Atkinson

The service will explore the varied traditions that converge around this date. *Please bring a photo or photos of loved ones who have died*, to add to our decorated Dia de los Muertos *ofrenda* (altar). Children AND adults may attend in Halloween costume, if you like.

November 8

Between Melting and Freezing

Rev. Jeanne Foster

We often feel buffeted between crisis and crisis, problem and problem, issue and issue. How do we find moments of rest, times of peace, in a fast-paced, crisis-torn world? In a passage from the *Four Quartets*, T. S. Eliot writes: "Between melting and freezing / The soul's sap quivers. / The dumb spirit stirs." This poet, who is part of our UU tradition, has wisdom to offer us about living in the "between" times.

Rev. Dr. Jeanne Foster received her M. Div. degree from Starr King and her Ph.D. from the Graduate Theological Union in Religion, Literature, and the Arts. She is currently Professor of Literature and Creative Writing at Saint Mary's College. Her poetry book, *A Blessing of Safe Travel*, won the Quarterly Review of Literature Poetry Award. A new book of poems, *Goodbye, Silver Sister*, was released this last spring.

November 15

Civility and Graciousness

Rev. Joy Atkinson

Whatever happened to simple thoughtfulness and kindness? How might we cultivate an attitude of

graciousness and civility in ourselves and others, and turn away from the cynicism, rudeness, and meanness that characterizes so much of our modern life?

November 22

Only Gratitude Helps

Rev. Joy Atkinson

Thanksgiving Sunday Intergenerational Service. We will gather to express our gratitude for the many gifts of life, to hear Thanksgiving reading, stories and a homily, to sing and to celebrate our thankfulness. Susan Merrill from South Hayward Parish will update us on current needs. The choir will offer songs of the season, and children will participate. Guest At Your Table Boxes to support the UU Service Committee's international and domestic projects, will also be distributed.

November 29

A Visit From the Future

Glen Jacob

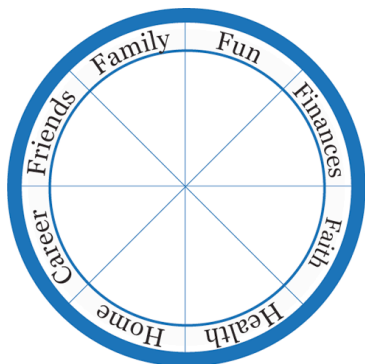
Some view science fiction as nothing but pulp stories about robots and aliens, or children's fantasies. However, good science fiction can tell us something about ourselves, and what is to come. Join us for a fun, lay-led service, as we explore and experience some good "sci-fi."



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Wheel of Life



Anniversaries

Congratulations to: Jennifer Koney and Ray Oducayen on their Tenth (10!) Anniversary

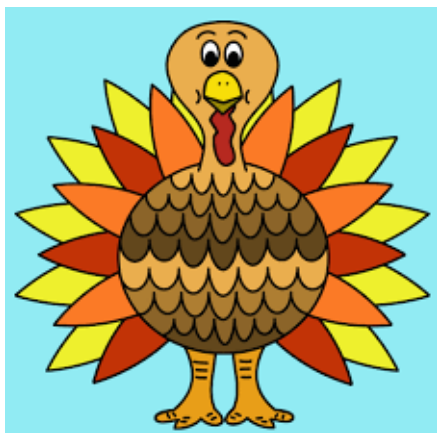
Frank Satterwhite and Sherry Thomas on their Thirty-third (33!) Anniversary

Natalie Forest and Dough Sprague on their Thirty-Fifth (35!) Anniversary!

We are all saddened to hear of the death of long-time member Bill Schwab, and extend our deepest condolences to his wife Marge. A service celebrating Bill's life and legacy will be held at 3:00 PM on Saturday, November 7.

November Birthdays

Hear ye, hear ye! Colleen Saia has compiled a spreadsheet for all of our birthdays! Please contact her with any additions or corrections (I've added mine to the list here, but you're not editing this issue, so how will we know yours unless you tell us).



2	Lesley Hitchings
	Bob Meyerson
3	Diana Dickerson
6	Kathryn LaMar
8	Bob Rett
11	Jordan Lowell Baker-Blanc
14	Hank Wagner
20	Bob Robinson
21	Alyssa Joy Baker-Blanc
30	Susan Blanc

Words of Joy

by
Joy Atkinson,
Interim Minister

Thanksgiving Graces

As you gather with loved ones over the Thanksgiving holiday, you may wish to offer a few words of gratitude for the many gifts of life. Here are a few Thanksgiving graces as suggestions. (I have also found that going around the table and having each person, child or adult, mention one or two things that he/she is thankful for makes for a warm grace of its own.)

May your lives be blessed in this season of giving and gratitude.

You

May the Four Winds of Heaven blow gently upon you
And upon those with whom you share your heart and home.
From the Coahuila Indians



For the rest and renewal of the nighttime and the freshness of morning; for the ever-changing loveliness of earth and sky; for the love of friends, and kindness and compassion when we need them; for the joy of human fellowship, and work to do; for all the ventures and endeavors in which we depend upon each other; for the greatness of our heritage and the inspiration of so many who have gone before us; for so much goodness in our common daily life—for all this, we are thankful.

A. Powell Davies (adapted)

The warm sun and the liberating rain fall upon a cold and barren earth, and there springs from its depths unsuspected living things. So also, at the radiant touch of love and understanding, may kindred life spring up in us. Thus, we shall consecrate these kindly fruits of the earth, which we now take into ourselves.

Walter Royal Jones



For this new day with its light, For rest and shelter of the night,
For health and food, for love and friends, for everything Thy goodness
sends: We are thankful.

Ralph Waldo Emerson (adapted)



Spirit of Life, our family here assembled is abidingly grateful
For the beauty of this place in which we dwell.
We are thankful also for good food to eat
And the health to enjoy it,
And for the love that binds our lives and sustains our spirits.
May this awareness strengthen us for whatever comes our way.
May we always be loyal and loving toward one another,
And sensitive, caring and generous toward those in need.
May our lives be channels of healing grace.

Anonymous

We give-away our thanks to the earth which gives us our home.
We give-away our thanks to the rivers and lakes which give-away their water
We give-away our thanks to the trees which give-away fruit and nuts
We give-away our thanks to the sun who gives-away warmth and light.
We give-away our promise to learn how to stay in balance with all the earth.

Plains Indians



We give thanks for being; We give thanks for being here;
We give thanks for being here now;
We give thanks for being here together.

Anonymous

Got Durable Medical Equipment?

The Pastoral Care Committee has compiled a list of items that members are willing to temporarily loan to other members in need. A few of the items include walkers, crutches, canes, wheel chairs, assistive chairs, and a toilet lift. If you have an item(s) you'd be willing to add to the list or are temporarily in need of any, please contact Karen Cook or Reverend Joy for more details.



President's Report

November 2015

by Diana Dickerson

I am sure that we have all noticed that the church has been humming even more than usual. We are having trouble scheduling meetings, and even more trouble with individual availability. We can only be in one place at a time (so far), but it is good to see all the participation and cooperation throughout our community.

We had a successful Weed 'n' Feed on October 17. There was good attendance and lots of work got done. Walt always has plenty of things that need to be attended to, so he is the “fearless leader” of the group with Lavon being the second in command. Colleen Saia gets the logistics of announcements and food in addition to her weeding skills. It is hard work, but you get to be around great people and eat and laugh together.

Beyond Categorical Thinking w/Jo Victoria was presented on October 18, was very interesting and provided more data for our Search Committee to use in their search process. I think we may have all learned more about each other and ourselves.

On October 24, we had our biennial Service Auction. It was a great success. We were full to the rafters and there was much laughter filling in all the nooks and crannies. Colleen Dino, Nancy Harrison, and Beth Ogilvie were our organizers and record keepers. Doug Sprague, Chris Appleton, Glen Jacob, and Betsy Dye were our auctioneers. Sherry Thomas organized all the food and Darryl Ray handled all the beverages. Lots of people stayed after to prepare the sanctuary for Sunday morning. This was a wonderful time together and we helped our church a great deal.

We will be having a special Congregational Meeting on Nov. 1, 2015 @ 11:45am in the sanctuary to discuss and vote on the Black Lives Matter Resolution. Please plan to attend, your voice is important.

Respectfully yours,
Diana Dickerson,
Board President



RE Plans and Announcements

by Renness Tomley

Upcoming Religious Exploration activities for November

Sunday Nov. 1: *Día de los Muertos*. The children will hear how this special Latin American celebration is honored around the world. We will then decorate and take home *calavera* (skulls) that signify human power and energy.

Sunday Nov. 8: *Learning to Give*. “Notable UUs in History”. We will learn of philanthropists of the past, the gifts of time and talent that came from our UU founders and followers. We will make a collage of famous UUs.

Sunday, Nov. 15 *Learning to Give*. “10 Great Philanthropists”. We will watch a video about philanthropists under the age of 12 and what contributions they have made. We will do “Heart Mapping”, by creating a drawing of what we love and what we can do.

Sunday, Nov. 22, *A Thanksgiving Intergenerational Service*. Our children and youth will participate in this joyful Thanksgiving service.

Sunday, Nov. 29 *Learning to Give*. “Mother Earth”. We will learn of the Native American traditions of caring for our earth. We will create a mosaic of the wonders of our earth.



November Reflection

Gratitude and Philanthropy



November is a month that we celebrate Thanksgiving, feeling grateful for all we have. In our RE program we are exploring philanthropy and what it means to be a person who gives back to their community. Practicing being grateful is key to developing a sense of philanthropy. Author Christine Carter, PhD, suggests children and youth focus on altruism, helping others and practicing kindness, rather than simply on gratitude. She states, “Helping others evokes feelings of gratitude, compassion, and confidence in people of any age.” You can help your children and youth reach out to others in meaningful ways. They can make a real difference, even if it’s just a small one. Not only will they feel good about what they can do, but helping others will foster a sense of appreciation for the people, experiences and things they value in their own lives. Here are a few activities you can share with your children and youth.

The Preschool Years

1. Create a thank-you. When your young children receive gifts, they can create and send a thank-you picture or short note to the person who gave them the gift.

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2. Be polite to “Mr. Bear”. Role-play using good manners and saying “thank you” using stuffed animals and action figures.

3. Pick your top 3. At dinner or bedtime, take turns sharing the three best things about your day.
4. Commit it to memory. Find and memorize thank-you prayers, songs or poems.

5. Make a different kind of gift list. Write down the things, (handmade is great), your preschoolers would like to give friends and family as holiday gifts.

The Elementary Years

1. Hand-write thank-you’s. One sentence per grade is a good rule of thumb, and be sure to send them out promptly.

2. Make a gratitude jar. Fill it with short handwritten notes of gratitude (“I’m thankful we won the big game!” or, “I’m grateful Grandma came to visit.”). Pick a special time to pull out notes at random and read them aloud.

3. Say thank-you with cookies. Prepare and deliver a homemade “thank you” to your local fire or police department, or your pediatrician’s or dentist’s office.

4. Make it stick. Leave sticky notes for each family member to thank them for something you appreciate.

5. Celebrate your year. Every birthday, make a list of things you are grateful for that year. A 5-year-old can think of five things, while a 10-year-old can manage at least 10.

The Middle School Years

1. Give thanks video. Make a thank-you video for someone who gave you a gift or showed you a kindness. Saying thank you is always important, and it’s OK to think beyond the note.

2. Make a plan. Research a service project, and make a plan to execute it. Invite others to join in.

3. Create a gratitude photo book. Using a smart phone (or a plain old camera, or magazines), gather photos of the things you’re thankful for.

4. Help out without being asked. Make it a goal to do so once a day, and for any member of the family.

5. Give a gift card. Save up money to purchase a gift card (grocery store, gas card, etc.) for a person in need.



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The High School Years

- 1. Thank a teacher or coach.** Send a handwritten note to let him/her know how much their efforts made a difference.
- 2. Volunteer a Saturday.** Think food pantry or animal shelter, and try to make it a regular commitment.
- 3. Go back to school.** Donate your time to your old elementary or middle school and let your former teachers and coaches know how much they helped you.
- 4. Create a new family gratitude ritual.** Make it something you can continue when you're on your own.
- 5. Pay it forward in the drive-thru lane.** Use your own money to pay for someone else's meal.



The Circle Supper Game Night **by Joyce Kinnear**

For January 2016, we will do a different twist to the circle supper. This year, on Saturday, January 9, those who are interested in coming to the circle supper will each bring a salad, vegetable or side dish to the church by 6:00 PM. We will have a potluck dinner and a game night. The dinner will be about 6-7, with games from 7-9 PM. We will have card games and board games. Please feel free to bring a favorite game for you or your child.

See you on Saturday, January 9, 2016 at 6 PM for an evening of dinner and games.



General Assembly 2015 Report Part 3

Action of Immediate Witness

End Immigrant Child and Family Detention Now

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. This is the third in a series of four articles we are publishing in the *Flaming Chalice*, one per month. The AIW on immigration is reprinted in its entirety below.

End Immigrant Child and Family Detention Now

2015 Action of Immediate Witness

WHEREAS, our Unitarian Universalist values call on us to honor the inherent worth and dignity of every person;

WHEREAS, the Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA) of congregations affirmed in its 2013 Statement of Conscience on Immigration as a Moral Issue that a moral immigration policy would provide alternatives to detention for those not considered a threat to society and humane treatment for those being detained;

WHEREAS, the recently enacted practice of family detention is inconsistent with our Unitarian Universalist values;

WHEREAS, thousands of children and their mothers have been coming to the United States during the past two years to escape violence in their Central American home countries;

WHEREAS, these women and children are treated without dignity, without access to sanitary conditions, clean water, or healthy food, and are forced to wear prison clothes;

WHEREAS, immigrants imprisoned in detention centers, (including, but not limited to, former prisons and for-profit detention centers operating under deplorable conditions), often experience permanent psychological damage, physical violence, and emotional, verbal, and sexual abuse during their incarceration;

WHEREAS, these women and children are generally not considered to be a threat, nor do they meet the Department of Homeland Security priority categories; and

WHEREAS, there are many other ways, with documented success, that the government can ensure that immigrants appear at their hearings, such as non-profit shelters and family or community placements, that can connect them with needed services and U.S. relatives (when applicable).

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THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Unitarian Universalist Association urges the United States government to treat all immigrants humanely, and in particular to use alternatives to incarceration to ensure that immigrants appear at their hearings;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Unitarian Universalist Association calls on President Obama, Congress, and U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) to close the family detention centers and immediately release those detained who do not meet priority criteria; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the 2015 General Assembly of the Unitarian Universalist Association encourages member congregations to take actions, such as:

1. Educating ourselves and others about the family detention centers (“UU World”, May 8, 2015);
2. Signing the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee’s petition calling on Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) and the White House to end family detention;
3. Reaching out to and partnering with community organizations in their area working to end family detention, including connecting with groups organizing visits to detention centers;
4. Contacting elected officials and encouraging them to stand on the side of love and end family detention by closing family detention centers; and
5. Connecting with and supporting Unitarian Universalist Refugee and Immigrant Services and Education (UURISE) in their work connecting and supporting Unitarian Universalists, member congregations, and state advocacy networks in their work for immigrant justice.



From the Search Committee

Getting to Know Ourselves

By Heidi Green

The Search Committee has been busy! Some of the highlights follow.

- Natalie and Karen have been filling out the **Congregational Record**. The CR will be the first thing prospective ministers see when they consider whether they want to reach out to us. This document is critical to get right, because the only way we know about a minister is if they reach out to us first.
- Bob Simoni and Rebecca have been working with the Board through the complex process of determining **compensation for our minister**. That's another key piece, because if the money isn't right, prospective ministers will look elsewhere to meet their needs.
- Sara, Bob, and I, along with Betsy and Beth, have banded together to form the **Packet Committee**. The "packet" – which was a 3-ring binder before the internet – is what the Search Committee links ministers to after they reach out to us. Our charge is to develop a website about SKUUC that is so attractive that all the ministers who see it get a strong visceral sense of who we are as a congregation and community, and they fall in love with us. Rebecca and Jennifer are also lending their considerable support to the effort.
 - The entire committee, and all of you, has been involved in **gathering data** about us to share with prospective ministers.
 - To that end, we want to thank the 69 people who filled out the survey (out of approximately 130 members in the congregation) and the 84 people who attended focus groups, along with the entire Search Committee who facilitated the seven sessions we held and were incredibly flexible and generous with their time. We also thank Mileva for facilitating a focus group for the Search Committee so our voices could be heard as well.
 - The focus group / survey information captures the essence of who we are as a congregation and will be both what we tell prospective ministers about us, as well as how we determine the questions to ask prospective ministers to make sure they best meet our needs as a congregation.

Beyond Categorical Thinking (BCT) Workshop

One of the most important activities during October was hosting the *Beyond Categorical Thinking* morning service and training. That session, more than anything else, was designed to help us as a congregation be ready for whoever walks through our doors to become our new minister. We had awesome attendance – 52 of us – which is a strong indicator that we are ready to move into the future.

Beyond Categorical Thinking was led by an amazing facilitator named Jo Victoria. Jo started the workshop by confronting any assumptions we may have had about gender. Jo explained that we should use "they" as a singular pronoun to refer to them. Jo explained that, rather than identifying as male or female, they are third gender, and if "they" was too awkward, "he" was acceptable, but they preferred "they."

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Jo followed that by talking about the transgender ministers currently in search, and said that often transgender ministers stay approximately three years in congregations before their ministries begin to fall apart. Jo said the Transitions Office believes that congregations are insufficiently prepared for dealing with people who are different. As UUs, we pride ourselves on being open to diversity, but the truth is that it is hard when we come up against biases we don't even know we have. The data collected by the Transitions Office says that ministers who are different from their congregations in key ways, such as being people of color or transgender people, often have shorter tenure than those who are similar to their congregations. That was the genesis of the *Beyond Categorical Thinking* workshop--to help congregations begin to explore topics that may not challenge us until they are in our pulpits and everyone struggles.

BCT case studies

One of the most interesting parts of the workshop occurred when Jo supplied case studies for the attendees to talk through in small groups. The Search Committee previously selected four to focus on and then facilitate: (1) an African American minister and the single-issue label; (2) disability, depression, and our fears around it; (3) accessibility for persons using a wheelchair; and (4) beliefs that only certain ministers attract families.

We discovered in our sessions that many of us have significant concerns about ministers who are dealing with mental health challenges, and there were strong discussions about what we believe a potential minister's obligation is to tell us about something like that. We also had conversations in which a number of people said that a minister who talks all the time about a single topic is something we want to avoid.

Jo's feedback

Jo's feedback after the session made it clear that the issues we raised had come up in many congregations before us. One of the things they recommended was that any question we would ask one person (say, based on someone being open about dealing with depression), should go through the litmus test of committing to ask it of all candidates. For another example, if we want to make sure that someone of retirement age is aligned with our vision for wanting a minister to stay for many years, we can ask them that question, but we should ask it of all the candidates we talk to, even one that is 30.

Jo also told us that the research has shown that a minister is seen as being single-issue if they bring up a topic three times. That was an interesting observation. They said that people tend to be especially sensitive to the frequency of a topic being mentioned by a minister who shares an identity with the topic.

More information

Jo also gave us some additional information about the minister pool for our upcoming search:

- 60% women vs. 40% men
- 15% bisexual, lesbian, transgender, gay
- 10% people of color
- 5% are open regarding having disabilities (estimates are that 10% have disabilities)
- They are 25 – 75 years old
- 2 – 3 transgender people will be in search

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What's Next on the Search Calendar?

For upcoming events, we will finalize the Congregational Record 10/31, which is the first thing that will be available to the candidate pool. We will also complete the analysis of the focus groups and survey in October, so you can look for information on that in the next Chalice. The Packet will be completed by the end of November. Once those pieces are all done—when we have finished looking inward about who we are and what we want—we will turn our attention outward, and begin the next phase of the Search the first week of January 2016.



ONGOING ACTIVITIES

<i>Anti-Racism Multicultural Alliance</i>	Meets the SECOND WEDNESDAY of the month from 7-8:30 PM in the conference room. February, May, and November, meets with Peace & Justice Action (second Sunday, noon, Conference Room).
<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>Peace & Justice Action Team</i>	Meets 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 held every Sunday morning from 9 to 10 AM, unless notified otherwise. All are welcome, men's voices especially. For information, contact Jo Murdach at 510-581-6794 or <allisonandjo@hotmail.com>.

Starr King Unitarian Universalist Church

Church Office Hours: Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday; 9:30 AM to 2:30 PM

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Board of Trustees

President: Diana Dickerson

Vice President: Will Fitch

Secretary: Frank Burton

Treasurer: Marilyn Mosher

Members At Large:

Wayne Bennion
Bob Britton
Betsy Dye
Stuart Fink
Kirk Klausmeyer
Sherry Thomas

Positions

Adult Religious Education: Vacant
Anti-Racism Multicultural Alliance: Beth Ogilvie
Buildings: Bobby Robinson
Chalice Editors: Kathryn LaMar; Allison Prout
Church Website: Beth Ogilvie
Committee Council: Will Fitch
Communications: Melody Appleton
FESCO Representative: Kathryn LaMar
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
South Hayward Parish Representative:
Terry Owen
Sunday Coffee: Roy Dickerson
Usher Coordinator: Lavon Hodges
Worship Committee: Glen Jacob