



Newsletter

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

March 2017

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**

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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 Service Preview

March 5: Nevertheless, She Persisted!

Rev. Maria Cristina
The spirit of women's empowerment through
powerful narratives of resiliency and resistance.
Rev. Maria Cristina preaches.

March 12: Esther and Vashti

Rev. Maria Cristina
Biblical women resisting injustice. A reflection on
two unlikely allies who rebelled against oppression.

**March 19: Our Relationship With the Great
Mother**

Lorie Miller.
Exploring how nature plays a part in our daily lives
and how we draw from Her source.

**March 26: Cesar Chavez: Beloved Mexican-
American Prophet, Visionary, And Workers'
Rights Advocate.**

Rev. Maria Cristina
Join us as we celebrate Cesar's legacy through
narrative and music.

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March 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	Liana Klausmeyer	16	Renee Ray
2	Joey Murdach	17	Ruth Kuftin
4	Colin Carrell	17	Shea Robinson
8	Bill Hitchings	19	Greg Kuftin
10	Audrey LaPell	22	Karen Cook
11	Ray Oducayen	22	Kelsie Kramer Stone
12	Rebecca Parr	24	Cara Prout
12	Darrell Ray	26	Sherry Thomas
13	Margarita Jacob	26	Maya Para
14	Sara Wagner	28	Brian Johnson

Wheel of Life



- ◆ Our sympathy to **Colleen Dino** on the passing of her dear father
- ◆ Our sympathy to **Darryl Ray** on the death of his aunt.
- ◆ Our sincere sympathies to **Lea Casini** on the loss of her uncle.
- ◆ Our deepest condolences to **Frank Satterwhite** on the loss of his mother.
- ◆ Our sympathy to **Jennifer Koney** on the passing of her dear Auntie Beans, and our sincere wishes go to her brother-in-law for a restorative recovery.
- ◆ Sending our best wishes to **Sherry Thomas** for a speedy recovery from her recent hip replacement surgery.
- ◆ We continue to send good thoughts and wishes to **Ruth Kuftin** that her health improves.
- ◆ We rejoice in **Betsy Dye's** improved health and hope for continued healing. Thank you to all who visited her at the hospital.
- ◆ We're sorry to hear about the loss of beloved companions: **Terri Owen's** cat **Miss Kitty** and **Georgia** and **John Gruver's** dog **Shalong**.

***From the Minister,
Rev. Maria Cristina
Vlassidis Burgoa***



Lessons from the Geese

Hope is the thing with feathers that perches in the soul and sings the tune
without the words and never stops at all...

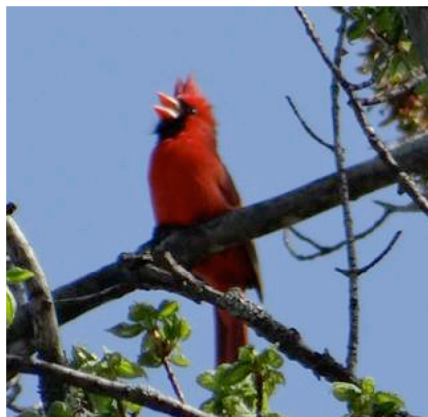
Emily Dickinson

I spend a lot of time bird watching, it is one of my favorite spiritual practices. I listen to their songs, notice the color of their feathers, watch them gather building materials for their nests, and marvel at the way they flaunt their beautiful plumage and turn their little lungs into powerful drums as their call for companionship incessantly reverberates through the air. Sometimes the answers is almost immediate, sometimes the song becomes a plea that fades into the setting sun, unanswered, only to be picked up again with the first light of dawn. Sometimes, even when I can't see the wild geese, I hear them honking overhead, announcing the great turning of the seasons, and reminding me of migrations great and small. They remind me of being in constant movement in the search for home and beloved community.

Sometimes the changes we experience in life leave us feeling fragile like a little bird without a song and "up in the air." Yet I know that we all carry home in our hearts, in our rituals, in our music, in our companionship, in our shared hopes. I have come to believe that home and hope are not things that are, but things that you practice, and build and rebuild with others, over and over again.

And so when I hear the geese, they remind me that neither home nor hope is a destination, but found in the doing, in the moving, stick by stick, feather by feather, as we face joys and sorrows together, as we reach out and care for each other.

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Last summer, in preparation for my move, I went to a thrift store and found a beautiful card with a quote **Lessons from the Geese**. I'd like to share it with you:

Fact: As each goose flaps its wings, it creates an uplift for the birds that follow. By flying in a V formation, the whole flock adds 71% greater flying range than if each bird flew alone.

Lesson: People who share a common direction and sense of community can get where they are going maybe not quicker, but definitely with more joy and feeling connected because they are traveling on the energy of one another.

Fact: when a goose falls out of formation, it suddenly feels the drag and resistance of flying alone. By moving back into formation it can take advantage of the lifting power of the bird immediately in front of it.

Lesson: If we have as much sense as a goose, we stay in formation with those headed where we want to go. we are willing to accept their help and give our help to others.

Fact: When the lead goose tires, it rotates back into the formation and another goose flies to the point position.

Lesson: It is necessary to take turns and share our gifts and skills as community leaders. We need one another and we are part of an interdependent web of existence.

Fact: When a goose gets sick, wounded, or shot down, two geese drop out of formation and follow it down to help and protect it. They stay with it until it dies or is able to fly again. Then they launch out with a new formation and catch up with the flock.

Lesson: If we have as much compassion as the geese, we will support each other during difficult times as well as when we are strong.

Fact: the geese flying in back honk to encourage those in front to keep up their speed.

Lesson: HONK! HONK! HONK! Let's make sure our words encourage and uplift each other. There is much power in being each other's cheerleaders. Especially when someone is new in a committee or an introvert stepping up to a leadership position for the first time.

For all of us who are in the midst of change and transition, I offer the image of the wild geese as a reaffirmation of our own capacity to care for each other, to cheer each other on, and to find hope in community, even when we feel "up in the air."

Beloveds, we are on a shared journey as a community. Our shared stories connect us and weave together the threads of active hope. May the lessons from the geese guide us as we prepare to re-start our Small Group Ministry. Let us rejoice in the value and beauty of being together, supporting each other, and building community through sharing our stories: Stick by stick, song by song, feather by feather.



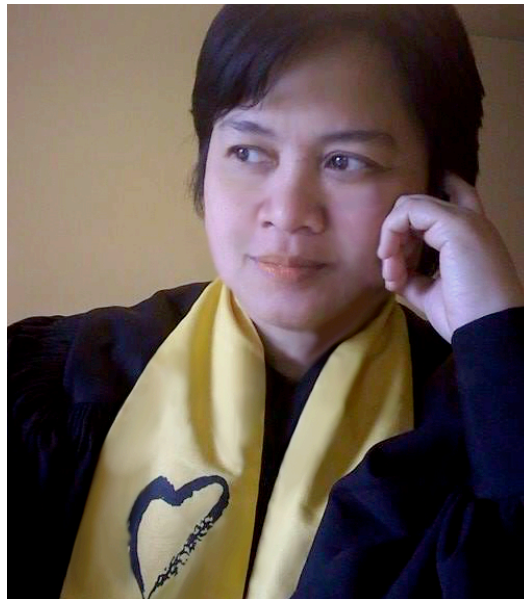
Balázs Scholar Rev. Maria Theresa Gallardo, here on May 14

This year's Balázs Scholar at the Starr King School for the Ministry, Rev. Maria Theresa (Tet) Gallardo, will be preaching here at SKUUC on May 14. The topic of her sermon will be ***Ritualizing a Brave New World***, and the “come hither” summary of her sermon reads as follows:

We have made a ritual of our choices without paying attention. Doing things we hate, being too cool to care, coming not fully human, compromising our integrity, putting on a face to each other, being less intimate with ourselves. Now, what if we made a ritual about choices we would like to have for ourselves?

Rev. Tet Gallardo was ordained by the Unitarian Universalist Church of the Philippines (UUCP) in April 2013 and called to serve the only congregation in Manila, the Bicutan Congregation. For eight years prior to this, she served as co-leader of a chalice circle, as a consultant for the Bicutan Congregation, and as a resource speaker on leadership development for the congregational conventions of the UUCP. She spent March 2016 in Nepal, taking a break from church and work by volunteering in disaster relief. In 2015, she founded a company that helps Philippine startups through the stages of establishing business and developing the value chain – Amansinaya.com.

For over 20 years, Rev. Tet has worked on organizing women, youth, farmers, and labor interests for political pressure that results in better legislation. In this capacity, she has served over 30 NGOs and has worked with many government leaders and political campaign managers for strategic leadership and communications.



Francis Balázs Scholars

Program History

The purpose of the Balázs Scholars Program is to invite and support a Transylvanian or other international Unitarian minister for an academic year of study at Starr King School for the Ministry to enhance their training and religious leadership.

The program was named for Francis Balázs, a young Unitarian Transylvanian minister who graduated from the school in the late 1920s. After traveling the world learning about peace, he became minister in Meszko, the “Alabaster Village,” where he wrote, mentored seminary students, ministered to the residents, brought health programs and economic development to the impoverished local valley, and, with his wife Christine, restored the historic Unitarian church.

Today, Balázs scholars are committed to improving the lives of their congregants and to sharing with North American UUs the breadth and depth of their passion and caring for their homeland and for our common faith tradition.

RE Reflections

by Allison Prout

The RE curriculum we are using this year, Love Will Guide Us focuses on the **sources** of Unitarian Universalism which include:

- ◆ Direct experience- the sense of wonder we all share
- ◆ Women & men of long ago and today whose lives remind us to be kind and fair
- ◆ The ethical & spiritual wisdom of the world's religions
- ◆ Jewish and Christian teachings
- ◆ Humanist teachings of reason & science
- ◆ Spiritual teachings of earth-centered traditions

In this program, participants learn to seek guidance in life through the lens of our UU Sources, with an emphasis on love. Together we ask big questions such as, “Where did we come from?” “What is our relationship to Earth and other creatures?” “How can we respond with love, even in bad situations?” “What happens when you die?” Participants will learn that asking questions is valued, as they begin to shape their own answers. All sessions highlight love as a central aspect of Unitarian Universalism.

The program seeks to:

- ◆ Emphasize love as the guiding force in our faith
- ◆ Address important theological questions in a simple yet honest way
- ◆ Provide participants with the opportunity to formulate their own ideas and beliefs
- ◆ Introduce world religions and cultivate respect for theological diversity
- ◆ Promote curiosity, awe, wonder and gratitude
- ◆ Implement concrete actions grounded in love
- ◆ Foster a learning community where everyone is welcome, diversity is embraced, justice is practiced, children learn, grow and have fun together.

I, for one, am proud to belong to a tradition that teaches and accepts such diversity of thought, and emphasizes love. Think for a moment what happens when we think our beliefs are the “right” beliefs. If our beliefs are “right”, then everyone else must be “wrong”. We feel compelled to prove that we are right. And, if we have power we try to force our beliefs on others. This type of black and white thinking sets up an us versus them dichotomy and creates division & discord. It is exclusionary.

If, on the other hand, we recognize that on a core level we are all similar and have the same basic needs and desires, we can let go of the need to be “right” and accept surface differences between people. When it comes down to it, we all want to be loved, accepted and treated fairly. Our faith is inclusive, drawing from many sources and accepting diversity of belief as long as those beliefs are grounded in love, fairness, justice and common good. We believe in the transforming power of radical love.

There is a love holding me, there is a love holding you, there is a love holding all. May we rest in that love.

SKUUC News

Fair Share Giving

What is “Fair Share” giving? The SKUU Church canvass kicks off on Sunday, **March 12**. If you’ve ever found the UUA Fair Share giving charts and guidelines a little confusing, please come after the service on **Sunday March 5th** for a 5 minute presentation ***Fair Share Giving Made Simple***. It will be followed by a Q & A session to answer any questions you may have. Look for Ken Crandell, who has led UU canvasses using the Fair Share guidelines multiple times.

SKUUC Now Recruiting for *Flaming Chalice* Co-Editor

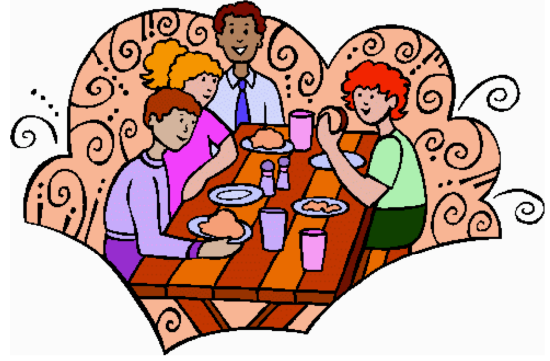
Extra ! Extra! We are recruiting for a co-editor for the Flaming Chalice, SKUUC’s monthly newsletter. The job is shared with Joyce Kinnear. Co-editors are responsible for six issues a year. The term is one year. Responsibilities include light editing, selecting images, and adding content from regular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

Shopping For SKUUC

Did you know that you can still help raise money for SKUUC by shopping locally? Our ongoing script program is still running, but the income has decreased to about \$5/month, with only 9 people registered. We'd like to revitalize this program, to generate at least \$100/month, as we are doing with Amazon. The escrip website lists all the participating merchants, and SKUUC receives 3% of all your qualifying purchases.

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 (1) any credit card numbers you want registered with your account, and (2) the phone number you have linked to your Lucky's rewards card. Then, whenever you use that rewards card or your credit card to make qualifying purchases, SKUUC gets the credit. Contact Bob Simoni at bobsimoni@gmail.com if you have any questions. He will contact the 8 people that have accounts already and ask them to update their information, If you don't hear from him, you don't have a current account. Thanks for your help in raising money for our church!





WEED 'N' FEED

SATURDAY, March 25

10:00 - 12:00 Gardening

12:00 - 1:00 (Lunch)

Calling all green and brown thumbs!

Please join The Committee Council to get SKUU's grounds spruced up.

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.

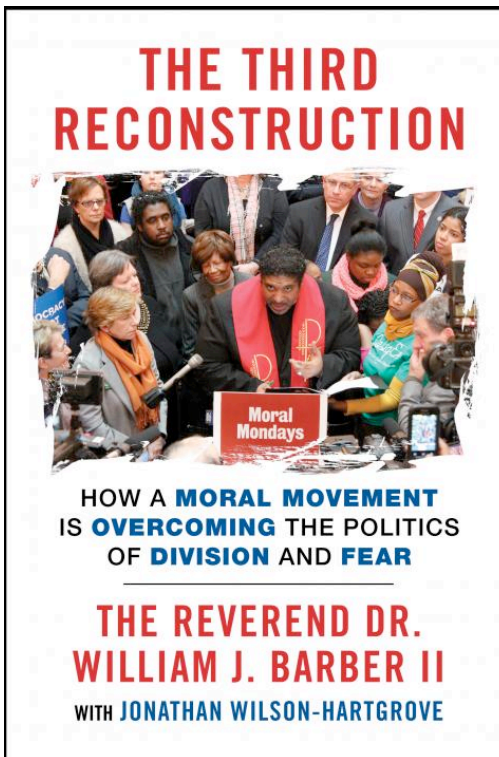
* If you can do some gardening between Weed & Feeds, Walt Korus could always use some help. So feel free to check in with him and "come on down!"

More Info: Contact Colleen Saia, 510-773-1497

UUA Common Read Discussions Scheduled

Have you had a chance to read the UUA Common Read book, ***The Third Reconstruction: How a Moral Movement is Overcoming the Politics of Division and Fear***, by Rev. Dr. William Barber II with Jonathan Wilson-Hartgrove, yet? The Third Reconstruction offers helpful, practical guidance for engaging with justice movements born in response to local experiences of larger injustices. Drawing on the prophetic traditions of the Jewish and Christian scriptures, while making room for other sources of truth, the book challenges us to ground our justice work in moral dissent, even when there is no reasonable expectation of political success, and to do the hard work of coalition building in a society that is fractured and polarized.

We have scheduled two discussion sessions of the book: the first discussion is scheduled for Friday, 3/24/2017, starting at 6:30 PM; the second is scheduled for Sunday, 3/26/2017, starting at 12:15 PM. We would like to have at least five participants in each discussion session, in addition to the discussion leaders. If you still need a book, there are three books available for purchase in the Social Hall at a cost of \$15 each. Contact The Castles at renesqrd@gmail.com or 510-435-0792 with any questions or to RSVP for a session.



Update From the Eden Area Interfaith Council

by Rene G. Castle

The first Eden Area Interfaith Council Annual Meeting, held at Eden United Church of Christ on February 12, was a success. There were 30 to 40 people, including half a dozen from Starr King. The official business of the meeting was successfully accomplished: both the by-laws and the nominated slate for the Board were approved. I will now be representing Starr King both as a representative and as Board member. In addition to the official business, there were also musical performances by Paul Keim from the First Presbyterian Church, sacred Hindu music by musicians from the Badarikashrama Hindu Spiritual Center, and Somos El Barco by our own Bob Meyerson.

The next Board meeting will be held on February 22, 2017 at President Stephanie Spencer's home in Castro Valley. Agenda items include updates on insurance, membership, education objectives for the year, drafting a common values statement, discussing primary methods of action, and communication practices (how do we speak to each other and who can officially speak for us). The next monthly Representative Council meeting will be held on Wednesday, March 22, 2017 at the First Presbyterian Church (next to Trader Joe's).

Some activities we are invited to participate in:

- 1) Meet a Muslim event, featuring Moina Shaiq, on Sunday, March 5th at 2 pm at the Castro Valley Public Library. <https://www.facebook.com/events/366020603781352/>
- 2) World Hijab Day, at the South Hayward BART station on Friday, March 24th at 4:30 pm. Women, wear head scarves in solidarity. <https://www.facebook.com/events/1875944959356995/>



News From FESCO

All of us at FESCO were very sad to hear that Dave Knudsen, 84, passed away on Friday, February 10. Dave and his wife Kathy were on a cruise through the Panama Canal, when he suffered a stroke and did not survive. Dave served on FESCO's Board for many years, and supported us in many other ways, often without being asked. Dave and Kathy owned and managed the Ice Creamery in Castro Valley for the last 14 years, turning it into a bustling success and community mainstay. Services for Dave have been scheduled for 1 PM on Saturday, March 11, at the First Presbyterian Church in San Leandro, 180 Estudillo Avenue. In lieu of flowers, donations can be made in Dave's name to FESCO or Compassion International, a child poverty program based in Colorado Springs, CO.

The Shuffle is ON!

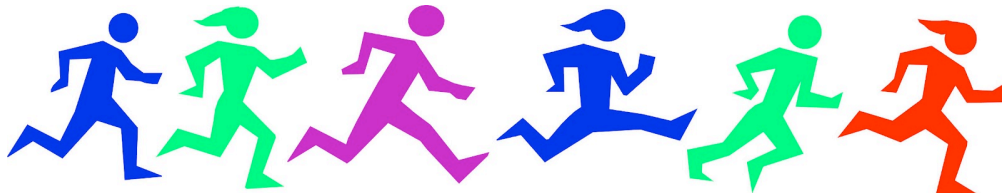
Saturday, May 6, is the day, and the Seagull Picnic area of the San Leandro Marina Park is the place! Participate as an individual or as a team in our family-friendly, dog-friendly walk along the beautiful paths of the San Leandro Marina Park.

Check-in/T-shirt pickup at 8:30 AM. Opening ceremony at 9 AM. Closing ceremony at noon.

Online signup:

www.firstgiving.com/21524/20th-annual-fesco-shuffle

For more information, or to volunteer, contact Stephanie Miller at [<smiller@fescofamilyshelter.org>](mailto:smiller@fescofamilyshelter.org)



EMMA'S REVOLUTION CONCERT, FREIGHT AND SALVAGE, BERKELEY CA

What: Award winning, activist musicians, Emma's Revolution (Pat Humphries & Sandy O) in concert

When: Tuesday, March 14th, 2017 at 8:00pm

Where: Freight and Salvage, 2020 Addison St, Berkeley

Tickets: \$18 advance / \$22 door

Advance Tickets: Available online at <http://thefreight.org/emmas-revolution> or in person at the Freight and Salvage

Additional Info: Online at <http://thefreight.org/emmas-revolution>

Church Calendar For March, 2017

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

= Prov		March 2017					Next =
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	
			1 * 7:30 pm Evening Meditation	2 * 7:00 pm Board of Trustees Meeting * 7:00 pm Drumming Circle	3 * 10:00 am Hike	4 * 10:00 am Hike	
5 8:00 am International Women's Day			8 * 12:00 pm Staff Meeting	9 * 7:30 am SKIT	10	11	
9:00 am Choir Rehearsals			* 9:00 pm Pastoral Care Committee	* 7:00 am AFMCA			
9:30 am Earth Fair Planning			* 7:00 am AFMCA	* 7:30 pm Evening Meditation			
10:30 am Worship Service							
12 9:00 am Choir Rehearsals	6 7 * 10:30 am Safety Committee		15 * 12:00 pm Elder Meeting	16 * 7:00 am Adult RE	17	18	
10:30 am Worship Service			* 7:00 pm RE Council	* 7:00 pm Nurses Committee		* 8:00 am AFMCA Movie Night	
12:00 pm Canvass Luncheon			* 7:30 pm Evening Meditation				
19 9:00 am Choir Rehearsals	20 21 * 10:30 am Safety Committee		22 * 12:00 pm Staff Meeting	23 * 7:00 pm Evening Meditation	24 * 8:30 pm Common Read Discussions * 10:00 am Weed N Feed	25	
10:30 am Worship Service							
12:00 pm Church Bookstore Open							
12:00 pm Hospitality and							
Membership							
12:15 pm Peace and Justice Action							
Lunch							
26 9:00 am Choir Rehearsals	27 28 * 1:00 pm Executive Meeting		29 * 7:30 pm Evening Meditation	30	31 * 8:00 am Anland Trip		
10:30 am Worship Service							
12:15 pm Common Read Discussion							

Calendar developed and supported by Karen O'Shea