



Newsletter

*Starr King
Unitarian Universalist
Church of
Hayward, California*

April 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

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

April Theme: Wholeness

April 7: *Rev. Maria Cristina.* We are a Welcoming Congregation, and we celebrate proudly our LGBTQ2 people. This year marks the 50th anniversary of the Stonewall riots which ignited the LGBTQ2 liberation movement. Join us for an amazing service featuring the San Jose Rainbow Women's Chorus.

April 14: *Glen Jacob, Worship Committee.* **Days of Future Past.** How do you look at the future? Has how you look forward changed over time? Where you more optimistic towards the future in the past? Can we ever regain that optimism? Join us as we look forward and backward, with a science fiction twist, of course.

April 21: *Rev. Maria Cristina.* **Celebrate Earth Day!** All life is interconnected. From the forest to the sea to humanity itself, each thread of being is woven into a single fabric of existence. We embrace nature's beauty and are in awe of its power. We care for our environment so that it may sustain life for generations to come.

April 28: *Rev. Maria Cristina.* How do we cultivate wholeness in our everyday lives? So often we relegate our self-care, stretch ourselves too thin, and have difficulty reaching out when we are in trouble. We give and give until our cup runs dry and we feel physically and emotionally exhausted. What would it mean to practice serving others from our saucer rather than our cup? During this service we will encourage and model practicing self-care.



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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	Hello Drummers, Flooties, and Kindred Spirits, We're B a a a c c c k k! Come on April 5, 7 to 9 pm at the church. Instruments provided, or you can bring your own. This month, we will be celebrating Spring, Earth Day, Oestara, Rabbits, and New Life, in whatever way that pleases you. Looking forward to experiencing communal music with you, so come on down, and bring all your fellow travelers.
Evening Meditation	Every Wednesday, 7:30 – 8:45 pm. 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, 7:30 pm. Open to all.

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
13-Apr	Robert Kern	28-Apr	Charlie Murdach
14-Apr	Georgia Gruver	30-Apr	Bill Schuler
16-Apr	Molly Hitchings		



Wheel of Life

- Condolences to Wayne Bennion on the passing of his mother.
- Congratulations to Mileva and Keith Lewis on their 13th anniversary.
- Get well wishes to Walt Korus as he heals from rotator cuff surgery.
- Healing thoughts to Jim Otermat as he, too, recovers from surgery.



Deep gratitude to Emily Watkins, Lorie Miller, and Beth Ogilvie for coordinating a lovely vespers service to celebrate the Spring Equinox.



From the Minister



Beloveds, Last week I was blessed to participate in the UUA's annual Finding Our Way Home gathering in Miami. Finding Our Way Home is an annual retreat hosted by the UUA for Unitarian Universalist religious professionals of color. It offers community building, spiritual reflection, and collegial support while connecting participants with local community organizations as partners in service, witness, and advocacy.

This UUA-sponsored retreat welcomes UU religious professionals who identify as people of color, Latina/o, Hispanic, Asian/Pacific Islanders, Middle Easterners, and others, and/or multiracial and multiethnic. The 150 participants included Ministers, Religious Educators, Church Administrators, and UUA staff.

This year was especially meaningful for me, being a part of the planning committee, chaplain, and worship coordinator. Our theme was "Connect and Re-Connect." We made plenty of space in the program for us to attend workshops and worship services, meet with UUA President Rev. Susan Frederick-Grey, and practice self-care by meditating, doing yoga, going to the beach, visiting the botanical gardens, re-connecting with friends, and meeting new ones.

I am grateful for all the opportunities to reconnect with my own self-care and healing practices, experience spiritual renewal, serve as a chaplain and be a source of support, learn new songs, make art, and attend Sunday service at the Miami UU Church where my friend and colleague, Marisol Caballero, preached a prophetic sermon about inclusion.

I'd like to share with you some healing words, beautiful images, and a song that we sang during our closing worship service, to keep us connected until we meet again:

The Words:

"That which is in us and all around us and which constantly draws us to our holiest selves, keep ushering us into the spirit of Yes, until at long last we have made it true for our lives and for our bodies. Continue to fortify our senses of divinely inherent beauty such that no weapon of ugliness formed against us can prosper. Remind us that although we are about to spread ourselves all over this continent and this globe, none of us goes into any day without the full strength of this entire community. And bring us safely through this next year so that we can return once again to receive the blessing of our sacred fellowship together. Amen." DeReau K. Farrar

The Song:

"Wherever you go, I will go Beloved.
Wherever you go, I will go.
For your people are my people,
Your people are mine.
Your people are my people,
Your Divine my Divine."



The Images:



April 2019 Board Report

As the winter storms ebb away we have had our share of rough weather and bad news. When I look at the reports from the rest of the country and overseas it seems we have it pretty good here. Our community has not suffered as others have and, while it makes me glad that we haven't had floods or other disasters, I am feeling a little uneasy; call it survivors' guilt. The good news is our church is connected to the community and people outside our circle; we are generous and caring, working with other groups to make a real difference in society.

These efforts to make a difference in the world encompass earth-day, social justice, equality, a belief in our democratic values, peace, and caring for both groups and individuals. We also work on our personal growth and learning; the building your own theology workshops are a great resource for this. The church itself needs care and feeding as well; we could sure use your help at the "weed and feed" April 13th.

The canvass is still going on and if you haven't made up your mind about an amount, know that it is important for the board to have a clear picture of what resources are available. The church has needs and the congregation has wants; the board has the job of balancing the two with our limited resources. Many of us will be out of town in early April to visit Ashland and pay homage to the bard of Stratford; this will be an important money raiser for us. There are several other fun things in the works for this coming year, including: baseball games, concerts, and other events that provide a chance to get together and raise a few dollars for the church.

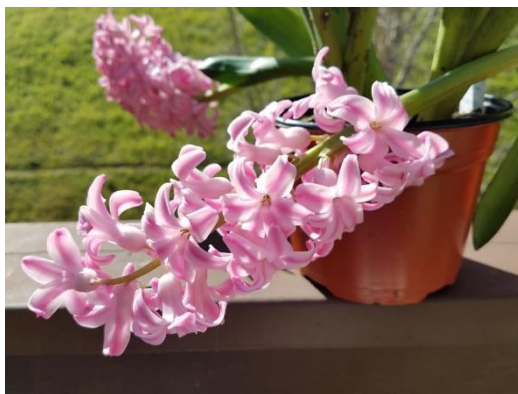
Hopefully, you are getting what you are looking for in this community; friendship, insight, sense of purpose, peace, and ... If you have some ideas please don't hesitate to contact a board member or come to a meeting; volunteers and leaders are always welcome.

Thank You

Roy Dickerson



Please join us for the Weed and Feed on Saturday, April 13 from 10 am to 12 noon. We particularly need your help this month! Please bring work gloves, hats or any garden tools you may have. A sign-up sheet will be in the Fellowship Hall.



Celebrating Our Beloved Community

Dear friends,

As most of you are aware, our annual canvass is underway. This is the time when all together we lay the foundation for our next church year, which begins July 1. This church means so much to me in so many ways -- that's why I volunteered to help run this year's canvass. I love how we are together and what we do together. For me, our church is a place to celebrate the joy of fellowship and the sacred mystery of life; to comfort one another and to be comforted; to be of service and to add meaning to our lives, to make the world a better place for ourselves and for the generations to come. I love being part of this with you.



This endeavor we're in together requires funds, and we rely on pledges to give us financial predictability and stability in the new fiscal year. As of March 26 we have received \$162,000 towards our pledge target of \$185,000, which means we have funded 10.5 months of the coming church year.

If you have already pledged, thank you very much! If you have not, would you please consider whether that's something you could do. There are many different ways we give to the church, and every contribution, including time and talent, is so valuable, and makes a vital difference to all of us in the church. At the same time, this year we're facing some significant budget challenges, so it's important to have everyone if at all possible consider "Can I do something more?"

And to everyone who has pledged, or has contributed to the church in any other way,



Beth Ogilvie
Canvass Co-chair



Adult Religious Exploration

**Building Your Own Theology will meet on the following Sundays at 12:15 pm:
April 28, May 26, June 2, June 16 and June 30**

In response to the interest expressed by various congregants and in light of our new members, the Adult Religious Exploration Program is delighted to announce a new class: "***Building Your Own Theology.***" Drawing inspiration from many faiths and philosophies, this course will help you develop your own credo or personal mission statement based on your values and beliefs. Based on the assumption that everyone is their own theologian, "Building Your Own Theology" invites participants to share their spiritual journeys and articulate how their values inform and guide their lives. Led by Rev. Maria Cristina, this five session program invites us to reflect on human nature, ultimate reality, history, ethics, and religious meaning. Join us in exploring, reflecting, and learning within a nurturing spiritual community!

To request childcare, please use the signup sheet in Fellowship Hall. For more information, please contact [Rev. Maria Cristina](#).



Words of Care after the Tragic Shooting in New Zealand

On Friday, March 15, as I was leading worship in Miami, we received the news of the tragic shootings at Muslim mosques in Christchurch, New Zealand, which left 50 people dead and many injured. We paused to take in the horror of yet another massacre, to send our love and prayers to the families, and to provide pastoral care to our own Muslim siblings in the room. President Susan Frederick-Grey shared these words with us:

"I grieve for the dozens of people who were killed and the many more who were injured during the horrific terrorist attack at Al Noor mosque and the Lindwood Islamic Centre in Christchurch, New Zealand.

I am praying with and for the Muslim community in Christchurch, New Zealand. The Unitarian Universalist Association mourns with you, prays for you, and sends our love and compassion to you.

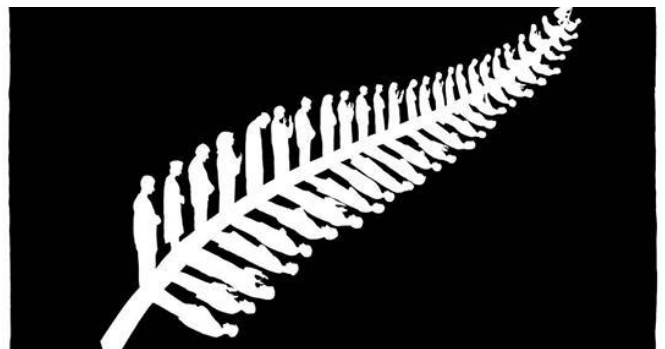
I also know that this anti-Muslim attack impacts the global Muslim community. My heart breaks for the Muslims everywhere, including my Muslim Unitarian Universalists siblings. I am sending thoughts of strength and compassion and deep abiding love to you all."

Rev. Maria Cristina



Rooted in Maori history, the silver fern (*Cyathea dealbata*) is often used to represent New Zealand, and has been in the country's iconography since the late 1800s. Australian cartoonist Pat Campbell, has drawn an illustration of the famous New Zealand silver fern, but he's beautifully reimagined it as a tribute to the victims of the March 15 terror attack in Christchurch, at Al Noor Mosque and Linwood Islamic Centre.

The work shows Muslims in different stages of prayer as the individual branches of the fern.



RE Reflections April 2019

Communication, discourse, discussion, talking to each other, sharing our feelings and ideas, that is how we learn and grow. Last Sunday, March 24, we held a presentation and discussion on “Reimagining Sunday School.” Several guests joined a cross-section of the congregation as we explored the steep drop in Sunday School attendance that has occurred in UU Congregations across the nation for the past several decades. We looked at some of the research that has been done around faith formation and questioned if we are utilizing our resources in an effective manner. We learned about several new RE models which have arisen in response to cultural and demographic shifts.

Kris Wedding Crowell, from the First UU Church of Oakland, helped guide our discussion by emphasizing that before they made any tactical changes in Oakland’s RE program, first they decided what was really important to them; what they wanted for their children and for themselves from the church. They got to the heart of the matter, and developed a plan based on what was truly important to them.

In our programs, our congregations, and in our movement more broadly, Unitarian Universalists are having conversations about mission. Being part of a religious community is hard work. This congregation is about something bigger than any of us individually. We should ask ourselves what greater purpose are we serving and base our actions on the values we deem most important.

A wise next step would be to revisit our purpose, and revise our program’s mission. Once we decide what our “higher purpose” is we will be able to evaluate how best to utilize our resources to achieve that mission. We must keep talking to each other and keep communication channels open. We must keep learning and growing.



Announcements

Ashland Trip, April 5 to 7, 2019

Our annual trip to the Oregon Shakespeare Festival in Ashland is the weekend of April 5 to 7, 2019.

Starr King Group Activity Saturday, April 13

Oakland Symphony Chorus' Spring concert, "Mass for Freedom" concert will be at First Congregational Church of Oakland. Ticket's \$20 in advance. Sign up list on the table in Fellowship Hall. Information <https://www.oaklandsymphony.org>.

Weed & Feed Saturday, April 13 from 10 am to 12 noon

Please bring work gloves, hats or any garden tools you may have. A sign-up sheet is in the Fellowship Hall.

Easter Brunch Sunday, April 14 at 1 pm

Meet at Norman's in Castro Valley. If interested, see Lavon Hodges.

Committee Reports Due Tuesday, April 16

The Annual Meeting is Sunday, May 19. Committee chair reports are due to the office on April 16. Please submit in a Word document to Kelli at office@starrking.org

The Reluctant Radical Saturday, April 20

The Peace and Justice Action Team of SKUU is co-hosting a showing of the UUA-recommended movie - "The Reluctant Radical" - at the Castro Valley Library on Saturday, April 20 from 1 to 3 pm. Our partners are the American Association of University Women (AAUW) - Castro Valley, the Library, and Citizen's Climate Lobby - Castro Valley.

Earth Day Celebration, April 21

There will be solar cooking, care of the earth, plants/seeds, lots of music and sign up to help with weeding and participation. Questions? See Sheila McClellan for information.

SAVE THE DATE: FESCO Shelter Shuffle is on May 4

Registration for walkers and teams open. Questions? Contact Kathryn LaMar for information.

Church Activity Friday, June 14

Baseball enthusiasts can sign-up now for the Oakland A's vs Seattle Mariners game. Game begins at 6:37 and follows with a fantastic fireworks display. The field reserve seats are ideal for viewing the fireworks and the

location is great for access to the restrooms, refreshments and elevator. Tickets are \$36 each, but the price can go down if more than 30 people sign up! The sign-up sheet is in Fellowship Hall.

Wanted: Newsletter Editor

Help keep the SKUUC connected by co-editing our monthly newsletter, The Flaming Chalice! 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 emily.m.watkins@gmail.com if you can help.

Pride hats available

Pride hats available for the taking, in the fellowship hall up through the end of April. Donations are accepted. The proceeds will go for yarn reimbursements and the end of the year Gay Prom. Questions? See Lorie Miller.

Circle Suppers

We've have had such a fun time with Circle Suppers that we (Bill and Ruth Desmidt) have decided to continue on organizing them! We are pretty much done for this time around and will start up again with the Circle Suppers in the Fall of 2019 (Bill and Ruth will be busy moving). So please look for future announcements for Circle Suppers starting around August 2019. Should anyone have any questions, please contact us - our phone #'s are in the directory.



Starr King Church Calendar

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

April 2019						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 * 6:30 pm Rainbow Group LGBT NA * 7:15 pm White Racial Literacy Group	2 * 1 pm Executive Committee	3 * 7:30 pm Evening Meditation * 7:30 pm SGM Evenings	4	5 * Ashland Trip * 7:00 pm Drumming Circle	6 * Ashland Trip
7 * Ashland Trip * 9 am Choir Practice * 10:30 am Worship Service	8 * 6:30 pm Rainbow Group LGBT NA	9	10 * SGM afternoons * 12 noon Staff Meeting * 3 pm Pastoral Care Committee * 7:30 pm Evening Meditation	11 * 7 pm Board of Trustees * 7:30 pm SKIT	12	13
4 * 9 am Choir Practice * 10:30 am Worship Service * 12:15 pm Peace and Justice Team	15 * 6:30 pm Rainbow Group LGBT NA * 7:15 pm White Racial Literacy Group	16 * 9:30 am Committee Reports Due	17 * 7 pm RE Council * 7:30 pm Evening Meditation * 7:30 pm SGM Evenings	18 * 7 pm Worship Committee	19 * 9 am Safety Committee	20 * 1 pm Movie - The Reluctant Radical * 6:30 pm SKUU Game Night
21 * 9 am Choir Practice * 10:30 am Worship Service * 12 noon Church Bookstore Open * 12 noon Earth Day Fair	22 * 6:30 pm Rainbow Group LGBT NA	23 * 1 pm Executive Committee	24 * SGM afternoon * 7 pm Committee Council Meeting * 7:30 pm Evening Meditation	25	26	27
28 * 10:30 am Worship Service * 12 noon AREC	29 * 6:30 pm Rainbow Group LGBT NA	30				

