



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

**May 2018**

**THE  
FLAMING  
CHALICE**

**Sunday Worship, 10:30am**

May Theme: The Feminist Divine  
Faith Tradition: Islam

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

22577 Bayview Avenue  
Hayward, CA 94541  
510-581-2060  
[www.starrking.org](http://www.starrking.org)

**Parish Minister**

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

**Office Administrator**

Kelli Abatangelo  
[office@starrking.org](mailto:office@starrking.org)

**Church President**

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

**Director of Religious Exploration**

Allison Prout  
[dre@starrking.org](mailto:dre@starrking.org)  
DRE Office Hours:  
Wednesday and Thursday,  
10:30am – 2:30pm

**Newsletter**

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

**May 6: Come, Come, Whoever You Are!**

*Rev. María Cristina*

This Sunday we celebrate Rumi's poetry and learn about Rabia of Basra, a Sufi woman who saw herself as part of a rising protest movement within Islam.

**May 13: Muslim and Feminist?**

*Rev. María Cristina*

Can Islam and feminism coexist? For Islamic feminists the answer is yes. Join us as we explore Feminist Theology within the context of religious pluralism and Islam in particular.

**May 20: Hamilton**

*Bob Simoni*

Fun lay-led service featuring music from award-winning smash hit musical Hamilton!

**May 27: Rituals of the Heart**

*Rev. María Cristina*

Rituals give significance to the passage of time and help us to connect and grow as a community. Join us as we celebrate two deeply meaningful rituals in community: The Re-Commitment Ceremony of Rev. Maria Cristina's Installation as our Minister and the Dedication Ceremony of Baby Drake Scott Otermat.

## What's Inside

Sunday Services, 1  
Wheel of Life, 2  
April Photos, 3  
Small Group Ministry, 4

Safety Plan, 5  
Board Report, 6  
From the Minister, 7  
FESCO & Adult RE, 8

RE Reflections, 9  
Announcements, 10  
Activities & Birthdays, 11  
Church Calendar, 12



Annual Maypole dance and blessing after the service on May 6th. Please bring a ribbon if you can!

## Wheel of Life

Join the worship service on May 27th to witness the Dedication Ceremony of Baby Drake Scott Otermat. "A child is born among us and we feel a special glow."

Our condolences go out to Karen Cook on the passing of her long time partner, and active Starr King member, Bob Stortz. We will all miss him.







## 4 Ways to Help Starr King from Your Computer!

### TECH TIP!

**Church members can log into [ChurchDB](#) to access the directory. Information and photos of your fellow members.**

#1 Give SKUUC a good review on [Facebook](#)

#2 And on [Yelp](#) - only three so far!

#3 [Amazon shoppers](#), donate % of purchases for free

#4 [Sign up](#) for announcements and the monthly newsletter, which offer many opportunities for community involvement!

## Small Group Ministry

On April 11, the [Wednesday Afternoon Small Group Ministry](#) used one of its two regular monthly meeting times to assist Walt Korus on the church grounds.

"Working together is fun!" said group member Barbara Ryan. Weeding the garden and sweeping the parking lot helped Walt get SKUUC outdoor facilities ready for Earth Day celebrations on Sunday April 22.



"Ethel May (Shaw) was right," said Bob Britton, who co-facilitates the group with Beverly Powell. "Weeding and other humble garden chores, done with care, can be like meditation." Others felt it was inspiring working side-by-side with people like Evelyn Cormier and Lorie Miller, who have received church and/or community awards for service.

This was the group's third service project at the church since forming in June 2017. Small Group Ministry or covenant groups meet and perform service projects so that members can practice their listening skills and deepen their connections with each other, the church, and the community.

Other members of the group not yet mentioned include: Nancy Bonner-Benson, Kirk Smith, Marge Schwab, and Doris Wolf.





# Safety Committee

## Discussion on Church Security June 3, 12pm

On Sunday July 27, 2008 a hostile intruder took a sawed off shotgun in a guitar case to a youth musical performance at the [Tennessee Valley Unitarian Universalist Church in Knoxville, Tennessee](#). Greg McKendry, a longtime member of the church and usher that day, [was killed](#) when he stood in front of the shooter to protect the children and others. Linda Kraeger, a visitor from a neighboring UU church, was also shot and killed. Seven others were wounded.

The killer confessed to the shootings saying he was motivated by his hatred of homosexuals, African Americans, liberals and Democrats. In his manifesto he said that he intended to keep shooting until stopped and killed by the police. The shooting stopped when he was tackled and restrained by church members.

In the years since, there have been more frequent hate motivated shootings at workplaces, schools and churches. There were [118 violent deaths at churches and faith based organizations in 2017](#).



After addressing fire and medical emergency threats, which we felt were a higher risk, your Safety Committee has now turned our attention to developing an emergency procedure to address this threat. The standard wisdom in the literature is the “Run, hide, fight” maxim, where our first and best option is to escape using a path away from the shooter. The second option is not as ideal and includes barricading in a space where people can hide. If the other options fail or are not available, the last option is to fight the aggressor utilizing any available object as a weapon.

We cannot anticipate exactly how an emergency may present itself, but we do believe we should have a plan. Having a plan is better than not having a plan. We believe that we should develop a procedure that works for us based on the input we receive from our members and addresses specifically the buildings and grounds at our church. We know that there are different opinions about such a possible emergency and how to prepare for it. That is why we want to hear from everyone on the topic. [UU World has published an article](#) with ideas from other congregations.

**Following Sunday Services on June 3 at 12 Noon your Safety Committee will be hosting a discussion on developing emergency procedures in the event of a “Hostile Intruder.”** We will be providing information we have learned on the topic and soliciting your input. We open this discussion to the entire congregation to help us develop a written emergency plan to be submitted to the Board of Trustees for approval.

We’re a loving community and we refuse to live in fear, but just as we don’t tremble in fear when we click our seatbelts before driving into traffic, we still make sure we are strapped in.

Bob Britton

## Board Report, May 2018

The church year is closing as summer arrives but instead of winding down it seems to be speeding up. We have so many things going on; to name a few there is Earth Day, Regional Assembly, General Assembly, the Annual Meeting, and many local events that are so important to us. We had a chance to show our commitment to those less fortunate in the community with a special plate for South Hayward Parish raising over two thousand dollars that day alone. It is this commitment to live our principles in both spirit and deed which makes our denomination and congregation special.

We have a history of progressive activism dating back to our early beginnings. Before the civil war our church was active in the abolitionist movement. In the sixties our members were a force to be reckoned with on the front lines of social justice. While other churches are committed to equality and social activism it would be hard to find one more committed to the cause than ours. Yet for all that there is the reality that our church is predominantly white. Our efforts to be more inclusive to people of color have had little success. It seems like we should be the church of choice for people of color and during the most tumultuous of times we had strong ties to the black community.



Read about the current [Black Lives Matter Organizing Collective](#)

In the late sixties we had strong ties with the those seeking social justice as well as the anti-war movement but a rift developed soon after the assassination of Martin Luther King. A monetary commitment was made to empower black economic development; this commitment was meant to help heal the wounds in our society but it came in a time of national controversy and separated instead of joined the congregations. The money was to be given to the Black Affairs Council which was to be a black only group within the church; this struck some as segregationist and in direct opposition to the integration of society while others saw it as the way to empower blacks in society.

The net result was to tear the church apart just as the country was torn apart in those turbulent times. It has been fifty years since that rift started and it is time to try and heal those wounds. The church is looking to empower [Black Lives UU](#) and give Black leaders an economic springboard to begin anew. To this aim the church has made a new commitment and asking that every member make at least a ten dollar donation to this cause. The money will go to promote the role and visibility of Black Unitarian Universalists. It is time to bring us together and heal old wounds.

Roy Dickerson

## From the Minister



On April 10th, an alliance of immigration coalitions gathered at the Alameda County sheriff's offices in Oakland. We issued a [People's Summons](#) to ICE and officials complicit in terrorizing our community members:

*"We demand that all elected officials, especially local law enforcement officials, adhere to the letter and spirit of the law by affording everyone due process. We further demand an end to the collusion between ICE and the Alameda County Sheriff's office and call on Sheriff Ahern to appear before the people and answer to these and other charges."*

The people demand accountability from the elected officials in power, including Alameda County Sheriff Ahern, who profit from mass incarceration. The People's Tribunal will be held in Richmond, on Saturday, May 5th.

Your fellow Starr King members, Frank Burton and Beth Ogilvie, also attended to offer support.

With love and gratitude,

Rev. María Cristina Vlassidis Burgoa





## FESCO News

The Family Emergency Shelter Coalition, aka FESCO, has wonderful news to share with our Coalition members and supporters. Effective July 1, FESCO will be merging with La Familia Counseling Services, a larger multi-service agency founded in Hayward in 1975.

FESCO will remain committed to providing housing and critical services for homeless Alameda County families and their children. By merging with La Familia, FESCO will have a greater ability to provide our families with a more diverse array of social services, encompassing programs for mental health, substance abuse, and/or education and employment opportunities. FESCO has much to gain from this merger, as does La Familia, which currently is not able to provide housing options for their clients.

Our passionate commitment to serving homeless families and their children will continue as FESCO becomes a part of La Familia. The FESCO Coalition Board will continue as an Advisory Committee working in collaboration with La Familia's executive staff. Most importantly, our merger with La Familia will enhance FESCO without any negative impact on our current clients, continuity of care, nature of services, or intended use of any real property owned by FESCO.

On behalf of hundreds of FESCO families over the past 30 years, we wish to acknowledge our community for your dedication, volunteerism, and financial contributions in support of our mission.

Gay McDaniel, FESCO Executive Director

## Adult Religious Education

Your Values, Your Choices:

Health Care Decisions and *End of Life Option Act* in California  
12 May 2018, 10 – 12am in the Sanctuary

Values are those beliefs that guide our decisions in everyday life. For example, they can serve as the criteria by which you choose a partner, a school or university, a home, a restaurant, or a car. These values also help us to decide right or wrong. Values, sometimes unspoken or discussed, are extremely important as we make decisions regarding our health and well-being, particularly as we face death and dying. They gain importance in the event of an accident or injury that precludes our speaking for ourselves.

This two-hour, interactive session will explore factors such as what constitutes quality of life, how you make decisions, who you want to decide for you if you cannot, and what factors are considered, if you were to choose the End of Life Option as outlined by California Law. Specifics of the law will be outlined as well as how it has been used in Oregon and California. See Mileva Saulo Lewis if you have questions.



# RE Reflections

May Theme: Feminism



Featured Faith Tradition: Islam

When I think about Islam and feminism, the role model who springs to mind is Malala Yousafzai. She is a brave and inspirational young woman who dared to speak up for Muslim girls' right to education, and nearly lost her life for speaking her truth.



Taliban extremists took over her town in Pakistan and began to terrorize its citizens by blowing up schools and threatening those who spoke out in defense of education for girls. Following her father's example, Malala felt called to speak out against what the Taliban was doing. To silence her voice, Taliban soldiers stopped her school bus and shot her in the head. Thanks to Allah's grace, they did not succeed. She lived to tell the story and shout her message loud and clear to young people all over the world. She was awarded the National Peace Prize in Pakistan when she was 14 years old. And, at 17 years old, she was the youngest person ever to receive the Nobel Peace Prize.

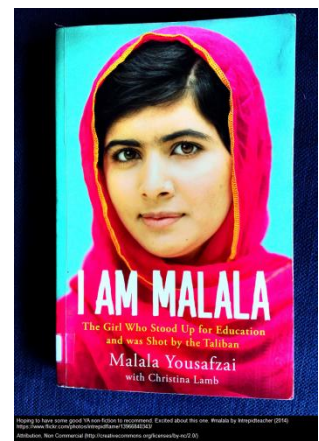
She remains a faithful Muslim who believes that women should have the right to equal educational opportunities. She works to raise funds to build schools for women in Muslim countries. Her life shows that one person, no matter how young, can make a big difference. In her own words:

"One child, one teacher, one pen, and one book can change the world."

May it be so,

Allison Prout

RE Director



# Announcements

## New Game Night Coordinator

Beverly Powell is stepping down as Game Night Coordinator, and Doris Wolf has generously agreed to take over coordination, announcements, and night-of start-up/shut-down activities. Please take a moment sometime soon to thank Beverly for her service and Doris for stepping up in this way.

## Get Involved! Creative Committee Projects

We are looking for help with upcoming projects: photography, cooking circles, social media, public relations, computer support, and more! Training provided. Or let us know if you have another talent to lend! Contact: Emily at [newsletter@gmail.com](mailto:newsletter@gmail.com)

## 2018 General Assembly June 20-24 in Kansas City, Missouri

[General Assembly](#) 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 is now open!

## 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 <a href="mailto:sgm@starrking.org">sgm@starrking.org</a> for more information. |
| SKIT Improv Troupe   | Second Thursday of the month, 7:30pm. Open to all.                                     |
| Yoga for the People  | Mondays at 6pm. All levels welcome. Classes are free, donations are accepted.          |



## May Birthdays

12 Laura Otermat

16 Lavon Hodges

21 Karen Kramer

12 Torsten Fink

16 Beckett Wagner

29 Carol Henrie





# Starr King Church Calendar

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

| « Prev  |  | May 2018                            |  |  |        |                           | Next » |
|---|--|-------------------------------------|--|--|--------|---------------------------|--------|
| Sunday  | Monday   | Tuesday                             | Wednesday  | Thursday   | Friday | Saturday                  |        |
|   |  | 1                                   | 2<br>* 7:15 pm SGM Evenings<br>* 7:30 pm Evening Meditation  | 3<br>* 7:00 pm Board of Trustee's                              | 4      | 5                         |        |
| 6<br>* 10:30 am Worship Service   | 7<br>* 1:09 pm Yoga for the People<br>* 6:30 pm Rainbow Group<br>LGBT NA   | 8<br>* 11:00 am Adult RE            | 9<br>* 12:00 pm SGM Daytime<br>* 12:00 pm Staff Meeting<br>* 12:00 pm Staff Meeting<br>* 3:00 pm Pastoral Care Committee<br>* 7:30 pm Evening Meditation | 10<br>* 10:00 am 10 Day Notice of Annual Mtg<br>* 7:30 pm SKIT | 11     | 12<br>* 10:00 am Adult RE |        |
| 13<br>* 10:30 am Worship Service<br>* 12:15 pm Peace and Justice Action Team                      | 14<br>* 1:09 pm Yoga for the People<br>* 6:30 pm Rainbow Group<br>LGBT NA<br>* 7:00 pm White Racial Literacy Group | 15                                  | 16<br>* 12:00 pm Elders Meeting<br>* 7:00 pm RE Council<br>* 7:15 pm SGM Evenings<br>* 7:30 pm Evening Meditation  | 17   | 18     | 19<br>* 8:00 am Memorial  |        |
| 20<br>* 10:30 am Worship Service<br>* 12:00 pm Annual Meeting<br>* 12:00 pm Church Bookstore Open | 21<br>* 1:09 pm Yoga for the People<br>* 6:30 pm Rainbow Group<br>LGBT NA  | 22<br>* 1:00 pm Executive Committee | 23<br>* 12:00 pm SGM Daytime<br>* 7:30 pm Evening Meditation   | 24   | 25     | 26                        |        |
| 27<br>* 10:30 am Worship Service<br>* 11:30 am Fiesta   | 28<br>* 1:09 pm Yoga for the People<br>* 6:30 pm Rainbow Group<br>LGBT NA  | 29<br>* 1:00 pm Executive Committee | 30<br>* 7:30 pm Evening Meditation   | 31   |        |                           |        |