



The Flaming Chalice

SPIRITUAL GROWTH IN A THEOLOGICALLY DIVERSE COMMUNITY

Starr King Unitarian Universalist Church | October 2019 Newsletter



CHURCH OFFICE HOURS

**Tuesday, Wednesday,
and Thursday**

9:30am – 2:30pm

To meet with the minister
for pastoral care or to discuss
congregation life, please call the
church office for an appointment.

22577 Bayview Avenue

Hayward, CA 94541

510-581-2060

starrking.org

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

Parish Minister

Rev. María Cristina

Vlassidis Burgoa

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Kelli Abatangelo

office@starrking.org

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Jennifer Coney

president@starrking.org

Director of Religious Exploration

Allison Prout

dre@starrking.org

DRE Office Hours:

Tuesday–Thursday,

11:30am – 2:30pm

Newsletter

newsletter@starrking.org

Sunday Worship, 10:30am

October Theme: Caring

Committee Featured: Pastoral Care



OCTOBER 6

A Circle of Care

Celebrating and expressing our gratitude
to our dedicated Pastoral Care Committee
Volunteers.

– *Rev. María Cristina Vlassidis Burgoa*



OCTOBER 13

Witnessing: Indigenous People's Day

As we approach Indigenous People's Day, we ask:
What would it mean to decolonize our traditions
as Unitarian Universalists?

– *Jim Lewis*



OCTOBER 20

Beginning Again in Love

A service dedicated to Forgiveness,
of ourselves and each other.

– *Rev. María Cristina Vlassidis Burgoa*



OCTOBER 27

Remember Me

Commemorating the Days of the
Dead with our annual Community Altar.
Please bring photos and mementos

WHAT'S INSIDE

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September Highlights



Welcoming back our Nicaraguan friend Mayerling and her beautiful children.

Mama Lily watering the garden after installing new picnic table covers and umbrellas..



Annual Water Ceremony



Thanks to David Middleton for organizing a wonderful kickoff BBQ at Lake Chabot!

Bits from the Board

Part of what our Board does is to recognize and thank people who make a difference in our church through their actions. This month, the Board offered notes of gratitude to the **many** volunteer gardeners that keep our beautiful grounds well cared for and loved. Our thanks went out to Ethel-May Shaw, Walt Korus, Barbara Ryan, Donnie Rett, Sheila McClellan, Donnie Rett, Lea Casini, Lavon Hodges, Claudia McDonagh, Bob Breckenridge, Lorie Miller and Diane Meyerson on behalf of all of the church. We also found out that Maya and Emma Middleton have helped out as well. **Thank you** for your hard work and grounds keeping!



On September 14, we held our orientation for new Board Members to prepare them for Board success with church background and review of church documents. **Thanks** to Karen Cook for providing a segment on church history, Roy Dickerson for preparing and presenting highlights of the bylaws (and terrific quiche!), Marilyn Mosher for breaking down our financial reports, and to Reverenda for reminding us of our commitment to be spiritually enriched as well.

The Board of Trustees met on September 5, and we had rich and full discussion about special plates and our budget deficit, balancing our values with fiscal health, the Strategic Visioning process next steps, our evacuation procedures and making them more accessible, and Ratbone support (our big fundraising activity this year). Additionally, we initiated a team to work on re-certifying as a Welcoming Congregation – something we need to now do each year – and had fudge brownies for all attending – which is an encouragement for you to consider attending our next board meeting: **Thursday, October 3, 2019; from 7 to 9pm in the Fellowship Hall. All are welcome. Consider this your invitation to join us.**

I particularly appreciate how we honor and respect our covenantal relationship with each other and care for each other's spirit as we do the work of the church. We seek to embody our service as a spiritual practice! So come visit and try it on for size. The next agenda will be posted on the bulletin board in the Fellowship Hall and minutes are on our website.

Those are the bits from your board this month!

In gratitude for our beloved community

– Jennifer Koney

From the Minister

“No one wants to appear to be wrong. Most of us want to be accepted for who we are. We want to be liked and appreciated.”

– Betsy Dye

Many years ago, when Mark Belletini was the Minister here, our beloved Betsy Dye won an auction item and got to pick the sermon topic. When I was called as Starr King’s Minister three years ago, Betsy gave me a copy of the sermon. We intended to have a conversation about it, but time just flew by and we both forgot about it until I went to visit Betsy in the ICU the day before she passed. She remembered the sermon and asked me to find it, read it, and come back the next day to let her know what I thought about it...But we didn’t get another chance to talk about the sermon...I had prepared a homily for Sunday reflecting on our Theological Diversity...But I went to my office, found the sermon, read it, and was amazed that it was perfect for that Sunday. I tossed aside most of what I had written and instead, on Sunday morning shared Rev. Belletini’s words to honor Betsy’s memory and her unwavering journey towards meaning making. Thank you Betsy for always reminding us that the questions, the journeys, and the vision quests are so much more interesting than the doctrines written in stone.



These are the words of Rev. Mark Belletini:

“Betsy gave me a book to read that summarized the teachings presented by Jane Roberts and she also gave me a list of her own thoughts which addressed many ideas and raised questions of great variety. The difficult part of this sermon for me was obvious from the very beginning; Betsy and I plain use very different language to express our religious ideas; I tend to use the language of skepticism, science, and humanistic readings...Betsy uses language found most often among the metaphysical movements of America. Yet despite these differing languages, Betsy is a long time member of a church of which I am a long time parish minister. How can people of different religious languages exist in the same church? How can they communicate? Can both Betsy and I be in partial possession of the truth or do I have to engage in the terrible and cruel game that has marred our common world, namely, that if one of us is right therefore the other must be wrong?

But Mark isn’t that true? Can two religious assertions be true at the same time? That’s not possible is it?...

Maybe you can begin to see that when I say that Betsy and I tend to use different language when we speak about religious things, this in no way suggests that Betsy and I have nothing in common. I too am convinced that it is healthier for people to

figure out what they believe in relationship to their life experiences first, and received theology second...

We are free to respond to misery, misfortune, or pain with grace, strength, and undefeated moral beauty...still belief is a difficult issue. As Betsy wrote to me 'No one wants to appear to be wrong. Most of us want to be accepted for who we are. We want to be liked and appreciated.' Not everyone will accept the other's point of view with grace. Beliefs are painful and controversial. I have changed my beliefs about certain things several times during the course of my ministry and I have to be thankful that I have been able to call myself Unitarian Universalist throughout all that change. The process, the journey, is more important than any specific waystop. I wonder how many of us have stopped in some convenient place for us; Who wouldn't want to rest, to be free of always having to search, search, search for truth?

Whatever the final truth I am pretty convinced that no one on earth knows for sure what it is, I am Unitarian Universalist, I can journey, I can rest, accept my freedom, tolerate the opinions of others, and go out of my way to express my very real love several times each day...Betsy, thank you for raising such interesting questions for me. I think I learned a lot from the dialogue, both about what you believe and what and how I believe. But mostly, I am glad that you have given of yourself so much to the church over the years. It's a form of love I suppose, and that, in the end, is better than belief and unbelief in the world all rolled up together."



Freshman
School San Lorenzo High
Date Oct. 1966, Age 14

Sophomore
School San Lorenzo High
Date Sept 1967, Age 15



Jack, Cathy, Johnny & Betsy Dye



Junior
School San Lorenzo High

Senior
School San Lorenzo High

The Legend of Ratbone

Another successful Mystery Dinner fundraiser was held September 21 and 22 at Starr King. Glen Jacob, author and director, outdid himself with *The Legend of Ratbone*.

Set in 1899 in the town of Ratbone, Oklahoma, The Three Girl Gang (“Beck” Ginny Delaney, “Trick” Jennifer Koney, and “Gert” Bethany Salway) plans to rob Prospector Pete (Glen Jacob) of his long-lost gold. The rap “X Marks the Spot” explains their dastardly plan. The town leaders, Mayor Santiago (Mary Lasack), Purvis Powell (Stuart Fink), Dillon Frank (Jim Lewis) and Sheriff Dawg (Bill DeSmidt) are planning a fair to celebrate the turn of the century and sing a cover of Prince’s 1999 except with 1899 lyrics. Songwriter, Jim Lewis, penned hilarious lyrics such as “I’ve got a rat in my pocket and, baby, it’s ready to squeak.” Prospector Pete shows up suddenly and tries to warn the town leaders of the Three Girl Gang’s planned caper, but the town leaders are more interested in stealing the gold for themselves.

Prospector Pete (Director Glen Jacob)
and Purvis Powell (Stuart Fink)



Mayor Santiago (Mary Lasack)
and Sheriff Dawg (Bill DeSmidt)

As the three girl gang searches the town for the lost gold, Sheriff Dawg sings a song pledging his love to Trick, and Gert similarly serenades Jen, the talking rat, with heart warming ballad. Before dessert was served, all the characters were converging on Prospector Pete’s mining camp to steal the gold. After dessert, one character was revealed to be murdered, and the audience generously bought clues from the remaining characters to determine who the murder was. After the audience submitted their guesses, a final scene played out revealing the murderer.

Bob Simoni narrated the show as MC, though in his case MC stood for “Manly Cowboy.” Many thanks to Mileva Lewis for organizing the set up, cooking, serving and clean up, and to the many volunteers who assisted her. Our dear friend Ruth DeSmidt was originally cast as Trick, but due to a serious injury, was unable to play the part. Jennifer Koney bravely stepped in to play the part of Trick shortly before the first performance.

Long live Ratbone!

– Ginny Delaney

A big **thank you** to those who came out to support the church at this event! Gratitude also to Mileva and Donnie who organized the dinner; to our chefs, who made delicious chili, salsa, cornbread, salad, and strawberry shortcake; and to the servers, dishwashers, chair movers, launderers, ticket sellers, bartender, and everyone else who helped out in this great team effort. And finally, a big round of applause to Glen Jacob for writing and directing our musical mystery and to the fantastic cast who brought *The Legend of Ratbone* to life!

Full cast (L–R): Bill DeSmidt, Bethany Salway, Mary Lasack, Jennifer Koney, Jim Lewis, Ginny Delaney, Stuart Fink, Glen Jacob, Bob Simoni



RE Upcoming Events



Religious Education Family and Volunteer Orientation

Sunday, October 20, 12:15–1:45pm

Families and volunteers will gather for a light lunch and overview of what we hope to accomplish this year as well as tips on how to work with our youngest members.



Kids Against Hunger Bay Area Packing Event

Sunday, October 27, 1:00–2:20pm

Kids Against Hunger Bay Area packages and ships highly nutritious, life-saving meals to starving and malnourished children in developing countries and in disaster situations, as well as feeding hungry children in the United States

Anyone over 7 years is invited to join us for this Service Project jointly sponsored by RE and Social Justice Action Committee. Click/type in URL to register: <https://kahbayarea.org/how-to-help/join-a-packing-event?controller=event&task=options&eventId=1092>

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 – 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 sgm@starring.org for more information.
SKIT Improv Troupe	Second Thursday of the month, 7:30pm. Open to all.
Board Meeting	First Thursday of the month, 7-9pm in Fellowship Hall. Open to all.



Starr King Church Calendar

October 2019						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1	2 * 7:30 pm Evening Meditation	3 * 10:00 am RE Council * 7:00 pm Board of Trustees	4 * 7:00 pm Drumming Circle	5 * 3:00 pm Memorial Service - tentative * 6:00 pm BOT/COM Dinner
6 * 10:30 am Worship Service	7 * 6:30 pm Rainbow Group LGBT NA * 7:15 pm White Racial Literacy & Action	8 * 11:00 am Adult RE	9 * 12:00 pm SGM afternoons * 12:00 pm Staff Meeting * 3:00 pm Pastoral Care Committee * 7:15 pm SGM Evenings * 7:30 pm Evening Meditation	10 * 7:30 pm SKIT	11	12
13 * 9:00 am Choir Practice * 10:30 am Worship Service * 12:15 pm Peace and Justice	14 * 6:30 pm Rainbow Group LGBT NA	15 * 7:00 pm Worship Committee	16 * 7:00 pm Committee Chairs Meeting * 7:30 pm Evening Meditation	17	18	19 * 6:30 pm SKUU Game Night
20 * 10:30 am Worship Service * 12:00 pm Church Bookstore Open * 12:15 pm RE Family Gathering	21 * 6:30 pm Rainbow Group LGBT NA * 7:15 pm White Racial Literacy & Action	22	23 * 12:00 pm SGM afternoon * 7:15 pm SGM Evenings * 7:30 pm Evening Meditation	24	25	26 * 8:00 am Prep day for Day of the Dead
27 * 10:30 am Worship Service * 10:30 am Day of the Dead Service * 1:00 pm Kids Against Hunger Event	28 * 6:30 pm Rainbow Group LGBT NA	29	30 * 7:30 pm Evening Meditation	31		



October Birthdays

OCTOBER 1

Carl Fink

OCTOBER 8

Scott Kinneer

OCTOBER 16

Sheila McClellan

Kelly Heigert