



Newsletter

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

October 2016

THE FLAMING CHALICE

Sunday Worship: 10:30 am

October Service Preview

**Church Office Hours: Tues, Wed, &
Thur;**

9:30 am to 2:30 pm

22577 Bayview Avenue
Hayward, CA 94541

Office Manager: Kelli Abatangelo

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Newsletter: newslettereditor@starrking.org

Parish Minister:

Rev. Maria Cristina Vlassidis Burgoa
minister@starrking.org

Church President: Diana Dickerson

president@starrking.org

Home phone: 510-786-2922

Director of Religious Exploration:

Allison Prout

dre@starrking.org

DRE Office Hours: Wed, Thurs; 10 am to 2 pm

October 2. Salsa, Soul and Spirit. Based on the book by Juana Bordas, we are invited to reflect on multicultural leadership approaches. We will consider how incorporating many cultural perspectives offers us an opportunity to appreciate differences, value the unique contributions of diverse groups, and promote learning from many orientations. Multicultural leadership is uniquely suited to our mosaic world because it incorporates the influences, practices and values of a variety of cultures in a respectful and productive manner. Please come prepared with your dancing shoes for our three minute salsa lesson!

October 9. Voices of the Turtle: From Resistance to Power.

Join us as we gather to honor International Indigenous People's Day through poetry, song, and storytelling. International Indigenous People's Day reaffirms native people's decisions to defend our culture, education, and religion as fundamental to our Identity as Peoples, reclaiming and maintaining our own forms of spiritual life and communal coexistence, in an intimate relationship with our Mother Earth.

October 16: The other side of anger. Anger rises in the mind and spreads through our body, triggering scenarios filled with blaming, shaming, and hurting others. Tibetan Buddhism recognizes that the flip side of anger is wisdom. It is the signal that tells us when something is wrong, when something needs to be addressed, and helps us move forward towards change and transformation.

October 23. Led by Starr King School for the Ministry Student Lauren Way

Lauren Way is a Starr King seminarian, where she currently serves on the board of trustees. She is a Learning Fellow with the Church of the Larger Fellowship. Her vision of ministry is one that is truly collaborative and multi-generational with an emphasis on understanding and exploring systems to make manifest a beloved community of intersectional justice. In her spare time, you'll find Lauren at the theater or a science museum.

October 30. Day of the Dead. In the Mexican tradition, the dead are honored with beautiful altars, music, dancing, and offerings of their favorite foods. We are grateful for rituals that encourage us to open our hearts and express our love for our dearly departed. Join us in commemorating the Days of the Dead by bringing a photo of your beloveds, flowers, or significant object to add to our community altar.

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October Birthdays

Date	Name
October 7	Wendy Robertson
October 8	Scott Kinnear
October 16	Sheila McClellan
October 19	David Miyoshi

Religious Explorations: A Legacy of Critical Thinking and Compassion

From the Minister,
Rev. Maria Cristina Vlassidis Burgoa



More than a decade ago when I applied for a position as Youth Minister, I was interviewed by the youth themselves (mostly high school age) who would be the leaders in the decision making process. They wanted to know what kind of music I liked, if I would feel comfortable taking direction from them, and what I could offer in terms of spiritual guidance that was not preachy or sound too much like their parents. When I told them that my taste in music was ever expanding and that lately I listened to a lot of straight-edged hard core punk rock because my son was in a band called “Cut the Sh*t” they perked up and gave this 40 something a chance. In the two years that we were together, we faced many challenges together and learned important lessons about teen suicide, body image, peer pressure, bullying, sexual orientation and gender expression, the difference between charity and solidarity, building your own theology, and community service both in our local community and in New Orleans in the aftermath of hurricane Katrina. I will be forever grateful for the opportunity to learn that supporting our youth is not separate from nurturing our community, but a vital part of ministering to our whole congregation. I learned that you can tell a lot about a congregation based on how much (or how little) involvement and commitment there is to nourish the Religious Exploration program. For many congregations that wish to grow, become more diverse, and remain relevant in these times, supporting the RE program is key in building the Beloved Community.

As a denomination, we have a long history of a strong youth movement that has always been a step ahead of the times. When Unitarians and Universalists merged formally in 1961, the youth from both denominations had already merged and were conducting joint gatherings eight years prior to the official merger. Today, our visionary and courageous youth continue to lead our denomination in all fronts, especially with regards to social justice issues. Whether it is engaging in our Tapestry of Faith curriculum to develop a strong sense of self while pondering the big questions and mysteries of life, engaging their curiosity about world religions, or developing their sense of commitment as stewards of Mother Earth, the children and youth of Starr King will take those important lessons with them. This is our legacy: To participate in the formation tomorrow’s leaders by instilling in them the principles of Unitarian Universalism which will be part of their moral compass.

The philosophical roots of our RE program run deeply from the extraordinary thinking of Unitarian Universalist Religious educator, Sophia Lyons Fahs. In the writings of Rev. Barry Andrews, Sophia is described as “a progressive religious educator who believed deeply in engaging children... stimulating in them a sense of wonder and curiosity.... and equipping them to deal with everyday problems...” Sophia’s approach departed from mainstream pedagogical methods and encouraged a philosophy of life “that gathers up into one emotional whole.” Rather than telling children what to believe, she encouraged reflection and discussion

about the mysteries of the universe. She was the first one to develop a religious education curriculum offering children stories, myths, and legends from diverse cultures as well as scientific discoveries. She put aside rigid lesson plans and allowed for self-expression and insight through art, gardening, and role-playing. Her lessons encouraged ideas and beliefs that were inclusive and ever expanding “gateways to wider understanding.” This approach recognized the different development stages and the need to offer children and youth alternative world views that might promote both critical thinking and compassion: “It is more important to encourage self-reflection, critical thinking and the development of one’s inner resources than to reinforce rigid beliefs. Only in this way will our children learn to promote global peace and human solidarity.”

Sophia Lyons Fah’s words continue to be our guiding light. We too are committed to offering our children and youth a rich, holistic, and sustainable RE program to support their spiritual development and well-being. As our congregation undergoes tremendous change, we are also experiencing exponential growth in our RE program. In addition to having a new minister, our Religious Exploration (RE) program is growing to include three different age groups. This is a good thing! And as with all important programs and events in our community, we rely on volunteers. You may or may not know that Allison, Director of RE, is only with us part-time (20 hour per week) and that she stretches her schedule on a regular basis in order to ensure that our programs run smoothly. But even with her generous contribution beyond her duties, we need more volunteers in order to comply with safety guidelines by having two unrelated adults in the classroom at all times. I have happily signed up to spend my one Sunday a month away from the pulpit to be an assistant teacher in the RE classrooms. I believe that our growth and sense of community depend on having a strong RE program that responds to the needs of existing members and could potentially attract new families. I also believe that “if you build it they will come” and hope that you will join me in signing up as a volunteer.

With Much Gratitude and Love,

Rev. Maria Cristina



***Starr King UU Church Board of
Trustees,
By Diana Dickerson***



Our new minister, Rev. Maria Cristina, and her mother, Lily, are here and blossoming in our midst. We have already been able to share Lily's birthday and Rev. Maria Cristina's followed shortly after. What fun it is to be able to share these landmarks together. Lily and Walt will be working on getting more planters at our church. I can hardly wait for our next harvest time.

Rev. Maria Cristina did not wait until the Labor Day service. She jumped right in and her participation brought additional warmth to our services. She also attended the Eden Area Interfaith Council meeting. Rev. Maria Cristina is very involved in social justice issues.

We have all been busy this September. Our picnic at Lake Chabot to welcome everyone back from the summer holidays was a huge success. There was a lot of yummy food and games and a boat ride. The Children's RE Council did a terrific job and I found it to be a blast.

On Saturday, September 17th, we had an extra special ARMCA movie night. Our Sikh friends brought a wonderful dinner to share with us and other visitors. They brought "enough food for an army" my mother often said. We enjoyed the meal and the movie, "Divided We Fall." It is special when we celebrate with our friends from our church and with other faith groups. The discussion was very touching.

This is the time for us to get to know Rev. Maria Cristina and Lily. Both of these women are already bringing more life (plants) into our sanctuary and throughout the building. It is terrific to see love and growth all around us. I hope we will have many years together.

In fellowship,

Diana Dickerson



2016 – 2017 RE Positioned for Growth

By Allison Prout

It is an exciting time for Starr King RE. We have outgrown our one class program. I have been thinking very seriously about how to structure a new program to meet our needs. Taking care of the needs of both younger and older children is important to the health and growth of the program, and the congregation as a whole. New families will be more likely to stay if we offer consistent childcare. The development of our youth is also crucial. Offering a class for youth will enable families to stay in the church longer and provides primary school children a path to follow. With three classes, we can cover our current needs and will be positioned for future growth.

My greatest challenge in creating a three-tier program is recruiting enough volunteers to maintain our safety standards and not burnout our teachers. My plan calls for three teachers each week; one for nursery level, one for primary level and one for youth. I will act as a 4th volunteer who circulates between classes to make sure everyone has what they need and ensures safety standards are met to the best of our ability. I will also be in charge of welcoming new families and explaining our offerings.

I hope that teachers and families with school-age children (that have been in the church for at least one year), will consider helping out once a month. And, that occasional volunteers will consider helping out every other month. If we all chip in, I believe we can succeed without overburdening volunteers. It is an exciting time and I encourage everyone to get involved in passing on our UU values to future generations.

Live Your Values!

Allison Prout



What's On the Church Website? Should You Care?

by Nancy Harrison, Website Editor

The church website is *our* church website. While much of it is directed toward the public at large, to tell them about us and encourage them to visit, much of it is directed at us, to help us learn and make it easier to do our church work. There's probably a lot you don't know. For example, one page attempts to list ALL our many church committees and groups, their meeting schedules, and their leaders. You can click on any group and learn more about it. You can look at official church documents, find email addresses of all the church members, listen to past sermons, see what's coming up, find old issues of the Chalice, read testimonials, credos, stories and histories, and much more.

As Chair of the Communications Committee, Melody Appleton works to ensure that all our channels of communication work together smoothly. As Webmaster, Beth Ogilvie makes the church website work. As Editor, I do much of the writing for the website. But the church website belongs to all of us, not to me and Beth and Melody.

As Editor, I need help from everyone to make the website represent us accurately, and to make it as useful as possible. For example, those group and committee pages are intended to help all of us know who's doing what, and why. I can keep them accurate and up to date **ONLY** if someone tells me what's going on. More important spiritually are the pages that try to say who we are and what we believe. Do you agree with them?

If you have any comments, suggestions, or questions about our website, please contact me. My email address is noo.nancy@yahoo.com; my phone number is 510-861-0687. I do respond to texts. (I also welcome face to face conversations!)

But what's on the website? And how can you find it? To find the answers, click on one of the two links below to get to a lesson that's right for you.

Newer or casual members [CLICK HERE](#).

Long-time, hard-working church members [CLICK HERE](#).

(If you're reading hard copy and want a lesson, ask me, and I'll figure out how to help).



Donate to Starr King while Shopping at Amazon

In case you haven't heard, Starr King has an agreement with Amazon where any purchase you make at Amazon through our special link will give us a significant commission generally around 5%. We have made it even easier to find this link by putting it at the bottom right-hand corner on every page on our church's website. Just click on the link that says "[GO TO AMAZON to Donate to Starr King UU Church](#)".

There is another link just below it that says "[Learn more about donating through Amazon](#)". This link will take you to the page that explains how the program works, what percent commissions we receive on what type of merchandise, as well as how much we have earned each month this year. For example, we made \$54.19 in August but \$158.89 in Feb after the Christmas shopping commissions came in.

We think we could be making a lot more from these commissions, so please bookmark the link in your browser. This will help you easily access the site. Tell your friends and family to start using the link, too.

Thanks for helping to support Starr King at no additional cost to yourselves!

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.

Special Activities

Stewardship Transitions for Small Congregations; October 3

How can small congregations become aware of and adopt successful stewardship concepts and practices as they grow? This webinar will assist with talking about money, the stewardship team and minister's access to pledge information, migrating from a spreadsheet to a database, educating your fellowship about the range and distribution of pledges, keeping the personal stewardship connections intact as you grow and electronic giving options.

Kay Crider and Rev. Jan Christian will present a webinar on October 3 from 6:30 to 7:45 pm.

To register, [click here](#)

(<http://register.pwruua.org/forms/?d=PWR&fid=1041>)

Weed n' Feed

Saturday, October 8 from 10 to 12 noon for gardening and 12 to 1 pm for lunch

Calling all green and brown thumbs! Please join Green Sanctuary Committee to get Starr King UU (SKUU's) grounds ready for winter.

Please bring your own gloves, sunscreen, hat and any gardening tools you may wish to use/share.

Sign-up sheet in back of fellowship hall.

*If you're able to do some gardening between any of the Weed & Feeds, Walt Korus could always use some help. So feel free to check in with him and "come on down!"

Questions? Please contact Colleen Saia, 510-773-1497



Fall Mystery Dinner, by Glen Jacob

Our October Fund Raiser is Coming on October 15 and 16

For months now, I have been hearing from many folks that we need more social events. And then at the annual meeting when our church budget was presented, many also called for more fund raisers.

Well, the time for both is NOW!

Our fund raising social event, "Lights, camera...Murder!" is coming soon, and there are still lots of seats available.

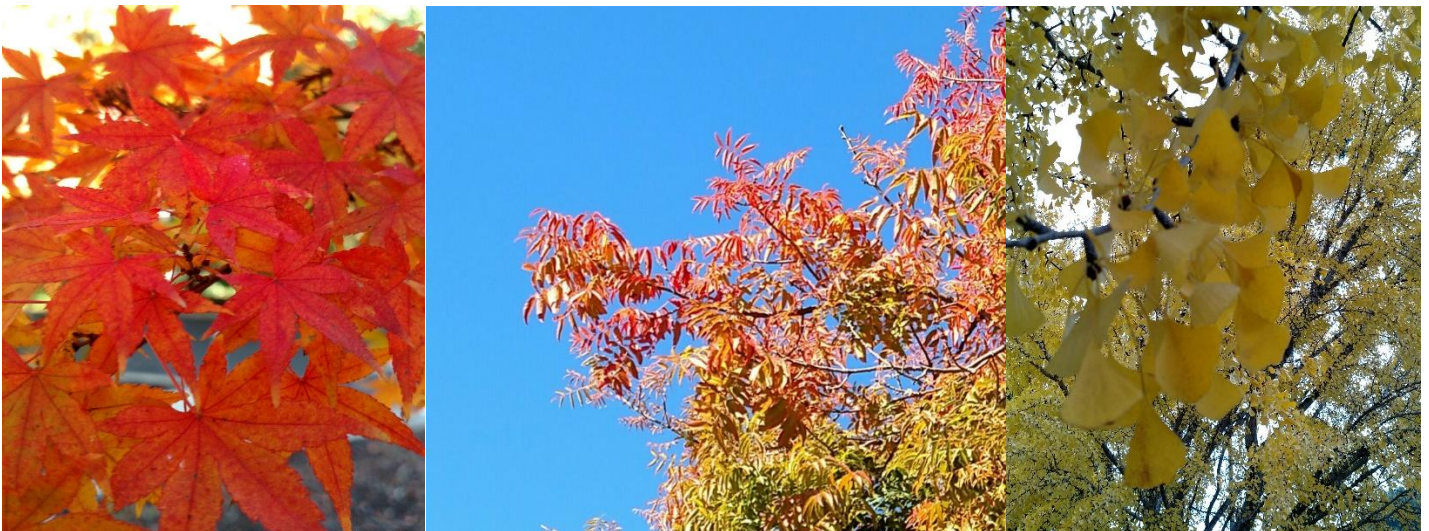
I hope that everyone who can come will buy tickets. I hope that everyone reading this will also invite their friends, their neighbors, and their co-workers to also come to the show!

We are working hard to make this event fun for all. There will be drama, laughs, thrills, and chills, not to mention a great meal and prizes!

The show times will be: Saturday October 15 at 7 pm, and a matinee show Sunday October 16 at 3 pm, but it is always a good idea to arrive around 30 minutes before curtain time.

We will be selling tickets each Sunday after service in the fellowship hall up until the event, and you can also buy tickets at the door. Tickets are \$30 each, and kids get in free. (Talk to me or anyone in the cast if you have questions). Childcare will be provided for the Sunday showing.

So come one, come all! With this one event we can make our deficit disappear, and put our church back in the black, while having a wonderful time!



Get Your Standing on the Side of Love T-shirt or Sweatshirt If you don't already have one By Heidi Green, for the Anti-Racism Multicultural Alliance

It's time to reorder t-shirts and sweatshirts with our Standing on the Side of Love message on the front and name and website on the back. It's the best gear for marches and vigils and meetings where we want to subtly get out the message that Starr King UU Church shows up! All wearing the same shirt style sends a powerful message when there are a number of us present.

If you haven't seen them on folks around the church or hanging in the conference room, please see the next page here with pictures of the different styles we have available.

The photo page also tells you the full price for the shirts, but Anti-Racism Multicultural Alliance (ARMCA) wants everyone to know that we offer a sliding scale from \$0 to full price. **Everyone who wants a shirt gets one!** We want the whole congregation to show our yellow pride!

As we move into the cooler months, there is nothing better than having both the t-shirt AND the hoodie or sweatshirt. Have you been to the MLK Jr. march in January and seen how many of us have to cover up our yellow shirts because it's too cold? I personally now own a t-shirt for warmer days, and a hoodie for the cold ones. For MLK Day, I wear both, since it can get warm on that march!

If you want to order, email (hbgreen216@gmail.com) or call (510-593-3271) or just talk to Heidi Green. Give me your name, the type of garment and size (note that the women's t-shirt runs one size smaller than you would normally order). You pay when the shirts arrive. It takes about two weeks once I place the order.

(FYI, the t-shirts are 100% cotton and the printer is a union shop in Berkeley).

The orders will be placed on October 10, please sign up by Sunday, October 9!





Regular t-shirt \$20

(Small to XXL)

Child's t-shirt \$15

(Extra Small to Large)



Women's cut t-shirt \$20

(Small to XXL, runs small, large fits size 8-10)



Hoodie \$45

(Small to XXL; XXL \$50)



Sweatshirt \$40

(Small to XXL; XXL \$45)

Long-sleeve t-shirt \$25

(Small to XXL; XXL \$27)



Church Calendar for October 2016

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

October 2016						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
2 * 9:00 am Choir Rehearsal * 10:30 am Worship Service * 11:40 am Visitors Circle * 12:15 pm World Religion Classes	3 * 6:30 pm Stewardship webinar	4 * 10:30 am Safety Committee	5 * 7 pm Evening Meditation	6 * 7 pm Board of Trustee's Meeting	7 * 7 pm Drumming Circle	8 * 10 am Weed N Feed
9 * 9:00 am Choir Rehearsal * 10:30 am Worship Service * 12:15 pm Peace and Justice * 12:15 pm World Religions Classes	10	11 * 11 am Adult RE * 7 pm Mystery Dinner Rehearsals	12 * 3 Pastoral Care Committee * 7 ARMCA	13 * 7:30 pm SKIT	14	15 * 7 pm Mystery Dinner
16 * 9:00 am Choir Rehearsal * 10:30 am Worship Service * 12 noon Bookstore * 3 pm Mystery Dinner	17	18 * 10:30 am Safety Committee	19 * 12 noon Elder Meeting * 6:30 pm Communications * 7 pm RE Council	20 * 7 pm Worship Committee	21	22 * 1 pm Affordable Housing Bonds * 6:30 pm Game Night
23 * 9:00 am Choir Rehearsal * 10:30 am Worship Service * 12:15 pm World Religions Classes	24	25 * 1 pm Executive Committee Meeting	26	27	28	29
30 * 9 am Choir Rehearsal * 10:30 am Worship Service * 11:40 am Welcoming DRUUM * 12:15 pm World Religions Classes	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.