



## Newsletter

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

***October 2017***

# THE FLAMING CHALICE

***Sunday Worship: 10:30 am***

***October Services; Theme: Indigenous Wisdom***

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

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**Parish Minister:**

**Rev. Maria Cristina Vlassidis Burgoa**  
[minister@starrking.org](mailto:minister@starrking.org)

**Church President: Will Fitch**

[president@starrking.org](mailto:president@starrking.org)

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**Director of Religious Exploration:  
Allison Prout**

[dre@starrking.org](mailto:dre@starrking.org)

DRE Office Hours: Wed & Thurs;  
10:30 am to 2:30 pm

**October 1. All Our Relatives. Rev. Maria Cristina.**

The stories and ancestral myths of indigenous people have been passed down through the generations. The elders of the community are revered as the keepers of these stories and holders of great wisdom. How does indigenous wisdom relate to our commitment to honor and protect Mother Earth? In most indigenous people's world view, or cosmovision, everything has a spirit: mountains, rocks, wind, flowers, birds, four legged beings...everything. They are all our relatives and have a story to share. Let us gather to learn about indigenous principles such as Buen Vivir a communal way of living where nature cannot be owned. Come be inspired by native wisdom in music and poetry that will inspire and cultivate our roles as healers and advocates of our blue planet.

**October 8. Indigenous Peoples' Day—the Doctrine of Discovery.  
Rev. Maria Cristina**

Many of us grew up learning that this continent was "discovered" by Christopher Columbus. The doctrine of discovery originated from papal decrees in Christian Europe in the mid-1400s to justify the pattern of domination and oppression by European monarchies. It theologically asserted the right to claim the indigenous lands, territories, and resources on behalf of Christendom, and to subjugate native peoples around the world.

**October 15. What's Class Got to Do With It? An exploration of  
'The Last Taboo in the US.' Rev. Dorothy Emerson**

Rev. Dorothy Emerson is a semi-retired UU Minister: a native Californian who spent the past 33 years in the Boston Area. She has authored several books on ministry, women's issues and class.

**October 22. Ways of Knowing. Rev. Maria Cristina**

What is our understanding of knowledge and knowledge production within the context of religion and spirituality? What are prevailing assumptions and expectations about what constitutes an "intellectual" sermon? Join us as we reflect on the intersection between Theology as an academic discipline and the religious and spiritual dimensions of people's lived experiences.

**October 29. Days of the Dead. Rev. Maria Cristina**

Join us as we gather together as a community to honor the memory of our dearly departed. Our multigenerational service will include music and stories as we remember our loved ones. You are invited to bring photographs, mementos, flowers, and sweet bread to make a communal "ofrenda" /offering.



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## Wheel of Life



*Celebrating Frank Burton's Fran  
 & Jim Forsyth Community  
 Service award from the  
 Hayward Area Democratic Club.  
 Congratulations Frank!*

*Mary Swain, Stephanie Smith, Frank Burton and others*



*Sara Lamnin and Frank Burton*



*Welcome Drake Scott Otermat*

## October Birthdays

Date	Name
8-Oct	Scott Kinnear
16-Oct	Sheila McClellan
19-Oct	David Miyoshi



**Days of the Dead,  
“We Remember Them”  
By Xiomara Tapia and  
Rev. Maria Cristina Vlassidis Burgoa**



The Days of the Dead is one of the most important annual celebrations in Mexico and other Latin American countries. This ancient ritual is rooted in Pre-Hispanic indigenous Mesoamerican earth-based harvest ceremonies. Today, we can also observe that some Christian elements have been integrated into it as a result of the fusion with the celebration of All Saints Days. In Mexico, the Days of the Dead begin on October 28 with the celebration of the Vigil of the Little Angels, or *Angelitos*, dedicated to children and culminating on November 2.

During the Days of the Dead, families gather flowers, especially the traditional *cempazuchil*, or marigold, which symbolizes the circle of life and death. They also bake sweet bread, *pan de muertos*, visit the cemetery to clean and decorate the tombs of their loved ones, and build home altars where they place their *ofrendas*, or offerings. Altars are decorated with delicately cut tissue paper called paper *picado* which represents the ephemeral nature of our human condition. The altars for the Little Angels include toys, baby bottles, pacifiers, little shoes, and flowers called “baby’s breath.” An important element of the *ofrenda* is copal, a kind of incense obtained from the sap of certain sacred trees. The use of copal incense has been documented and dates back thousands of years before the arrival of the Spaniards. It has been incorporated into Catholic rituals and is still considered by indigenous peoples, such as the Otomi and Lacandon, to be a sacred element which facilitates communication with the divine and is used in therapeutic healing ceremonies. The mixture of copal and the scent of the marigolds is believed to guide our loved ones to our home altars where they can witness our devotion and be reassured that they are not forgotten.

The Mexican writer Octavio Paz once said that in many parts of the world people are afraid of the word “death” even touching their lips, but that in Mexico people have learned to swallow it whole, like a sugar skull. Today the people of Mexico are mourning and many are still praying and hoping to find loved ones under the rubble in the aftermath of the earthquake. Like the copal smoke, we as a community of faith send our thoughts and prayers to the people of Mexico grieving their loved ones. On October 29th, we will together build an *ofrenda* to honor our own loved ones and also as public witness that we remember the people of Mexico, Puerto Rico, Barbuda, Florida, Texas, Cuba, Myanmar, India, and everywhere death and devastation has left broken hearts in need of love and solidarity.

“In the rising of the sun and in its going down,  
we remember them.

In the closing of the wind and in the chill of winter,  
we remember them.

In the opening of buds and in the rebirth of spring,  
we remember them.

In the blueness of the sky and in the warmth of summer,  
we remember them.

In the rustling of leaves and in the beauty of autumn,  
we remember them.

In the beginning of the year and when it ends,  
we remember them.

When we are weary and in need of strength,  
we remember them.

When we are lost and sick at heart,  
we remember them.

When we have joys we yearn to share,  
We remember them.

So long as we live, they too shall live, for they are now part of us, as we remember them.”

Roland B. Gittelsohn



## *Report from the Board of Starr King Unitarian Universalist Church (SKUUC); October 2017*



No board column this month. Look for a long report next time! Everyone on the Board is happy to take your feedback about how things are going and hear suggestions for what you'd like to see happening here and church and in our community efforts. Please reach out to any of us to make sure your voice is heard.

In service,

Will Fitch, Jennifer Koney, Roy Dickerson, Bob Britton, Frank Burton, Mary Lou Schuler, Kirk Klausmeyer, Marilyn Mosher, Sherry Thomas, Heidi Green, and Rev. Maria Cristina



**EID Dinner with Interfaith Fellowship**



**Members support the Dreamers**

## ***Starr King Children's Religious Education (R.E.) Classes By Allison Prout and Lorie Miller***



Our classroom is designed to promote a developmentally appropriate and inclusive environment. The children are exposed to diversity through language, music and art from local and worldwide communities. Spiritual lessons are drawn from UU's Seven Sources and presented through stories and themed activities.

Starr King's R.E. classes incorporate Unitarian Universalism's Seven Principles into the curriculum. Through our opening circle rituals, planned activities, caring for classroom pets, and free play, our children develop social skills and build a foundation for Living our Unitarian Universalist Values.

With positive role modeling, our adult teachers guide the children to a path of spirituality. The opening circle signifies to the children they are a valued member of this church and the space for worship is sacred. The children are invited to join the once a month multi-generational worship service, where they become an active participant, emphasizing the importance of community.

We invite you and your family to join us each Sunday, and we look forward to building a long lasting mutually supportive relationship.

### Seven UU Principles:

- Each person is important.
- All people should be treated fairly and kindly.
- We should accept our differences and learn together.
- Each person should be free to search for what is true.
- All people should have a vote in matters that concern them.
- We should work for a peaceful, fair and free world.
- We should take care of our planet earth.

### Seven UU Sources:

- The sense of wonder we all share.
- Women and men whose lives remind us to be kind and fair.
- The ethical and spiritual wisdom of the world's religions.
- Jewish and Christian teachings that tell us to love others as we love ourselves.
- The use of reason and the discoveries of science.
- The harmony of nature and the sacred circle of life.
- Faithful words and actions that shape our Unitarian and Universalist heritage.

Allison Prout

### **STARR King Church & Eden UCC Co-Sponsoring Fall Youth Activities**

Oct. 1 – Card-a-Palooza & Ice Cream Social 5:30 -7:30 pm Eden Church

Nov. 12 – Pizza & Roller Skating 6:30 -8:30 pm Golden Skate, San Ramon

Dec. 2 Alameda County Food Bank Service Project 1:00 – 4:00 pm

For more information contact [dre@starrking.org](mailto:dre@starrking.org)

## You Are Never too Young to Volunteer at South Hayward Parish!

On Saturday, October 7<sup>th</sup>, we will be dedicating our garden at South Hayward Parish (SHP) in memory of Betty DeForest. The event will be from 1pm to 3pm. Join us for food and fun, as we remember Betty and her dedication to feeding the hungry.

It's been a very busy summer in our garden at the Outreach Center. Our young volunteers from "Small Hands with Helping Hearts" have been hard at work building planter boxes and filling them with wonderful produce.

For \$75, you can add a box to the garden. Checks can be made out to Small Hands, or sent to South Hayward Parish with a note to use for the garden. The kids will add your name (or your family name) to a sign on your box.



If you would like to support their work, you can visit them at "Small Hands with Helping Hearts" on Facebook. (They have also recently collected donations for hurricane relief.)

Here is their mission statement:  
"CALLING ALL CARING KIDS! Small Hands with Helping Hearts is looking to gather kids in the San Francisco Bay Area who want to make a difference in their communities.

Terri Owen, SHP Board member  
([terriowen\\_07@yahoo.com](mailto:terriowen_07@yahoo.com))

*Starr King is one of eight congregations that make up South Hayward Parish (SHP). SHP feeds the hungry, comforts the homeless and stands for social justice in the Hayward community.*

### The month of July at SHP by the numbers:

Clients receiving food:	
2,509 bags/boxes of food	
1,697 unduplicated	
Grocery Rescue donation:	
28,338 pounds	
Volunteer hours:	1,176
Senior Lunches:	80

### We need grown up volunteers too !

- \* **Drivers:** needed to pick up donations. Must have valid license and ability to drive our van. Flexible scheduling.
- \* **Driver Helpers:** accompany the driver and help with pick ups. Ability to lift 50 pounds.
- \* **Shelter Volunteers:** We are beginning to gear up and plan for our winter shelter. Sign up now to get on the schedule.



## Peace and Justice Action Team; October 2017

### Frank Burton, Chair

We have been invited by Rev. Dr. William Barber, founder of Moral Mondays and author of our Church's common read this year, *The Third Reconstruction: How a Moral Movement Is Overcoming the Politics of Division and Fear*, to join a new national campaign he is organizing—"The Poor People's Campaign, a National Call for Moral Revival." It aims to build a broad and deep national moral fusion movement – rooted in the leadership of the poor, the marginalized, and moral agents, and reflecting the great moral teachings of the world's great religions – to unite our country from the bottom up.

This **National Call for Moral Revival** has emerged from more than a decade of work by grassroots community and religious leaders, organizations and movements fighting to end systemic racism, poverty, the war economy, environmental destruction, & related injustices and to build a just, sustainable and participatory society.

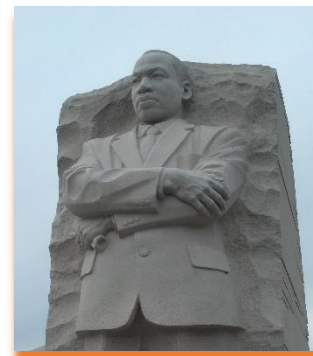
These inequities are the ones which Martin Luther King was addressing 50 years ago. They still exist, and many of them have gotten worse.

In a recent whirlwind 30 hours in Los Angeles, we began with a meeting on the second-floor roof patio of a non-profit facility in the heart of Skid Row, traveling past block after block of tarps and tents and other makeshift shelters on the way there—shelters for people who are, as some of them told us, "houseless." They don't call themselves "homeless," because their tent or their tarp is their home, they just don't have houses. We began our time leading up to the training with Dr. Barber with this trek to skid row, hearing stories from some of the most disenfranchised people in the United States.

That evening, we gathered with several hundred people in an old church in West L.A. in a mass meeting with Doctor Barber and his associate Liz Theoharis, plus several people who told their stories.

The next morning, we had the privilege of sitting at Rev. Barber's feet for hours in a training for activists who will be involved in organizing the Poor People's Campaign in California. This was one of a series of gatherings he is holding all across America to set up groups which will organize the Poor People's Campaign, so we can hold frequent synchronized days of civil disobedience in 25 states during a period of 40 days and nights during the first half of 2018.

This campaign draws on the history, vision and unfinished work of Dr. Martin Luther King's 1968 Poor People's Campaign. You may want to read the brief history of it in Wikipedia; just search for "Poor People's Campaign."



Much of the direct action will be taken in 25 state capitals, including Sacramento. We don't anticipate occupying the State Capitol for 40 days and nights, but we do anticipate having several actions of civil disobedience there; volunteers can join the civil disobedience after appropriate training and with direct help from legal and other support teams.

Some people will march to reach Sacramento and other state capitals, possibly including contingents from southern California and the Bay Area. Others of us will caravan to Sacramento a few times during the 40 days of direct action.

This new **Poor People's Campaign for a Moral Revival** in America is a resounding call to save the very soul of this nation. It is time to become a new and unsettling force in our complacent national life.

For more information about the Poor People's Campaign, click here: <http://tinyurl.com/new-poor-peoples-campaign>.

The Peace and Justice Action Team voted on Sunday, September 24, to recommend to the Board of Trustees: "That Starr King Unitarian Universalist Church endorse and participate in The Poor People's Campaign, a National Call for Moral Revival."



## Announcements

### **October 1, 12 noon to 1 pm—Join us for Soup, Sundaes and Sharing**

Stay after church for lunch on October 1, and together we will discuss integrating workshops into our RE program this year. We want your ideas about what kinds of workshops might work.

### **October 1, 11:40 after service, Visitor's Circle**

Monthly Visitor's Circle meeting for those wanting to know more about Starr King and Unitarian Universalism will be held with Rev. Maria Cristina.

### **October 14, 10 am to 4:30 pm—UU Class Conversations Workshop. Instructor is Rev. Dorothy Emerson.**

Intended for UU's in the Bay Area, this interactive workshop is to help UU's become more aware of economic/social class distinctions and how they impact society as a whole. Held at the UU Berkeley church at 1 Lawson Street in Kensington from 10 am to 4:30 pm. Registration cost is on a sliding scale from \$20 to 50. Refreshments and registration start at 9. The workshop includes lunch. Vegan options are available. Refreshments and a lunch will be served. Contact Millie Phillips at 415-272-4152.

### **October 15, 12 noon in the Sanctuary**

Join us for our second gathering to explore Unitarian Universalist History, Theology, and Worship. Everyone is welcome! For more information, please contact Mileva Saulo Lewis at [milevas@aol.com](mailto:milevas@aol.com)

### **October 21, 6 pm—Game Night at the Church**

### **October Drum Circle Cancelled—See You in November**

Kathryn will be out of town for her mother's memorial service on October 6, so the October Drum Circle is cancelled. You are welcome to use the drums in her absence, and the circle will continue in November



### **Raise Money for Starr King by Registering for eScrip and shopping locally.**

We get 3% of your total purchases at grocery stores like Lucky, Food Maxx and Save Mart, as well as many local restaurants, such as Black Angus on Hesperian and Ghazni (the Afghani restaurant near A St and 2nd Street in Hayward). To 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 Rewards account.

If you don't have a Lucky Rewards account, create it here: <https://www.luckysupermarkets.com/rewards/my-rewards#Account>. Then anytime you use the related phone number when you make your purchase at Lucky, Starr King will get credit.

# Church Calendar for October 2017

For details about these activities, go to [www.starrking.org/calendar](http://www.starrking.org/calendar), and hover your cursor over an event.

October 2017						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>1</b> * 9:15 am Choir Practice * 9:30 am Nominating Committee * 10:30 am Worship * 11:40 am Visitor's Circle * 12 noon RE Training	<b>2</b> * 6:30 pm Rainbow Group LGBT NA	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b> * 7:15 pm SGM Evenings * 7:30 pm Evening Meditation	<b>5</b> * 7 pm Board of Trustee's Meeting	<b>6</b> * 10 am Safety Committee	<b>7</b>
<b>8</b> * 9:15 am Choir Practice * 10:30 am Worship * 12:15 pm Peace and Justice Action Team	<b>9</b> * 6:30 pm Rainbow Group LGBT NA	<b>10</b> * 11 am Adult RE	<b>11</b> * 12 noon Staff Meeting * 12 noon SGM Daytime * 3 pm Pastoral Care Committee * 7:30 pm Evening Meditation	<b>12</b> * 7:30 pm SKIT	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b> * 3 pm Unitarian Universalism Event
<b>15</b> * 9:15 am Choir Practice * 10:30 am Worship Service * 12 noon Church Bookstore Open * 12 noon The New UU: UU Roots	<b>16</b> * 6:30 pm Rainbow Group LGBT NA	<b>17</b> * 7 pm Committee's Council Meeting	<b>18</b> * 12 noon Elders Meeting * 7 pm RE Council * 7:15 pm SGM Evenings * 7:30 pm Evening Meditation	<b>19</b> * 7 pm Worship Committee	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b> * 6 pm Game Night
<b>22</b> * 9:15 am Choir Practice * 10:30 am Worship * 12:15 pm Hospitality and Membership * 12:15 pm Hospitality and Membership	<b>23</b> * 6:30 pm Rainbow Group LGBT NA	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b> * 12 noon Staff Meeting * 12 noon SGM Daytime * 1:30 pm Executive Committee * 7:30 pm Evening Meditation	<b>26</b> * 7 pm ARMCA	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>
<b>29</b> * 9:15 am Choir Practice * 10:30 am Worship Service	<b>29</b> * 6:30 pm Rainbow Group LGBT NA	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b> * 7:30 pm Evening Meditation			

## Starr King UU Church Ongoing Activities

Activity	Event Schedule
<b>Church Bookstore</b>	Open on the third Sunday of the month, after the service.
<b>Choir Practice</b>	Meets every Sunday from 9:15 am to 10:15 am in the social hall.
<b>Drum Circle (none in October)</b>	Meets on the first Friday of the month, from 7 to 9 pm, in the Sanctuary. Open to all adults and mature children.
<b>Evening Meditation</b>	Meets every Wednesday, from 7:30 to 8:45 pm. Open to all.
<b>Starr King Elderberries</b>	Meets on the third Wednesday at noon. Bring your lunch. Open to all self-identified elders.
<b>SKIT (Starr King Improv Troupe)</b>	Meets on the second Thursday of the month at 7:30 pm. Open to all.