



Newsletter

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

June 2016

THE FLAMING CHALICE

**Church Office Hours: Tues, Wed, and Thur; 9:30 AM
to 2:30 PM**

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DRE Office Hours: Wed, Thurs, 10:30 AM to 2:30 PM**

Sunday Worship: 10:30 AM June Service Preview

June 5 Flower Communion Service

How Flowers changed the World

Rev. Joy Atkinson

We will gather near the date of the original Flower Ceremony in Prague, Czechoslovakia (June 1923) to celebrate a communion of flowers, with a homily, readings and some of the original words from Rev. Norbert Capek, founder of the Flower Ceremony. Please bring at least one flower for each attending member of your family, to add to the communal bouquet. If you can, bring extras for those who forget.

June 12 Children's Service

Jumping Mouse

Rev. Joy Atkinson

Join us for a participational service as our children present a story of hope, vision and renewal. The story, adapted from a Native American legend, moves through the four seasons with delightful animal characters enacted by the children of our Religious Education program.

June 19

Father's Day/Celebrating Ministry and Diversity

Rev. Joy Atkinson

We will celebrate Father's Day, and also celebrate the congregation's calling of a new minister. This congregation has just done "a bold new thing," as UUA President Peter Morales has called it, by calling a minister of color. In my early years of ministry, it was a bold step to call a minister like me, a woman, to a pulpit, and now women in UU ministry are commonplace. Starr King Church was also on the cutting edge back in the 1980s, when you called a gay minister, now much more common. The service will explore this "bold new step" you have taken, and look toward the future of ministry at SKUUC and in our UU movement.

June 26

Stepping Into the Fog

Becky Leyser

Have you ever experienced life as walking a path and being caught in a Tulle fog? Becky will be exploring this at her service.

Becky Leyser, a recent Starr King School for the Ministry graduate and the current intern minister at the Livermore UU Church, is interested in becoming a spiritual director--someone who accompanies people looking to live out their highest selves. In the coming year, she will be working as a hospital chaplain in San Francisco.

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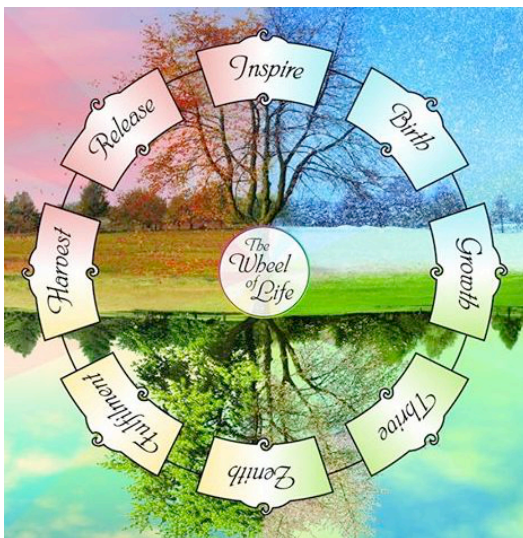
June Birthdays

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.

Date	Name	Date	Name
1	Robin Fink	16	Jens Dill
5	Rene Castle (husband)	18	Diane Meyerson
9	Amy Kinnear	24	David Baker
11	Colleen Dino	24	Keith Lewis

Wheel of Life

June 2016



Our sincere sympathies go out to **Deborah Gallegos** on the loss of her mother

Congratulations to **Jo and Al Murdach** on the birth of their newest grandson

Best wishes to **Andy Mathews** and his bride on their recent wedding

Words of Joy

**For the month that includes
Father's Day, the end of the church
year, and the Summer Solstice**

**by
Joy Atkinson,
Interim Minister**

Here's a little story about a father for your meditation, on the strength of community: A father wanted to leave his estate to his children, but he wanted to be sure that they would stick together and look after each other when he died. So he gave each of them a small stick and asked them to break it, which they easily did. Then he took several of the same size sticks and bound them together, and asked them to break the bundle. No one could. Moral: you are stronger when you are bound together than when separate.

This congregation has certainly pulled together lately, to become like a strong bundle of sticks rather than a collection of fragile single twigs. Your commitment has shown through the many things you have done here: the many volunteer tasks and projects, the committee work, the unanimous vote to support the Black Lives Matter movement, the recent successful pledge drive, candidating week and the unanimous call of your next minister. Congratulations on many jobs well done!

The people I have had a chance to work with are so many—way too numerous to mention here, but I would like to take this opportunity to thank you all for your good work and support as we have moved together through this time of transition. I do want to especially thank Diana Dickerson, current President; Colleen Dino, past President; and the entire Board of Trustees of both years for their great work and support of interim ministry over the last two years.

Next month at this time I will write my final column. It is hard to believe that almost two full “church years” have come and gone since I began in August of 2014. My personal news is that I will go on to serve another congregation in transition: the Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Marin, for the next 18 months, beginning in mid August. I served this congregation for a year as interim back in 2003-2004, and am happy to be able to return and help them through another ministerial transition.

Here is a thought for your summer, wherever you find yourself:

“I wish to begin my summer well; to do something in it worthy of it and me; to transcend my daily routine...to have my immortality now...in the quality of my daily life.”

Henry David Thoreau

Joy



President's Report

***by Diana
Dickerson***



We are awesome! It has been very busy these past two months. As a result of that busyness, we have accomplished a great deal. During May we had our candidate come here for a bit over a week to get to know us and we her. I know that most of us were able to see her in her professional role as well as her social side.

These meetings were the culmination of many months of very hard work by the Search Committee. There was a lot of support from the various committees and many individuals to plan and organize all the activities. Then on Sunday, May 15th, we had a congregational meeting after Rev. Maria Cristina's second sermon. We voted unanimously to call **Rev. Dr. Maria Cristina Vlassidis Burgoa** to be our settled minister.

As we open a new chapter, we must close the old one. We will be sorry to have to say goodbye to Rev. Joy Atkinson. Rev. Joy has been exceptional in her specialized role. She has helped us to prepare for a smooth transition to a new settled minister. Many of us participated in Rev. Joy's "Cottage Meetings" to help us clarify who we are and where we are in our journey and how that meshes with our relationship in our church. I know that it was very interesting to me that Roy and I were not always in the same place in the continuum. Sometimes not even close. Surprise! Rev. Joy has helped many of us to identify our hopes and goals for ourselves and our church. She will be sorely missed.

Rev. Joy will be here until after the first Sunday in July. We will have a special Coffee Hour after the service to thank her for spending the last two years with us and to bid her adieu. If you have plans for that holiday weekend, please take a few minutes to speak with Rev. Joy the week before.

Thank you all

Diana Dickerson



Summer Is Almost Here. Let The Funshops Begin!

We have some exciting events coming up before then end of the RE calendar year on June 15. On **June 5**, we will have a multigenerational flower communion service and teacher appreciation ceremony. On **June 12**, we will hold a children's service. This will be an exciting event. The entire service will center around an interactive play, ***Jumping Mouse***, which the children will perform. We have been working hard to make this an enjoyable experience for the entire congregation. Make sure not to miss it!!

On **June 17**, we begin summer funshops. "What is a summer funshop," you ask? Over the summer, RE focuses on building relationships with adults in the congregation by asking them to lead a funshop. Want to teach dancing, drumming, singing, yoga, gardening, building, or cooking? Then sign up to lead a summer funshop. Look for the sign up in the fellowship hall or email Lea Casini, lea.casini@comcast.net.

I also want to let you know about several UU Camps that will take place this summer that some of you may be interested in checking out. [UU ChaliceCamp!](http://www.chalicecamp.org) (www.chalicecamp.org) **August 8-12, 2016**. Summer day camp UU-style for children entering 1st-6th grades. And, [PCD MUUGs Middle School Camp](http://www.pcdmuugs.org) (www.pcdmuugs.org) **July 4-9, 2016** for 6th to 9th graders.

Last, but not least, enjoy your summer and don't forget to***Live Your Values!***

Allison



Adult Religious Education

ADULT RELIGIOUS EDUCATION – WHAT DAY/TIME IS BEST FOR YOU?

Thank you for telling us about your interests and priorities for Adult Religious Education at Starr King. You identified three priorities, which center on knowing more about: (1) World religions; (2) Unitarian Universalism and the Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA); and (3) the variety of ways in which spirituality is defined and how people live it out.

Now, we would like to know your preferences for the day and time of these programs. We will provide child-care upon request within five business days of the program.

Please click on the Survey Link Below to give us your opinion. You may need to cut and paste the link into your web browser.

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/TGKTPFG>

Please complete the survey by June 10th.

Thank You – On behalf of The Adult Religious Education Committee,

Mileva

<h2><i>Support for LGBTQ</i></h2>
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Hayward Gay Prom

The Twenty-Second Annual Gay Prom Hayward, is set for Saturday June 4 7 pm to 12 am at Chabot College. Parents and Friends of Lesbians and Gays (PFLAG) Hayward/East Bay and Lea Casini from Starr King UU Church are organizing a booth for this event and are looking for volunteers and helpers to help run the booth till 12 am. This is a great way to show and share your support to the LGBTQI community. Please contact Lea Casini at lea.casini@comcast.net. **We do not know if there will be a separate Starr King booth, but we can share this booth as Gay Prom Hayward advertised this event very late!** In the past, we've have had Keith and Mileva Lewis, Allison and Brian, Mary Lasack, and Heidi Green attend, and its a lot of fun. Lastly and most importantly, a \$25 gift donation is required for booth entry so if anyone who is interested and able who would care to donate towards this ,please see Ruth DeSmidt or Lea Casini. Thank you all for your support for LGBTQI rights for all, including teenagers.

Help Needed For Castro Valley Pride Celebration On July 9

Volunteers are needed to set up and staff two booths for the Castro Valley Pride celebration on July 9, one for SKUUC and one for Parents and Friends of Lesbians and Gays (PFLAG) Hayward/East Bay. Set-up starts at 10 am, and the event runs from 12 noon to 5 pm. Please contact Doris Wolf if you wish to help with the SKUUC booth, and Ruth DeSmidt if you wish to help with the PFLAG booth. Sign-up sheets are located on the table in the back of the Social Hall.

Denominational Ideas

By Georgia Gruver

I know many of us have already made up our minds as to who we will vote for in the upcoming California Primary election. This article, which I found on the UUA website, is a good reminder that *every* vote we cast, not just for President, should reflect our UU values. We need to keep those values in mind whenever we vote for any candidate and for or against any proposition.

Vote Your Values

By Jill Goddard, Public Relations Director of the Unitarian Universalist Association

April 15, 2016

From our founding fathers to women's suffrage to voter registration across all 50 states, Unitarian Universalists have a long history of supporting our democracy. Often times, political debates can create fear and division.

This election season, we encourage you to keep heart and vote your values by putting your Unitarian Universalist principles into practice when deciding which political candidate deserves your vote.

Here are seven questions based on our ***seven Principles*** to ask candidates when choosing who will get your vote in this year's local, state, and national elections:

- Do your policy proposals reflect the inherent worth and dignity of every person?
- If elected, how will your everyday decisions demonstrate justice, equity and compassion in human relations?
- How will you encourage acceptance and growth in one another across party lines?
- What insights have you learned from your own search for truth and meaning that will guide you as a political leader?
- What ideas do you have to improve our democratic process?
- Within our international community, how will you work towards a goal of world community with peace, liberty and justice for all?
- Acknowledging our interdependence, how will your decisions impact our planet and future generations?"

WEBSITES which might be of interest:

Besides the UUA (<http://www.uua.org/>) SKUUC is a member of two other organizational groups: **The Pacific Central District** <http://www.pcd-uua.org/districtleadership.htm> and **The Pacific Western Region** <http://www.uua.org/pacific-western>. Check them out for more local news and information.



Welcome, Reverend Maria Cristina!

On May 15, 2016, the 80+ members of the congregation present, voted unanimously to call the **Rev. Dr. Maria Cristina Vlassidis Burgoa** to be our minister, and she accepted the call! Here are some of the slides used to present her to the congregation, for those of you not able to meet her during candidating week, or who missed seeing the display in our lobby for the last month. Just FYI, she prefers to be called Rev. Maria Cristina.

REV. DOCTOR MARIA CRISTINA



Rev. Maria Cristina Vlassidis Burgoa immigrated to the United States from Chile in the late 1970s. She holds a Law Degree from the City University of New York School of Law, a Master of Divinity degree from Harvard Divinity School, and has just successfully defended her doctoral dissertation in the Religion, Gender, and Culture Program at Harvard University. On May 26th she will be awarded the degree of Doctor in Theology.

On September 22, 2013, Rev. Maria Cristina was ordained to the Unitarian Universalist Ministry, by First Parish Cambridge Unitarian Universalist church. For the past three years, she has been serving as Assistant Minister at First Parish in Brookline, Massachusetts. In November of 2015, the MFC granted her first renewal towards final fellowship.

With more than three decades of work experience related to social justice, Rev. Maria Cristina received her call to Unitarian Universalist ministry while working in an AIDS hospice. Her professional experience includes working with mothers in prison, people living with HIV/AIDS, immigrants, survivors of domestic violence, people living with traumatic brain injury, multicultural community organizations, and children with disabilities. Her volunteer work as advocate and community organizer includes working with the lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, gender non-conforming, and two-spirit communities. Rev. Maria Cristina has a son, Erick, and lives with her mother, Lily and their two cats: Tobias and Rafiki. She enjoys quilting, photography, gardening, and teaching Spanish through music and dance.

My name is Rev. Maria Cristina Vlassidis Burgoa.

My ministry is deeply rooted in Liberation Theology and committed to social justice. my ancestors, I hospitality and kindness. At the the belief in our transform and the world. Like textured tapestry, my together a canopy of indigenous, Earth-centered ceremonies, Buddhist meditation, and our Unitarian Universalist Principles.



Guided by the wisdom of strive to practice radical compassionate loving heart of my ministry is power to heal and ourselves, each other, a strong and beautifully spiritual practices weave

Small Group Ministry Volunteers at Alameda County Food Bank

By Bob Britton

Our Wednesday afternoon Small Group Ministry (SGM) members learned a lot about hunger in Alameda County when we volunteered for a three-hour shift at the Alameda County Community Food Bank (ACCFB) in Oakland on May 11.

The need to feed people in Alameda County is tremendous. The ACCFB serves 1 in 5 Alameda County residents. The continuing effects of the great recession of 2008 and growing income inequality have put a tremendous strain on families that cannot survive without this food.

The ACCFB is the main collector and distributor of food to various client charitable organizations in the county. The client charitable organizations and local food banks receive all perishable food from ACCFB for free, while paying only 15 cents per pound for all other food. South Hayward Parish and FESCO are among 240 community organizations that receive food from the ACCFB.

ACCFB distributed 34 million pounds of food in 2015, over 25 million meals. The ACCFB now spends over \$4 million on food purchases each year. Most of that money comes from individual contributions. The federal government provides only 15% of their food budget, and food barrel donations are an even smaller part of their food processing operation. ACCFB does a fantastic job squeezing their funds to provide healthy, balanced food to those in need. Most of the food purchased, processed, and distributed is fresh produce. They are able to purchase their fresh produce at an average price of 15 cents per pound and all other food goods at an average price of 65 cents per pound—thus turning every \$1 of donations into \$6 of food.

Though the ACCFB has their own paid staff, they could not possibly process and distribute all of this food without volunteers. Each day they run two 3-hour shifts of volunteers, involving 15,000 volunteers providing 95,000 volunteer hours annually. Our Wednesday afternoon SGM members spent their shift bagging fresh carrots and oranges with a couple dozen other volunteers. At the end of our shift we learned that we had bagged 11,400 pounds of produce, enough for 9400 meals.

Our Wednesday afternoon group is one of three SGM groups at Starr King. Our group--Evelyn Cormier, Marge Schwab, Terry Hunt, Beverly Powell, Kathryn Lamar, Chris Crandell, and Bob Britton--has met twice a month for two hours since October, exploring spiritual, religious, and philosophical issues, while also finding deep intimacy and community with each other. One vehicle for building that closeness and community is doing a service project like our volunteer shift at the food bank. If you long for greater connections and deeper friendships at Starr King, talk to one of our members to see if this might work for you.



Kathryn and Terry bagging fruit!



Bev and Evelyn preparing bags!

Prepare for the Committee Fair!

Sunday, June 5, immediately following the service, we will be hosting our annual Committee Fair. This is where each of the committees that together run our congregational life, present themselves to you, describe their activities for you, and solicit new members for the coming church year that starts on July 5.

Here is a list of the current committees that could be represented at the fair, along with short descriptions of their functions.

Finance Committee: The Finance Committee, prepares a proposed annual operating budget for submission to the Board of Trustees. This Committee also maintains pledge records, reporting to the Treasurer as required and has the general responsibility for fundraising and for asset investment.

Worship Committee: The Worship Committee's mission is to enhance the worship life of the church. This is accomplished through the support of the professional ministry with preparation, research, assistance, and co-creation of lay-led worship.

Religious Education Committee: The Religious Education Committee is responsible for activities and classes in the children's program, including curricula, objectives and standards. It arranges for a Director of Religious Education and all necessary staff and supplies to carry out this program.

Adult RE Committee: The purpose of the Starr King Adult Religious Education (RE) Committee is to develop a variety of classes, workshops, or seminars which will nurture and stimulate the spiritual and personal growth of our adult church community.

Hospitality and Membership Committee: This committee ensures a welcoming, hospitable, and inviting environment for all. It develops the means (or methods) by which people enter and participate in the life of the community and become members as they are ready.

Pastoral Care Committee: The Pastoral Care Committee's primary task is to attend to the spiritual and material needs of any congregant facing a personal crisis. To this end the committee provides meals, transportation, and cards. The members also make telephone calls of concern or condolence, visit congregants in nursing homes, hospitals or those confined to their home; and keeps a list of Durable Medical Equipment which can be borrowed from the members of the congregation.

Anti Racism Multicultural Alliance (ARMCA): ARMCA sponsors programs, events, workshops, and classes to increase awareness of conscious and unconscious racism and the unearned advantages that constitute White privilege.

The **Peace and Justice Action Team (PAJAT)** *works to address state, national, and global issues relevant to our shared passions and principles.*

Green Sanctuary: Our UU 7th principle is respect for the interdependent web of all existence of which we are a part. Green Sanctuary aims to bring this principle alive in our modern congregational and personal lives. The committee is guided by principles, goals, and educational materials from the UU Earth Ministry, which has accredited Starr King UU congregation as a Green Sanctuary. To support these principles and to maintain this accreditation, the committee works to build awareness of the significance and complexity of environmental issues, encourages personal lifestyle changes, engages in community action on environmental issues, strengthens the connection between spiritual practice and earth consciousness, and works to heal environmental injustices.

Usher Committee: The key objectives of the ushers are to ensure that congregants have a peaceful worship experience, and ensuring that ushers are available each Sunday as well as for Memorials

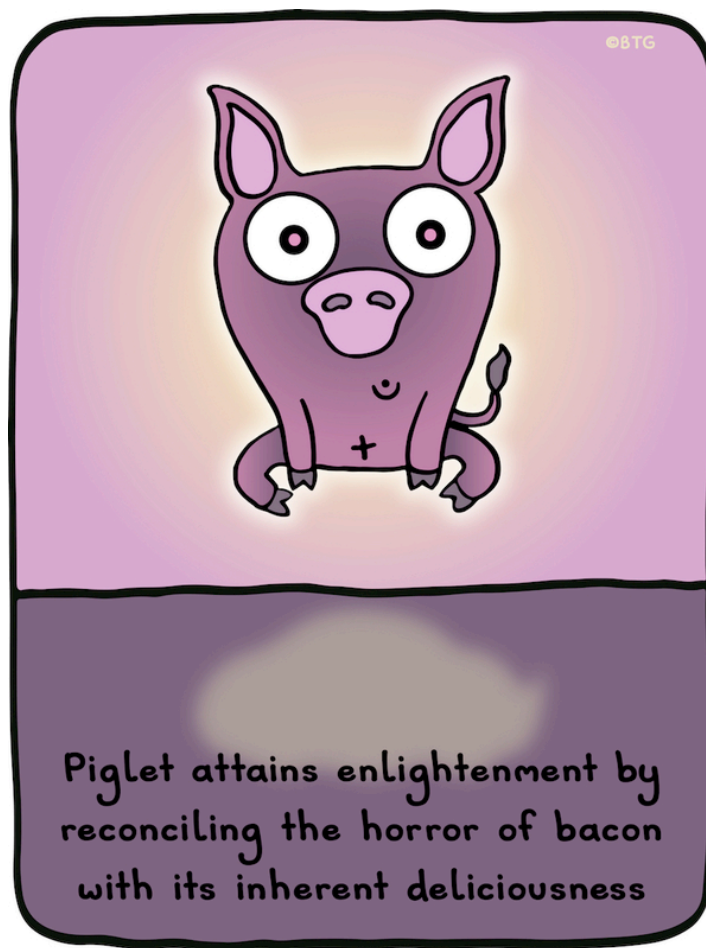
Social Committee: We would like to resurrect our Social Committee, to coordinate our various efforts allowing for community members to socialize and get acquainted with each other. We already have a number of social activities sponsored by individuals or groups (e.g., ARMCA movie night, a hiking club, game night, monthly Sunday brunches), we just need a committee responsible for ensuring that we have a continuing, balanced social program!

Continued from previous page

Interior Committee: This committee ensures a clean functioning environment for all church members and activities, by arranging and maintaining organized storage for all kitchen, bathroom, dining, and cleaning supplies, and ensuring that coffee is present and in proper supply; scheduling and supervising floor and carpet cleaning; and ensuring that for each event there are appropriate supplies, space, organization of set up, clean up, lock up. In addition, a gift coordinator, in cooperation with the minister, evaluates whether in-kind gifts are truly of use to the church, acknowledges gifts that are accepted, and rejects with thanks any gifts that are not needed.

Grounds Committee: The Grounds Committee maintains the church grounds, keeps all church areas safe, and improves the grounds with new plants, keeping weeds under control.

Buildings and Maintenance Committee: The tentative goals of the newly reconstituted Buildings and Maintenance Committee's tentative goals are to monitor the buildings and property; identify any problems with the condition of Starr King UU Church buildings and property; prioritize maintenance tasks; determine course of action regarding maintenance tasks, including identifying church members who will help out); and communicate costs to the Board of Trustees for their consideration and approval



Church Calendar For June, 2016

For details about any of these activities, go to starrking.org/calendar, and let your curser hover over a particular event.

← Prev		June 2016					Next →	
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday		
			1 7:00 pm ***** Evening ***** Meditation *****	2 7:00 pm ***** Board of ***** Trustees ***** Meeting *****	3 7:00 pm ***** Churning ***** Circus *****	4 7:00 pm Day ***** Pique *****		
5 7:00 am ***** Worship ***** Service ***** 7:45 am First ***** Sunday ***** Mother's Circle ***** 7:45 am ***** Committee Fair *****	6 7:00 am ***** Small Group ***** Ministry *****	7 9:00 am ***** Adult PE - ***** World Navigators ***** 7:00 pm SCM ***** Meeting ***** 7:30 pm ***** Committee ***** Pastoral Care ***** 7:00 pm ***** Committee ***** Building Your ***** Open Theology *****	8 12:00 pm Small ***** Group Ministry ***** 7:00 pm Staff ***** Meeting ***** 7:30 pm ***** Pastoral Care ***** 7:00 pm ***** Committee ***** Building Your ***** Open Theology ***** 7:00 pm ***** APWCA *****	9 7:30 am BKT *****	10	11		
12 7:00 am ***** Worship ***** Service ***** 7:45 pm ***** Peace and ***** Justice Meeting ***** 7:00 pm New ***** Member ***** Luncheon *****	13	14 9:00 am ***** Adult PE ***** Committee ***** 7:00 pm ***** Building Your ***** Open Theology *****	15	16 7:15 am ***** Worship ***** Committee *****	17	18 4:30 pm ***** Game Night *****		
19 7:00 am ***** Worship ***** Service ***** 7:45 pm ***** Churn ***** Buddies ***** Open *****	20 7:00 am ***** Small Group ***** Ministry *****	21	22 12:00 pm Small ***** Group Ministry *****	23	24	25		
26 7:00 am ***** Worship ***** Service *****	27	28 1:00 pm ***** Executive ***** Committee ***** 7:00 pm ***** Building Your ***** Open Theology *****	29	30				

Calendar developed and supported by Karen O'Shea