

# THE FLAMING CHALICE

July 2019

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



Sunday Worship, 10:30am

## *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](http://www.starrking.org)  
[www.facebook.com/StarrKingChurch](https://www.facebook.com/StarrKingChurch)

### **Parish Minister**

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### **Office Administrator**

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### **Church President**

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### **Director of Religious Exploration**

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[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 7: Nature Photography as Spiritual Activity**

*Torsten Fink*

SKUUC member Torsten is a nature photographer whose work currently adorns our sanctuary. He will share his spiritual journey with nature, exploring the depth of its beauty and why we must treasure our Mother Earth.

### **July 14: Christmas in July?**

*Lorie Miller*

Jingle jingle jingle! Time for a mid-year tune up! Lorie will help us rediscover the holiday's lost messages.

### **July 21: The Write Stuff**

*Glen Jacob, Al Murdoch, & Worship Committee*

Celebrate the joy of books, writing, and the creative process! Please bring a book for our book communion – you'll take another one home.



### **July 28:**

To Be Announced

Stay up to date with [worship services on the website!](http://www.starrking.org)

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### Animal Blessing Service, June 2019





## Bits from the Board



Greetings from your Board of Trustees! In an effort to share info and updates, I'm experimenting with a monthly article of bite-sized bits from your board. I appreciate your patience as I gather my legs for this! And, as always, you are *welcome* to visit Board meetings – held on the first Thursday of each month\* at 7pm at the church – to see first-hand and join in the fun!

- At our June 6<sup>th</sup> meeting, we welcomed the newly elected president (me, Jennifer Koney), vice president Roy Dickerson, and new board members at large: Ethel-May Shaw, Zelma Nunez-Borga, and Mary Swain. We also thanked outgoing president Will Fitch and board members Mary Lou Schuler and Sherry Thomas for the gift of their service. **The Board voted to cancel our July meeting\* because many had vacations planned for the 4<sup>th</sup> of July weekend. Our next Board meeting will be Thursday, August 1 at 7pm.**
- **General Assembly (GA)** “The Power of We” in Spokane, June 19-23: Reverend María Cristina attended in person and I was able to “attend” online. Of special note for me was a workshop/dialog with *White Fragility* author Robin DiAngelo that showed how white people’s defensive responses to being racially challenged reinforce racial hierarchy. DiAngelo offered practices to help white UUs disrupt and reject learned racist patterns of behavior, challenging them to build racial stamina as part of dismantling white supremacy culture in our movement.



- I'm continuing to have one-on-one “**relational meetings**” (in other words, coffee and a chat) with congregants and incoming Board members as a way of getting to know each other better, listening carefully, and building the ties of trust between each other. Board members may start doing the same, so don't be surprised if you're asked to meet with a board member to help strengthen our connections – one person at a time.

Those are the bits from your board this month! In gratitude for our beloved community,

Jennifer Koney, Board President

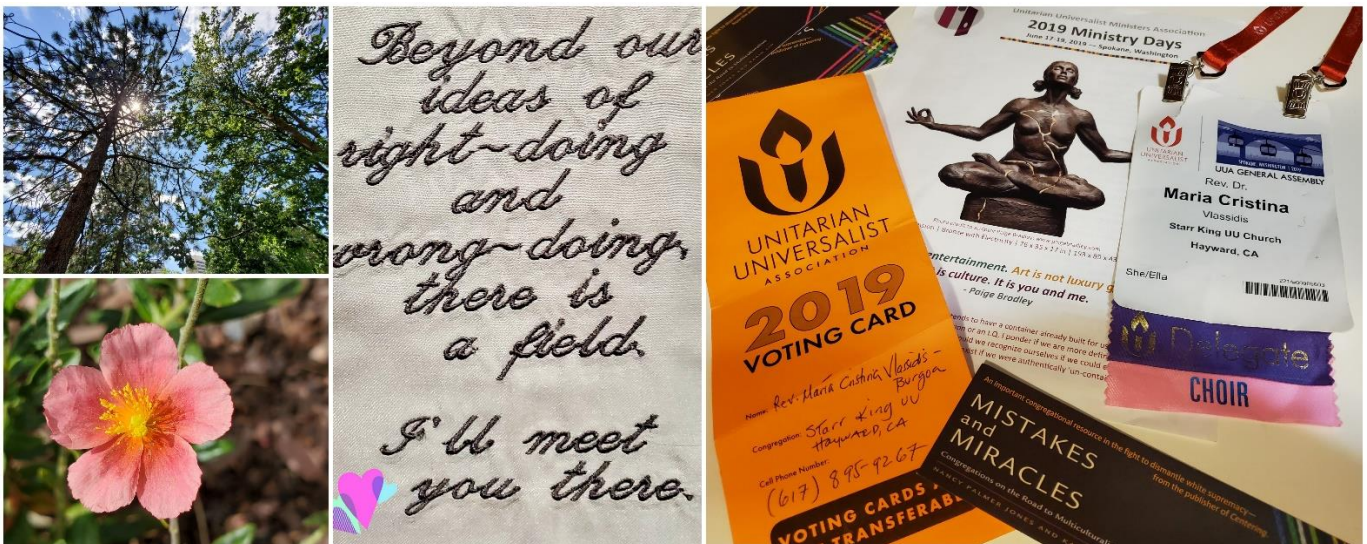


# From the Minister

## General Assembly 2019: The Power of We

"Incrementalism and progressivism are insufficient in these totalitarian times." Reverend Susan Frederick-Gray, UUA President

"In this delicate turning...how will you become ready? No one's comfort is at the center, you just do what needs to be done. Let's be co-liberators and get free together." Reverend Marta Valentin



In a time of great challenge and heartbreak in our world, what does our faith demand from us? At this year's UUMA Ministry Days and UUA General Assembly we explored the power, possibility, purpose, struggle and joy of finding the path forward together as Unitarian Universalists. I left Spokane inspired, reaffirmed in my calling, and strengthened to continue our shared ministry.

During Ministry Days I served as Chaplain Coordinator and had the blessing of providing pastoral care to my beloved colleagues. One of the most important business items was the successful approval of a measure charging the UUMA Guidelines Committee with studying the existing Guidelines and proposing revisions to clarify and strengthen our professional standards against behaviors that perpetuate white supremacy, heteropatriarchy, and other systems and structures of oppression.

We also had a lovely dedication ceremony for the children of our colleagues and expressed our gratitude to outgoing President Rev. Cheryl M. Walker for her dedication and excellent service to our faith. Together with my mentor, Rev. Dr. Clyde Grubbs, and Rev. Karen VonFossan, Minister of the Bismark UU congregation and one of the clergy leaders in the Standing Rock Water is Life Movement, we presented two workshops on Decolonizing Unitarian Universalism and sharing our Indigenous Experience as Unitarian Universalists. We explored the meaning of colonialism, how it affects us all, and how we can decolonize and build communities with life affirming values.



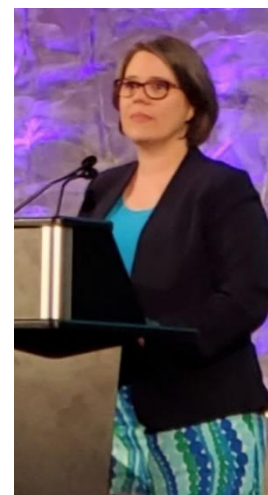


There were so many beautiful GA experiences, including attending the Service of the Living Tradition, where our own Jim Lewis received Preliminary Fellowship as UU Minister. We are blessed to have him among us! I also attended the Ware Lecture delivered by Presidential Inaugural Poet, Richard Blanco, participated in the workshop "A Joyful Noise: Why Congregational Singing Matters" led by Music Directors Amanda Thomas and Francisco Ruiz, sang with the GA Choir at all the worship services and closing ceremony, and connected with so many amazing and inspiring friends and colleagues.

I have returned home both deeply recommitted to my Unitarian Universalist faith and to my Ministerial calling to shared Ministry with my Starr King Beloved Community. May the Power of We hold us and strengthen us!

If you get a chance, here are the links to some of the GA highlights:

- [Opening Ceremony & Worship: Coming Home](#)
- [Worship, Opening, Framing: A Love to Change the World](#)
- [Service of the Living Tradition](#)
- [Ware Lecture by Richard Blanco](#)
- [Saturday Morning Worship](#)
- [Saturday Closing Ceremony: Saying Yes to the Power of We](#)
- [Sunday Morning Worship: In This Delicate Turning \(Showing GA video in Your Sunday Service\)](#)



Reverend Susan  
Frederick-Gray, UUA  
President

# Communications Committee

## Reaching Out

Starr King is about to start some profound conversations about the direction of our church and congregation. As part of this brainstorming, the Communications Committee invites you to consider what it would mean to make stronger connections with our neighbors, our town, our wider community.

The Communications Committee mission is to inform and engage our congregation **and the wider community** in a way that reflects our shared principles and passions. With your help, we can do better in engaging our community.

Having greeters at the door on Sunday is essential to sharing our warmth as soon as new folks approach us. **The website and social media should serve the same purpose.** They are most often the first point of contact for people who are considering whether they should even show up for a visit. (They should! We're wonderful!)

We can connect with those who need a safe space – letting them know how much we value and celebrate them. Our website affirms that we are an LGBTQ welcoming congregation, for example, to many more people than will see our flag on the street. Some people we might inspire but never meet, others could come to revitalize our congregation.

Having a strong online presence isn't about how many people "like" our Facebook posts. It goes to the heart of what kind of congregation we want to be. It's about **radical hospitality**. In our digitally connected world, it's one of the best ways to reach out to our community.

Please consider donating your time to grow our online hospitality. We provide lots of training and support. There will also be upcoming opportunities to directly reach out to particular communities we especially want to welcome. If any of this sounds important or interesting to you, *please* contact Ginny at [communications@starrking.org](mailto:communications@starrking.org). Let's grow our online hospitality!

## WANTED: Social Media Helpers

If you spend time on Facebook, please consider donating some of that time to Starr King! We are looking for people to share photos, upcoming events, and weekly worship service reminders on our official Facebook page and help keep an eye on our private members-only Facebook group.

Contact Ginny at [communications@starrking.org](mailto:communications@starrking.org)





# Religious Exploration Reflections

RE is on break in June but will resume with fun summer sessions in July!

## June Memories

On June 2<sup>nd</sup> we celebrated two child dedications, a coming of age ceremony, and the volunteers who support our children in their religious exploration.



## Do you know the UU Kids' Principles?

1. We believe that each and every person is important.
2. We believe that all people should be treated fairly and kindly.
3. We believe that we should accept one another and keep on learning together.
4. We believe that each person must be free to search for what is true and right in life.
5. We believe that all persons should have a vote about the things that concern them.
6. We believe in working for a peaceful, fair, and free world.
7. We believe in caring for our planet Earth, the home we share with all living things.



## Upcoming Group Opportunities

### White Racial Literacy & Action Group

1st and 3rd Mondays, 7:15 to 8:45, starting September 16

The White Racial Literacy Book Group is reinventing itself as the White Racial Literacy & Action Group - or some other name we select in the fall! In September we will settle on a name, develop a mission statement, create a new covenant, and plan our first action. (Not all at once!)

The group is for people who identify as white. It is an opportunity for intense learning and growth, personal and – we hope – institutional growth. We have a caring, trusting, courageous space in which to uncover and confront the complexities and pain of racism from a white perspective, and start to do something about it.

Some major changes:

- **Free form discussion.** Instead of discussing one book in exhausting detail over a long period, we will have a free form discussion of articles, short videos, personal experiences, etc.
- **Focus on white supremacy.** We will focus on how white supremacy culture manifests in society at large, in our church, and in ourselves, and what we can do about it.
- **Action.** We will start *taking action* in collaboration with others in the church and in the community.

### Beloved Conversations: Meditations on Race and Ethnicity Starting in January

Beloved Conversations is a program that explores the structures, dynamics, and pain of racism. This 8-part series supports our ongoing efforts to live into our UU values and principles and to bring healing to our hearts and the world at large. We will begin in January with a retreat in collaboration with the Walnut Creek UU Church, followed by bi-monthly meetings. Join us on this shared journey towards wholeness. For more information, please contact Rev. María Cristina.

### Small Group Ministry: Life Changes

Hot out of the suggestion box: the Adult Religious Education Committee is offering a group specifically for those adjusting to difficult life changes. Members of current small group ministry groups can choose either or both groups. Please let Rev. María Cristina, Mileva Lewis, or Kathryn LaMar know if you are interested.



# Mystery Dinner Fundraiser

## THE LEGEND OF RATBONE

Saturday Evening, September 21, 6pm  
Sunday Matinee, September 22, 2:30pm

From playwright and director, Glen Jacobs:

**The Legend of Ratbone** is sure to be a fun evening with dinner and an entertaining musical comedy western. I have completed the first draft of the script, and there will be many amusing characters and hilarious situations.

It is always such a joy and a privilege to work with the incredible group of performers that we have here at Starr King church! Our fantastic choir is helping to write lyrics and choreograph the musical numbers. There are sure to be some real show-stoppers! New to mystery dinner this year: Jim Lewis, Bethany Salway, and Ginny Delaney. They will be joined by returning favorites Stuart Fink, Bob Simoni, Bill and Ruth DeSmidt, Rev Maria Cristina and myself.

You might ask if you need to have seen or remember the original "Ratbone" from years ago. The answer is "no." This is a brand-new story that happens to take place in that mythical old west town. There are a couple of "easter eggs" though for the older folks. For example, Bill is playing the same character, Derrick Dawg, who in the first Ratbone was a young deputy. He is now a veteran Sheriff.

I am going to be playing a character called Prospector Pete - the same character played in the original by Bob Stortz. It's funny, when Bob was in the original, he insisted on adlibbing and came up with a whole schtick where his character had fleas and was itching all the time. I've got to tell you, at first this did annoy me, but then he got all the best laughs, and I realized that he was kind of brilliant! So my performance this year will be an homage to Bob!

I want folks to know that with our budget deficit, raising money is very important right now. But beyond that, I think that it will be a very fun show. The tickets are a little higher than last time - \$35 general, kids \$20 (under 10 free) - but we are trying to raise some funds here. The most any mystery dinner has raised in the past was in the \$5000 range, but if everybody supports this event: buys tickets, buys wine, buys all the clues, maybe we can get close to the \$8000 the church needs to pay its UUA dues. So please come, have a great time and support Starr King UU church.

**HELP STILL NEEDED** with food, cooking, serving, set-up, and clean-up.

Thank you to everyone who comes out to this event! We will party like it's 1899!



# Announcements

Best wishes and congratulations to Kirk Klausmeyer and Jenny Wei who got married June 15!



Castro Valley Pride  
Saturday July 13th

Starr King will have a booth at this event being held at Castro Valley High School. Volunteers are needed to be at the booth representing SKUUC and helping with the set-up and dismantling of the booth. There is a sign-up sheet for those who can volunteer on the back table in the Fellowship Hall. For more information please contact Lorie Miller or Ethel May Shaw.

## Circle Dinner – Change in Venue Saturday, July 6, 7-9pm

Ghazni Kabob restaurant is no longer a part of the escrip program that gives back to SKUUC. So we are changing the venue to the Playt restaurant on B Street, Hayward. The fare is Southern comfort: Creole, Gullah, and Cajun. The sign up sheet and menu for this restaurant outing are on the back table.

## Wanted: FESCO Representatives

Members of the Friends of FESCO (Family Emergency Shelter Coalition) include congregational members (churches), each of which is allowed four representatives. Prospective members apply to the Friends of FESCO and are approved by La Familia. SKUUC officially joined last fall. Kathryn LaMar is currently SKUUC's only representative, but three additional representatives can be named by the minister. See Kathryn or Rev. María Cristina if you feel called to serve.

## FESCO Backpack Drive Distribution in Early August

If your group or committee want to fill a backpack for the kids served by FESCO, please let Kathryn Lamar know as soon as possible. You will receive a list of the desired contents.

## Wanted: Coffee Maker

After 11 years, Lavon is resigning as our coffee provider. THANKS, Lavon for keeping us caffeinated! Who's ready to step up? We also need help with set-up, snacks, and clean-up for upcoming worship services. The sign-up sheet is in the Fellowship Hall.



## Ongoing Activities

White Racial Literacy & Action Group	No summer meetings. After September 16: 1st & 3rd Mondays, 7:15 to 8:45
Choir Practice	Meets every Sunday from 9 – 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.

## July Birthdays

**July 1      Daniel Casini**

**July 26      Lillian Carrell**

**July 2      Mary Shields**

**July 27      Laurie Matthews**

**July 3      Jo Murdach**

**July 28      Natalie Forrest**

**July 4      Will Fitch**

**July 30      Nathan Ray**

**July 9      Jim Otermat**

**July 30      Jessica Schuler**

**July 15      Evelyn Cormier**

**July 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 2019					Next »
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	
	1 * 6:30 pm Rainbow Group LGBT NA	2	3 * 7:30 pm Evening Meditation	4	5 * 7:00 pm Drumming Circle	6	
7 * 10:30 am Worship Service	8 * 6:30 pm Rainbow Group LGBT NA	9	10 * 12:00 pm SGM afternoons * 3:00 pm Pastoral Care Committee * 7:30 pm Evening Meditation	11 * 7:30 pm SKIT	12	13 * 12:00 pm CV Pride at the CV High School	
14 * 9:00 am Choir Practice * 10:30 am Worship Service * 12:15 pm Peace and Justice Team * 12:30 pm Mystery Dinner Meeting	15 * 6:30 pm Rainbow Group LGBT NA	16	17 * 12:00 pm Elders Meeting * 7:30 pm Evening Meditation * 7:30 pm SGM Evenings	18 * 7:00 pm Worship Committee	19	20	
21 * 10:30 am Worship Service * 12:00 pm Church Bookstore Open	22 * 6:30 pm Rainbow Group LGBT NA	23	24 * 12:00 pm SGM afternoon * 7:30 pm Evening Meditation	25	26	27	
28 * 10:30 am Worship Service	29 * 6:30 pm Rainbow Group LGBT NA	30	31 * 7:30 pm Evening Meditation				

## Help Starr King from Your Computer!

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

