

THE FLAMING CHALICE

August 2019



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

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

Parish Minister
Rev. María Cristina Vlassidis Burgoa
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Office Administrator
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president@starrking.org

Director of Religious Exploration
Allison Prout
dre@starrking.org
DRE Office Hours:
Wednesday and Thursday,
10:30am – 2:30pm

Newsletter
newsletter@starrking.org

Sunday Worship, 10:30am

August 4: The World of Dreams. Rev. Dr. Jeanne Foster. Psychiatrist D. W. Winnicott writes that we often go about our lives with an attitude of compliance, as though the world is something to be fitted in with, demanding adaptation. The attitude of compliance tells us to put our dreams away in the back of the bottom drawer of the chest of drawers. But our dreams are part of creative living, Winnicott says, which makes life worthwhile. On this Sunday, we stand up for the world of dreams and for pulling dreams through into reality as a source of creativity, aliveness, and self-actualization.

August 11: TBD.

August 18: Readers Theater War and Peace. Written by pulpit guest and member Al Murdach. Have you ever seen fireworks at a UU General Assembly? Come back with us to 1917 when pro-war and anti-war Unitarians, played by our stellar Starr King players, were duking it out. Who do you think won? Join us on Sunday to find out.

August 25: Circle Dance. Maureen Atkins. Come join us in the dance. Pulpit guest Maureen Atkins will lead everyone in this service of circle dancing for all ages. Come prepared to move, dance and have fun. All dances will be taught beforehand. Older children are more than welcome to participate.

September 1: Protest, Resistance, and Empowerment. Bob Britton. Join us for our annual Labor Day Sunday Service. We will lift our spirits with the poetry and music of liberation that inspires us in our struggle to stop the growth of hate and empowers us to promote a world where compassion is wedded to power.



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Member Lea Casini helps put together food packages for families. In one week in July, 353 families received food for two to three days through South Hayward Parish



Happy Pride! Thank you Lorie, Ethel-May, Mileva Saulo Lewis, Sheila, Sara Raymond-Wagner, Darryl Ray, Rene & Rene Lynn Castle, for setting up the Starr King UU Church table and for your loving support of our LGBTQ2+ communities. Love Wins!

Bits from the Board

Presidential Flamingos Are Doing Fine!

I'm pleased to announce that the pair of pink flamingos (plastic statues) that were recently relocated to my front yard are adjusting well and seem very much at home. What, you might be asking, do pink flamingos have to do with our Board of Trustees? Good question! Apparently, it is a long standing tradition for the president of the Board of Trustees to be offered a pair of pink flamingos for their front yard during her or his term. This was an interesting surprise to me! But, honoring my playful side, I readily agreed to be the new owner, and Will Fitch ceremoniously handed them over to me.

The history of this humorous practice of passing on pink flamingos is somewhat murky but I know that Karen Cook, when she was president, had a distinct aversion to plastic pink flamingos in her yard so the Board bought her a welcome mat for her front porch with a tasteful flamingo on it. And, according to Diana Dickerson (Board president 2015 to 2017), she still has three in her yard. Plans are to add at least one more should her husband and our current vice president, Roy, be elected to president in 2021. The more the merrier! Believe it or not, a group of flamingos is called a flamboyance. Seems appropriate to me!

As for Board updates, our next meeting will be held Thursday, August 1 from 7 to 9pm in the sanctuary. All are welcome, and we'd love to have you visit us! Board agenda items will include an update on the Appreciate Inquiry strategic visioning process, discussing our budget and future planning, revisiting the brightening of the sanctuary, and welcoming our three new Board members— Zelma, Ethel-May, and Mary Swain.

Those are the bits from your board this month!

In gratitude for our beloved community – Jennifer Koney



Envisioning Our Future



Sunday, September 29, 2019 from 12:15 pm to 2:15 pm in the Sanctuary

Envisioning our Future

Earlier this year, members of the Starr King community met to share our values, the times when Starr King was at its best and what we dream about for our future. Our visioning was designed to help us Discover “our best moments” and to Dream about our desired future. The assumptions of our planning process are:

- All the wisdom and skills needed to assess the past and present and to envision the future we want to create were in the room.
- There are many "right" pathways to reach a given point or end result.
- None of us has all the answers; we need each other's perspective of reality to get a better understanding of the whole.
- The future doesn't just happen. It results in large part from what we do or don't do today and every day.

You gave the Envisioning Team a lot of information to review and synthesize. In fact, you gave us 4,207 words! We will ask you to

- ❖ Review the values that SKUUC members said guide us as Unitarian Universalists. While we use the UU Seven Principles as guides, many come from other faith traditions or no faith tradition and have other language for values that resonates with them. Language matters. We'll ask you to review the numerous values you named and to identify those that most resonate with those that will serve as a guide or compass as we, as a spiritual community, choose the priorities for our ministry for the next two to three years.
- ❖ Review your Dreams in the following areas and choose your highest priorities:

- **Building a Better World.** Working for justice, equity, and compassion in human affairs through prophetic witness and action.
- **Caring Community.** The warmth and care of our beloved community is one of our greatest strengths Caring Community
- **Family Ministry and RE.** Supporting our families and our children is a vital part of our mission. Adult RE – lifelong learning — is also a vibrant part of our mission. Learning keeps us alive, responsive, engaged.
- **Worship** is the single most important thing we do together. It's what distinguishes us from a support group, a social club, or a political action group. It's what makes us a church.

Each one of us

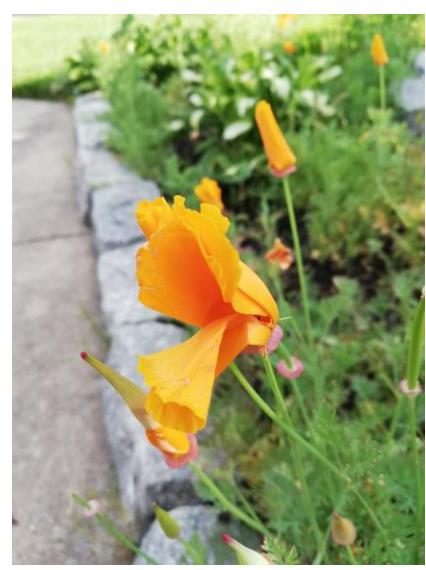
- Can make a difference;
- Learn from each other;
- Pool our perceptions, and
- Join together to create our future

Even if you were not able to attend the earlier session, please join us on this important day in the life of our Beloved Community. Join Us!



Your Envisioning Team –Jennifer Koney, Beth Ogilvie, Teri Owen, Keith Lewis, Mileva Saulo Lewis, and the Rev. Dr. Maria Cristina Vlassidis Burgoa.

Sí, se puede!



RE Reflections, June 2019

Our RE Program

Are you looking for a church home for your children that provides them with the resources to develop their own spiritual values? We warmly invite you to check out our Sunday Religious Exploration classes for school-age children. Our primary resource is the Tapestry of Faith program from the Unitarian Universalist Association. It's not classwork! Our RE team engages our younger members in discussion, crafts, music, gardening, scientific experiments, field trips, service projects, and more. We have a lot of fun and some deep conversations.

Our program offers:

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- a friendly, open, and accepting environment
 - truth-seeking, spirituality, and progressive moral values
 - deeper understanding of world religions
 - reason, creativity, and autonomy rather than a rigid approach
 - sensitivity and humor about the difficult questions of life and growing up
 - participation in environmentalism and social justice projects
-



Adult Religious Exploration

Our Adult Religious Education Programs provide opportunities to explore, reflect, and learn in a nurturing spiritual community. Our Adult Religious Education Committee develops programs based on congregational needs and interests. They vary in length from a single session to some that last weeks or months. We share upcoming programs in our weekly announcements and newsletter, as events on the website, and on our [Facebook](#) page. You'll learn a lot and meet lovely people! Please send your suggestions for future topics to the committee. Or, even better, come to a meeting! We are always looking for new ideas.



Adults are also invited to make use of our lending library. It's a small collection of books about religion, spirituality, and Unitarian Universalist history. You can check out these books on the honor system. You'll find it in the library section of the Fellowship Hall. Look for the plaque.



Starr King Circle Dinner at PLaYT in Hayward (B Street) in July was a lot of fun. The food was great and the company was fabulous! Join us next time!



Ongoing Activities

Book Group: White Racial Literacy	Meets every 1st and 3rd Monday at 7:15pm in the sanctuary. Next meeting is September 16.
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.

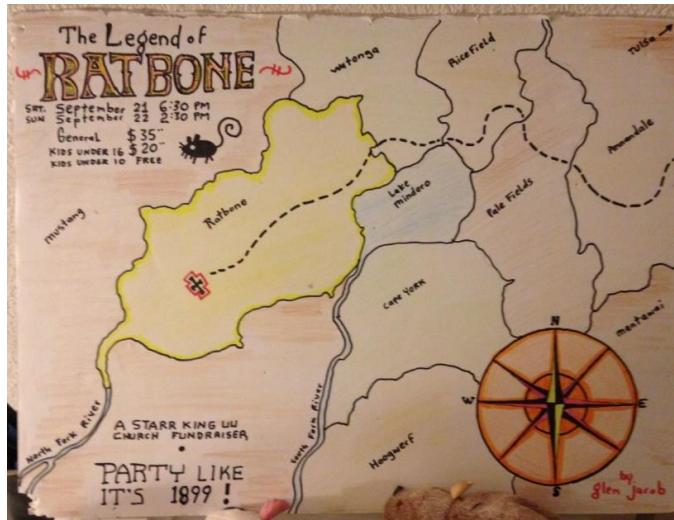
Announcements

Memorial Notice for August 17 at 2 pm

Jeanette Smith, younger daughter of Winchell and Helen Smith, died Wednesday, June 19 after a decade of decline with Alzheimer's. Memorial service will be held on Saturday, August 17 at 2 pm at Trinity United Methodist Church of Berkeley, 2362 Bancroft Way. Please let Carolyn Scarr know if you plan to attend, phone 510-527-8370.

Ratbone: Mystery Dinner on September 21 and 22

A western musical comedy mystery "The Legend of Ratbone" (dinner and a show) will be presented Sat. Sept. 21 at 6 pm and Sunday, September 22 at 2:30 pm. Please come and support the financial needs of Starr King church. Tickets will be on sale in August.



Starr King Church Calendar

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

August 2019

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 * 7 pm Board of Trustees	2 * 7 pm Drumming Circle	3
4 * 10:30 am Worship Service * 12 noon Mystery Dinner Rehearsals	5 * 6:30 pm Rainbow Group LGBT NA	6	7 * 7:30 pm Evening Meditation	8 * 7:30 pm SKIT	9	10
11 * 9 am Choir Practice * 10:30 am Worship Service * 12:15 pm Peace and Justice	12 * 6:30 pm Rainbow Group LGBT NA	13 * 11 am Adult RE	14 * Small Group Ministry afternoons * 3 pm Pastoral Care Committee * 7:30 pm Evening Meditation	15	16	17 * 6:30 pm SKUU Game Night
* 10:30 am Worship Service * 12 noon Church Bookstore Open * 12 noon Mystery Dinner Rehearsals	19 * 6:30 pm Rainbow Group LGBT NA	20	21 * 7:30 pm Evening Meditation * 7:30 pm SGM Evenings	22	23	24
25 * 10:30 am Worship Service	26 * 6:30 pm Rainbow Group LGBT NA	27	28 * Small Group Ministry afternoons * 7 pm RE Council * 7:30 pm Evening Meditation	29	30	31

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

August Birthdays

August 2	Joyce Kinnear	August 4	Sylvia Blake	August 13	Al Murdach
August 13	John Gruver	August 16	Tasha Casini	August 18	Lena Rose Kiesling
August 19	Frank Burton	August 20	Marge Schwab	August 21	Regina Fassano
August 25	Garald Mosher	August 27	Jennifer Koney	August 30	Terry Preston