

THE FLAMING CHALICE

June 2019

Starr King Unitarian Universalist Church
Hayward, California



Sunday Worship, 10:30am

June Theme: Beauty

***Spiritual Growth in a
Theologically Diverse Community***

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

22577 Bayview Avenue
Hayward, CA 94541
510-581-2060

www.starrking.org
www.facebook.com/StarrKingChurch

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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

June 2: RE Celebration Service. Join us as we celebrate another year of accomplishments by our RE children/youth and honor our RE teacher volunteers. We will also celebrate other rights-of-passage.

June 9: Pete Seeger. We pay homage to the late Pete Seeger, Folk legend, Singer, Instrumentalist with too many to list, and Unitarian Universalist. Pete would have been 100 this year. His music and his steadfast adherence to his principles helped change history. We honor him with some of the songs he composed and sung. The world is not yet perfect...but it is far better than had Peter Seeger not existed in it.

June 16: Animal Blessing. Join us for an outdoor ceremony to bless our animal companions. We take time once a year with this formal ceremony to give thanks and bless our companions in life—cats and dogs, birds and chickens, turtles and fish and so much more! This ceremony also acknowledges that our lives are made fuller and richer by the creatures that inhabit the Earth with us, not just those that live with us. During the service we will also remember animal companions that are no longer with us. Please bring a picture or memento of your animal friend, so that we can honor their memory.

June 23: Beauty. Is beauty in the eye of the beholder? Bob Meyerson explores how "beauty" is defined and interpreted, its effect on all five senses, and, perhaps, the evolution of a "sixth sense." Is beauty an intrinsic concept? Or is it, by nature, subjective?

June 30: Pride Sunday. Come celebrate the 50th Anniversary of the Stonewall Riots which gave rise to the Lesbian/Gay/Bisexual/Transgender/Queer/2Spirit Liberation Movements.

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Lea Casini and The Vineyard Quintet perform for church services in April



Animal Blessing

Animal Blessing Service on Sunday, June 16

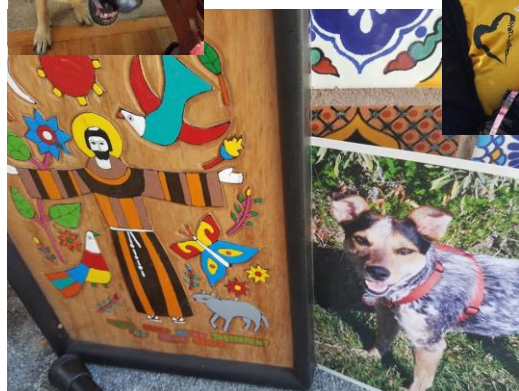
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"We Give Thanks For The Animals"
by Gary Kowalski

We give thanks for the animals
Who live close to nature,
Who remind us of the sanctities of birth and death,
Who do not trouble their lives with foreboding or grief,
Who let go each moment as it passes,
And accept each new one as it comes
With serenity and grace.
Enable us to walk in beauty as they do
At one with the turning seasons,
Welcoming the sunrise and at peace with sunset.
And as we hallow the memory of good friends now departed,
Who loved abundantly and in their time were loved,
Who freely gave us their affection and loyalty,
Let us not be anxious for tomorrow
But ask only that kindness and gratitude fill our hearts,
Day by day, into the passing years.

* * *

"All God's creatures got a place in the choir,
Some sing low, some sing higher,
Some sing out loud on a telephone wire,
Some just clap their hands, or paws, or anything they got now!"



From the Minister



UUA GENERAL ASSEMBLY



General Assembly 2019

June 19 to 23, Spokane, Washington

"The Power of We"

In a time of great challenge and heartbreak in our world, what does our faith demand from us? At this year's General Assembly we will explore the power, possibility, purpose, struggle and joy of finding the path forward together as Unitarian Universalists. Attendees will be offered the tools needed to carry on the work into our own congregations and communities. I look forward to this gathering and to strengthening our work for collective liberation inside and outside our faith. The 2019 Ware Lecturer is Richard Blanco. In 2013, Blanco was chosen by President Obama to serve as the fifth inaugural poet of the United States. Blanco performed "One Today," an original poem he wrote for the occasion, becoming the youngest, first Latino, immigrant, and openly gay writer to hold the honor.

One Today by Richard Blanco

A Poem for Barack Obama's Presidential Inauguration; January 21, 2013

One sun rose on us today, kindled over our shores,
peeking over the Smokies, greeting the faces
of the Great Lakes, spreading a simple truth
across the Great Plains, then charging across the Rockies.
One light, waking up rooftops, under each one, a story
told by our silent gestures moving behind windows.

My face, your face, millions of faces in morning's mirrors,
each one yawning to life, crescendoing into our day:
pencil-yellow school buses, the rhythm of traffic lights,
fruit stands: apples, limes, and oranges arrayed like rainbows
begging our praise. Silver trucks heavy with oil or paper—
bricks or milk, teeming over highways alongside us,
on our way to clean tables, read ledgers, or save lives—

to teach geometry, or ring-up groceries as my mother did
for twenty years, so I could write this poem.

All of us as vital as the one light we move through,
the same light on blackboards with lessons for the day:
equations to solve, history to question, or atoms imagined,
the “I have a dream” we keep dreaming,
or the impossible vocabulary of sorrow that won’t explain
the empty desks of twenty children marked absent
today, and forever. Many prayers, but one light
breathing color into stained glass windows,
life into the faces of bronze statues, warmth
onto the steps of our museums and park benches
as mothers watch children slide into the day.

One ground. Our ground, rooting us to every stalk
of corn, every head of wheat sown by sweat
and hands, hands gleaning coal or planting windmills
in deserts and hilltops that keep us warm, hands
digging trenches, routing pipes and cables, hands
as worn as my father’s cutting sugarcane
so my brother and I could have books and shoes.

The dust of farms and deserts, cities and plains
mingled by one wind—our breath. Breathe. Hear it
through the day’s gorgeous din of honking cabs,
buses launching down avenues, the symphony
of footsteps, guitars, and screeching subways,
the unexpected song bird on your clothes line.

Hear: squeaky playground swings, trains whistling,
or whispers across café tables, Hear: the doors we open
for each other all day, saying: hello / shalom,
buon giorno / howdy / namaste / or buenos días
in the language my mother taught me—in every language
spoken into one wind carrying our lives
without prejudice, as these words break from my lips.

One sky: since the Appalachians and Sierras claimed
their majesty, and the Mississippi and Colorado worked

their way to the sea. Thank the work of our hands:
weaving steel into bridges, finishing one more report
for the boss on time, stitching another wound
or uniform, the first brush stroke on a portrait,
or the last floor on the Freedom Tower
jutting into a sky that yields to our resilience.

One sky, toward which we sometimes lift our eyes
tired from work: some days guessing at the weather
of our lives, some days giving thanks for a love
that loves you back, sometimes praising a mother
who knew how to give, or forgiving a father
who couldn't give what you wanted.

We head home: through the gloss of rain or weight
of snow, or the plum blush of dusk, but always—home,
always under one sky, our sky. And always one moon
like a silent drum tapping on every rooftop
and every window, of one country—all of us—
facing the stars
hope—a new constellation
waiting for us to map it,
waiting for us to name it—together



The General Assembly (GA) is the annual business meeting of the denomination. An elected moderator presides at the General Assembly in accordance with rules of procedure. General Assemblies make overall policy for carrying out the purposes of the Association and direct and control its affairs. Voting at each regular and special General Assembly shall be by accredited delegates from certified member congregations, certified associate member organizations, and trustees.

The business to be transacted will be set forth in the official agenda.

[2019 Final Agenda \(PDF 19 pages\)](#)



At SKUUC many hands . . .



Make a beautiful garden.

Adopt a Plot or Task – Just the Right Size for You

Our SKUUC grounds and gardens are lovingly cared for by a **host of volunteers**, of note are **Walt Korus, Ethel-May Shaw Sheila McClellan, and Lea Cassini**. On a seasonal basis the **Weed & Feed volunteers** arrive to pull pesky weeds which explode after the winter rain. We graciously thank all who have volunteered to keep our grounds and gardens beautiful.

However, we need your help. Weeds grow year-round. Walkways need to be swept. Vegetables and other plants need to be watered. We ask you to consider volunteering a little bit of your time to claim a spot – **adopt a small plot of ground** or **assume a task** that you feel that you could do throughout the year.

Together, our many hands will keep our SKUUC grounds and gardens beautiful!

Join us on June 2, 2019 for a meeting at 12:15 to explore your volunteer possibilities.

RE Reflections, June 2019

Join us for RE Celebration Service June 2, 2019

As the church year comes to a close, we prepare for our year-end Religious Education Celebration Service. It has been an exciting year with plenty to keep us busy! Events included: Community picnic, Dia de los Muertos, Las Posadas & Christmas party, family potlucks, Easter, Earth Day and Rally for Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. remembrance. We went on social service projects and cultural field trips. We explored inspirational themes and worship services. We highlighted science & nature as well as values & principles. For a more complete picture of what we accomplished see [DRE Annual Report](#).

I very am excited for our upcoming annual celebration service. In addition to thanking our volunteers, we will witness and support several different rites of passage. We will start with a children's dedication, then we will recognize several children who are transitioning from primary to middle school. Finally, we will have the first Coming of Age ceremony in many years.

In honor of this celebration the children will learn the song **"This is Me" from The Greatest Showman**. If your kids will not be able to attend RE session on May 26 to learn this song, or if you want to learn the words to sing along I am attaching [video with lyrics](#).



Adult Religious Exploration



Adult Religious Exploration Planning Survey
Please Complete on Line or on a Paper and Pencil Version
No later than June 23, 2019

Thank you for your telling us what topics are of interest to you. You provided us with many ideas and now we'd like to narrow those down to those that hold the highest interest. **To that end, please take 3-5 minutes to complete the survey through the link below.**

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/T6LXYLP>

This survey will also be available in a paper and pencil version beginning on Sunday, June 2 through June 23.

If you have questions, please do not hesitate to contact any member of the Adult Religious Exploration Committee: Nancy Bonner-Benson, Kathryn LaMar, Shelia McClellan, Diane Meyerson, Ethel-May Shaw or Mileva Saulo Lewis.



Summer Activities Building Your Own Theology

June 2, June 16, June 30; Sundays at 12:15 pm following worship services.

The Adult Religious Exploration Program is delighted to continue this 5-session program led by our own Rev. Maria Cristina! Drawing inspiration from many faiths and philosophies, we will help you develop your own credo or personal mission statement based on your values and beliefs.

Working from the assumption that everyone is their own theologian, Building Your Own Theology invites you to share your spiritual journey and articulate how your values inform and guide your life. Make some time 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 sign-up sheet in Fellowship Hall. For more information, please contact Rev. Maria Cristina at minister@starrking.org.

Ongoing Activities

Book Group: White Racial Literacy	Meets every 1st and 3rd Monday at 7:15pm in the sanctuary.
Choir Practice	Meets every Sunday from 9 to 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 to 9pm, in the Sanctuary. For adults and mature kids.
Evening Meditation	Every Wednesday, 7:30 to 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.

Announcements

Take Me Out to the Ball Game! June 14, 6:37 pm

Sign up now for the Oakland A's vs Seattle Mariners game, which begins at 6:37 pm and finishes with fantastic fireworks. Tickets are \$36 each, but price can go down if more than 30 people sign up. Sign-up is in Fellowship Hall.

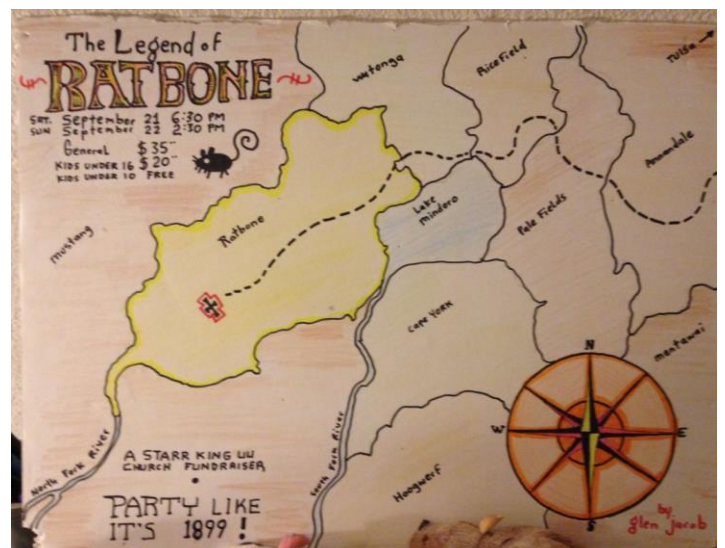
Interfaith "Prayers for the Earth" event, Saturday June 1, 11 am

Eden Area Interfaith Council is hosting "Prayers for the Earth" on Saturday, June 1, from 11 am to 5 pm at the Sun Gallery. This event concludes the Sun Gallery's month-long program, "Planet Earth: The Beauty of Life", and includes craft activities, light food, and art. Participants from EAIC member organizations will be sharing their spiritual beliefs about caring for the Earth and all living things and our own Reverenda Maria Cristina will be one of the presenters. The Sun Gallery is located at 1015 E St in Hayward.

Save the Date: Mystery Dinner on September 21 and 22

Escrip Program

The Lucky/Foodmaxx/SaveMart stores have discontinued their participation in the eScrip program.



Starr King Church Calendar

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

June 2019						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1 * 11:00 am EAIC - Prayers for the Earth
2 * 10:30 am Worship Service * 12:15 pm AREC * 12:15 pm Hospitality and Membership * 12:15 pm Sanctuary Garden Supporters	3 * 6:30 pm Rainbow Group LGBT NA * 7:15 pm White Racial Literacy Group	4	5 * 7:30 pm Evening Meditation	6 * 7:00 pm Board of Trustees	7 * 7:00 pm Drumming Circle	8
9 * 9:00 am Choir Practice * 10:30 am Worship Service * 12:15 pm Peace and Justice Team	10 * 6:30 pm Rainbow Group LGBT NA	11 * 11:00 am Adult RE	12 * 12:00 pm SGM afternoons * 12:00 pm Staff Meeting * 3:00 pm Pastoral Care Committee * 7:30 pm Evening Meditation	13 * 7:30 pm SKIT	14	15 * 6:30 pm SKUU Game Night
16 * 10:30 am Worship Service * 12:00 pm Church Bookstore Open * 12:00 pm AREC	17 * 6:30 pm Rainbow Group LGBT NA * 7:15 pm White Racial Literacy Group	18	19 * 12:00 pm Elders Meeting * 7:30 pm Evening Meditation * 7:30 pm SGM Evenings	20	21	22
23 * 10:30 am Worship Service	24 * 6:30 pm Rainbow Group LGBT NA	25	26 * 12:00 pm SGM afternoon * 7:30 pm Evening Meditation	27 * 7:00 pm Worship Committee	28	29
30 * 10:30 am Worship Service * 12:15 pm AREC						

Calendar developed and supported by [Kieran O'Shea](#)

June Birthdays

June 1	Robin Fink	June 18	Diane Meyerson
June 5	Rene G. Castle (husband)	June 24	David Baker
June 9	Amy Kinnear	June 24	Keith Lewis
June 11	Colleen Dino	June 26	Drake Otermat