



Newsletter

*Starr King Unitarian-
Universalist Church of
Hayward California*

September 2016

THE FLAMING CHALICE

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

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

**Office Manager: Kelli Abatangelo
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Website: <http://www.starrking.org>

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Parish Minister:

Rev. Maria Cristina Vlassisis Burgoaa
minister@starrking.org

Church President: Diana Dickerson

president@starrking.org
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Director of Religious Exploration: Allison Prout
dre@starrking.org

DRE Office Hours: Wed, Thurs, 10:00 AM to 2:00 PM

Sunday Worship: 10:30 AM September Service Preview

September 4, 2016: Healing Waters

Rev. Maria Cristina

Rev. Maria Cristina preaches for the first time and ushers in a new church year with a beloved UU tradition, The Water Ceremony. The Water Communion's true and continuing purpose is to reflect on "How I Felt This Summer," to highlight our congregation's connection and closeness and to celebrate our diversity. Water communion is a powerful metaphor of unity in diversity, of a community united.

September 11, 2016: New Beginnings: Time for Planting

Rev. Maria Cristina

This Sunday marks the official welcome of Rev. Maria Cristina as our called Minister. We are beginning a new journey together as a community of faith. As we gather to nurture and celebrate our interconnectedness, we recognize and honor the need to be in right relationship with ourselves and each other, to continue doing good in the world. We need to nourish ourselves and our community to flourish spiritually. We invite you to participate in the greening of our sanctuary by bringing a plant that will do well indoors.

September 18, 2016: Finding Home

Rev. Maria Cristina

Where are we on our spiritual journeys? What new avenues have we explored in our search for a spiritual practice that brings us home to our best selves? Join us as we reflect on the many meanings of home and the various roads we've traveled so far.

September 25, 2016: Spiritual Food

[Lu Middleton](#), [Joyce Kinnear](#)

How do we feed our spiritual practice? Many of us find the practice of food preparation to be a way of practicing our spirituality. Come listen to perspectives on how filling mouths and stomachs brings connection, provides healing and often is someone's greatest gift.

What's Inside

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September 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
2	Mary Lasack	13	Liz Macera
3	Andrew Lasack-Chappel	14	Kirk Smith
3	Olivia Kiesling	15	Terri Owen
6	Daniel Hitchings	17	Mary Ann Davis
9	Ruth Hultman-DeSmidt	20	Carey Sanchez-Para
9	Linda Miyoshi	28	Allison Fink
11	Marilyn Mosher	29	Donnie Rett

Mystery Dinner Fundraiser Is Coming!

Back by Popular Demand and Necessity!

What: ***Lights Camera...Murder!*** A hilarious play plus a delicious dinner

Saturday October 15, at 7:00 PM

Sunday October 16 at 3:00 PM.

Tickets are available NOW for \$30 (kids are free)!

From the Minister,

***Rev. Maria Cristina
Vlassidis Burgoa***



Cambia, Todo Cambia/Everything Changes

Beloveds

I am so glad and grateful to be among you and to begin serving as your settled Minister. Since May 15, the date when the congregation voted to call me, I have been blessed by your kindness and hospitality. Even before my mother and I arrived, there were people helping us to find a home and making sure we had enough funds for moving expenses and airfare. People volunteered to pick us up at the airport and offered their home (cats and all) while we waited for the movers to arrive. On the day we arrived, there was chicken soup and fresh baked bread waiting for us (and Friskies for the kitties). Whether it's a ride to the farmers' market, transporting my books, helping me to put my office furniture together, or bringing me sweet flowers from your garden, you have made us feel welcome and loved.

My official start date was August 15, and since then I have been spending most of my time meeting with staff, the members of the Board and the Pastoral Care Committee, ARMCA, the Peace and Justice Committee, and the Worship Committee. I also attended my first Eden Area Interfaith Council meeting, met with the president of the NAACP, and participated in a voter registration training at the UCC church. It has been good to make these connections and learn about the various local social justice efforts. I plan to continue building strong and meaningful partnerships and exploring new ways to connect with our neighboring communities.

I am excited for these next two Sundays as I prepare to preach and lead us in worship. This Sunday, we will have a Water Ceremony to mark the beginning of our church year and to celebrate our community. On September 11, we will begin the practice of greening our sanctuary by inviting the congregation to bring an indoor plant to brighten our worship space. I also look forward to our upcoming adult RE series on World Religions, singing with our choir, supporting our DRE, starting a Spanish for Social Justice class, and a church community garden as a spiritual practice. Most of all, I look forward to getting to know you better. I hope that in the coming weeks, you will meet with me when you need pastoral care, or want to have a conversation about our church life.

If you were not in church on August 21, check out our website and listen to the podcast to hear my homily about radical hospitality and making welcome. Here is an excerpt:

As your minister my first priority is your spiritual health. It is my job to provide pastoral care to individuals, to guide this community on its journey towards wholeness, and to move forward with you supporting your efforts to make real your social justice aspirations. We have entered into a holy covenant that shapes our relationship as sacred. In this relationship trust, respect, compassion, forgiveness, and right relationship are essential. The fact that I identify as a person of color is a source of pride and joy for me. Yet it alone does not define me. I am so much more! (you will hear me talk a lot about

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intersectionality). Being a person of color gives me a particular world perspective, speaks to my particular social location, and always offers me a lesson in cultural humility and compassion. I am glad that we as a society are moving away from terms such as “melting pot” or “color blindness” and towards intersectionality and multiculturalism. I don't want to melt away my cultural heritage, and I want to be seen as a whole person, not just the parts that are comfortable. I want for us to be aware of our differences so that we can celebrate our diversity and cultural roots. And yes, we ALL have cultural roots. Amen?

What do I need as your minister who happens to be a proud person of color?

Gratitude: I hope you see me as a gift, not as a burden.

Trust: As I open my heart to you, I hope that you will open your hearts to my ministry and trust that I always have your best interest at heart.

Vulnerability: I hope that we will both take risks to speak the truth in love.

Compassion: I hope that you will be compassionate towards yourselves, towards me, and towards each other when we stumble and make mistakes (and yes, we will make many!).

Accountability and Forgiveness: I hope that we will make each other accountable when we are not in right relationship and that we will forgive ourselves and each other and begin again in love.

Generosity: I hope that we can learn to replace scarcity mentality with abundance, to practice generosity of spirit, and share the financial responsibility for keeping the doors of this church open for the next generations.

Joy: I hope that while we do the hard work within ourselves and in community, we never forget the joy that this work brings to our lives.

And last but not least Faith: Let us never give up hope, let us practice our faith by believing in ourselves and each other. Let us have faith that together we will grow, we will learn, we will take care of each other, we will build beloved community, we will reach out and make our world more just, more peaceful, more loving. Amen?

Until the next Chalice, may we keep our inner light shining bright to share it with everyone; and may we reach out when we need to rekindle it with the love of this kind and generous community. Amen!



President's Report

***by Diana
Dickerson***



Hello Friends,

September is here and so is our Minister, Maria Cristina! She is full of energy and excitement. This is a great time to get to know her and her Mom. Rev. Maria Cristina is without wheels for the time being, so you may wish to let her know when you might be able give her a ride.

We are in Back-to-School mode, so we will have an after-service picnic at Lake Chabot. That will be on Sept. 11th @ noon. That should be fabulous fun for all ages. There is an ARMCA Movie Night on Saturday, Sept. 17 @ 6PM. I also want to bring to your attention the Weed 'n Feed coming up on Saturday, October 8, 2016 from 10 AM to 1 PM.

We have beautiful grounds because of all the hard work that Walt does during the week. He occasionally needs some help to keep up. This is our opportunity to pitch in. There is always plenty to do and many meetings to attend. It is a good thing that we are so fond of one another.

Our Safety Committee is working hard to improve our spaces and to make them more safe. Many members went to the training to use the defibrillator. We did this because Mike Preston was able to get a free defibrillator which will be installed just outside the Fellowship Hall in the foyer. I can't express how happy I am that many people are well trained and equipped in case we need to help someone. Thanks to all of our Safety Committee!

The choir is getting together to select some pieces for us to learn or reprise for our Sunday services. This is a great time to join the group. Jo Murdach would love to hear from you if you are interested. It is a bit of work, but it is really a lot of fun.

Respectfully yours,

Diana Dickerson



New Beginnings

Welcome to the beginning of a new church year! It is a very exciting time for Starr King UU Church. I am busy preparing the religious education instructional calendar in conjunction with the RE Council and our new settled minister, Rev. Marie Cristina. For the first time in many years, **we will have a class for youth**. This is going to mean double commitment from our teaching team and I ask for your help to fill the extra spots. If you have any inclination to teach or assist, I will hold a teacher training session in the next month or so and I encourage you to join our team in passing on our UU values to the next generations.

I want to send a special thanks to all of the members of the congregation who stepped up to run Funshops over the summer, and to **Lea Casini**, who organized the schedule and kept it running seamlessly.

Roy Dickerson, David Middleton, Xiomara Tapia, Lea Casini, Diana Dickerson, Jennifer Koney, Jo & Al Murchach, Kathryn LaMar, Bob Meyerson, Doris Wolf, Torsten Fink, Stuart Fink, Colleen Dino, Sara Raymond, Lorie Miller, Donnie Rett, Michelle Lovett-Fink, Bill & Ruth Desmidt, John & Carolyn Lunger

YOU ROCK!!

Finally, I invite everyone to come to our **Church Fall Kick Off BBQ** which will be held at Lake Chabot on **Sunday, Sept. 11**. This multigenerational event is for the entire congregation! So, come on down to the lake after church. We will have food, games, and our traditional guided boat tour of the lake.



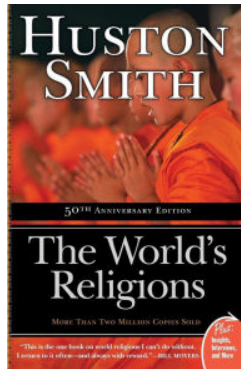
Allison

Adult Religious Education

UNDERSTANDING THE WORLD'S RELIGIONS DISCUSSION SERIES TO BEGIN

**Series Starts on 18 September
Meets for 9 Weekly Sessions Through 20 November**

1 pm to 3 pm
(Location within Starr King UU Church will vary)



The Adult Religious Education Committee, responding to the expressed interests of the congregation, will begin a series of classes based on a perennial classic, *The World's Religions* by well-known religious scholar Huston Smith. The Rev. Gary Kowalksi (1997), author of a study guide provided by the Unitarian Universalist Association, suggests that one of Smith's strengths is that he has “made complex and arcane issues accessible to the layperson” (p. 3).

Our expected outcome of this series is that irrespective of which session or sessions you are able to attend, we will as a diverse and welcoming spiritual community:

- Develop the opportunity to listen to the overall concepts of each religion to understand but not to judge;
- Recognize the similarities that we as Unitarians share with other faith traditions;
- Discuss the relevance of many ancient traditions in our own lives in the 21st century, and
- Recognize that the text we use and the discussions that follow are a “snap shot” of the concepts of each faith being studied.

Each session will be guided by a member of the Starr King Community who would have attended a session to review their role as facilitator or discussion guide, the outcomes of the series, and how to create an environment of openness, trust and respect.

While we recommend that those attending purchase the book so that our discussions can be informed, you may wish to prepare for the sessions on your own using your own resources. The book is widely available and may be purchased for \$3.99 from AbeBooks.com, Barnes & Noble, or Amazon.com. You should feel free to use an older or used edition of *The World's Religions*, and not be at a disadvantage. *Continued on next page*

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We ask that you sign up for the session/s you wish to attend at the Large Sign-In Poster in the Fellowship Hall. We will be happy to arrange child-care, kindly notify Mileva Saulo Lewis (milevas@aol.com) at least two weeks prior to the session/s you will be attending.

Session Dates and Topic of Discussion

18 September	Overview and Hinduism
25 September	Buddhism
2 October	Confucianism
9 October	Taoism
23 October	Islam
30 October	Judaism
6 November	Christianity
13 November	Earth-Centered Traditions
TBD	Final Session

Members of the congregation who have spent time preparing to lead discussions in a respectful, focused, safe environment will facilitate the sessions. We look forward to sharing these opportunities to learn, reflect, and grow together as a community.

Please feel free to talk to any member of the Adult Religious Education Committee about the program.

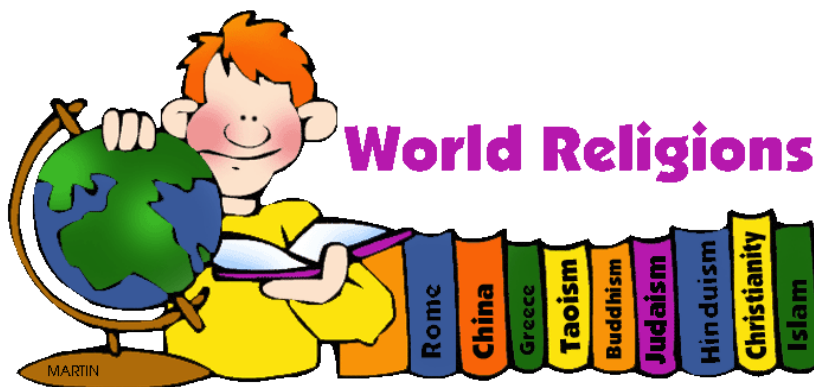
Kathryn LaMar, Diane Meyersen, Ethel-May Shaw, Shelia McClellan, and Mileva Saulo Lewis

References:

Kowalski, G. (1997). Understanding the world's religions. Unitarian Universalist Association. This guide is part of *The Lifespan Series* developed by the Department of Religious Education of the UUA.

Smith, H. The world's religions: 50th edition. New York: Harper Collins, ISBN: 978-0-06-166018-4.

Mileva



September Action Possibilities on Justice Issues

By Frank Burton, From the Starr King Church Peace and Action Team

"What can we do about it?" is always the question in my mind when reading or hearing a report on issues of injustice in our world, and that was the first question raised by people in our monthly meeting on August 14th.

Here's a summary of some of the actions we can take in September:

NOW: Sign Rev. Dr. William Barber's *Higher Ground Moral Declaration*

<http://tinyurl.com/Barber-moral-declaration>

Here are some quotations from the ***Higher Ground Moral Declaration***:

We declare that the deepest public concerns of our nation and faith traditions are how our society treats the poor, those on the margins, the least of these, women, children, workers, immigrants and the sick; equality and representation under the law; and the desire for peace, love and harmony within and among nations. ...

Our moral traditions have a firm foundation upon which to stand against the divide-and-conquer strategies of extremists. We believe in a moral agenda that stands against systemic racism, classism, poverty, xenophobia, and any attempt to promote hate towards any members of the human family.

We claim a higher ground in partisan debate by returning public discourse to our deepest moral and constitutional values.

September 6 (Tuesday): Interfaith Meeting of Prayer for Peace, Oakland

5:45 PM: Prayer groups (Islam, Judaism, Christianity, Hinduism, Buddhism)

6:30 PM: Interfaith panel dialogue on **Mercy: the Heart of Peace** will include representatives of Christianity, Judaism, and Islam, followed by a Q & A opportunity.

Where: The Cathedral of Christ the Light, 2121 Harrison St. Oakland (Yes, THAT cathedral, next to Lake Merritt); free parking in Kaiser Center across street

September 12 (Monday): National Moral Day of Action, Sacramento and 25 US state capitols

National day of action being organized by Dr. William Barber's teams. Details being worked out. East Bay people will participate.

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September 21 (Wednesday): International Day of Peace, Fremont

5 PM: Peace Walk

6 PM: Peace Prayers

Where: The Peace Pole, Lake Elizabeth Park, Fremont 94553.

Why: International Day of Peace established by the United Nations in 1981.

Sponsors: Tri-City Interfaith Council; Pax Christi Fremont; Interfaith Women of Peace

September 24 (Saturday): Bay Area Regional Justice Training 2016

9:30 AM to 3:30 PM



Topics Include:

Beloved Community: A Social Justice Primer for UUs

Effective One-to-One Organizing

Plus, opportunities for collaboration with nearby UU congregations; briefings on key issues including environmental justice, economic justice, immigration, and racial justice.

Where: Mt Diablo UU Church, 55 Eckley Lane, Walnut Creek

More information: <http://tinyurl.com/2016-Justice-Training>

Planned for September: Interfaith Actions on Gun Violence Prevention,

Coordinated by U.S. Rep. Eric Swalwell. Starr King Church will participate, along with Eden Area Interfaith Council and South Hayward Parish. Information to come.

We hope to see you at some of these exciting events.



Your Safety Committee at Work

In the August 2016 issue of the *Chalice*, you were introduced to the Safety Committee, which is a sub-committee of the Pastoral Care Committee. This committee was formed in an effort to ensure that Starr King is and always will be a safe and secure place for us all to worship.

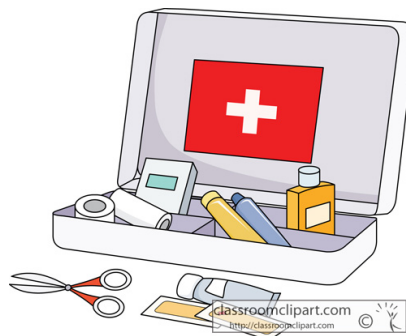
We are very aware that our activities directly affect the congregation. There will be some changes to our church environment, as well as necessary procedural changes. We will strive to keep you up to date on the essential adjustments and the rationale for each. To these ends we will be putting a short update in each *Chalice* to keep you abreast of our activities.

The need for aisles wide enough for evacuation routes, was discussed in last month's article. We are very grateful that everyone has accepted of the movement of the chairs along the back wall. Another change not directly addressed is the row of chairs at the back directly across from the sound station. That row blocked the back exit to the side door, so they have been removed.

As you know from last month's *Chalice*, Mike Preston acquired for us an automatic external defibrillator (AED) machine. Nineteen members volunteered to be trained and are now certified to use the machine. You may have noticed the machine mounted to the wall in the lobby (thank you Darryl Ray). We have also acquired a new, up to date first-aid kit (thank you Rene Castle), which is mounted in the kitchen next to the pass-through between the kitchen and the sanctuary. We are working on getting first-aid training for members who wish to volunteer.

Our building committee, chaired by Darryl Ray, is currently working on correcting several safety issues that were brought to our attention when Mike Preston (retired Fire Chief) did a comprehensive safety check of the building and property. We are also working on exit maps of the building in case of an emergency requiring evacuation.

If you have any questions or concerns around safety issues at church, please feel free to ask one of our members (Georgia Gruver, Bob Britton, or Beverly Powell) or email our chairperson Georgia Gruver (safety@starrking.org)



Church Calendar For September, 2016

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

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Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 * 7:00 pm Board of Trustee's Meeting	2 * 7:00 pm Drumming Circle	3
4 * 10:30 am Worship Service	5	6 * 10:30 am Safety Committee	7 * 7:00 pm Evening Meditation	8 * 7:30 pm SKIT	9	10
11 * 10:30 am Worship Service * 11:45 am Hospitality and Membership * 12:00 pm Fall Kickoff BBQ Potluck	12	13 * 11:00 am Adult RE	14 * 3:00 pm Pastoral Care Committee * 7:00 pm ARMCA	15 * 7:00 pm Worship Committee	16	17 * 6:00 pm ARMCA Movie Night
18 * 10:30 am Worship Service * 12:00 pm Church Bookstore Open * 12:15 pm Peace and Justice Meeting	19 * 7:00 pm Mystery Dinner Rehearsal	20 * 10:30 am Safety Committee	21 * 12:00 pm Elder Meeting	22	23	24
25 * 10:30 am Worship Service	26	27 * 1:00 pm Executive Committee Meeting	28	29	30	

Calendar developed and supported by Kieran O'Shea