



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

November 2017

**THE
FLAMING
CHALICE**

Sunday Worship, 10:30am

November Monthly Theme: Gratitude

Church Office Hours
Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday
9:30am – 2:30pm

22577 Bayview Avenue
Hayward, CA 94541
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Parish Minister

Rev. María Cristina Vlassidis Burgoa
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Kelli Abatangelo
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Church President

Will Fitch
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Director of Religious Exploration

Allison Prout
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DRE Office Hours:
Wednesday and Thursday,
10:30am – 2:30pm

Newsletter

newsletter@starrking.org

November 5: Turn Back the Clock

Lay-led by Lorie Miller and Stuart Fink

Lorie and Stuart will inspire us to focus on being grateful for the time we have and honoring the past.

November 12: Veterans Day

Rev. María Cristina

We commemorate Veterans Day together.

November 19: Thanksgiving

Rev. María Cristina and Terri Owen

We gather to express our solidarity and support for our community partners, South Hayward Parish. You are invited to bring non-perishable food donations to contribute to their shelter pantry and Thanksgiving dinner. The collection from the offering plate will go entirely to SHP. (More information on page 3)

November 26: InterPlay

Rev. Claire Eustace, pulpit guest

We all benefit from play. This participatory service will include forms learned through InterPlay workshops. InterPlay is an affirmative movement and storytelling modality that helps integrate mind, body, and spirit. Practicing InterPlay forms is one way to counter stress and cynicism, so we can be strong warriors for peace.

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November Birthdays

2 Lesley Hitchings
2 Bob Meyerson
3 Diana Dickerson
6 Kathryn LaMar

8 James Green
8 Bob Rett
11 Jordan L. Baker-Blanc
14 Hank Wagner

20 Bobby Robinson
21 Alyssa Joy Baker-Blanc
30 Susan Blanc

Wheel of Life



CONGRATULATIONS!

- Frank Satterwhite and Sherry Thomas on their 35th anniversary.
- Diane and Bob Meyerson on their 33rd anniversary.
- Guadalupe Middleton on receiving her Masters in Special Education.

Thanksgiving

Special Plate & Food Collection for South Hayward Parish

Our November 19th service will be devoted to South Hayward Parish (SHP). We will remember our less fortunate neighbors at this time of Thanksgiving with a Special Plate and a food collection. Please bring your check book and some donations. Your generosity is so important!



Let's fill these bags with staple items and toiletries! Suggestions:

NO BIGGER THAN FAMILY SIZE

- ♥ PEANUT BUTTER ♥ TUNA ♥ RICE ♥ BEANS ♥ PASTA
- ♥ CANNED VEGETABLES, FRUIT, & MEAT ♥ DRIED MILK
- ♥ TOOTHBRUSH & TOOTHPASTE ♥ TRAVEL SIZE ITEMS

What exactly happens at the SHP Outreach Center anyway? Learn about the three major programs: Food Pantry, Homeless Support, and Social Justice. The work SHP does on these issues is a big part of our SKUU mission in the community. Our UU values are made real every day! We can rejoice together in knowing that hundreds of our neighbors get important help and support every week at SHP – a place of hope, love, and safety.

Terri Owen, SHP Board member, terriowen_07@yahoo.com

Thanksgiving Dinner

Thursday, November 23, 2pm

Everyone is invited! All are welcome! Bring guests!

No need to RSVP, but please:

- Sign up to bring dishes so it's not just us and the turkey! You can also put your name down to help with set-up and clean-up. The sign-up sheet will be in the Social Hall.
- Come early to help with last-minute preparations.
- Bring a board game and linger after the feast! Or just stick around to visit.

Questions? Suggestions? Contact Donnie Rett at bdrett146@att.net or 510-276-0545.

From the Minister



Today we have gathered and we see that the cycles of life continue. We have been given the duty and responsibility to live in balance and harmony with each other and all living things. So now, we bring our minds together as one as we give our greetings and our thanks to one another as people. Now our minds are one.

[Haudenosaunee](#) Thanksgiving Address

Beloveds,

As we approach a new Thanksgiving Season, I am so grateful for the many expressions of generosity that I have experienced and witnessed among us this year.

I am grateful for all the ways our staff and volunteers contribute to building our Beloved Community. I give thanks for each and every one of our community members who give of their time, talents, creativity, and financial support so that we can live into our mission and vision. For your minds, hearts, helping hands, and generous spirits, I give thanks!

May this season of gratitude help us to remember that we are interconnected and bound to each other by grace and unconditional love.

May we remember that gratitude is an everyday spiritual practice.

May we remember that we are not alone and belong to a loving community.

May we remember the little acts of kindness that make a huge difference in the face of heartache and heartbreak.

May we remember to be gentle with ourselves when we feel we have nothing to give.

Please know that you are a gift to us and to the universe!

Your beautiful presence makes a difference!

Bringing your best authentic self to the table is in itself a gift and a great blessing!

Thank you for your generosity of spirit.

Thank you for teaching our children the true meaning of Thanksgiving.

Thank you for practicing loving kindness when there is tension or misunderstandings.

Thank you for being willing to support a shared ministry that allows all of us to express how much we care for each other, for our neighbors, and our planet.

Thank you for your patience and for assuming good intentions.

Thank you for your laughter and your tears, for sharing your joys and sorrows, so that we may continue to deepen our relationships.

Thank you for forgiveness.

Thank you for adopting a spirit of curiosity and wonder as we try new ways of being together.

Thank you for bringing your authentic self to the table.

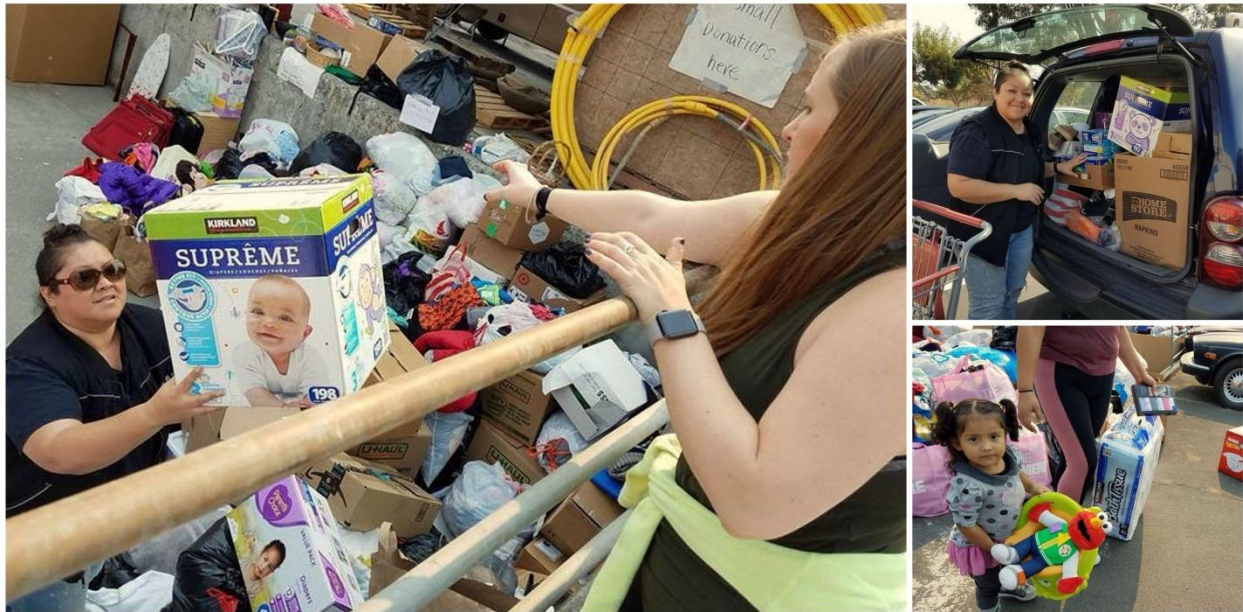
Thank you for your grace.

Rev. María Cristina Vlassidis Burgoa

Wildfire Updates

Starr King Donations to Sonoma County

We are grateful for the generosity of our beloved community, especially Rev. María Cristina, Xiomara Tapia, Remy Fortier (Stephanie Smith's daughter) and her fiancé who distributed donations at various shelters serving those affected by the Santa Rosa fires. They were extremely grateful for the supplies and in good spirits. Blessings to all who donated and all who received!



How You Can Help

Upcoming Starr King Donations

We will be scheduling another delivery, so stay tuned. In the meantime, please consider donating to these on-the-ground organizations:

UndocuFund

Frank Burton notes that trustworthy grassroots organization [Causa Justa](#) recommends donating to [UndocuFund for Fire Relief in Sonoma County](#). Unlike other residents affected by this tragedy, our undocumented neighbors do not qualify for FEMA assistance and fear immigration enforcement. They face significant challenges - and we can help!

Red Cross

All donations [earmarked for the California wildfires](#) will be used for their work to support this disaster.

UU Congregation, Santa Rosa

Contribute directly to their Fire Fund via their [website](#).

Peace & Justice Action Team

Know Your Rights Workshop

Fifty adults and youth (and a few toddlers) attended the October 10 "Know Your Rights" workshop which we co-sponsored with San Lorenzo Unified School District. We continue to hear that immigrants with family members or friends who are undocumented are afraid they will be detained and turned over to Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) if they have a headlight or taillight burned out or some other trivial violation.

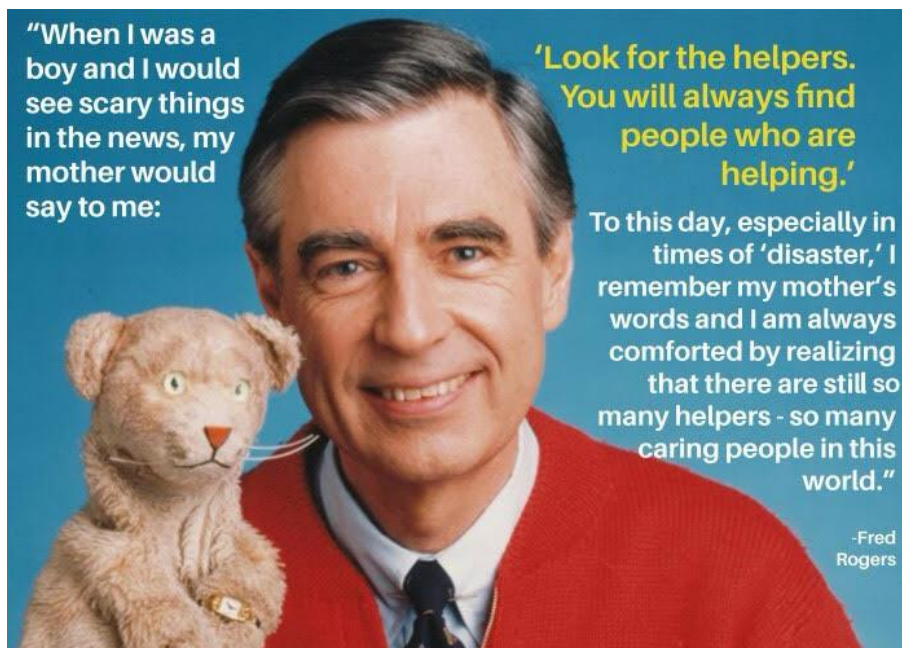
Our intent in organizing these workshops is to provide accurate information about the rights that immigrants have, in these days of wild statements from the White House.

The program presentation was entirely in Spanish, given by Yoshira Mendez, coordinator of Know Your Rights workshops for [Centro Legal de la Raza](#) in Oakland.

Our California Assemblymember, Bill Quirk, also accepted our invitation to co-sponsor the workshop. Starr King Church members provided invaluable help as we prepared and served a supper to the attendees. Thank you go to Jennifer Koney, Donnie Rett, Lorie Miller, Mary Lou Schuler, and Stephanie Smith for that, and to Mary Lou for establishing the contact with the School District. Several Starr King members contributed food for the meal or money for the ingredients, as did Assemblymember Quirk.

This is the first of what we hope to be a series of these workshops which we co-sponsor with the San Lorenzo district, and we are also exploring with other school districts.

Frank Burton, Peace & Justice Action Team Chair



RE Reflections

November Theme: Gratitude

Featured Faith Tradition: Hinduism

Some people complain because God put thorns on roses.

Others praise Him for putting roses among thorns.

Satguru Sivaya Subramuniyaswami



I would like to start out by thanking October's workshop leaders who did a fantastic job. It takes a village to mentor our young. I appreciate everyone for stepping up. So, thanks to:

- Roy Dickerson for sharing his coding expertise
- Michelle Lovett and Diane Meyerson for an instructional and entertaining look at acorns and how Native Americans used them.
- Kathryn Lamar, Lea Casini, and Lorie Miller who led the children in a drumming workshop
- Emily Watkins and Xiomara Tapia for creating fun crafts for Day of the Dead

I am equally grateful to have an exciting lineup of workshops for November including pressed leaf cards thanking veteran's for service, a brief intro to Hinduism, and a field trip to the San Leandro Hindu Temple.

In keeping with our November themes, I would like to share with you a Hindu parable which emphasizes the philosophy that a grateful attitude can be an antidote to worldly suffering.

A guru was sitting with two disciples under a sprawling banyan tree in India. The older student inquired, "Guruji, how long must I wait until I realize God?" The teacher responded, "Enlightenment is not something that can be predicted, but since you have asked," he leaned over and spoke in the right ear, "it will be twenty more lives." "Oh, no!" the youth cried in dismay, "I don't know if I can wait that long!"

The other follower, naturally curious, asked of his own future. The guru whispered, "Liberation will come after you live as many lives as this banyan has leaves!" Hearing this, the seeker jumped to his feet and began to dance. Why? He was suddenly overtaken with the assurance that he would ultimately be liberated. Ecstatic with appreciation, he transcended the mind and attained his Liberation that very moment.

The first student was on the path of depreciation. For him, the pot was half empty. For the second, immersed in thankfulness, the pot was half full.

In Faith,

Allison Prout, DRE

In other RE news, this is the newest

member of our congregation: *Ōsushi*



Adult Religious Education

Upcoming Session, November 12

On **Sunday, 12 November from 12 – 2pm** we will join in the Sanctuary to continue learning more about Unitarian Universalism. Our focus will be *How We Grow in Faith – Philosophy of Religious Education*. During this experiential session we will:

- Gain insights into our own religious and spiritual education
- Identify key components of Unitarian Universalist education philosophy
- Interact with each other about the role of religious education in our own lives

Religious education in the Unitarian Universalist tradition was profoundly shaped by pioneer **Sophia Lyon Fahs** (1876-1978) who grew up the daughter of Christian missionaries. In her approach to the religious education of children she shifted from the Bible-centered stories of her youth to progressive education beliefs that focused on the lives of children and how to stimulate their curiosity about life. These progressive approaches led her to Unitarian Universalism. We will learn more about her and about the UU vision for religious education called the **Tapestry of Faith**. This approach to religious education is structured around Unitarian Universalist values, principles, and sources with four strands: spiritual development, ethical development, Unitarian Universalist identity development, and faith development.



This interactive session will invite us to consider our own religious upbringing, the rituals and practice or holidays that were important to us, and how what we learned did or did not serve us well in our lives. We'll also look at the role of our family and how Unitarian Universalism has shaped our lives.

Join Our Committee!

The **Adult Religious Education Committee** meets on the 2nd Tuesday of the month, from 11am to 12 noon in the Conference Room. We are interested in your view, topics of interest, and feedback. We are always looking for people to join the committee and are open to a different meeting time to accommodate your involvement. Please see any member of the Adult Religious Education Committee to learn more.

Diane Meyerson, Kathryn Lemar, Shelia McClellan, Ethel May Shaw, and Mileva Saulo Lewis

Announcements

Weed & Feed

Saturday, November 4: Calling all green and brown thumbs! Please join us for a morning of weeding and preparing the grounds for winter followed by lunch at noon! Please bring your own gloves, hat, sunscreen, and any gardening tools you wish to use/share. A sign-up sheet will be on the community table. Questions? See Walt Korus.

Celebrate Our Minister!

Saturday, November 18, 4pm – 9pm

By mid-November, we expect Rev. María Cristina to have received her "Final Fellowship" - the last stage in the long and arduous credentialing process for a UU minister. We will celebrate with a family-friendly event with food, piñata, and dancing with laser lights.

Please bring hearty hors d'oeuvres or non-alcoholic drinks to share. And please help! See Mileva to help with decorations, Mary Shields to help with food, or Beth if you'd like to be in charge of music. And of course we always need people for setup and cleanup. Thank you!

Las Posadas - Save the Date

On Sunday, December 10 at 5pm we will gather to celebrate a beloved Latin American Christmas tradition known as Las Posadas. During Las Posadas, we will recreate Mary and Joseph's perilous journey fleeing persecution, violence, and seeking shelter. In re-enacting this journey, we express our solidarity with all immigrants and refugees and reaffirm our commitment to Peace and Justice for all.

We will process by candlelight to nearby homes singing carols and will then celebrate at the church with a community feast and activities for the entire family. Piñata and games for children of all ages!

Christmas Eve Service

Early notice: our Christmas Eve service is at 7pm on Sunday, December 24. There is no morning service that day.

Cottage Notice

The rear cottage is scheduled to be taken down soon. If anyone wants to check out the contents inside, please do so this week. Questions? See Will Fitch.

Developing White Racial Literacy

Jennifer Koney is asking those who are interested in exploring what it means to be white and developing white racial literacy to join her in a 6-session discussion group that will meet in November, December, and January. Learn critical terms and guidelines for productive dialogue and actions!

There will be a sign-up sheet in the back of the fellowship hall for those who are interested and Jennifer will contact those who sign up to determine the meeting dates/times and provide initial materials. For more information, please contact her at (510) 846-1325 or jkoney@comcast.net.

Raise Money for Starr King Register for eScrip and Shop Locally

We get 3% of your total purchases at:

- Lucky
- Food Maxx
- Save Mart
- Black Angus, 15800 Hesperian Boulevard, San Lorenzo
- Ghazni Afghan Kabobs, 1235 A Street, 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 that phone number when you make your purchase at Lucky, Starr King will get credit.

Try something new! Ongoing Activities

Choir Practice	Meets every Sunday from 9:15 – 10:15am in the Social Hall
Church Bookstore	Open on the third Sunday of the month, after the service
Drum Circle	First Friday of the month, 7 – 9pm, in the Sanctuary. For adults and mature kids.
Evening Meditation	Every Wednesday, 7:30 – 8:45pm. Open to all.
Elderberries	Third Wednesday of the month, at noon. For self-identified elders. Bring your lunch.
Small Group Ministry	Contact sgm@starrking.org for more information.
SKIT Improv Troupe	Second Thursday of the month, 7:30pm. Open to all.

Starr King Church Calendar

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

November 2017						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 7:15pm SGM 7:30pm Evening Meditation	2 7pm Board of Trustees Meeting	3 10am Safety Committee	4
5 9:15 Choir Practice 10:30am Worship Service 12:15pm Peace & Justice Action Team	6 6:30pm Rainbow Group LGBT NA	7	8 12pm Staff Meeting 12pm SGM 3pm Pastoral Care Committee 7:30pm Evening Meditation	9 7:30pm SKIT		11 10am Private Facility Rental
12 9:15 Choir Practice 10:30am Worship Service 11:40am Visitor Circle 12pm Adult RE	13 6:30pm Rainbow Group LGBT NA	14 11am Adult RE	15 12pm Elders Meeting 7pm RE Council 7:15pm SGM 7:30pm Evening Meditation	16 7pm Worship Committee	17	18 4pm Minister Party!
19 9:15 Choir Practice 10:30am Worship Service 12pm Adult RE 12pm Church Bookstore Open	20 6:30pm Rainbow Group LGBT NA	21	22 12pm Staff Meeting 12pm SGM 1:30pm Executive Committee 7:30pm Evening Meditation	23 2pm Thanksgiving Feast 7pm ARMCA	24	25
26 9:15 Choir Practice 10:30am Worship Service 12:15pm H&M	27 6:30pm Rainbow Group LGBT NA	28	29 1:30pm Executive Committee 7:30pm Evening Meditation	30	31	