



THE FLAMING CHALICE

October 2015

Sunday Service Previews

October 4 Unconditional Love - Our Animals/ Our Pets

Worship Leader:
Stuart Fink

The UU principles set forth our relations with other persons. How do they apply to our relations with animals, especially our pets. Pets give us unconditional love. This lay led service will explore how we have included animals in our everyday lives. Members of the congregation are encouraged to bring photos of their pets to be displayed at the front of the sanctuary. Please remember to write your names on the back of the photos.

October 11 Looking For America

Rev. Joy Atkinson

523 years ago this day, land was sighted from the port side of the Santa Maria, the ship on which Colum-

bus sailed in search of new lands and wealth. The sermon will explore the "discovery" of America and the legacy of this and other European conquests of lands already occupied by indigenous peoples.

October 18 Beyond Categorical Thinking
Jo Victoria, UUA trainer

Come participate in this service provided by the UUA, whom our congregation has asked for help in the process of finding a new minister. Our trainer will also facilitate a 3-hour discussion where we examine how we can avoid letting prejudice become a part of our search process. A lunch will be provided following the service and childcare will be provided.

October 25 **United Nations Sunday**

Loving the World

Rev. Joy Atkinson

There is much in today's world that is heartbreaking and worrisome. But there are glimmers of hope in many places, one of which is in the ongoing work and special projects of the United Nations. The sermon will explore how United Nations programs help to carry out some of the values that we Unitarian Universalists hold dear, and that we share with those who would build world community.

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Words of Joy

by Joy Atkinson
Interim Minister

As the Ministerial Search Committee collects information, through focus groups, the survey and one-to-one conversations, about the kind of leader the congregation wants for its next settled minister, an old reading about the search for a new minister popped into my head. I can't resist sharing it.

So here is the reading, which I (with tongue firmly in cheek) dedicate to the hard-working Ministerial Search Committee as they pull together the variety of congregational comments on what you want in a minister:

Found! The Perfect Pastor

After hundreds of years of search, a model pastor has been found! He preaches for exactly 20 minutes and sits down. She condemns sin but never hurts anyone's feelings.

He works from 8 a.m. to 10 p.m. in every type of work from preaching to custodial service. She makes \$60 a week, wears good clothes, buys good books regularly, has a nice family, drives a good car and gives \$100 a week to the church. He also stands ready to contribute to every good work that comes along.

He is 26 years old and has been preaching for 30 years. She is tall and short, thin and heavy-set. He has one brown eye, and one blue, and hair parted down the middle, left side dark and straight and the right brown and wavy.

She has a burning desire to work with the teenagers, and spends all her time with the older folks. He smiles all the time with a straight face because he has a sense of humor that keeps him seriously dedicated to his work. She makes 15 calls a day on church members, spends all of her time evangelizing the unchurched, and is never out of her office.

This reading, in slightly different forms (I added the gender variety), can be found quoted on many internet sites, from many faiths, without attribution. I first saw it over 30 years ago, in those pre-internet days, circulating among UU newsletters, especially in congregations that were in search for a new minister at the time. It is still a poignant reminder that a minister, try as he/she might, can never be all things to all people. May you bear this in mind as you think about the ministerial qualities that you would like to see in your next settled minister.

Meanwhile, I've got to get back to my walking on water practice (don't worry—I know where the rocks are!)
Warmly, with a wink,

Joy

Religious Exploration DRE

Reness Tomley

We began our new year with the Religious Education sponsored Kick Off Picnic. We had a great turn out and look forward to this new year with exciting plans and projects.

The RE Council has chosen a curriculum for this new year, *Learning to Give*. It is a UUA recommended curriculum that focuses on the UU Principles.

Children and youth will discover how philanthropy can be creative and that it encompasses many different talents and treasures. Children and youth will learn about the problem and the needs in their own community. Sessions will help children and youth identify a person's basic needs, realize that many people in the world are lacking these needs and why this may occur, and encourage them to think of ways to help these people. In this interdisciplinary unit, children and youth learn how they can positively influence their environment through beauty. The concepts of community and working together for the betterment of the community will explore democratic values and the history of how and why people came to America. The children and youth will relate philanthropy to positive treatment and respect for others and consider the effects of their own behavior on others. The children and youth will participate in activities that teach tolerance, regardless of challenges and diversity. Children and youth will recognize that they belong to a global community that shares resources and interests. The learners will gain an understanding of the importance of environmental stewardship and how they can participate. They will gain awareness that they are part of a whole and that they have a responsibility to participate in caring for the Earth.

Lessons and activities for the month of October will be:

Oct. 4: *What are common grounds?* Using the book "This Land is Your Land", this lesson will help the students understand the difference between private and public property. It will also help them understand that there are areas that are called *commons*. They will use this information to identify the commons around the church and decide whose responsibility it is to take care of those areas. Students then "gear up" with rubber gloves and plastic bags to protect their clothing and go to the playground and pull weeds, sweep areas on the equipment etc. caring for their own common ground.

Oct. 11: *What is Philanthropy?* This lesson will review with the students the concept of philanthropy. As a class, they will brainstorm possible ideas for the word philanthropist. The students will learn that even young people can be philanthropists. They will make and take a story book home that demonstrates philanthropy.

Oct. 18: *Introduction to a Service Project.* The children will understand that there are families in their community that may need their help and that they can decide ways to do that in class. The children will make posters that will be placed in the church to advertise their service project.

Oct. 25: *Halloween Party:* Tricks and treats for all!

Thank you so much for all your great projects with the kids this summer!

Donnie Rett

Lorie Miller

Robin Fink

Stuart Fink

Allison Prout

Roy Dickerson

Wayne Bennion

Bob Meyerson

Jo Murdoch

Al Murdoch

Rene Castle

Kathryn Lamar

Bill de Smidt

Ruth de Smidt

Dave Middleton

And Lea Casini, Summer Funshop Coordinator





It is never too early to instill philanthropy in a child; yet, teaching them that it is better to give than to receive can be a difficult task. Children should learn that philanthropy is not just for adults or for the wealthy, but that anyone making an attempt to better society is a philanthropist. Here are some ways to teach your child about philanthropy and charity. These ideas are easy and straightforward and can be as simple or elaborate as you make them.

- Spend time with your child by going through their winter clothes from last year. Any item that was lightly used and no longer fits should be placed in a pile to donate to a reputable local clothing drive. You can teach your child that another child will be able to use this clothing to keep themselves warm this winter.
- Go through the cabinets with your child and collect canned fruits and vegetables or other non-perishable items that can be donated to a local food bank or pantry. You could also go to the store and have your child pick out food items for your donation. Explain to your child that your donation will prevent other people from going hungry.
- Take your child to the local toy store and have them pick out an item for a less fortunate child. Many programs that work with children, including shelters and mental health centers, accept new toys year-round.
- Teach your child about charities and the services that they provide. Help him find a cause that is meaningful to him and make a donation in his name. If your child receives an allowance, encourage her to donate a portion of her allowance to the charity of her choice. Many children are eager to help other children in need, but don't understand how to help.

Volunteering is a fantastic way to get your child involved in philanthropy. The opportunities available expand as your children get older, but there are plenty of chances for children of all ages to help. For example, your little ones can help visit seniors in nursing homes, your adolescents can join an environmental group to clean up a dirty beach, and your teenagers can serve as mentors or tutors at after-school programs.

It is important to remember that the spirit of philanthropy is not about what or how much you give but rather about the feeling that you are helping others in need.

In support of the curriculum that has been selected for this year, families can encourage and extend the lessons at home. The following are some ways to help our children develop a sense of community and service.

Five More Ways to Raise Children Who Give, Share & Care

1. Model and teach giving and caring in your own family.
2. Share information with other families and include your children's friends in volunteer activities.
3. Purchase books and materials that teach lessons of giving, sharing, and service for your home and church library. (A list of age-appropriate books with a variety of themes about giving and sharing may gotten from Rennie Tomley, DRE.)
4. Read books to your children that contain messages of giving, service, caring and community. Discuss the concepts.
5. Walk around your "downtown" pointing out all of the nonprofit organizations, churches, libraries and human service groups that form your community's powerful network of giving and serving.

President's Report



Diana Dickerson

Fall is here. It is hard to tell when we keep having such hot weather, but September 23rd was the official Autumnal Equinox. Believe it or not, we are one fourth of the way into our fiscal year. For those of us who pledge on a quarterly basis, it is time for a payment. If you check the church calendar you will see another sign – it is amazingly full of the upcoming functions and meetings for this year.

The Search Committee is currently polling the congregation to find out who we are looking for to be our new settled minister. They have an online survey and focus groups to help us express our preferences. If you have not yet responded, we need your input. The hope is that most of us will use both of the options. Apparently the candidates will know what our level of participation will be and they may be more interested in us if our numbers are high.

The board is working hard to keep up with our duties and to deal with issues as they become known. I am aware that sometimes things never seem to get out of committees. Please be patient – we continue to move ahead, albeit slowly.

Here are some of the activities on our calendar in the near future:

- Advance Directive Workshop □ Oct. 3, 2015 @ 9am
- Teacher Orientation □ Oct. 4, 2015 @ 11:45am
- Small Group Ministry Leadership Training □ Oct. 10, 2015 @ 1pm
- New Member Luncheon □ Oct. 11, 2015 @ 1pm to 3pm
- Weed N Feed □ Oct. 17, 2015 @ 9am - 1pm
- Service Auction □ Oct. 24, 2015 @ TBD
- Special Congregational Meeting □ Nov. 1, 2015 @ 11:45am

We would love to see you these events.

Thank you all, Diana Dickerson



WEED 'N FEED SATURDAY, 10/17

9:00 - 12:00 (WORK PARTY) 12:00 - 1:00 (LUNCH)!

Sign-up sheet in back of fellowship hall.

Calling all green and brown thumbs!

Please join the Green Sanctuary Committee on

Saturday, Oct. 17th

to get SKUU's grounds ready for winter.

We'll be weeding, mulching, pruning and or generally sprucing things up.

Following the gardening, we'll be treated to a yummy lunch for our efforts!

Come join the fun and be a part of the interdependent web!



Come to UUA Workshop on Finding New Minister

Beyond Categorical Thinking is a highly recommended part of the search process for our congregation. In finding the person who would be the best match for our minister, we could potentially overlook or even let biases keep us from knowing that a particular person would be the best match for us. So come on **Sunday, October 18, 2015** to participate in this service provided by the UUA, whom our congregations have asked for help in this process. Our trainer will be **Jo Victoria**, she will also facilitate a 3-hour conversation where we will have a chance to examine how we can avoid letting prejudice become a part of our search process.

A lunch will be provided following the service and childcare will be provided.



ANNOUNCING the Biannual Starr King UU Church

SERVICE AUCTION!

**Saturday
October 24
6:00 PM**

Fun, fellowship, food (and fundraising)

Can you please, please, please DONATE a service for the auction?

Whether or not, plan to come and bid!

Contact: Colleen Dino – 510-213-3499—colleendino@croark.com

WHEEL OF LIFE

Happy Birthday to you.....

Wendy Robertson October 7

Scott Kinnear October 8

David Miyoshi October 19

Beloved church member Bill Schwab died early Monday morning, September 21, 2015. Bill has contributed much to Starr King Church over the years, and he will be sorely missed.

There will be a memorial service for Bill on Saturday, November 7th at 3 PM at the Church.

ONGOING ACTIVITIES

<i>Anti-Racism Multicultural Alliance</i>	Meets the FIRST WEDNESDAY of the month from 7:00 - 8:30 PM in the 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>Social Justice Committee and Peace & Justice Action Team</i>	Alternate meetings 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>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

22577 Bayview Avenue
Hayward, CA 94541

Phone: 510-521-2060
Email: office@starrking.org
Hours: T, W, 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>;
<daesworkgd@comcast.net>
Home phone: 510-786-2922

**Director of Religious Explora-
tion:**
Reness 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
Bob Britton
Betsy Dye
Stuart Fink
Kirk Klausmeyer
Sherry Thomas

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: Will Fitch

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: Glen Jacob



*Love is the Fabric of
Community*