



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

October 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
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Office Administrator

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

October Theme: Memory

October 7: Sankofa: Rev. Maria Cristina

Looking back & moving forward. Sankofa is an Akan word that translates as “return and collect it.” Sankofa reminds us of the need to search through the groves of the past and to bring back its lessons, principles and stories as seeds for the future.

October 14: Taking the War Out of Words. Guest Speaker: Sharon Strand Ellison.

October 21: Storytelling as a spiritual practice. Rev. Maria Cristina

When we share our stories, we create memories and sacred space. Sharing our stories as a community invites us into deeper connection with our lived experiences and the memories we hold dear. Join us in this creative and interactive service. You are invited to send your favorite childhood picture to the office via email so that we can include it in a slideshow. If you are not able to send it in advance, please bring it with you to the service.

October 28: Remember Me. Rev. Maria Cristina

We gather once again as a community to commemorate the Days of the Dead and honor the memory of our loved ones. We invite everyone to bring photographs and mementos of their dearly departed. There will be a special altar dedicated to our animal companions.

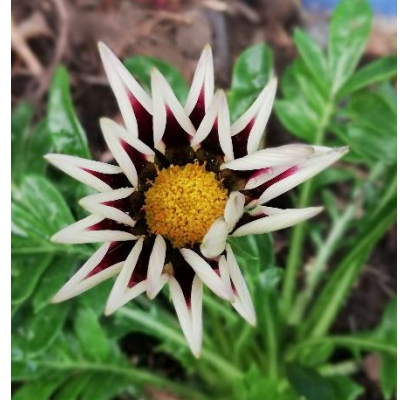
We Remember Them



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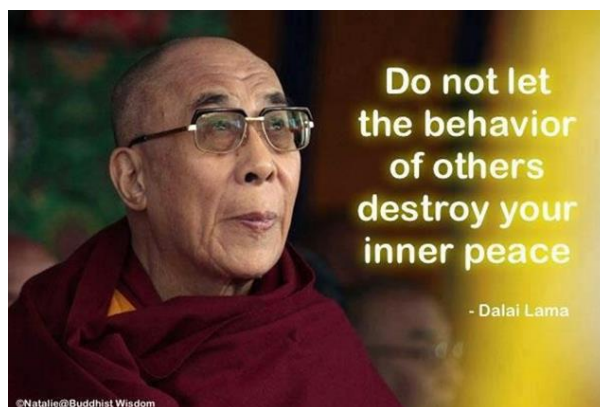


Breaking Bread Together

From Beth Ogilvie:

Thinking about our lovely communion service in September, about the stories people told after, and about Rev. Maria Cristina saying to me “we need to share these stories.”

For me, as someone raised Christian but not Christian now, it was still very meaningful, first as a deepening of our community, breaking bread together in a holy sacrament; second, for the precious memories it brought up of being in church with my mother; and third, immense gratitude for being part of a religious community that can make space for different religious expressions. This is really living into our mission, of “supporting one another in our search for spiritual and religious meaning.”



Climate March



Try Something New: Ongoing Activities

Adult RE Committee	Meets the 2nd Tuesday of the month, 11 am to 12 noon in the Conference Room.
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	Currently on hiatus.

October Birthdays

1-Oct Carl Fink

8-Oct Scott Kinnear

16-Oct Sheila McClellan

Wheel of Life

Mileva Saulo Lewis celebrates her 60 year anniversary in Nursing



Adult Religious Education Committee

Y E S ! There will be Thanksgiving dinner at Starr King. Set your plans. Bring the family, bring a neighbor. Exact time and other details are yet to be decided, but it's happenin'. Contact Donnie Rett (bdrett146@att.net) or Mary Shields (maryshields65@gmail.com) with questions, suggestions, or offers of help. Hope to see you there!

From the Minister



Beloveds,

Our Mission statement describes us as a welcoming congregation. Being welcoming means striving for radical inclusion, and creating spaces that honor every part of our identities, backgrounds, and experiences. The spiritual practice of welcome is a very important one to our faith community.

In the 1980s and 90s, when the word “welcoming” became a code word for lesbian, gay, and bisexual people, the Unitarian Universalist Association launched a Welcoming Congregation Program to help us learn how to undo homophobia-and later, transphobia (prejudice against transgender people)-in our hearts and minds, our congregations, and our communities.

Starr King UU Church in Hayward made history when in 1980, the congregation called Rev. Mark Belletini, one of the first publicly out gay UU Ministers. I am grateful for our liberal Unitarian Universalist faith which welcomed me into Ministry as a Queer/Two Spirit woman. I am also grateful that this congregation embraces all of who I am.

In 2019 the UUA will be launching a new Welcoming Congregations renewal program called The Five Pillars of Welcome Renewal. The goal of the program is to encourage congregations to practice Welcome every year, year-round.

1. Become a Welcoming Congregation (We already are!).

2. Welcoming Worship Services: Incorporating Welcoming Worship Services into our ordinary calendar of worship every year. These services might occur during LGBTQ+ Pride Month or any other day of observance. We are currently collaborating with Hayward PFLAG to create a “Celebrate Pride” service this Spring. We will also commemorate Transgender Day of Remembrance this November with a candlelight evening service.

3. The third Pillar of Welcome Renewal is an annual recognition and celebration of the Welcoming Days of Observance. These days and seasons are important to LGBTQ and Transgender/Gender Non-Conforming/ Queer Non-Binary communities because they bring visibility and affirmation after generations of invisibility and erasure. These days remind all that “All of who you are is sacred. All of who you are is welcome.”

4. The fourth Pillar of Welcome Renewal is an annual opportunity for our congregation to experience a Welcoming Congregation Module. Each year the UUA LGBTQ program office will offer at least one Welcoming Webinar engaging LGBTQ+/TGQNB issues and topics.

5. The fifth Pillar of Welcome Renewal is Support a Welcoming Project. Welcoming Congregations are encouraged to give generously to a local/national LGBTQ2+/TGQNB organization. (We currently support the Hayward Gay Prom and PFLAG).

The work of welcome is never done. We are proud to be a Welcoming Congregation and to continue learning more about how to be truly welcoming to all people by renewing our commitment. We invite you to participate in our Transgender Day of Remembrance Service on Tuesday, November 20, 2018 and the Pride Celebration service in the Spring of 2019, both events in collaboration with Hayward PFLAG.

With Much Love,

Rev. Maria Cristina

Starr King UU is a Welcoming Congregation



Adult Religious Exploration



Unitarian Universalists have said for centuries that there is room in our religion for all seekers. Skeptics and poets and scientists are welcome here, as are nonconformists and shy and certain folk. We believe that restlessness and doubts are a sign of grace, that the love of truth is the holiest of gifts.

Rev. Barbara Merritt.

Session Two – October 28, 2018 – 12 noon to 2 pm – The Sanctuary

This session will draw from Chapters 3 and 4 of *Age-ing to Sage-ing*. *Art of Life*

We'll explore Life Transitions – from older to elder – How do we balance what appear to be two competing instincts. First, is that of Libido sometimes referred to as Beginning Instinct which is focused on reproductive energy and establishing ourselves in the world. This is contrasted with Thanatos, sometimes referred to as Completing Energy or closure when the meaning of life shifts when reproduction and productivity are not the goals.

Zalman Schachter-Shalomi suggests that this is a time of Harvesting Life. To whom would you write a letter of appreciation? What would you say? With whom do you still have regrets and how can they be let go?

Finally, we will look at how we express ourselves – Physically, emotionally, mentally, and spiritually during this transition.

Participation will be enriched if you are able to read the chapters in the text prior to attending. There are still a few copies of *Age-ing to Sage-ing* available. However, the summary above can serve as topic upon which you can reflect prior to the session on October 28.

See Mileva Lewis or Diane Meyerson if you wish to borrow one from the Starr King library.

Sign-up sheets for each session are in the Fellowship Room. Please see any member of the Adult Religious Education Committee if you have questions (Nancy Bonner-Benton; Kathryn LaMar; Diane Meyerson; Shelia McClellan, Ethel-May Shaw, and Mileva Saulo Lewis).

Fall Picnic



RE Reflections for October 2018

In September, we experienced our first Multigenerational service of the new church year, the water communion. We spent a good deal of time reflecting on our Vision for ourselves as Unitarian Universalists. We acknowledged that we are seekers, looking for truth and meaning wherever we can find it. We can find the “truth” when we look within ourselves and listen the sound of our inner wisdom. We can find answers from sources outside ourselves in books, nature, science and from other wise people who inspire us. If we are spiritually inclined, we might look to spirit guides to help us find answers. Some of the “Dreams” we have include, being a welcoming and accepting community and building a fair and peaceful world by using our strengths to help solve problems we care about.

Our theme for October is Memory. We will look back to explore where we have come from and whose “shoulders we stand on.” We will also consider whose stories we might have neglected in our histories. Where have our “cultural biases” covered over unpleasant experiences faced by underserved communities? Although it is not always comfortable to think about, it is important to hear the real stories of injustices so that we can acknowledge the pain we have caused and move forward in faith together. Our Multigenerational service will be at the end of the month and celebrate Dia de los Muertos. It’s an exciting time, and our Reverenda does an amazing job decorating the sanctuary for this holiday, which is dear to her heart.

October Community Service Project Opportunities for Families

WHEN: October 7, 3 to 4:30 pm

WHERE: Kids Against Hunger Bay Area facility:

1258 Quarry Lane #H,

Pleasanton CA 94566 (about 20 minutes from church)

NOTE: This event is only open to children 8 years and older

Please click on the link below, then go to October 7, 3 to 4:30pm, Starr King Unitarian Universalist Church, then click "Register." Click "Pay at the Door". (We'll be doing a Special Plate that day for Kids Against Hunger, and we'll have a church check from the Special Plate to pay the Registration Cost).

[Click here for more information and to register](#)

Keep Hayward Clean & Green Beautification Event:

Saturday, Oct 27 | 8:30 am to noon

Same day registration at the Tennyson High School, 27035 Whitman Street, Hayward, CA 94544 ([Map](#)).

[Pre-registration is available](#) until 3 pm on Thursday, October 25, 2018.



Announcements

FESCO is now La Familia

FESCO has merged with La Familia. What used to be the Coalition Board is now "Friends of FESCO," and is now operating as the Board did before (doing community outreach and community-supported fundraising for FESCO--the concert, the Shuffle, the Back-Pack Drive, and Christmas projects).

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

We get 3% of your total purchases at: Lucky, Food Maxx, and Save Mart. 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.

Neighborhood Block Party, October 7; noon to 3 pm

The Hospitality & Membership Committee will be hosting a Neighborhood Block Party after Service on Sunday, October 7. We will be providing burgers, hot dogs, soft drinks and snacks with a vegetarian option. Nearby residents will be invited to join us, so please plan on staying after service and mingling with our neighbors. We will set up tables by the playground and will have a piñata bashing at 2 pm. Bill & Ruth DeSmidt's band Gravity will be playing as well. If you want to bring a side-dish or dessert, you are more than welcome. For more info, contact Bob Simoni at bobsimoni@gmail.com.

We're packing meals to address world hunger on October 7

Join us at Kids Against Hunger's facility, 20 minutes away in Pleasanton, to pack meals to go to Puerto Rico, Haiti, or the Philippines on Sunday, October 7 from 3 until 4:30 pm. Co-sponsored by our Religious Exploration group and Peace & Justice Action Team; please pre-register at <https://tinyurl.com/kah-packing>. SKUU will pay registration fees. Please plan to carpool. For more information, contact Frank Burton at 510-276-1631.

SKUU Service Auction, October 27 at 6 pm

We need help making the Auction a roaring financial success. We are looking for savory finger foods and sweet/dessert finger foods. Please let me know what you can bring. Questions? See Sherry Thomas. Thanks in advance for all your help!!

Leadership Experience 2019

Have you recently taken on a leadership role in this congregation? Are you considering taking on a leadership role but want to increase your experience, knowledge, and skills before doing so? Are you a new board member or board president but still haven't found the instruction manual? Visit www.uua.org/pwr to learn more about and apply to participate in "Leadership Experience 2019." This is a hybrid in-person/on-line leadership development program offered by the Pacific Western Region of the UU Association that will take place this coming winter and spring. Space is limited, so apply to participate by October 15!

Circle Supper Saturday, November 10

Next Circle Supper is November 10th. Please see sign-up sheets on back table for details. For those new to Circle Suppers, this is a great way to socialize with new and current members at Starr King; a Host is assigned and people bring potluck items.



Communication Workshop

October 14, 2018 – 12 noon to 4pm

POWERFUL NON-DEFENSIVE COMMUNICATION WORKSHOP

We are privileged to have Sharon Strand Ellison, author of *Taking the War Out of our Words: The Art of Powerful Non-Defensive Communication*, as pulpit guest and workshop leader on October 14th to teach us about her unique approach to communication.

- Ellison believes that much of our traditional system for communication is “the War Model.” We use questions to interrogate, statements to persuade or coerce, and boundary setting to control and when that fails, to punish. What Ellison offers instead is a model of communication that uses curiosity and clarity and openness instead of confrontation and coercion.
- Each day we watch the nature of civil discourse descend to depths lower than we could have imagined. Have you struggled to find a way to have a meaningful conversation with someone who supports President Trump, opposes abortion, or denies global warming? Language matters; we need to listen and speak differently in these challenging times.
- Those who have attended Ellison’s workshops, including several members of our congregation and those at the Unitarian Universalist Church in Palo Alto, learned the disadvantages of the “war model” and acquired specific non-defensive tools that transform everyday communications. They learned how to address difficult subjects in direct, caring, non-judgmental ways. “*Words can be tools instead of weapons.*” —Ellison

Sharon Strand Ellison has worked extensively with spiritual communities. You can read about this work on her website at <http://pndc.com/workshops-training/community-spiritual-communities-more.php#overview>.

Service - 10:30 am to 11:30 am

Light Lunch - 11:30 am to 12:00 pm

Workshop – 12:00 pm to 4:00 pm

Suggested Donation \$20 per person

No one will be turned away because of lack of funds.

Register with EventBrite <https://tinyurl.com/skuu-pndc>

Starr King Church Calendar

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

October 2018						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 * 6:30 pm Rainbow Group LGBT NA * 7:15 pm White Racial Literacy Group	2	3 * 7:30 pm SGM Evenings * 7:30 pm Evening Meditation	4 * 7:00 pm Board of Trustees	5 * 7:00 pm Drum Circle	6
7 * 10:30 am Worship Service * 12:00 pm Neighborhood Block Party * 3:00 pm Community Service Project	8 * 6:30 pm Rainbow Group LGBT NA	9	10 * 12:00 pm SGM afternoons * 12:00 pm Staff Meeting * 3:00 pm Pastoral Care Committee * 7:00 pm Committee's Council Meeting * 7:30 pm Evening Meditation	11 * 7:30 pm SKIT	12	13
14 * 9:00 am Choir Practice * 10:30 am Worship Service * 12:00 pm Communications Workshop	15 * 6:30 pm Rainbow Group LGBT NA * 7:15 pm White Racial Literacy Group	16	17 * 7:00 pm Re Council * 7:30 pm SGM Evenings * 7:30 pm Evening Meditation	18 * 7:00 pm Worship Committee	19	20 * 6:30 pm Game Night
21 * 10:30 am Worship Service * 12:00 pm Church Bookstore Open * 12:15 pm Peace and Justice Team	22 * 6:30 pm Rainbow Group LGBT NA	23 * 1:00 pm Executive Committee	24 * 12:00 pm SGM afternoon * 7:30 pm Evening Meditation	25	26	27 * 6:00 pm Service Auction
28 * 10:30 am Worship Service * 12:00 pm Adult RE Presentations	29 * 6:30 pm Rainbow Group LGBT NA	30	31 * 7:30 pm Evening Meditation			

