



Newsletter

*Starr King Unitarian-
Universalist Church of
Hayward California*

January 2016

THE FLAMING CHALICE

January Service Preview

Sunday Worship: 10:30 AM

January 3, 2016 (New Year Service)

It's About Time!

Rev. Joy Atkinson

We have just slid into yet another new year. Join us for a New Year's ritual as we say goodbye to the past year and look forward to the new, and as we ponder the meaning of time in our lives.

January 10

What Do You Want to Do when You Grow Up?

Bob Meyerson

How many of your childhood dreams have come true? Did you follow your dreams, or did you go in different directions as an adult? Were those early visions realistic? Bob Meyerson will talk about his early ambitions, and how coming to grips with his own abilities rather than unrealistic goals shaped his life

January 17 (Martin Luther King Day service)

Still Dreaming

Rev. Joy Atkinson

Join us for a service of tribute to the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, and the important work he left for the

rest of us to do. Let's resolve to take up his good work and carry it forward.

January 24

The State of the Congregation

Rev. Joy Atkinson

How is Starr King Church doing? Our interim minister will offer a transition-time assessment of our triumphs, needs and challenges, and will indulge in a little crystal-ball-gazing.

January 31

Turning Swords into Plowshares--Be the Change You Wish to See in the World

Worship Team

As we try to navigate a world filled with intolerance of others, fueling violence and even hate, is there a way to turn the tide? How do we stem the tide against negativity and discrimination that is so often justified by religious symbolism and language? A modest proposal--understanding and effectively engaging others in that language and with that symbolism could be more effective than you think.

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Announcements and January Birthdays

Hear ye, hear ye! Colleen Saia has compiled a spreadsheet for all of our birthdays! You can see a complete printout on the welcome table at the back of the Social Hall. Please contact her with any additions or corrections.

January Birthdays

5	Sherman Lewis
7	Roy Dickerson Walt Korus
13	Jay Durant Doris Haskell
16	Mary Swain
18	Sophiana Carrell
24	Mileva Saulo-Lewis
25	Debbie Frederick
30	Ben Matthews

Sunday Coffee

Sunday Coffee is a great way to get to know your fellow congregants better, and we especially encourage new members to sign up as a way to get involved with SKUU.

Come See Selma With Us!

SKUUC's Anti-Racism Multicultural Alliance (ARMCA) will show the movie "Selma" on January 15. We will gather at 6 PM for a potluck dinner, and the movie will start at 7 PM. To sign up for the potluck, go to <perfectpotluck.com>. In the <find> box, type in admin name = "fassano" and password = starrking. Select "dinner and movie". We are asking for a love donation to cover the cost of the movie license.



Words of Joy

by
Joy Atkinson,
Interim Minister

*How could we tire of hope?
---So much is in bud.*

*How can desire fail?
---We have only begun*

*to imagine justice and mercy,
only begun to envision*

*how it might be
to live as siblings with beast and flower,
not as oppressors...*

*There is too much broken
that must be mended, ...*

*We have only begun to know
the power that is in us if we would join
our solitudes in the communion of struggle.*

*So much is unfolding that must
complete its gesture,
so much is in bud.*



From "Beginners" by Denise Levertov.

It has been an especially challenging year in these difficult times in our history. We have seen terrorism continue, this year even in our own state. We hear shrill overreactions almost daily, aimed, in ignorance and prejudice, at all Muslims. Our hearts ache to hear of continuing episodes of black lives lost through violence, sometimes shockingly due to the actions of those who are sworn to protect lives. The earth's climate continues its warming trend, due to our addiction to fossil fuels and other unsustainable practices.

But it is a New Year, and as Denise Levertov's poem suggests, there is "so much in bud." There are many efforts to counter the forces of violence and injustice, greed and negligence, ignorance, negativity, cynicism and resignation. We must never "tire of hope." Instead, let us be among those who hold up hope, stand up for those in need of our action, and join in the "communion of struggle." So much is at risk, yet many thousands of buds are beginning to unfold.

May the promise of a New Year bring hope and light, and be a reminder that we can always be beginners. As Thomas Paine once said, "We have it within our power to begin the world over again." May your New Year be filled with hope and blessings.

Joy



President's Report

January 2016

by Diana Dickerson

Good news! **Allison Prout** is our Acting Director of Religious Exploration. We are very happy that she was willing and able to step into the position. We need to have more adults helping with our children. Please help if you are able.

We had a terrific RE Congregational Christmas Party. The children decorated some ugly sweater cookies and made ornaments for our beautiful tree. The Middleton family brought a wonderful lentil soup and some bread. The pouring rain put most of us in just the right mood for such a hearty and tasty treat. Marla played carols while lots of us sang along. I really enjoyed myself, and it looked like many others did too. David Middleton won the award for the 'Ugliest Sweater' contest. It was quite a sight; some people are willing to pay not to see it again!

This month we have another set of new signs. The new restroom signs have arrived and will be installed very soon if they are not already. I want to thank all the people who were involved in choosing and ordering these new, inclusive signs, especially **Beth Ogilvie** and **Ruth DeSmidt**.

On January 23, several of us will be attending a leadership seminar in San Jose, presented by our regional UUA group--the Pacific Central District--called *Religious Leadership for the Twenty-First Century*. The description from their website reads as follows:

Religious leadership in the 21st century will require building interfaith competency. In a world torn apart by religious conflict and scapegoating, how can we, as Unitarian Universalists, offer a model for interfaith collaboration grounded in our own faith tradition? How can we speak across cultures and build Beloved Community?

We had seven people signed up as of December 18. If you are interested, please let us know.

As we begin the new year, I am setting some goals to improve myself. It is traditional if somewhat silly. My dad always said that resolutions are made to be broken. So far I have been proving him right year after year, but in 2016 I will try harder.

Happy New Year to All

Diana Dickerson



RE Plans and Announcements

by Allison Prout

I am grateful for this opportunity to demonstrate my commitment and very excited about what I hope to accomplish in this position. It is very important to me to pass on our liberal religious values to our children and, ultimately, to grow the program. I want our children to feel welcomed and inspired to learn; I want them to have fun. But, I also want to instill in them a sense of honor and respect for our place of worship and the sacred. Please be patient with me in this time of transition. I have faith that everything will work out for the best.

It takes a village to raise happy and healthy children. I ask for your continued help and support of the religious exploration program at Starr King. Specifically, we need RE class assistants to support our dedicated team of teachers. If you are willing to assist, please email me at [<dre@starrking.org>](mailto:dre@starrking.org), and I will send you a link to our signup genius where you can indicate which days you will be available to help.

I want to thank all the church members who made our Christmas party a truly wonderful event. We raised \$755 for FESCO gift cards!! Your generous donations will surely put smiles on the faces of the families in crisis.

Special thanks go to the following people, who made the success of the event possible:

- **Lorie Miller** and **Colleen Saia** for entertaining the children with flair.
- **Donnie Rett** and **Robin Fink** for organizing hand-made craft ornaments to decorate our tree.
- **Doug Sprague** and **David Middleton** for the ugly sweater contest.
- **Walt Korus** for securing a lovely tree.
- **Roy Dickerson** for organizing, serving, and cleaning up snacks and sweets, and the **Middletons** for the delicious lentil soup.
- **Marla Bacina** for leading Christmas carols and **Lea Casini** for providing caroling binders

Thanks for all you do,

Allison



General Assembly 2015 Report Part 4

Action of Immediate Witness

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 last in a series of four articles we are publishing in the *Flaming Chalice*. The AIW on the need for a global climate agreement in 2015 is reprinted in its entirety below. Were we successful???? (the devil's in the details.)

Support a Strong, Compassionate Global Climate Agreement in 2015: Act for a Livable Climate

2015 Action of Immediate Witness

WHEREAS, global climate change is fundamentally a moral and ethical crisis induced and exacerbated by human activity that can and must be modified to maintain a livable world for ourselves, our descendants, and other species;

WHEREAS, looming ecological catastrophes impacting food, water, and disease threaten the vulnerable and our descendants with mass suffering;

WHEREAS, Peter Morales (UUA President) and Bill Schulz (UUSC President and CEO) recently wrote that “*The crisis of climate change is the gravest threat facing our world today*”;

WHEREAS, we can act to limit the harmful consequences of climate change by effective risk management (adaptation and mitigation, including emission reductions, development of renewable energy, etc.), with sufficient motivation, persistence, optimism, and will;

WHEREAS, our Principles impel us to act on climate change: The web of life is threatened: climate catastrophes (in near and long term) disproportionately impact the poor, disadvantaged, elderly, women, and children; issues of equity, justice, democracy, speaking truth, and defending the right of conscience are associated; and our descendants are threatened, raising intergenerational equity issues;

WHEREAS, Unitarian Universalists overwhelmingly voted to adopt a Statement of Conscience on the Threat of Global Warming and Climate Change in 2006, calling Unitarian Universalists into action to mitigate climate change;

WHEREAS, there can be no long-term solution to many social justice issues with which Unitarian Universalists are concerned without a viable solution to the climate problem; and

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WHEREAS, we are responsible as people of faith to mitigate, avert, and limit the potential catastrophes of climate change, standing with other faith traditions caring for our common home;

WHEREAS, Unitarian Universalists have made a commitment to climate justice and stand in solidarity with first nation peoples, who are disproportionately affected by climate disruption;

WHEREAS, an international climate agreement is critical for reducing risk of the myriad severe climate impacts and also increasing positive opportunities for all people; and

WHEREAS, an December 2015, many nations of the world will gather in Paris for their last opportunity to negotiate the most important climate agreement in history;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the 2015 UU General Assembly calls on Unitarian Universalists to unify and provide ethical and moral leadership for climate action and to do so within our congregations and within our multi-faith communities;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Unitarian Universalists will support local actions such as the Lummi Nations' opposition to the Gateway Pacific Coal Terminal on sacred lands;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Unitarian Universalists will participate in and support mobilizations nationally such as the Moral March for Climate Justice in September 2015 during the Papal visit to Washington DC, pressing our government to act urgently and responsibly; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the 2015 UU General Assembly endorses a Unitarian Universalist delegation to the UN Climate Agreement Talks in December 2015 to support a strong, compassionate, fair, ambitious, binding, and enforceable international climate agreement. Without a global climate agreement, the climate crisis will not be sufficiently addressed, and many social justice issues will continue to magnify.



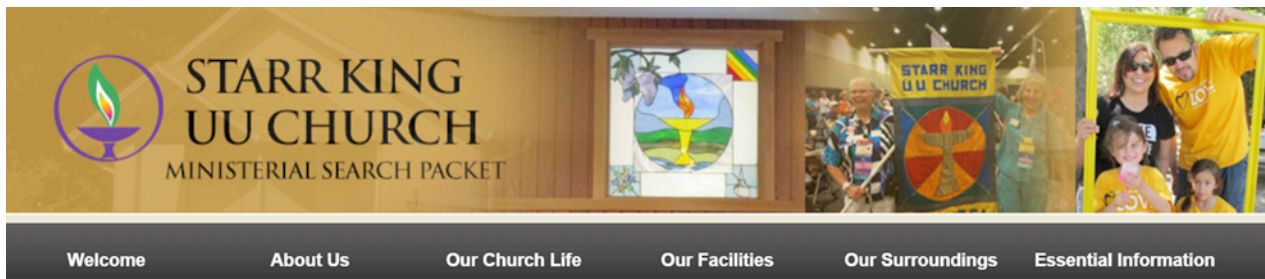
From the Search Committee

Phase Two: SEARCHing for Our Match

By Heidi Green

In December, your Search Committee was busy putting the finishing touches on our website that will tell prospective ministers who we are. The website was the last piece of our articulation of who we as a church community are. It was also the end of Phase One of our Search. We pulled the information you told us from the survey and focus groups, from informal conversations with all of you, from our financial records, staff interviews, committee conversations. We've collected images and photos and testimonials. We are ready to go public with our Search.

Here's a quick peek at the masthead of our website:



Good news: We already have one minister interested! We don't know who it is, but we've gotten the word that we are already seeing interest. So let me tell you what is going to be happening next, because things are going to start moving very quickly.

On January 2, we'll find out the names of the ministers who have read our Congregational Record and said they are interested in talking to us. We'll look at their ministerial records, and decide whether we are interested in getting to know them better. Bob Miess, our congregational consultant and guide from the UUA (many of you met him last spring when he conducted a Search workshop with all of us), says to think of it like a flirtation! The minister likes how we look, so they wink at us. If we like how they look, we wink back.

We'll decide who to "wink back at" in our meeting on Tuesday January 5. Then we'll see if they want to get to know us better. Each minister who's in search of a pulpit has created a website about themselves, just like the congregations have. To get to know each other better, we exchange website URLs (this IS the 21st century after all!). Once we exchange websites, the fun, and the even harder work, kicks into high gear!

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Here's a high-level picture of what happens next:

Early January	Review ministerial records and decide with whom to exchange websites. Call applicants' references.
Mid-January	Review websites and decide who we want to invite for pre-candidating weekends. Call more references.
Late January	Finalize arrangements for visits with pre-candidates. Continue calling references.
February – early March	Pre-candidating weekends. <i>NOTE: Members of the Search Committee will miss up to four Sundays between February and the first week of March. We can't tell you where we're going or who we're seeing, but know that we are keeping all of you top of our minds and in our hearts as we get to know each of the prospective ministers.</i>
March	Determine our fabulous candidate!!!
April 4	Tell the Transitions Office our choice.
April 7	Make a contingent offer to our candidate. <i>NOTE: The offer is contingent on them passing a background check, and, of course, a 90% vote of the congregation at the end of the Candidating Week.</i>
Late April – May	CANDIDATING WEEK will happen in this timeframe. This is the week where the candidate spends a full week with us, including both weekends. You will know several months in advance when the week will be, we just haven't set it yet. This week is your chance to get a feel for the person the Search Committee has invested thousands of hours in bringing forward for your consideration. We know you are going to love him / her / them!!!
Second Sunday of Candidating Week	The congregation votes on whether to call the candidate. We are looking for 100% of the congregation to call, or at least in the high 90s. Our bylaws say we need a minimum of 90%.

We want you to know that we very much appreciate all your support and trust in us to give us the space to find the right minister for the congregation. We are all working very hard and we've very much appreciated our "boosters" as well as all of you who've helped in so many different ways. There are the eight of us on Search, but this process has definitely taken our village.

We look forward to your continued support and understanding. If you have ANY questions, please feel free to reach out to any of us. We're happy to tell you as much as we can, and we like being asked.

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>RE Council</i>	Meets on the THIRD WEDNESDAY of the month, at 7 PM in the Conference Room
<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

22577 Bayview Avenue
Hayward, CA 94541
510-581-2060

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

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

Newsletter: <newslettereditor@starrking.org>

Church Leaders

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

Director of Religious Exploration: Allison Prout
<dreskuu@starrking.org>

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

DRE Office Hours:
Wednesday and Thursday, 10:30 AM to 2:30 PM

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: Mileva Lewis (acting)

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: Vacant

South Hayward Parish Representative:

Terry Owen

Sunday Coffee: Roy Dickerson

Usher Coordinator: Lavon Hodges

Worship Committee: Glen Jacob