



## Newsletter

*Starr King  
Unitarian Universalist  
Church of  
Hayward, California*

**March 2019**

# 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)  
[www.facebook.com/StarrKingChurch](https://www.facebook.com/StarrKingChurch)

### 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)

## March Theme: Journey

### March 3: We Are The Ones We've Been Waiting For

Rev. María Cristina Vlassidis Burgoa

Join us for an uplifting service celebrating our Beloved Community and honoring our volunteers.

### March 10: Sharing Our Spiritual Journeys

Rev. María Cristina Vlassidis Burgoa

Exploring how we incorporate the wisdom of world religions and earth centered traditions in our daily lives and spiritual journeys.

### March 17: There Is No Away

Rev. Theresa I. Soto

#### **MUSICAL GUEST: Emma's Revolution!**

What would it take to build a culture of healthy indispensability? We will examine the blessings and complicated nature of our interdependence.

### March 24: Mapping Our Spiritual Journeys

Rev. María Cristina Vlassidis Burgoa

A multi-generational and interactive service using art and poetry to express and share our spiritual journeys.

### March 31: Pilgrimage as Spiritual Practice

Rev. María Cristina Vlassidis Burgoa

We reflect on the different kinds of pilgrimage that offer us new opportunities to express our faith and devotion, to create instant communities of like-minded people, and serve as catalyst for deep individual transformation.

## What's Inside

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# *Celebrating our Beloved Community* *It's Canvass Time!*

This is the time of year when we ask our members to join us in stewardship by making a financial commitment to the church. In other words, it's canvass time!

If you have already pledged for next year, thank you. If you haven't yet, please drop your card in the box in the foyer.

If you haven't received your colorful and informative canvass letter, let us know by calling the church office (581-2060) or emailing Beth Ogilvie ([beth@betho.us](mailto:beth@betho.us)).

## *Sunday Brunch, March 3* *Free Event, Everyone Welcome!*

Join us on Sunday, March 3 immediately following the service for a delicious brunch and live music to celebrate another successful year of our Beloved Community. This brunch is for *everyone*, whether you've pledged already or not. It's going to be a lot of fun!



## **Emma's Revolution Sunday Worship Service, March 17**

*Emma's Revolution will perform during our regular Sunday worship service – lucky us!! Oakland folk music duo Pat Humphries and Sandy O are well-known folk artists and activists. Their songs show up in our RE curriculum and UU hymnals.*



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## **Help Starr King from Your Computer!**

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



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# WANTED

## Co-Editor for The Flaming Chalice

Help keep the SKUUC community connected by co-editing our monthly newsletter!

Co-editors are responsible for six issues per year. The term is one year. You'll do some light editing and add images in Word. Newsletter template, style guide, and support provided. It's easy and a great way to meet people and be in the loop! Contact [newsletter@starring.org](mailto:newsletter@starring.org) if you can help keep our newsletter going.

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## Our Green Sanctuary Needs YOU!

Our grounds minister and #1 green sanctuary volunteer Walt Korus needs help while recovering from shoulder surgery. We are calling all gardeners and anyone who can help with bringing out the trash and recycling bins. Let's support Walt!

If you have a passion for gardening, consider joining the [Grounds Ministry](#). We are so proud of our beautiful accredited Green Sanctuary and grateful to everyone who maintains this sacred space.



February in our Green Sanctuary, photos by our own Rev. María Cristina

# From the Minister

## Sacred Clutter

When we immigrated to the United States we could only bring a few things, a couple of photographs, a shawl, a couple of books, a rosary, and a deep grief and nostalgia for all that we were forced to leave behind. We became experts at buying used clothes and night time NYC curbside scavengers for discarded furniture that we transformed and made beautiful with our own hands. Back home our books were burned in giant piles in the public square.

My mother worked most of her life in thrift stores. We waited until the store closed and rummaged through the garbage bags filled with clothes which were discarded for missing a button or having a broken zipper. My grandmother taught me to knit and quilt and save every scrap out of which we would make beautiful things.



My books are part of my living history. After moving so many times, I absolutely derive a sense of grounding when I look at my books, my companions on the journey. For me, there is nothing holier than praying while holding my grandmother's rosary, or dancing at the powwow wrapped in her shawl. And every year I honor her memory by building altars that overflow with the many things that I collect during the year. I believe she smiles when she sees that I remember her favorite books and sweets. My abuelita taught me to mix remnants of the past with new material. This sacred clutter is my collective memory. The joy is in remembering.

With love,

Rev. María Cristina

## February Highlights

So much gratitude for...

- ✚ Mary Oliver poetry vespers
- ✚ Dance in the Spirit workshop led by Dr. Carla Walter
- ✚ Tidying the Worship Closet with David Longfellow
- ✚ New members, including Katrina and her daughter Lily



# Board Report

## Reevaluating our Budget

The main agenda item at our board meeting last month was the upcoming budget, followed closely by the Envisioning Our Future meeting. We discussed other issues such as the new security system and parking lot lighting, but the primary topic was our budget and the pledge drive. This is due to the difference we anticipate between revenues and expenses.

To be sure, we are not on the verge of bankruptcy and actually have a healthy reserve. The problem is that we see a worrisome trend and it impacts both our day to day operations as well as our goals and aspirations. We have fixed expenses, maintenance fees, and other responsibilities that go up every year. We all know how much it costs to live here and recognize the value we get for our staff; we are getting a big bang for our payroll bucks. There are many areas we would like to expand such as a paid music director, a larger role for our pianist, and more guest speakers in the summer months so our lay leaders aren't overburdened.

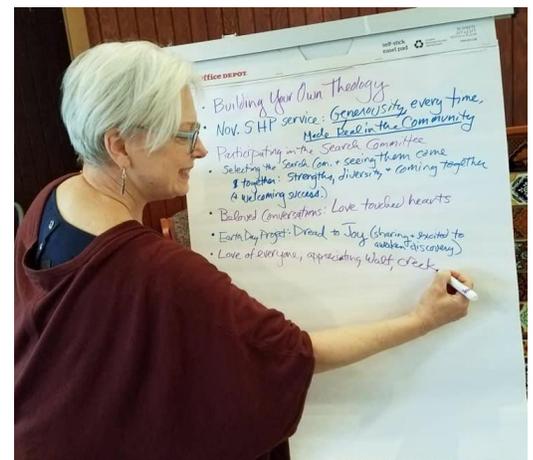
The cost of maintaining this property is offset by the generous contributions of time and effort by our congregational volunteers; I think for many of us the work we contribute is our form of worship. That being said, we have ongoing maintenance that is costly and sometimes deferred due to funding. Some of the things we are holding off on include parking lot maintenance, many upgrades for the interior spaces, and a wide range of beautification projects for the property.

When you look around the congregation there are some pillars of the community who are no longer with us. They are greatly missed for their leadership, their friendship, their vision, their ability, and their generosity. As the board struggles with putting together a budget that meets our responsibilities and provides a vehicle to our aspirations, we miss these friends who have helped us through those problems in the past. We look to the younger and not so younger generations to assume that mantle. We are formulating our budget with high expectations for the pledge drive and our other sources of revenue. We expect to meet those expectations; the canvass committee and board has set a bold agenda to achieve our goals.

The Envisioning Our Future meeting was a chance to brain-storm where our efforts will take us. This is a community with big ideas and a vision of a future which reflects our core values and a dedication to both our future and the next generations. We want to see our ideals grow into a reality that shapes our world's well-being. These ideas need nurturing in tangible ways: time, energy, and money all are needed so we hope you consider this in your generosity.

Thank You

Roy Dickerson, Board Member

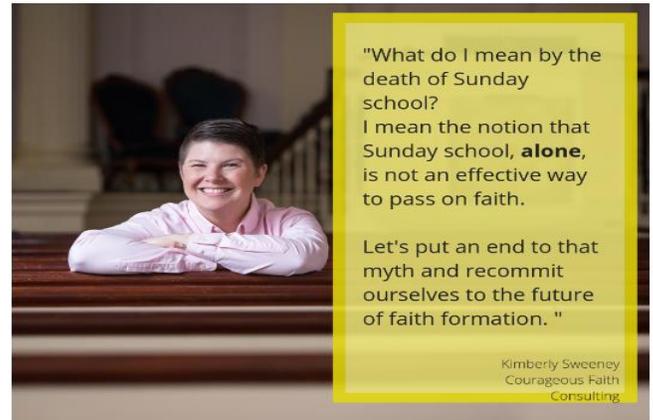


# RE Reflections

## Reimagining Sunday School

Sunday, March 24th, 12pm  
SKUUC Sanctuary

We will hold a Congregational Meeting to explore and discuss these issues and what they mean for us. I invite all who are interested in the future of faith formation in our denomination to attend.



Excerpt from "The Death of Sunday School," by Kimberly Sweeney, 2017:

"The Sunday school model of religious education has been much beloved in our Unitarian Universalist tradition. Half a century ago, and at the time of its inception, Sunday school was a significant draw for children and families and was popular in dominant culture. Over the past two decades, religious professionals and lay leaders have been questioning the effectiveness of this model. Working harder, moving things around, and investing more money in Sunday school has not increased its effectiveness. These strategies have not worked in part because we have failed to convey that the way we have always done things is no longer serving our Unitarian Universalist congregations. While we have been applying a multitude of technical fixes to this adaptive challenge, we have failed a generation of young Unitarian Universalists.

Changes in demographics, family structures, societal norms, and the role of the church in US life have evolved drastically over time. Yet the Sunday school model that came out of the twentieth century has remained relatively unchanged. Families report having to choose between spending time together or going to church and being separated. Participation in religious communities should not require families to have to sacrifice their time with one another by being shuffled in opposite directions once they enter the door. Competing priorities, generational shifts, cultural attitudes, and norms about church—coupled with local demographic shifts—have resulted in a 33% decline in UU Religious Education enrollment since 2002.

It is past time to return to our roots by engaging, inviting, and expecting our families to worship together. It is past time to return to the ministry of preparing parents and caregivers to be the primary religious educators for their children. It is past time to bury Sunday school, a model that has not been adapted to contemporary times. The future of faith formation resides in family ministry.

Ending Sunday school is not tantamount to ending faith formation. To the contrary, faith formation is a foundational ethos of our Unitarian Universalist ministries. Paying attention to the shifting needs of our families and children, releasing ourselves from the structures of our past, and boldly experimenting to contribute to the evolution of faith formation may just be the spiritual task of our time. The future of Unitarian Universalist faith formation depends on it."

To read more of Kimberly Sweeney's article see [The Death of Sunday School](#) and [The Future of Faith Formation](#).

# Adult Religious Exploration

## Spring Series

### SALSA, SOUL, AND SPIRIT- LEADERSHIP FOR A MULTICULTURAL AGE

Will we make salsa? Will we dance? Will we view leadership from another lens?  
**Yes, Yes, Yes!**

This series is based on the work of Juana Bordas, who weaves leadership, diversity, and community building into a multicolored tapestry that motivates people to act. She uses music, movement, and leadership practices from many cultural traditions to illustrate the richness and wisdom diversity brings.

Most of the early theories about leadership were developed primarily from an Anglo-American perspective and were based on traits typically viewed as masculine and from an authoritarian or top-down approach. However, since the mid-1970s aspects of what constitutes leadership have been evolving. Juana Bordas not only builds on contemporary Anglo-American models but examines leadership from the perspective of Latino (Salsa), Black (Soul), and Indian (Spirit) communities. Her work is certainly relevant for our time and in this place.

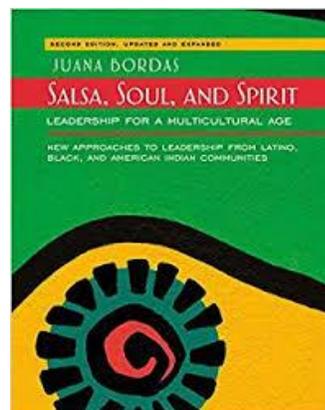
This series will be led by our very own Rev. Dr. María Cristina Vlassidis Burgoa and take place on four Sundays, from 12 noon to 2 pm in the Sanctuary. An overview of the topics include:

March 31: **A New Social Covenant: Learning from the Past**, moving from Individualism to Collectivism and a spirit of generosity

April 28: **Leadership Styles in Communities of Color**, emphasizing community-conferred leadership, a tradition of activism, and working for the common good

May 26: **Creating the Circle of Leadership**, focusing on family, village, or tribe roots; embracing gratitude, hope and forgiveness even in the midst of difficulties

June 16: **Leadership in a Multicultural Age**, a call to action and appreciating diversity and the unique contributions of different communities.



# Announcements

## Safety Planning Meeting Rescheduled – Check the Weekly Announcements

The Safety Committee has been working to come up with plans for a hostile intruder drill for our congregation. We would like to share our ideas and get input from the following groups: Greeters, ushers, sound associates, worship associates, RE teachers, and anyone else who is interested in being a part of the process.

## Re-imagining Sunday School: Presentation & Discussion Sunday, March 24, noon

UU congregations are facing a huge cultural shift, where 20th century models of children's religious education just aren't working like they used to. However, there are exciting new alternatives rising in Sunday School's place. Join us to explore and discuss the issues. Light lunch will be served.

## Ashland Trip April 5-7

Save the Date! Our annual trip to the Oregon Shakespeare Festival in Ashland will be the weekend of April 5-7, 2019. Mark your calendars for fun! Details on the trip soon...

## UUA-recommended Movie Showing: "The Reluctant Radical" Saturday, April 20, 1-3pm

Our Peace and Justice Action Team is co-hosting a showing of this UUA-recommended movie at the Castro Valley Library. Our partners are the library, the American Association of University Women (AAUW) of Castro Valley, and the Citizen's Climate Lobby of Castro Valley.

## Save the Date: FESCO 2019 Shelter Shuffle Saturday, May 4

FESCO Shuffle is the single best way to get the word out and raise money to end family homelessness in Alameda County. Stay tuned for information about registration. If you own a business, contact FESCO at 530-220-2603 to learn about sponsorship opportunities.

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

We get 3% of your total purchases at:

- Lucky
- Food Maxx
- Save Mart

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

Beloved Conversations	A curriculum for exploring the role of race/ethnicity in individual and congregational lives. Registered participants only.
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. ***NOT MEETING IN MARCH***
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.



# 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.

March 2019						
« Prev						Next »
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1 <small>* Drumming Circle Canceled</small>	2
3 <small>* <a href="#">Worship Service</a> * <a href="#">Canvas Sunday Brunch</a></small>	4 <small>* <a href="#">Rainbow Group LGBT NA</a> * <a href="#">White Racial Literacy Group</a></small>	5	6 <small>* <a href="#">Tentative Staff Meeting</a> * <a href="#">SGM Evenings</a> * <a href="#">Evening Meditation</a></small>	7 <small>* <a href="#">Board of Trustee Meeting</a></small>	8	9
10 <small>* <a href="#">Choir Practice</a> * <a href="#">Worship Service</a> * <a href="#">Peace and Justice Team</a></small>	11 <small>* <a href="#">Rainbow Group LGBT NA</a></small>	12 <small>* <a href="#">Adult RE</a></small>	13 <small>* <a href="#">SGM afternoons</a> * <a href="#">Pastoral Care Committee</a> * <a href="#">Evening Meditation</a></small>	14 <small>* <a href="#">SKIT</a></small>	15 <small>* <a href="#">Safety Committee</a></small>	16
17 <small>* <a href="#">Worship Service</a> * <a href="#">Safety Meeting</a> * <a href="#">Church Bookstore Open</a></small>	18 <small>* <a href="#">Rainbow Group LGBT NA</a> * <a href="#">White Racial Literacy Group</a></small>	19	20 <small>* <a href="#">SGM Evenings</a> * <a href="#">Evening Meditation</a></small>	21 <small>* <a href="#">Worship Committee</a></small>	22	23
24 <small>* <a href="#">Worship Service</a> * <a href="#">RE Imagining Sunday</a> <a href="#">School</a></small>	25 <small>* <a href="#">Rainbow Group LGBT NA</a></small>	26	27 <small>* <a href="#">SGM afternoon</a> * <a href="#">Evening Meditation</a></small>	28	29	30
31 <small>* <a href="#">Worship Service</a> * <a href="#">AREC</a></small>						

## March Birthdays

- |                    |                    |                        |
|--------------------|--------------------|------------------------|
| 1 Liana Klausmeyer | 12 Darryl Ray      | 22 Kelsie Kramer Stone |
| 2 Joey Murdach     | 13 Margarita Jacob | 24 Cara Prout          |
| 4 Collin Carrell   | 14 Sara Wagner     | 26 Sherry Thomas       |
| 8 Bill Hitchings   | 16 Renee Ray       | 26 Maya Para           |
| 10 Audrey LePell   | 17 Ruth Kuftin     | 28 Brian Johnson       |
| 11 Ray Oducayen    | 19 Greg Kuftin     |                        |
| 12 Rebecca Parr    | 22 Karen Cook      |                        |

