



## Newsletter

*Starr King  
Unitarian Universalist  
Church of  
Hayward, California*

**July 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](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)

**July 1: Filling the Sanctuary with Words**

*Lorie Miller*

We will be celebrating our joyful relationship with words with poetry readings, either original or favorites.

**July 8: The Art of Racing in the Rain**

*Lay-led*

We will explore and embrace our Human Spirit.

**July 15: Worship: Behind the Scenes**

*Worship Committee*

How do we put together worship services that speak to our complex spiritual, aesthetic, intellectual, moral, musical selves? Meet our Worship Committee and hear their stories about creating the Beloved Community.

**July 22: Circle Dance**

Come join us in the dance. *Pulpit guest Maureen Atkins* will lead everyone in this service of circle dancing for all ages. Come prepared to move, dance, and have fun. All dances will be taught beforehand. Older children are more than welcome to participate.

**July 29: Improv Service**

*Worship Committee and SKIT*

Fun annual improvised service, where many of the service elements will be made up on the spot. Come for something new and surprising!

## What's Inside

Sunday Services, 1  
Gay Prom, 2  
From the Minister, 3  
Pet Photos, 4

SKUUC Youth, 5  
Board Report, 6  
Protest Reflections, 7  
FESCO News, 8

Announcements, 9  
Activities & Birthdays, 10  
Church Calendar, 11



Starr King church members volunteered at the 24th annual Hayward Gay Prom! This event allows young adults to enjoy prom in a safe and accepting environment.

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## Help Starr King from Your Computer!

Please give SKUUC an honest review here on [Facebook](#)



## From the Minister

*You are a good friend. You are loved. May you live a happy and blessed life with food in your belly, a warm place to sleep, and joy in your days! Blessing for the Animals*

Thank you to all who participated in a very special service to honor our beloved animal companions. The service was inspired both by St. Francis of Assisi, who believed that our animal companions are our relatives, and by our seventh Unitarian Universalist principle which affirms that we are all part of the same web of existence.



During the service, we took time to give thanks to our companions because they are a blessing to us. They make our lives fuller, accompany us on our journeys, know when we are sad and need the type of spiritual presence that only they can provide, remind us to be playful, to take naps, and enjoy snacks! Above all, they teach us about unconditional love and in the end, about letting go...

With love and gratitude,

Rev. María Cristina Vlassidis Burgoa





# Starr King Youth

Drake Otermat has been officially welcomed into our community in a loving dedication ceremony.



And we wrapped up another successful year of Religious Exploration with a ceremony to thank Director Allison Prout and the many volunteers who share their knowledge and passion with the next generation! We also celebrated our youth's talents and blessed them as they start new chapters in their lives. Two of them are off to high school!



## Board Report, May 2018

This has been an eventful month. We have had many church members playing an active role in the Poor People's Campaign events locally and in Sacramento. Frank Burton and Reverend Maria Cristina have been instrumental in galvanizing our support. Frank, Mary Shields, Rene G. Castle, Will Fitch, Jennifer Koney, Beth Ogilvie, Mary Lou Schuler, Doris Wolf, and others have made the trip to the state capital to make our concerns known to leaders and politicians.



Fifty-five years have passed since the 1963 march on Washington that was a watershed moment in the fight to end racism and bring economic justice to our nation. It has been fifty years since the nation and world was shocked by the loss of both Martin Luther King and Robert Kennedy. Over the years the misadventures of Vietnam, Iraq, and the more recent careening efforts of statesmanship have left us wondering what has happened to this country that saved the western world. For those on the bottom of the economic ladder, the promise of a better life and a bright future suddenly seems out of reach. For those in the middle the dream of college, a solid job, and a nice home seems like a tenuous proposition. For those in the upper one percent, the money is rolling in a lot faster while taxes are at historic lows.

The Poor People's Campaign is aimed at transforming our society. The issues of our society revolve around the core of this economy: to make it a vehicle of prosperity for all instead of the few. It is apparent that the current path is unsustainable; a wealth gap of this magnitude is a signal for societal disruption. Our country needs all of us, and the path we are on excludes so many from the education and opportunities to make America and the world great. Our future must be one of inclusion. We need to nourish and recognize the strengths that each of us possess.

It has been a long time since the sixties, and while we have made some progress, there is a long way to go. Thank you to all who have worked so hard over the years and especially to those who have made the last few weeks a call to action.

Roy Dickerson, President

# Reflections from a Moral Witness

## SKUUC Member Rene G. Castle Arrested in Sacramento

On Monday afternoon, June 4, 2018, I was in the Capitol Rotunda in Sacramento, CA, acting as a moral witness, acting out my faith as a Unitarian Universalist, siding with love, and lending my support to indigenous peoples. Courageous people who have been oppressed and fighting for a long time and who would appreciate some understanding, some respect, but mostly some support.

As a middle-aged, white, Cisgender male born in Sacramento, I recognize that my role is mostly one of support. We have heard quite enough from people who look like me telling people who do not look like me what they should think, say, and do. A core principle of the new Poor People's Campaign and of representative democracy is that those who have been and continue to be directly impacted the most should be allowed to speak for themselves with their own voice.



Rene Castle upper right with Beth Ogilvie; lower left making his voice heard.

When the new Poor People's Campaign addresses environmental degradation, I stand, hold my sign, and listen while those who live in sacrifice zones and suffer the most speak. When the issue is lack of healthcare, I stand, hold my sign, and listen while those who do not have healthcare speak. When systemic racism is protested, I stand, hold my sign, and listen to people of color speak for themselves. And when, as was the case Monday, the message is about our brutal colonial history, I once again stand, hold my sign, and listen while indigenous peoples take the microphone and speak for themselves.

We did hear what the indigenous peoples want. They want Californians and lawmakers in Sacramento to understand the true human cost of colonial conquest and exploitation. They want the offensive statue of Columbus in the State Capitol rotunda that legitimizes and commemorates brutal colonization removed. They want an end to the detrimental practice of documenting blood quantum to "verify" indigeneity, which is then used to deny reparations, including healthcare, owed to native peoples by treaty. They want us to understand that many of their communities still suffer gripping poverty, rampant drug and alcohol abuse, undrinkable water,

violent resource extraction and unemployment rates up to four times higher than the rest of America. Besides standing there holding my sign, I can offer an additional contribution. Because of my white privilege, I can offer a more confrontational, direct action supporting those who are ignored, those who have fought enough already, and those who cannot risk arrest because of the severity of the consequences.

During Monday's action, during loud singing, and while joined hand-in-hand forming a circle of people around the colonial statue of Columbus in the rotunda, an indigenous woman approached me, reaching out the corner of her banner toward me. As I looked at this woman, whom I did not know, looking back at me with her outstretched hand, wordlessly requesting my support, I experienced one of those rare, deep, emotional moments of singular clarity. I had two choices: I could take her banner, place it on the statue, and be arrested or I could choose to become yet another white man in a long, sad history of white men who turn away and leave an indigenous request unanswered. I took the banner, crossed the barricade, and placed it on the statue. The banner kept slipping as I tried to drape it in place so her message could be seen upon the statue. The police closed in, laid hands on me, took the banner away and wadded it into a ball. As my hands were placed forcibly behind my back, I was thankful the focus was on me, as I watched her slip safely away, unnoticed into the crowd. I spent the rest of the day in Jail. It was a very good Monday.

Rene G. Castle

## FESCO News

Family Emergency Shelter Coalition (FESCO) is excited to announce our forthcoming merger with La Familia Counseling Services (La Familia), effective July 1, 2018.

Both FESCO and La Familia have stood as pillars of the Hayward community since 1986 and 1975, respectively. FESCO's mission has been to assist homeless families and their children as they move from crisis to stability, end their homelessness, and find a place called home. For the past 32 years, we have provided emergency shelter, transitional and permanent housing, and wraparound support services to hundreds of homeless families and children in Alameda County.

Through this merger, we will remain committed to providing emergency shelter, transitional and permanent housing, and other critical services to homeless families and children in Alameda County. By bringing the people, resources, and ideas from both FESCO and La Familia together, we will be able to preserve our programming, provide stability for our staff, and have the potential to expand to serve more homeless families and children. The wide array of services currently offered by La Familia, as well as their organizational experience and expertise, will offer greater capacity to provide direct services to homeless families and children. This is a time of great opportunity and change at FESCO and La Familia and we are excited for this new chapter.

The merger will not result in any change to the type or locations of services currently provided by FESCO, the use or intended use of any real property owned by FESCO, or bear any negative impact on current FESCO clients or continuity of care. Through this merger, FESCO will become a program within La Familia's organization.

Gay McDaniel, FESCO Executive Director

# Announcements



Castro Valley Pride, Saturday July 14th, 12 – 5



Join us at Castro Valley High School!

Volunteers are needed for set-up, representation, and dismantling of our booth. There is a sign-up sheet on the back table in the Fellowship Hall. Contact Doris Wolf for more information. (doris.wolf@prodigy.net / 510-886-8020)

Drum Circle Meets on Friday, July 6

Bring yours or share our drums, shakers, percussion, flutes, etc. to accompany our rhythmic and spiritual journeys through creation and creativity. Gate opens at 6:45pm, set-up follows, then music until 9pm.

Summer Fun for Children and Youth

During the summer, we offer a more relaxed approach to childcare. Volunteers will lead summer fun activities. If you are interested in volunteering to assist with childcare during the summer, there is a sign-up schedule posted in the RE area. We require two volunteers each Sunday. For questions contact Lea Casini or Lorie Miller.

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	On summer hiatus until further notice.



## July Birthdays



- |                 |                    |                    |
|-----------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| 1 Daniel Casini | 9 Jim Otermat      | 28 Natalie Forrest |
| 2 Mary Shields  | 15 Evelyn Cormier  | 30 Nathan Ray      |
| 3 Jo Murdach    | 26 Lillian Carrell | 30 Jessica Schuler |
| 4 Will Fitch    | 27 Laurie Matthews | 31 Amber Gable     |

# 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		July 2018					Next »
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	
<b>1</b> <a href="#">* 10:30 am Worship Service</a>	<b>2</b> <a href="#">* 6:30 pm Rainbow Group</a> <a href="#">LGBT NA</a>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b> <a href="#">* 7:30 pm Evening Meditation</a>	<b>5</b> <a href="#">* 7:00 pm Board of Trustee's</a>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b> <a href="#">* 2:00 pm Tentative hold</a>	
<b>8</b> <a href="#">* 10:30 am Worship Service</a> <a href="#">* 12:15 pm Peace and Justice Team</a>	<b>9</b> <a href="#">* 6:30 pm Rainbow Group</a> <a href="#">LGBT NA</a> <a href="#">* 7:00 pm White Racial Literacy Group</a>	<b>10</b> <a href="#">* 11:00 am Adult RE</a>	<b>11</b> <a href="#">* 12:00 pm SGM Daytime</a> <a href="#">* 3:00 pm Pastoral Care Committee</a> <a href="#">* 7:00 pm Committee's Council Meeting</a> <a href="#">* 7:30 pm Evening Meditation</a>	<b>12</b> <a href="#">* 7:30 pm SKIT</a>	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b> <a href="#">* 12:00 pm CV Pride at Castro Valley High</a>	
<b>15</b> <a href="#">* 10:30 am Worship Service</a> <a href="#">* 12:00 pm Church Bookstore Open</a>	<b>16</b> <a href="#">* 6:30 pm Rainbow Group</a> <a href="#">LGBT NA</a>	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b> <a href="#">* 12:00 pm Elders Meeting</a> <a href="#">* 7:15 pm SGM Evenings</a> <a href="#">* 7:30 pm Evening Meditation</a>	<b>19</b> <a href="#">* 7:00 pm Worship Committee</a>	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>	
<b>22</b> <a href="#">* 10:30 am Worship Service</a>	<b>23</b> <a href="#">* 6:30 pm Rainbow Group</a> <a href="#">LGBT NA</a>	<b>24</b> <a href="#">* 1:00 pm Executive Committee</a>	<b>25</b> <a href="#">* 12:00 pm SGM Daytime</a> <a href="#">* 7:00 pm Committee Chairs Meeting</a> <a href="#">* 7:30 pm Evening Meditation</a>	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>	
<b>29</b> <a href="#">* 10:30 am Worship Service</a>	<b>30</b> <a href="#">* 6:30 pm Rainbow Group</a> <a href="#">LGBT NA</a>	<b>31</b>					