



Newsletter

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

August 2016

THE FLAMING CHALICE

Sunday Worship: 10:30 am

August Service Preview

**Church Office Hours: Tues, Wed, & Thur;
9:30 am to 2:30 pm**

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August 7

Readers Theater; "War and Peace"

Led by Al Murdach

Want to hear about fireworks at a Unitarian General Assembly (GA)? Come to this year's Readers Theater to witness the turmoil that erupted in the 1917 GA over a motion to endorse the U. S. involvement in World War I. Pro-war and anti-war folks really mixed it up back then. You will be both entertained and enlightened by how our forebears behaved.

August 14

Your One Wild and Precious Life

Lay Led by Bob Simoni

Join us today for a fun and unusual service. Many of the service elements will be chosen or made up on the spot, including some short improvised homilies. We did a similar service last year; everyone enjoyed it.

August 21

Making Welcome

As we get ready to welcome Rev. Maria Cristina to our pulpit and to our lives, many of us are wondering how to make her feel welcome and what our different relationships with her will be like. This service explores the fun and the challenges of building beloved community together, and of opening our hearts and spirits to this amazing adventure that is just beginning

August 28

The Purpose of Poetry

What is the purpose of poetry? What is the purpose of religion? How do the two purposes overlap? Our speaker, Rev. Dr. Lynn Ungar, is both a UU minister and a published poet, and will share some of both her theology and her poetry.

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August Birthdays

Date	Name	Date	Name
August 2	Joyce Kinnear	August 19	Frank Burton
August 2	Bob Stortz	August 20	Marge Schwab
August 4	Sylvia Blake	August 21	Regina Fassano
August 13	Al Murdoch	August 25	Garald Mosher
August 13	John Gruver	August 27	Jennifer Koney
August 16	Tasha Casini	August 30	Terry Preston
August 18	Lena Rose Kiesling		

Our mild weather is warming up for our summer activities. It is time for water fun. I always think of playing in the sprinklers with all the neighborhood kids, and a few adults. We made up game after game to stay wet and cool. Swimming was always popular, but not all of the families could afford the fees for using the local pools. We worked things out and stayed cool one way or another.

As our temperature goes up we are preparing to welcome our new minister, Rev. Maria Cristina, and her Mom, Lily, to California. They will be on Panda Way so they will be close to our church. There is a pool very close to them. I hope that will be good for them both. This is an exciting time for all of us. Rev. Maria Cristina will be in the pulpit on Sunday, Sept. 4th – Labor Day weekend.

I want to thank the Worship Committee again for all their hard work on our Sunday Services. We have had a wide variety of services in July and I am looking forward to more new ideas during this month. It is good to know that we have such imaginative and hard-working people at the helm when there is a need. Take a look at the upcoming services. There are lots of things to look forward to.

The Pastoral Care Committee is tackling some issues of interest. One is fire safety, another is First Aid. It is amazing the progress they have made. Some people have already signed up for training with our new defibrillator. I hope we never need it, but it is good to know that we have it and people who know how to use it.

Enjoy this month and get ready for our annual Kick-off on Sept. 11th after the service.

In fellowship,
Diana



Summer fun shops are here! The latest schedule for the summer activities is below. Please contact Lea Casini if you can help at (510) 537-7419.

The schedule:

August 7 Flower Pressing (Donnie Rett and Michelle Lovett)

August 14 Music Sing Along and Bring Your Instrument from Home (Bill and Ruth DeSmidt)

August 21 Scratch Coding (Roy Dickerson)

August 28 Learning Community through Arts and Crafts (Lorie Miller and Al and Jo Murdach)

September 4 Rocketry (Jon and Carolyn)





Showing of the Movie, "Trapped"--

This is the new documentary film about some of the 288 laws passed by right-wing legislators since 2010 restricting the operation of abortion clinics and the effects they have had on the abortion providers and the women who need their services.

Many of you were among the 20 people present when the film was shown at the Castro Valley Library on Sunday, June 26. It was followed by a discussion of the film and people's reactions to it, facilitated by Mileva Lewis. The film was at times disturbing and at times tugged at the heartstrings for the women whose pregnancies had resulted from violations and who, because of the burdensome laws, were not able to obtain an abortion. At times the stories were a stark reminder that even though Roe v. Wade is still the law of the land, the fight over this issue is never finished.

The Committee was excited to learn that on Monday, June 27 the U.S. Supreme Court had ruled in a 5 to 3 decision that one of the laws, HB 2 in Texas, imposed an undue burden on the constitutional right of women to obtain an abortion.

This felt almost personal to some of us, since the clinics, providers, and women using their services in Texas were a significant part of the film, which included interviews with people whose appeal all the way to the Supreme Court resulted in the law being overturned. The effects of the court ruling go far beyond Texas because it will also apply in several other states which have passed similar laws. We're grateful that we haven't had to deal with such laws in California.

Fracking and other oil extraction methods banned in unincorporated Alameda County--

Why does this matter? Fracking and other high-intensity operations to extract oil from the earth result in much more global warming than burning gasoline, diesel fuel, and natural gas. They often also result in more contamination of clean air and water than conventional oilfield operations.

Some on the committee have been working toward an ordinance banning fracking and other extreme extraction methods for oil and gas in Alameda County for over two years. The Planning Commission voted to ban these methods last month, and the Board of Supervisors followed suit on July 19. Recent Interim Minister Rev. Joy Atkinson starred in the documentary movie, "Faith Against Fracking," which was part of this campaign.

The passage of the ban on fracking and other extreme extraction methods will free the Committee's time, so that members can focus on other critical aspects of climate change in the months ahead.

What is the Safety Committee & Why Should I Care by Beverly Powell

You may have heard around church a mention of a new (yes, another!) initiative at Starr King. This new “thing” is the Safety Committee, technically a sub-committee of Pastoral Care. The Safety Committee (SC) came about in an effort to better serve the people of the church. If you look at the Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA) website, ministering to the needs of a congregation goes beyond cards, calls, meals, and visits in times of need. It can include helping to create a “Safe Congregation,” which is an active effort to anticipate and solve problems before they happen or at least before they become troublesome.

Below are some of the answers to questions that have come up:

1. **How did the idea of a SC arise, and what is its purpose?** Since late last year, the Pastoral Care Committee has been working with the Board of Directors to find ways to improve congregational safety to further minister to the needs of church members. The SC was set up as a sub-committee of Pastoral Care to evaluate and address recommendations made in a November 2015 “Safety Check,” conducted by member and retired Fire Chief Mike Preston. Mike has given generously of his time and expertise to help the church come up to date and up to code in our building and its facilities. Changes recommended by Mike are in some case required by law, and all are intended to improve physical safety of our congregation, guests and visitors. In January, the recommendations were presented to the Board. The Board agreed that Pastoral Care should expand its ministry to include follow-up on many of Mike’s points.

SC was set up to focus on issues like data security, fire codes, safety signage, training on medical emergencies, installation of a new Automated External Defibrillator (AED), and other building, data, training and procedure details. All of these things impact the safety of the congregation and building and property security. The process is just beginning, and that is a key reason why it makes sense to have a few people meet regularly on the topic of Starr King Church safety.

2. **Is that the group that made the chairs move at the back of the Sanctuary?** Yes, and thank you for your flexibility! Mike Preston’s view, as a proxy for Fire Department officials, was that the width of the aisles in the Sanctuary specifically was a problem. Wide aisles make easy exit in an emergency, and it is a code issue. Under Hayward ordinances, side aisles must be a minimum of 36 inches wide, and the center aisle should probably be wider, because people often walk side-by-side up and down the center aisle. A minimum width of 36 inches is required by code for all passage-ways in buildings open to the public. At the rear of the Sanctuary, the back wall should be kept clear of chairs for easy exit in an emergency.

The Committee realizes various groups use the perimeters of the Sanctuary before, during and after services, and that the new set up recommended for code compliance may not YET be perfect for everyone. Committee members have already listened to comments from a number of people and will be reaching out for more. All affected committees, such as, Worship, Membership, Ushers, Religious Exploration, Building and Grounds, and others are asked to provide feedback to interact about this and other issues. The Safety Committee is open to everyone’s ideas within the parameters the regulations set.

If YOU have any feedback on this issue, please contact any member of the SC. The Committee members are Chairperson, Georgia Gruver; Representative of the Board Bob Britton; and new Starr King Church member Beverly Powell. All are in the directory!

3. **What is happening?** There is an ongoing effort following up on building security and safety matters cited in Mike’s Safety Check. Additionally, we have already completed a data security analysis in response to a specific recommendation in the safety check to review the current state of our network, email, and computer hard drive security. Overall data security is in great shape.

The most immediate NEXT priority is to train some members of the congregation on the new AED device. We will install one of these devices in the church as soon as training is completed. Mike Preston negotiated for the AED machine to be provided at no cost to us. Having this life-saving piece of equipment is a real plus to our church's safety.

The two training classes for AED proficiency have been scheduled for Fellowship Hall on the following dates:

- a. **Saturday, July 23 from noon to 4 pm**
- b. **Tuesday, August 9 from 6 to 10 pm**

Twenty people have already signed up for the available spots in these first two AED classes. If you are interested in this or other emergency medical training, please contact Georgia Gruver to be placed on a list for future classes. Also, by requesting or receiving AED training you also indicate willingness to take AED refresher classes required by law. These are given every two years. Other classes on CPR, First Aid, and response capability for other medical emergencies are planned. These classes will also be run on church premises, and spots in the classes have been filling up. If you have not yet signed up, it is not too late!

Other pressing matters The Safety Committee is researching and/or planning include:

- Exit maps for the building, so that leaving in the event of an emergency is as efficient as possible;
- Improved building and property perimeter security;
- Information for the congregation on safe use of email and other communications media as we interact with the Starr King website and email server;
- Education, training and drills on the sorts of emergencies that could affect our congregation, such as medical emergency, fire, earthquake, etc.

In today's complex environment, there are a multitude of risks to our church property and congregation. Many of these are outlined on the UUA's and its insurer's (Church Mutual) websites. The SC's approach to safety and security is based on specific risks that might apply here, based on our building, our surroundings and, our choices as a congregation.

4. **How do I participate?** If you are interested in medical emergencies training, please sign up now by emailing Georgia Gruver at gggruver@comcast.net. Even if the class you are interested in is taken, there will be a waiting list.

If training for one of these medical emergencies is not for you, the first big impact on you might be a fire drill later this year. Several other things have to be in place before that happens, including building exit maps. There will be a meeting giving everyone some important background on fire drills, complete with written reference materials. After that, we will set up a "live" drill.

Churches are increasingly faced with the same harsh realities and risks that businesses and government entities have dealt with for years. Using available resources from the UUA, its insurer Church Mutual, and other institutions and groups more experienced than Starr King, the SC is working hard to minister to and protect our fellow members and our sacred places by mitigating risks based on analysis of exposure to specific risks. The committee needs everyone's help, cooperation, and feedback about the church's overall safety and security.



Special Activities

Fall Mystery Dinner Call for Help (October 15 and 16)

At our recent Committee Fair, Glenn Jacob volunteered to become the new chairperson on the fund raising committee. He has been involved in many of our past fund raisers and has been a Mystery Dinner writer/director, Auctioneer and a bingo caller.

The next fund raising event will be the new Mystery Dinner. The script is written, and Glenn is getting the cast together. It will feature some old faces, as well as some who have not been in our shows before.

The show dates will be: An evening show on Saturday, October 15 and an afternoon matinee on October 16. The exact times are TBA. The show is called: "Lights, Camera... Murder!" and features a cast of unusual characters behind the scenes of a big Hollywood movie production. It should be a fun dinner theater event.

Here's to having a great time, and making our budget deficit disappear!

Want to volunteer? We have a suggestion!

Have fun at coffee hour and help serve! Signups are needed for Sunday Coffee. It's a great way to get to know the SKUU congregation as well as to try out new recipes. Have fun talking with everyone! The signup sheet is on the Community Table in the Fellowship Hall.

CV Pride on July 9

Church members volunteered at the Castro Valley Pride event in Castro Valley on July 9th.



Castro Valley Pride volunteers—Doris Wolf, Stuart Fink and Georgia Gruver
(photo by Lea Casini)

Church Calendar for August 2016

For details about these activities, go to www.starrking.org/calendar, and hover your cursor over an event.

August 2016						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2 * 10:30 am Safety Committee	3 * 7 pm Evening Meditation	4 * 7 pm Board of Trustees Meeting	5 * 7 pm Drumming Circle	6 * 7 pm Reader's Theater Rehearsal
7 * 10:30 am Worship Service	8	9 * 5 pm AED Training	10 * 3 pm Pastoral Care Committee * 7 pm Committee Council	11 * 7:30 pm SKIT	12	13
14 * 10:30 am Worship Service * 12:15 pm PJAT & ARMCA	15	16 * 10:30 am Safety Committee	17	18 * 7 pm Worship Committee	19	20 * 6:30 pm Game Night
21 * 10:30 am Worship Service * 12 noon Church Bookstore Open	22	23 * 1 pm Executive Committee Meeting	24	25	26	27
28 * 10:30 am Worship Service	29	30	31			

Starr King UU Church Ongoing Activities	
Activity	Event Schedule
Church Bookstore	Open on the third Sunday of the month, after the service.
Drum Circle	Meets on the first Friday of the month, from 7 to 9 pm, in the Sanctuary. Open to all adults and mature children.
Evening Meditation	Meets every Wednesday, from 7 to 8 pm. Open to all.
Starr King Elderberries	Meets on the third Wednesday at noon. Bring your lunch. Open to all self-identified elders.
Morning Discovery	Meets on the first and third Wednesdays, from 10 to 11:15 am, in the Fellowship Hall. Open to all.
Small Group Ministry	Meets twice a month for a predetermined number of months. Registration is required, and groups are open to new members twice a year. Contact sgm@starrking.org for more information.
SKIT (Starr King Improv Troupe)	Meets on the second Thursday of the month at 7:30 pm. Open to all.