



Newsletter

*Starr King
Unitarian Universalist
Church of
Hayward, California*

March 2018

THE FLAMING CHALICE

Sunday Worship, 10:30am

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

22577 Bayview Avenue
Hayward, CA 94541
510-581-2060
www.starrking.org

Parish Minister

Rev. María Cristina Vlassidis Burgoa
minister@starrking.org

Office Administrator

Kelli Abatangelo
office@starrking.org

Church President

Will Fitch
president@starrking.org

Director of Religious Exploration

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

Newsletter

newsletter@starrking.org

March Theme: Generosity

Faith Tradition: Baha'i

March 4: What is the difference between charity and solidarity?

Rev. María Cristina

Join us as we reflect upon our mission and how we work for justice in the larger community. Our children will be learning about solidarity and will spend time in class putting together "Blessing Bags" to donate to South Hayward Parish.

March 11: Strengthening Our Beloved Community.

Rev. María Cristina

On Canvass Sunday we celebrate our diversity and welcome all of our precious gifts!

March 18:

Guest Rev. Megan Dowdell

March 25: Pastoral Care, The Heart of Our Beloved Community

Rev. María Cristina

Join us as we express our gratitude for our Pastoral Care Associates. Their generosity of spirit brings compassion, companionship, and unconditional love in the form of visits, meals, prayers, and reaching out to all in need.

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Canvass Supper

Saturday March 10, 6pm
 RSVP to Sherry Thomas
sherrthom1@gmail.com



Please plan to celebrate the gifts of shared community with good food and fun as we join in committing to support and strengthen our beloved community in the coming year.



"In the spring, at the end of the day, you should smell like dirt." Margaret Atwood

March Birthdays

- | | | |
|--------------------|--------------------|------------------------|
| 1 Liana Klausmeyer | 12 Rebecca Parr | 22 Karen Cook |
| 2 Joey Murdach | 12 Darryl Ray | 22 Kelsie Kramer Stone |
| 4 Collin Carrell | 13 Margarita Jacob | 24 Cara Prout |
| 8 Bill Hitchings | 14 Sara Wagner | 26 Sherry Thomas |
| 10 Audrey LePell | 16 Renee Ray | 26 Maya Para |
| 11 Ray Oducayen | 17 Ruth Kuffin | 28 Brian Johnson |

Congratulations to Dick Albert who turned 86 on February 3!



HAPPY
HAPPY!

Board Report, February 2018

First, a big welcome to Natalie Forrest who joined our board at the last meeting and is a great addition to our team!

This was a busy month: the board and COM had a particularly memorable week with both a board meeting and dinner at the Mosher's home. Besides wonderful food it was a chance to talk and explore ideas on a wide range of topics. We solved ninety percent of the world's problems and all we need to do to make that happen is wait until November.

For the church we decided that we don't really have any problems, just a lot of opportunities. Topics included the general assembly congregational study/action issues and much debate went into the wording of these topics with their ability to unite or divide us. Among other topics we discussed everything from the songs we sing to the size of our congregation.

These and other issues were weighed as to their effect on the congregation dynamics. A prime focus was attracting new people. A more progressive agenda might attract some and repel others. More modern music might be popular with younger people but might not resonate with those who want more tradition. How to support families was a major topic as they represent both the near- and long-term health of the congregation. How to generate funds for our work and the proper use of targeted "plates" was on the agenda. We are a diverse congregation with common goals but different perspectives. As a community we should keep our divergent views focused on unifying strengths.

The Board heard reports by three committee representatives:

- Stephanie Smith reported on the Annual Canvass/Pledge. This kicks off with a community dinner at 6pm on Saturday, March 10. The theme for this year is "Strengthening our Beloved Community."
- Diane Meyerson requested an update for the employee manual reflecting the new law regarding sick leave.
- Bob Meyerson reported that our church insurance company with Church Mutual is being reviewed along with consideration of another insurance company, Brotherhood. With the removal of one of our buildings, there will be a reduction in coverage cost.

The Board is organizing some fun activities for the church. We are in the process of making plans to attend a couple of musical performances at Woodminster Theatre and an A's and/or Giants baseball game. Both activities will be held this summer.

Roy Dickerson and Mary Lou Schuler



Mary Foran from UUA Pacific
Central District presents at
Peace & Justice meeting.
+
Sweet SKUUC Valentines



Peace & Justice

A True Story from a Peace & Justice Activist

After sharing a evening feast with other activists at the Carpenters' Hall in Hayward, I stop by a supermarket to pick up a few groceries. There's a cold wind whipping around the parking lot as I head for the door. Next to the door a young woman who could be a teenager or a bit more huddles on the cold concrete between her baby carriage and the building. The carriage provides no shelter, just tosses the frigid wind this way and that. The young woman makes herself vulnerable by reaching out oh so tentatively to each person who enters or leaves.

I glance at her uncomfortably as I pass. When I come out, I look her way more deliberately, trying to figure out what to do. I feel helpless, having no clue about whether she would appreciate a shelter and whether there's one where she would be welcome. I also have no clue of how to reach a shelter, even if she wanted it and there's one which would be open to her.

I don't know what to do.
There but for the grace of God go I.*

I'm often aware in my mind of the difficult plight of many people who are homeless. But this is different. This is a young mother who is obviously having a hard time. I don't usually feel these tears in my eyes or this ache in my heart. I haven't felt this helplessness before.

I don't know what to do.
There but for the grace of God go I.

Does she have food for herself and the baby in the carriage, the carriage which provides little protection from the frigid wind and from people's glances?

I don't know.
There but for the grace of God go I.

Does she have transportation to get from this frigid, lonely place to a place that's safe and heated for her and her baby?

I don't know.
There but for the grace of God go I.

Does she have a warm place for herself and her baby to get out of the chill wind for the night?
I don't know.

There but for the grace of God go I.

Does she have a warm bed for herself and her baby to sleep in tonight?
I don't know.

There but for the grace of God go I.

I wonder what brought her to this lonely spot on the cold concrete. I shake those helpless thoughts off as I fumble with my billfold, extract a bill, and hand it to her. We make brief eye contact, and I hear tears in her voice as she says weakly, yet directly to me, "Thank you, sir." My own tears overflow as the ache in my heart wells up. I don't know what to do, so I move hesitantly into my car and drive home.

There but for the grace of God go I.

I drive to my warm home, to my warm bed. But even as I nestle into the warm covers, the question of what brought her to this lonely spot on the cold concrete haunts me.

I wonder what I should have done.

There but for the grace of God go I.

Hours later, I awaken, hearing her tearful voice again, "Thank you, sir." I call out to my wife, "I need to talk, can you listen for a few minutes?" "Sure." I tell her of the girl/woman on the cold concrete in the frigid wind, reaching out plaintively past her baby to the passersby, feeling my tears well up and overflow even as I tell the story. I tell her of my plan to talk with my minister and my friend who has worked with the homeless for years, to find out what I could do, if confronted again with a situation like last night. Reach out, to find out what I could do.

There but for the grace of God go I.

My wife shares the name of another friend, one who told the story of a person who found themselves homeless, and how they struggled and found help in dealing with being forced to leave their home, and then having no home. As she tells that story, I realize that the same words might be said for that person:

There but for the grace of God go I.

I keep my morning appointment, then drive to *that* supermarket, with mixed feelings. Part of me wants to see her there, where I might be able to do more, to reach out to her, and if she's willing, to take her to a motel and pay for a room for her and her baby, where they could be warm and safe, at least for a few hours. Part of me wants her to be gone, to have found even a temporary escape for herself and her baby.

She's gone.

I didn't know what to do.

There but for the grace of God go I.

I talk later with my friend who has done so much heartfelt work with the homeless. She forwards a resource sheet that I can print out and distribute to friends and also to other activists at my church. These sheets will be distributed at Starr King Church soon.

Do you ever wonder what keeps activists going, resisting the incredible injustices being perpetuated all over? I have a new, sad source of inspiration - I think of that girl/woman/mother huddled on the cold concrete between her baby carriage and the store's wall. What can we do to help her and her baby?

Can you keep on fighting the terrible injustices in our world, especially these days? Will you promise yourself to do what you can to support the new Poor People's March this spring, fighting for justice for the poor, for racial justice, for condemning America's endless wars, and for taking steps to protect Mother Earth by reducing climate change? There's an election coming up this year, and there's a ton of work to do in adjacent congressional districts and adjacent states. Are you willing to work in those adjacent congressional districts or adjacent states to turn this country around? It has never been more important than now.

Now more than ever.

There but for the grace of God go I.

Frank Burton
Peace & Justice Action Team

*By God, these days I mean the creative force in the Universe, the force which creates us, which creates awareness of how connected we all are, the force which tells me that injustice to one is injustice to all.

From the Minister

Beloved Conversations



"As you continue conversations with each other through the 8 sessions and beyond, we encourage you to see anti-racism/anti-oppression work as acts of faith and human formation...of becoming more fully human. Everyone involved - whether socialized within the framework of a dominant cultural group or as targets of oppression - has the opportunity to grow, take risks, struggle with ambiguity, and love each other into a bigger sense of self. May your journey together be filled with wonder, joy and growth." Dr. Mark Hicks



On January 26 & 27 a group of us from Starr King UU Church joined the Mount Diablo UU Church in Walnut Creek to engage in the Beloved Conversations opening retreat. Rev. Leslie Takahashi, a dear colleague and friend, was very generous in subsidizing our participation. We are so grateful for her generosity! Here are some lessons and notes from the retreat that will guide our future conversations. During the course of the 8 sessions, we will:

- Explore what it is that we have learned. How are we individually and collectively shaped by our life experiences? What did we learn about what is "true" and "right" from our grandparents, parents, school teachers, schooling systems, popular music, community organizations like Boy/Girl scouts, sports teams, our congregations/ministers/DREs, etc. What we "learn" sets the context for each of our world views.
- Explore and Un-Learn facts that we learned that promote exclusion, notions of supremacy and social injustice. For example, as children and youth, many of us learned from teachers and parents that the "melting pot" was a symbol of all that was good. Looking at the sociological impact of the melting pot, however, suggests that we need to un-learn that idea because if you were on the bottom of the melting pot, you got burned. Thus, we must un-learn ways of thinking and practice that do not move us toward our goals as people of faith and people who care about injustice.
- Re-learn how to live in the world. Re-learning asks us to add new knowledge to what we have learned. It asks us to create NEW ways of being in relationship with Other, new policies and practices, new roles, and new assumptions that guide our everyday thinking and feeling.

This group will continue to gather for 8 sessions using the Beloved Conversations curriculum and will conclude this Summer. We hope you will be inspired to participate in the next cohort of Beloved Conversations. Everyone is welcome!

Blessing Bags

Inspired by our Office Administrator, Kelli Abatangelo, we will be putting together Blessing Bags to distribute to the shelter clients of South Hayward Parish. Integrated into our Religious Exploration lesson plan, this activity will offer our children an opportunity to learn about compassion for people who are houseless and the difference between charity and solidarity.

We will also distribute a couple of blessing bags to our RE families to keep on hand when they see someone in need. Some of the items in the blessing bags: Socks, soap, wet wipes, pads, cereal bars, apple juice, toothbrush, and toothpaste. This community service project is made possible by the generous contributions to the Minister's Discretionary Fund.

With Much Gratitude and Love,

Rev. María Cristina



RE Reflections

March Theme: Generosity



Featured Faith Tradition: Baha'i

The Baha'i faith began in Persia, now Iran, in the nineteenth century. It takes its name from a man known as Baha'u'llah, which means "Glory of God." Baha'is see him as the latest and most important in a line of prophets which includes Moses, Krishna, the Buddha, Christ, and Muhammad. Today, there are over 6 million Baha'is worldwide.

"The fundamental principle enunciated by Bahá'u'lláh, the followers of His Faith firmly believe, is that Religious truth is not absolute but relative, that Divine Revelation is a continuous and progressive process, that all the great religions of the world are divine in origin, that their basic principles are in complete harmony, that their aims and purposes are one and the same, that their teachings are but facets of one truth, that their functions are complementary, that they differ only in the non-essential aspects of their doctrines and that their missions represent successive stages in the spiritual evolution of human society." *From the Baha'i Writings*

The pivotal principle of the Baha'i Faith is to unite all races and peoples in one universal Cause, the betterment of the world. Believing in the oneness of humanity demands a rooting out of prejudice and inequality. It elevates the need for all relationships and systems to be grounded in cooperation and mutual assistance. Bahá'u'lláh teaches that every person is a unique soul that must have a place in the advancement of society.

Today, Baha'is from many different cultural backgrounds come together at conferences to debate Baha'i laws and issues. These include word unity and the promotion of human rights. So far, Baha'is have concentrated more on forming communities of followers rather than building temples. Currently, there are seven Baha'i Houses of Worship, spread evenly throughout the world. These are open to people of every religion as places of prayer and meditation: there are no rituals, priests or sermons.

For more information on the Baha'i Faith: <http://www.bahai.org/>
Usborne Encyclopedia of World Religions

Allison Prout, Director of Religious Exploration



Adult Religious Education

February 25 Session Rescheduled

Membership: "Signing the Book" and Hospitality

Now 25 March 2018, 12 – 2pm in the Sanctuary

This last session of The New UU series has been rescheduled to 25 March so that the cast of Dangerous Squirrels can have full access to the Sanctuary in February.

Join Us! Each of us came to the decision to join Starr King UU Church after our own deliberative process. It may have meant something different to each of us to "Sign the Book" and to join UUs from all over the world. How did you perceive the rights and responsibilities of membership at Starr King? Would you be interested in knowing what the UUA considers those rights and responsibilities? What are the joys of membership? Has membership met your expectations? How can congregational life be strengthened? Bob Simoni, Chair of the Membership and Hospitality Committee, will tell us about the work of the committee and how you can be a part of the journey of "newcomer" to "member."

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

NEW AED CLASS OPENINGS



**OPPORTUNITY!
LEARN TO SAVE A LIFE!**



The Safety Committee is planning to offer another class in the use of the AED (Automated External Defibrillator) machine. This lifesaving machine has been made possible by our member Mike Preston. In a few short hours you can be trained to use the machine which can literally save a life!

We would like as many members as possible to be proficient in the use of this all important safety equipment.

If we have enough interest, the class, taught by a qualified firefighter, will be held sometime in late March or early April. There is a sign-up sheet on the back table in the Fellowship Hall.

Give a few hours of your time to give life to someone else.

Announcements

Mystery Play Fundraiser Success!

Huge thanks to the cast, crew, volunteers, and enthusiastic audience for making this year's play an entertaining success! And special thanks to playwright / director Glen Jacobs for sharing his talent with us and inspiring much laughter - and funds! Together we all raised about \$2,000 for the church.



Yoga for the People! Mondays at 6pm

Our own Guadalupe Perez Middleton, certified Yoga Instructor, will offer an intentional space here at church for people to practice yoga in a welcoming environment. Thematic classes will focus on self-care, empowerment, healing, breath, and community. All levels are welcome. All ability levels are welcome. Children are welcome. Classes are free, donations are accepted. Join us!



"This past Monday I joined my very first yoga class. I had always been afraid of all the contortions and pretzel-like poses that I thought we would be doing. But to my delight, this was a gentle and very accessible class for all ages and abilities." Rev. María Cristina

Hayward PFLAG Guest Speaker

March 12, 2018 7:30 – 9pm
27287 Patrick Avenue, Hayward 94544



Guest speaker Sheldon W. Helms is a professor of experimental psychology at Ohlone College. He regularly gives public science talks to warn people about the danger of Gay Conversion Therapy. Please R.S.V.P. as soon as possible to Vickiy Gonzales at vickiy.pflag.hayward@gmail.com

Committee Reports Due Tuesday, April 10

Starr King's Annual Meeting is Sunday, May 20th. Committee chair reports are due to the office on 4/10. Please submit them in a Word document to Kelli in the office via email at office@starring.org
Thank you!

Save the Date for Regional Assembly, Friday April 27-29

"Stories of Hope, Courage, Resistance, and Resilience" will be the theme of our Regional Assembly, which will be held April 27-29, 2018, at the Double Tree Hotel in Portland, Oregon. Register at pwrregistrar@uaa.org

Save the Date for Oregon Shakespeare Festival

Annual trip to the [Oregon Shakespeare Festival](#), April 6-7, 2018. Details will be coming out soon.
Contact: terriowen_07@yahoo.com



"Crowns in my purse I have, and goods at home,
And so am come abroad to see the world."

WhaleCoast Alaska 2018

Have you ever dreamed of visiting Alaska? If so, WhaleCoast Alaska 2018 is for you! Four Alaska UU fellowships invite you to experience our eco-cultural and spiritual program this summer.

See Alaska through the eyes of local UUs, with friendly homestays and unique tour activities. See wildlife, including moose, bears, caribou, whales, bald eagles, seals, and otters. Visit Denali National Park. Experience Native Alaskan culture. Forget the cruise ships - our program is the best way to visit Alaska!

Tours led by Dave Frey, member of the Fairbanks UU congregation and Alaska travel expert. Find out more about this Alaskan trip of a lifetime. For complete information go to: www.WhaleCoastAK.org, email dfrey@whalecoastak.org or call 907-322-4966.

Discount for groups of 8 or more. We would love to share our Alaska with you!

Join a Committee!

Do you enjoy:

☺ gardening? ☺ baking? ☺ facebook? ☺ chatting? ☺ acting?
☺ photography? ☺ writing? ☺ Crafts? ☺ organizing? ☺ music?

Let one of our committee chairs know that you'd like to share your talents with us!

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.

Ongoing Activities

Choir Practice	Meets every Sunday from 9:15 – 10:15am in the Fellowship 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.

March 2018						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 7pm Board of Trustees	2 10am Safety Committee	3
4 9am Choir 10:30am Worship Service 11:40am Visitor's Circle	5 6pm Yoga 6:30pm Rainbow Group LGBT NA	6	7 7:15pm SGM 7:30pm Evening Meditation	8 7:30pm SKIT	9 8am Canvass Set-up	10 6pm Canvass Celebration Dinner
11 9am Choir 10:30am Worship Service 11:40 Canvass Sunday 12:15 Peace and Justice Action Team	12 6pm Yoga 6:30pm Rainbow Group LGBT NA 7pm White Racial Literacy Group	13 11am Adult RE	14 12pm Staff Meeting 3pm Pastoral Care 7:30pm Evening Meditation	15	16	17
18 9am Choir 10:30am Worship Service 12pm Church Bookstore Open	19 6pm Yoga 6:30pm Rainbow Group LGBT NA	20	21 7pm RE Council 7:15pm SGM 7:30pm Evening Meditation	22	23	24
25 9am Choir 10:30am Worship Service 12pm Adult RE	26 6pm Yoga 6:30pm Rainbow Group LGBT NA	27	28 7:30pm Evening Meditation	29	30	31