



Newsletter
Starr King
Unitarian Universalist
Church of
Hayward, California

April 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
dre@starrking.org
DRE Office Hours:
Wednesday and Thursday,
10:30am – 2:30pm

Newsletter

newsletter@starrking.org

April Theme: Mother Earth/Environmental Justice

April 1: Easter *Rev. Maria Cristina leads.*

Worship is a key way for a spiritual community to collectively hold the pain of environmental injustice and climate change, our faith that another world is possible, and our commitment to working toward that world. Join us as we recommit to honoring and protecting our planet, our home. Egg hunt immediately following the service!

Sunday, April 8: Passover *Allison Prout and Rev. Maria Cristina lead.*

Join us as we celebrate the Festival of Passover in community with a Unitarian Universalist Seder. We will transform the sanctuary and share readings, songs, and delicious matzo ball soup. All are welcome!

Sunday, April 15: Mother Earth *Rev. Maria Cristina leads.*

This Sunday we celebrate the beauty of our Mother Earth with poetry, music, and stories from our own congregants whose spiritual practices are strongly rooted in nature.

Sunday, April 22: Inch by Inch *Rev. Maria Cristina leads.*

"Inch by inch and row by row" is how our garden and our beloved community grows. Join us as we celebrate our green sanctuary, our beautiful church grounds, and express our gratitude to our volunteer gardeners. Earth Day Fair immediately following the service!

Sunday, April 29: May Day - *Rev. Amy Beltaine, guest preacher.* May Day is celebrated on May 1st, a time of celebrating spring and exchanging flowers with neighbors and friends. In earth-relating and deities-relating cultures of the Northern Hemisphere the themes of fertility, beauty, renewal art and abundance were celebrated in festivals like Walpurgisnacht, Beltane and Floralia.

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From our Rev. María Cristina Vlassidis Burgoa:

“Let us be at peace with our bodies and our minds.
Let us return to ourselves and become wholly ourselves.
Let us be aware of the source of being,
common to us all and to all living things.
Evoking the presence of the Great Compassion,
let us fill our hearts with our own compassion—
towards ourselves and towards all living beings.
Let us pray that we ourselves cease to be
the cause of suffering to each other.
With humility, with awareness of the existence of life,
and of the suffering that are going on around us,
let us practice the establishment of peace in our hearts and on
earth.”

Welcome to our New Friends

Hello again and warm welcomes from our beloved community! If you visited us recently: please know that we would be so happy to see you again.

Our congregation's regular Sunday worship is informal, friendly, and eclectic: sometimes quiet, sometimes loud, but always musical – we do like to sing. There's almost always laughing and applause, but sometimes there are tears. We welcome people of all abilities, ages, races, ethnicities, genders, sexual orientations, and creeds. We welcome you!

For more information about visiting us again, please enjoy [exploring our website](#) or [get in touch](#) with any questions you might have.

2018 Pledge Dinner Photos



Try Something New: Ongoing Activities

Choir Practice	Meets every Sunday from 9 – 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.
Yoga for the People	Mondays at 6pm in the Sanctuary. Taught by Guadalupe Perez Middleton.

Board Report, March 2018

The big news this month is our board is going over the budget and trying to fit our champagne and caviar dreams into a beer and pretzel reality. We are faced with rising costs for things that are needed and we find ourselves sharpening the pencils more often in search of ways to save money.

The good news is that we have had several important budget related events and more are on the way. We had a great showing at the Mystery Dinner (Thanks Glenn, great cast and super stage hands). The canvass dinner was a huge success (Thanks to Stephanie and all of us who helped out) and the congregation is being especially generous; we are well on our way to making our goal. We have our annual Ashland Shakespeare Festival trip (Thanks to Teri) coming up in a few weeks and that is another source of revenue that is a lot of fun. But speaking of fun the dinner was a great chance for us to get together, have good food, music, and conversation. While not a moneymaker, the game night that Beverly puts on is another great opportunity for us to get together and enjoy each other.

But back to the budget, we are looking hard at the dollars and you will get a chance to see where our money goes and vote on it at the annual meeting which is coming up soon. There will be some other things for you to look at and a chance to put our local democracy into action with your votes on May 20. Between now and then we will have a Committee Council meeting, Earth Day, Regional Assembly, and two board meetings; the year is flying by and even though it feels cold, summer will soon be here.

Between now and then we are still working on church business and looking at how we might play a more powerful role in our community. Closer to home we are looking into how we might use our land as a garden, a maze, and a place of reflection. We are looking at how we can bring experiences to the congregation, and community which promote our priorities and have a good time doing it.



From the Minister

Finding Our Way Home

What if the world that persists is exactly the world we've storied into existence through the hostile faith stories we tell?

Every year the UUA Office of Multicultural Growth and Witness offers a retreat for UU Professionals who identify as People of Color, African American, Afro-Caribbean, Latina/o, Hispanic, Native American/Indigenous, Asian/Pacific Islanders, Middle Easterners, and/or multiracial and multiethnic.



Our retreat is called “Finding Our Way Home” and its purpose is to engage in community building, spiritual reflection, and collegial support while connecting participants with local community organizations as partners in service, witness, and advocacy.



This year we gathered in Albuquerque, New Mexico, and there were approximately 125 of us, including Religious Educators, Musicians, Ministers in fellowship, Ministerial Candidates and Seminarians, Administrators, and UUA Staff.



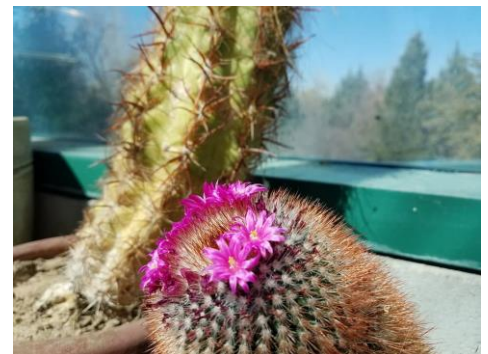
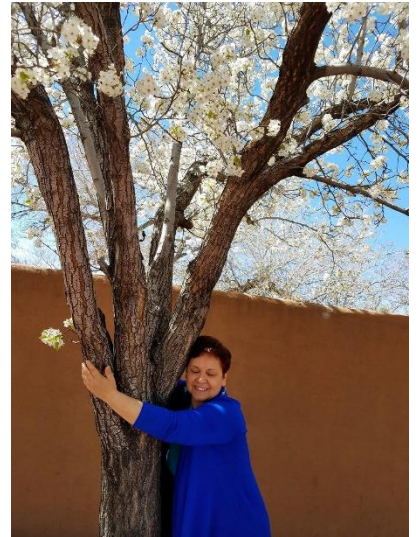
We received inspiration and support from each other, and from our own UUA President, Rev. Susan Frederick-Gray, who stated: “What a joy it was to gather with over 100 fabulous Unitarian Universalist Religious Professions of Color at the annual Finding Our Way Home gathering. I still feel my heart singing and full of prayer and gratitude.” Our Keynote Presenter was Melvin Bray, an Emmy award-winning storyteller, social entrepreneur, and author of the bestselling book “BETTER: Waking Up to Who We Could Be.”

While the topics were deep and sometimes difficult to process, we created brave space ministered to each other, and even had time to explore local museums and go to the movies to see “A Wrinkle in Time” together. I had the privilege and honor of being a Chaplain, which always fills me with gratitude and reaffirms my calling to the Ministry.





I am grateful for all the opportunities to be immersed in the “big picture” of our denomination, to grow as a minister, and to bring back hope and good news to my beloved Starr King community. Our UU movement is growing, being nourished, and experiencing tremendous transformation in order to live into our principles and covenants with each other. I am home in our Unitarian Universalist Faith and in our beloved Starr King congregation.



South Hayward Parish News

SOUTH HAYWARD PARISH CHALLENGED WITH \$10,000 MATCHING GRANT !!

It has been one year since South Hayward Parish (SHP) long time champion Betty DeForest passed away. Betty was an original SHP founder and worked tirelessly to address the issues of hunger, homelessness and social justice in our community. She worked tirelessly for over 50 years to make SHP an important means for our interfaith congregations to make our values of compassion and justice visible and alive in our community.

Betty was a shining example to all who knew her, or had the honor of working with her. Her capacity to see every single human being, no matter how disadvantaged, as whole and deserving of unconditional love was humbling to all of us who knew her.

An Anonymous Donor has pledged a matching grant of up to \$10,000 in support of SHP and in honor of Betty's legacy. Donations collected from April 1 to May 15 will be matched, up to a total of \$10,000.

Please help us maximize this generous offer and help SHP continue to

- FEED THE HUNGRY
- COMFORT THE HOMELESS
- FIGHT FOR SOCIAL JUSTICE

HOW CAN YOU HELP?

- Go to the SHP website and sign up to be a recurring Faithful Donor. These regular donations are crucial to providing reliable support.
- If you are already a Faithful Donor (We love you!). Please consider raising your pledge or making a special additional gift in support of the Matching Grant.
- Make a one-time gift to help us reach our matching goal.

HOW TO GIVE?

- Visit the SHP website at: www.southhaywardparish.org to make a recurring or one-time donation using PayPal; or other credit/debit card.
- Send a check to: South Hayward Parish, 27287 Patrick Ave, Hayward, Ca 94544

Thank you!



SOUTH HAYWARD PARISH PLANS FUN FAMILY DAY AT AN A'S GAME IN MAY

SHP will be filling a section for an A's night game in May.

JOIN US AT AN OAKLAND A'S GAME

This is an SHP fundraiser. We will all be in the same section.

The A's vs The Baltimore Orioles.

Friday, May 4 at 7 pm

Value Deck Seats - \$6 food credit with ticket price.

Tickets are \$15

To Purchase tickets:

**Contact the South Hayward Parish
office at: 510-785-3663**

ralph@southhaywardparish.org

Make check out to: South Hayward Parish



RE Reflections

APRIL THEME: EARTH

FAITH TRADITION: PAGAN

Welcome Spring!! April is here with many exciting things to look forward to. It feels like all the winter rain decided to fall in the last two weeks. But, warm weather is on the horizon and we really needed the rain. Get ready to pull weeds!!

The first two Sundays in April will be dedicated to spring holidays. On April 1, we will celebrate Easter with lots of festivity and an Easter egg hunt, of course!! Then, on April 8, we will celebrate Passover by holding a Seder during Service. This will be a first, and I am very excited to share my favorite Jewish Holiday tradition with the larger congregation.

Next comes Earth Day and our Earth Fair. Again, this year we will be doing something a little different. In the spirit of reducing, reusing and recycling the children will have a booth at the Earth Fair where they sell used toys and items their families no longer need. Families will have a chance to go through their toy boxes & cabinets together and practice de-cluttering to make room for what comes next.

In honor of our theme for the month, I would like to share with you this parent reflection from the Families Weave a Tapestry of Faith section of the Spring **2018 UU World Magazine**....It really resonated for me.

Our children are like seeds: future yet to be revealed, cultivation required immediately. The nurturing a child needs to blossom comes first from the home and family into which they fall. But, unlike when we plant a seed, when we begin to raise a child we cannot know what sort of "ground" will be best for them, because we cannot know what sort of "flower" they have the potential to become. As parents, unlike as gardeners, we lack the seed packet with its picture on the front, its instructions on the back. Are you doing everything a chrysanthemum ought to need? Maybe your child is a sunflower or a daisy.

We can only try to do what we think is best: Provide safety. Model kindness. Teach open-mindedness. Invite play. Create opportunities for our children to discover who they are, what they are good at, what and whom they love.



Only time and experience---theirs---will reveal whom you are raising. We pray that who we are and how we parent will be good enough.



Adult Religious Education

Aging, Dementia and Alzheimer's Disease



Adult Religious Education Session- April 21, 2018, 10 am to 12 noon: Aging, Dementia and Alzheimer's Disease. Dr. Jennifer Winters, Geriatric Nurse Practitioner and Asst. Professor at California State University East Bay, returns after her highly successful presentation in June, 2017 where she addressed Aging in the 21st Century: Myths and Realities. Back by popular demand, Dr. Winters will address forms of Dementia, including Alzheimer's Disease. Her discussion will address signs, symptoms, community resources, current treatments, and care for the person who is ill as well as care for care givers and friends.

Announcements

Easter Brunch Sunday, April 1

Enjoy an Easter brunch on Sunday, April 1 at 1pm at Norman's Grill on Castro Valley Blvd. Questions? Please see Lavon Hodges.

EARTH DAY FAIR IS SUNDAY, APRIL 22 FOLLOWING THE SERVICE

Join in the joys of exchanging plants, seeds, recycled toys and information about our efforts to reduce our Carbon imprint. This is an educational, fun and musical fair. Contact Sheilakmc@aol.com at 510-909-3573.

Committee Reports Due Tuesday, April 10

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

2018 FESCO Shuffle Walkathon



Support FESCO (Family Emergency Shelter Coalition) in its efforts to end family homelessness in Alameda County by joining us at our 21st Annual FESCO Shuffle Walkathon on Saturday, April 28. You can walk as a team or as an individual in this family-friendly, dog-friendly event along the beautiful path at the San Leandro Marina. Check-in starts at 8:30am at the Seagull Picnic Sit. The walk begins at 10. You can walk from one to three miles, or even be a benchwarmer! The event also offers morning refreshments, lunch, entertainment, and a raffle! If you are attending, you can sponsor yourself or get your friends and families to sponsor you. If you are unable to attend, please consider sponsoring a walker or making a direct financial contribution to FESCO. Your donations make it possible for FESCO to help homeless families gain stability and find permanent housing!

Sign up to walk or to donate at www.firstgiving.com/21524/21st-annual-fesco-shuffle. For more information or a pledge sheet, go to www.fescofamilysHELTER.org or call Stephanie Miller at the FESCO office at 510-886-5473, ext. 101.

Regional Assembly

Join your fellow western Unitarian Universalists in Portland, Oregon, April 27-29. [Registration](#) for the Pacific Western Regional Assembly will be open through **April 15**.

Still haven't decided if you're going? Take a look at the variety of workshops, dynamic speakers and other offerings via the [Regional Assembly website](#). Got youngsters? Great! We have an exciting [Kids' Camp](#) planned for them. Got teens? Wonderful! They'll be [Making CoUUrageous Connections](#) together.

Each district will hold their annual meeting on Saturday afternoon, April 28. If you will be attending Regional Assembly and would like to serve as a delegate for your congregation, contact your board president. They have through **April 20** to [certify the delegates](#) from your congregation.

The 2018 General Assembly is June 20 to 24 in Kansas City, MS

GA Theme: "All Are Called," General Assembly (GA) is the annual meeting of our Unitarian Universalist Association. Attendees worship, witness, learn, connect, and make policy for the Association through democratic process. Anyone may attend. Registration and Housing Open March 1GA Registration and the GA Housing Reservation System open at 9am CST. at www.uua.org/ga/travel

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. 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!

Pacific Western Region Justice Journey: Roots, Reflections and Relationships - An Environmental Justice Journey.

A week long immersion experience focusing on Environmental Sustainability through service, learning, and through a meditation practice. The event will be Saturday night, July 14 to Sunday afternoon, July 22, 2018 at Throop UU Church (300 S. Los Robles Avenue, Pasadena, CA). Cost is \$550.00 per person for 8 days. All meals, lodging at the church, local transportation. (Air and ground Transportation to the Throop Church is not included.)

To register: <https://register.pwruua.org/event-registrations/pwr-mission-trip/> or contact: Katie Covey, PWR Mission Trip Lead at katiecovey@gmail.com. For more information visit <https://www.uua.org/pacific-western/calendar/pswd/rore2-pwr-justices-journey?month=2018-07>

Volunteers Needed

The winter shelter at SHP (South Hayward Parish) opens through April 30, and volunteers are needed to wash towels, sheets, and blankets. Questions? Contact Ralph Morales at [510-785-3663](tel:510-785-3663).

Raise Money for Starr King; Register for eScrip and Shop Locally

In 2017 we earned \$205 with nine participants just doing their ordinary shopping at participating locations. If only half of our members signed up we could earn \$2,500! That's as much as the budget for several different committees. We get 3% of your total purchases at: Lucky, Food Maxx, Save Mart, Black Angus (15800 Hesperian Boulevard, San Lorenzo), and Ghanzi Afghan Kabobs (1235 A Street, Hayward).

To create an account at 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: 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



April Birthdays

3 Apr	Andrea Kuftin	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

Wheel of Life

- Happy Birthday to the Klausmeyer Clan. Kirt turned 40, and Liana turned 10.
- Our sympathy goes out to Bob Britton on the death of his brother.
- Congratulations to Beth and Susan on the birth of their new grandchild.
- Our sympathy goes out to Marge Schwab on the death of her younger sister.

A request--The Pastoral Care Committee is in need of sympathy cards. You can donate the cards by putting them in the Pastoral Care box in the office. Thank You.

Starr King Church Calendar

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

April 2018						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 * 9 am Choir Practice * 10:30 am Worship Service * 11:40 am Visitor's Circle	2 * 6 pm Yoga for the People * 6:30 pm Rainbow Group LGBT NA	3 * 1 pm Executive Committee	4 * 7:15 pm SGM Evenings * 7:30 pm Evening Meditation	5	6 * 7pm Drumming Circle * Oregon Shakespeare Festival Trip	7 * Oregon Shakespeare Festival Trip
8 * 9 am Choir Practice * 10:30 am Worship Service * Oregon Shakespeare Festival Trip	9 * 6 pm Yoga for the People * 6:30 pm Rainbow Group LGBT NA * 7 pm White Racial Literacy Group	10 * 9:30 am Committee Reports Due * 11 am Adult RE	11 * 12 noon Staff Meeting * 12 noon SGM Daytime * 3 pm Pastoral Care Committee * 7 pm Committee's Council Meeting * 7:30 pm Evening Meditation	12 * 7 pm Board of Trustee's * 7:30 pm SKIT	13	14
5 * 9 am Choir Practice * 10:30 am Worship Service * 12 noon Church Bookstore Open * 12:15 pm Peace and Justice Action Team	16 * 6 pm Yoga for the People * 6:30 pm Rainbow Group LGBT NA	17	18 * 12 noon Elders Meeting * 7 pm RE Council * 7:15 pm SGM Evenings * 7:30 pm Evening Meditation	19	20	21 * 10 am Aging in the 21st Century * 6 pm Game Night
22 * 9 am Choir Practice * 10:30 am Worship Service * 12 noon Earth Fair	23 * 6 pm Yoga for the People * 6:30 pm Rainbow Group LGBT NA	24 * 1 pm Executive Committee	25 * 12 noon SGM Daytime * 12 noon Staff Meeting * 7:30 pm Evening Meditation	26	27 * Pacific Regional Conference (Portland)	28 * Pacific Regional Conference
29 * Pacific Regional Conference * 9 am Choir Practice * 10:30 am Worship Service	30 * 6 pm Yoga for the People * 6:30 pm Rainbow Group LGBT NA	31				