



Newsletter

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

April 2017

THE FLAMING CHALICE

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

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

***Sunday Worship: 10:30 am except
April 30, when service is at 4 pm
April Service Preview***

April 2. Faithful Fools. Rev. Maria Cristina

In laughter we find our common humanity, through which celebration and healing can occur. Faithful Fools see the world in all its glorious absurdity and yet trust the universe.

April 9. "The Third Reconstruction" - A new justice movement to save the soul of America. Led by Beth Oglivie

Church members share insights and inspiration from our common read, *The Third Reconstruction, How a Moral Movement is Overcoming the Politics of Division and Fear* by the Rev. Dr. William J Barber II.

April 16: Easter. Rev. Maria Cristina

The Easter story of resurrection is symbolic of rebirth and renewal and retells the cycle of the seasons, the death and return of the sun. Easter Sunday is a festival and holiday celebrated by millions of people around the world. It is also the day that children excitedly wait for the Easter bunny to arrive and deliver their treats of chocolate eggs. Join us as we explore some of the ways Easter is celebrated around the world. And yes, there will be an Easter egg hunt immediately following the service! 🐰🥚

April 23. Earth Day/Blessing of the Animals. Rev. Maria Cristina

April 30 at 4pm—Minister's Installation Ceremony (No morning service).

Join us at SKUUC to celebrate Rev. Maria Cristina's Installation Ceremony.

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Wheel of Life

Our deepest condolences to Colleen Dino on the loss of her father Daniel Roark

Our heartfelt sympathy for Jennifer Coney on the passing of her aunt "Beans."

We offer our sincere compassion to Rebecca Parr on the death of her brother, David

Our caring thoughts to Meredith Schuler on the loss of her high school friend

Our healing thoughts and good wishes to Lu Middleton, who is still recuperating from mono.

To Bob Britton and Terri Owen, we wish you comfort and peace on the death of your new cat.

We send our sympathetic thoughts to Ann Chappell for the loss of her cat, Willie.

We hope for a speedy recovery for David Longfellow's husband, Lee, who suffered two broken ribs.

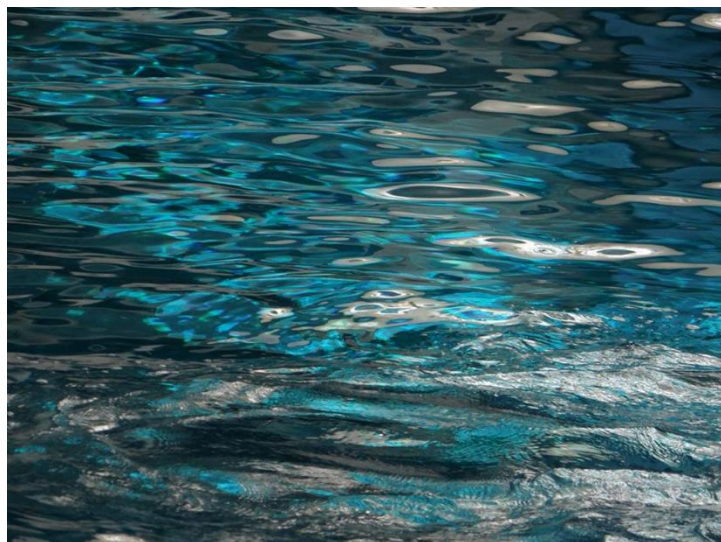
We are happy to report that Betsy Dye has finally been able to return home

April Birthdays

Date	Name	Date	Name
3-Apr	Andrea Kuffin	21-Apr	Andy Matthews
10-Apr	Karen Carrell	23-Apr	Henry Wagner
11-Apr	Frank Satterwhite	27-Apr	Stephanie Smith
14-Apr	Georgia Gruver	28-Apr	Charlie Murdach
16-Apr	Molly Hitchings	30-Apr	Bill Schuler

In Between Waters

From the Minister,
Rev. Maria Cristina Vlassidis Burgoa



This past week I traveled to Baltimore to attend the annual UUA sponsored “Finding Our Way Home” gathering. In addition to catching up with friends and meeting new ones, I had planned on visiting the new baby giraffe at the zoo, getting tickets to visit the African American History museum in DC and joining impromptu walking tours of the city. But the weather was cold, agendas were rewritten and instead life and death happened.



We celebrated a baby dedication that brought so much joy to all of us! After the water blessing, we passed the baby around singing “Wherever you go I will go my beloved, wherever you go, I will go. For your people are my people, I am yours and you are mine. Your people are my people, your divine my divine.” At the same time, in Tahlequah, Oklahoma, a Viking funeral boat was being pushed onto the river in honor of the life of three year old Warrior Kai, who battled cancer with all his might until the end. In a room full of ministers, we found ourselves between two waters: tears of joy and tears of sorrow. All of us united by the depth of our gratitude for new life and our deep grief for the loss of such a young life. The room was filled with love, energized by prayers and blessed by the mystery of all that is.



Afterwards, I took refuge in the aquarium. I sat for hours watching as the weak sunlight danced upon the water. I felt a sense of peace while looking at the surface that transformed itself into a giant canvass being painted over and over again by the waves and constantly changing shadows. There before me was my silent prayer, a watery altar upon which to bring my spirit for respite and renewal. So much of ministry is both/and, holding of joys and sorrows and embracing the deeply profound mystery of the circle of life present in a single drop of water.

Today is World Water Day, and I remember that I have but one tattoo, a Taino water spiral symbol that reminds me that I am made of water. A water spiral signifies constant change and ongoing movement towards the innermost sanctuaries of our soul. In the Yoruba tradition, I am a daughter of Yemaya, mother of the oceans. I know that she dances both for the child that is born and for the child that has crossed over to the deepest heart of the ocean. I sing a prayer to that holy energy of the water: "Yemaya Asesu, Asesu Yemaya. Yemaya Olodu, Olodu Yemaya" I pray to that space where the ocean water meets the river water, to the space in between life and death, to the mystery of the waves and let the current carry my prayers in the shape of my tears of both gratitude and grief.



I went to pray by the water because water connects me with my feelings and opens up spaces beyond confines of rationalization of our lived experience and human condition. For me, water is prayer, an energy flow, a light, a relatedness with the mystery of the universe of which we are a part. As I sat by the water in silent contemplation, I could hear my own breath conspiring with the universe. From Walden Pond, the Caribbean Ocean, and the Baltimore aquarium, I offer you my prayer made of water, light, and tears of joy and sorrow. May your spirit, like water, take the shape of the prayer or silent meditation you need to hold both your joys and sorrows. May the spirit of water bring you a sense of peace and well-being. May the water bless you and

remind you that you are loved deeply. May the water refresh and renew your spirit. May the water conspire with you to embrace all that is your life in this precious moment.

Ashe! Blessed Be.

Rev. Maria Cristina



By: Thich Nhat Hahn

Water flows from high in the mountains.

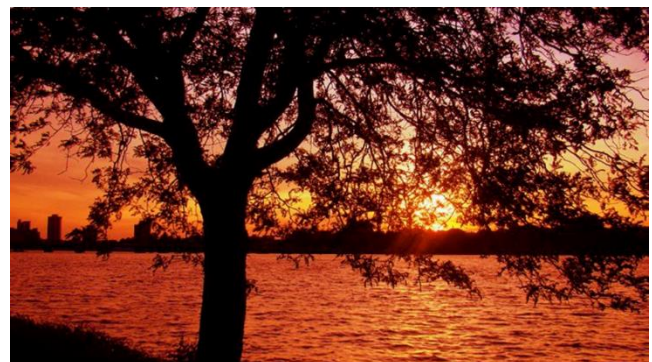
Water runs deep in the Earth.

Miraculously, water comes to us,
and sustains us all.

Water flows over these hands.

May I use them skillfully

to preserve our precious planet.



Climate Justice Month

Climate justice is a global fight to dismantle the paradigm that disadvantages marginalized people and approaches Earth as supply source and sewer rather than a system of interdependent life -- a single, beloved community. Climate justice pays deep attention to those most affected by climate change to find transformative solutions grounded in profound connections with Earth and each other.

Today, we begin to shift the way we understand and approach the world. The program for Climate Justice Month 2017 is inspired by Joanna Macy's Spiral of the Work That Reconnects -

"The activist's inner journey appears to me like a spiral, interconnecting four successive stages or movements that feed into each other." -- Joanna Macy

The Spiral of the Work that Reconnects is a spiritual practice that can help individuals or communities to find deeper levels of authenticity and actualization.

Spring Equinox: March 20. Spring seemed to arrive six weeks early for some of us this year (February 2017 was the second-warmest February in 137 years of modern record-keeping), which is all the more reason to celebrate and witness the Spring Equinox. This Equinox -- the first day of spring in the Northern hemisphere and first day of autumn in the Southern hemisphere -- is a sacred time in many faith traditions. Let us welcome the changing of seasons with gratitude. Spiritually grounding and opening to gratitude is a powerful way to sustain and nourish your spirit, your community, and your work. We begin Climate Justice Month by opening to gratitude.

World Water Day: March 22. Mni Wiconi - "*Water is Life*" - is a message that has shaken the consciousness of the world, and centered the prayers and actions of the Water Protectors at Standing Rock. Water is a sacred source of life.

Readings & Resources for Education, Culture, and Worship:

- Resources on [Coming from Gratitude](#) from Joanna Macy
- [The Radical Gratitude Project](#) by Barbara Ford, Unitarian Universalist
- [Five Fold Path of Gratitude](#) meditation by Dennis Rivers
- [Water Justice Trinity Institute 2017 Reading List](#)
- [Water Communion Ritual for Justice-Making](#)
- [Water Justice Ritual](#)
- [Children's Water Communion](#)
- "[Water Flows](#)" by Thich Nhat Hahn
- [The 72 Names of God: Technology for the Soul](#), Yehuda Berg, p. 170-171, 2004, Kabbalah Centre International



Check out the full Climate Justice Month tool-kit for more information about how to participate in Climate Justice Month 2017.

RE Reflections for April 2017

By Allison Prout



What I've Been Up To...

Creating opportunities for continued connection with the church for youth has been one of my long-term visions. I have been working to revive the Our Whole Lives (OWL) sex education program for youth. Since we have so few youth in our congregation, I have reached out to Eden UCC to join us in this endeavor. If our combined efforts are insufficient to get the program up and running, I am considering casting my net wider to include other local liberal religious entities. As liberal congregations, inclusive in our outlook, we are stronger working together. It will be challenging, but if we succeed it will be well worth the effort. My goal is to launch the program in the spring of 2018.



In the fall of 2017, I would also like to introduce a parent workshop that will help families integrate UU values into their home lives. I foresee a parenting discussion group based on the small group ministry model. It is my hope that supporting parents will help families feel more committed to our church and its mission. Lastly, I am organizing RE volunteers and curriculum so that we can seamlessly transition in the fall. I hope that having consistent leadership in religious education in our church will positively affect the stability of our program.

Note: To encourage new interfaith experiences, I would like members of Starr King UU Church to consider trying out the Community Passover Seder held by Congregation Shir Ami at Eden UCC this year, in lieu of our annual UU Passover Seder. The Seder will be held on Saturday, April 15, 2017 from 4:30 to 8:30 pm. Further information about registering will be forthcoming.

Allison Prout



Your Safety Committee, Working for You

By Georgia Gruver

The Starr King Safety Committee continues to work on the many tasks which will ultimately improve the safety our church and grounds. We determined that medical safety was the first challenge we should undertake. To this end, we acquired an Automated External Defibrillator (AED) machine and currently have 18 members trained in its use. There will be another training offered later in the spring. The sign-up sheet will be on the back table in the Fellowship Hall.



We are also planning to offer a First Aid course this spring or summer. Currently we are working on exit routes, signage and the development of an evacuation procedure. We will soon be putting up maps in every area directing you to the safest exit from that particular space. You may have noticed the new “EXIT” signs mounted on the sliding closet doors on the side of the chancel. These signs direct you to the double doors behind the chancel and the side door facing the creek. It is important to note that these are the only **LEGAL** exits from the Sanctuary. The entrance we normally use (from the lobby) does not go directly out of the building, making it less safe as an emergency exit.

We are planning a fire drill for later in the spring. We will be training several volunteers to act as helpers during the drill and in case of an actual evacuation. We are making plans for those who are less vigorous, as well as working with Allison Prout to be sure we have procedures in place for the children. You will be notified of the date at least two weeks in advance. Instructions on the proper procedure for the drill will be reviewed prior to the actual exercise. It is vital that as many as can make it be in church on the day of the drill. This will not only make you much safer, but also make it much more likely that a real evacuation will go smoothly.



Help Raise Money for Starr King by Registering for eScrip and Shopping Locally; By Bob Simoni

Thanks to the 6 new members who have signed up for the eScrip program since our first announcement. We have now doubled our income from \$5 to \$10 per month, but could be doing much better. We hope to generate at least \$100 per month, as we are doing with Amazon. We get 3% of your total purchases at grocery stores like Lucky's and Food Maxx, as well as many local restaurants, such as Black Angus on Hesperian and Ghazni (the Afghani restaurant near A and 2nd Streets in Hayward).

It's very easy to get started: just create an account at <http://www.escrip.com/>, choose "Starr King Unitarian Church" as the non-profit to receive benefits, and enter the phone number(s) you have linked with your Lucky's rewards card. Then anytime you use that phone number when you make your purchase at Lucky's, Starr King will get credit. You can also register credit card numbers, and Starr King will get credit from other stores and restaurants whenever you use that credit card there. There's a full list of merchants that give rewards to us on the website, so please check it out.

Contact Bob Simoni at bobsimoni@gmail.com if you have any questions.



Want to volunteer? We have suggestions! 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. The signup sheet is on the Community Table in the Fellowship Hall.

Co-editor of the Chalice needed! We are recruiting for a co-editor for the Starr King Chalice, the church's monthly newsletter. The job is shared with Joyce Kinnear. Co-editors are responsible for six issues a year. The term is one year. Responsibilities include light editing, selecting images and adding content from regular contributors to a template. Newsletter template and editorial style guide are provided. Please contact Melody Appleton at 510-823-6072 for more information.

Service Auction Announcement

Save the Date for Saturday, June 10; the annual Starr King service auction is scheduled starting at 5 pm.

We love our service auctions! This fundraising event is the second largest fundraiser we do, next to our canvass. In addition to the money auctions bring in, they bolster our social lives with dinners, recreational outings, and other community-building events.

This is always an exciting and fun filled event, as well as being an important fund raiser. There will be a sign up sheet in the fellowship hall for those who would like to volunteer to help. There will also be a place for you to sign up for the various goods and services you might like to donate: window cleaning, pet sitting, lawn mowing, drives to the airport, special dinners music lessons, etc. Think "outside the box!"

Preparing dinners for large groups has been an especially successful service; what is your special meal?

We would like to encourage people to donate home made goods as well. Knit a sweater, bake a cake, write a book of poems or short stories, paint a picture or anything!

We hope you will join us on Saturday, June 10 at Starr King Church for this fun filled night out.

If you wish to help out with the event or offer services, please contact Glen Jacob (capspriff@sbcglobal.net) or Colleen Dino (cdino@croark.com).

We are looking forward to all of the wonderful and unique goods and services that will be auctioned off at this important event!

Special Activities

Disco Dance Party! Saturday, April 8, 7 pm

A disco ball? A laser light show?? Amazing music??? It must be the First Annual Starr King Dance Party!!! Bring your dancing shoes and hors d'oeuvres to share. ARMCA will bring the drinks and the party supplies. Let us know by March 31st if you will need childcare, so we can get an accurate count. If you're able to help with playlist, set-up/clean-up, or decorating, contact Heidi Green (510-593-3271 or hbgreen216@gmail.com).



Celebrate Earth Day with a 6 Mile Hike! Saturday, April 22, 10 am

Bob Simoni will be leading another hike for church members and friends on Saturday, April 22 at 10 am. We'll leave right from the church parking lot and walk by Don Castro Lake on our way up to Five Canyons and some lesser known but scenic trails through and around this development. Then we'll return to the church around 1 pm. Total distance about 6 miles. This is the same hike previously scheduled on March 5 that was shortened because of rain and muddy conditions. Hopefully, we will have drier conditions this time. Contact Bob Simoni at bobsimoni@gmail.com if you have any questions.

Church Calendar for April 2017

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

April 2017						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1 * Ashland Trip
2 * Ashland Trip * 9 am Choir Rehearsal * 9:30 am Earth Fair Planning * 10:30 am Worship Service	3 * 7:30 pm Rainbow Group LGBT - NA	4 * 10:30 am Safety Committee	5 * 7:30 pm Evening Meditation	6 * 7 pm Board of Trustee's Meeting	7 * 7 pm Drumming Circle	8 * 7 pm Disco Dance Party
9 * 9 am Choir Rehearsal * 10:30 am Worship Service * 12 noon Peace and Justice Action Team	10 * 7:30 pm Rainbow Group LGBT - NA	11 * 11 am Adult RE	12 * 12 noon Staff Meeting * 3 pm Pastoral Care Committee * 7 pm ARMCA * 7:30 pm Evening Meditation	13 * 7:30 pm SKIT	14	15 * 4:30 pm Community Seder UCC * 6:30 pm Game Night
16 * 9 am Choir Rehearsal * 9:30 am Earth Fair Planning * 10:30 am Worship Service * 12 noon Church Bookstore Open	17 * 7:30 pm Rainbow Group LGBT - NA	18 * 10:30 am Safety Committee	19 * 12 noon Elder Meeting * 7 pm RE Council * 7:30 pm Evening Meditation	20 * 7 pm Adult RE * 7 pm Worship Committee	21	22 * 10 am Earth Day Hike
23 * 8 am Earth Fair * 9 am Choir Rehearsals * 10:30 am Worship Service	24 * 7:30 pm Rainbow Group LGBT - NA	25 * 1 pm Executive Meeting	26 * 12 noon Staff Meeting * 7:30 pm Evening Meditation	27	28	29
30 * 9 am Choir Rehearsal * 4 pm Installation Ceremony						

Starr King UU Church Ongoing Activities

Activity	Event Schedule
<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. Open to all adults and mature children.
<i>Evening Meditation</i>	Meets every Wednesday, from 7:30 to 8:45 pm. Open to all.
<i>Starr King Elderberries</i>	Meets on the third Wednesday at noon. Bring your lunch. Open to all self-identified elders.
<i>Small Group Ministry</i>	Stay tuned for upcoming SGM Facilitator training. For more info please contact Diane Meyerson or Bob Britton. (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.