



# The Flaming Chalice

**SPIRITUAL GROWTH IN A THEOLOGICALLY DIVERSE COMMUNITY**

Starr King Unitarian Universalist Church | November 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](http://starrking.org)

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

### **Parish Minister**

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### **Director of Religious Exploration**

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[dre@starrking.org](mailto:dre@starrking.org)  
DRE Office Hours:  
Tuesday–Thursday,  
11:30am – 2:30pm

### **Newsletter**

[newsletter@starrking.org](mailto:newsletter@starrking.org)

Sunday Worship, 10:30am

**November Theme: Shared Ministry**



## **NOVEMBER 3**

### **Shared Ministry**

Please join Jennifer Koney, President of the Board of Trustees, and Beth Ogilvie from the Committee on Ministry in an exploration of shared ministry and what it means to the Board, the COM, and to each of us as members of this beloved community.

## **NOVEMBER 10**

### **Shared Ministry**

We continue reflecting on the meaning and practice of Shared Ministry in connection with our Mission and Vision. Our special guest will be Rev. Dr. Jonipher Kupono Kwong, UUA Congregational Life Staff, Pacific Western Region.



## **NOVEMBER 17**

### **Leadership Development**

How do we encourage and support leadership within our Starr King community? What is the role of Leadership Development within the context of our highest aspirations and values as reflected in the latest Envisioning surveys?  
– Rev. María Cristina Vlassidis Burgoa



## **NOVEMBER 24**

### **Thanksgiving**

Join us for our Annual Thanksgiving service to express gratitude and continue to strengthen our partnership with South Hayward Parish.

– Terri Owen and Rev. María Cristina Vlassidis Burgoa

## WHAT'S INSIDE

- 1 Sunday Services**                      **5 Church Common Read**                      **8 Ongoing Activities**
- 3 Bits from the Board**                      **6 Farewell to SKIT**                      **9 Calendar & Birthdays**
- 4 Indigenous People's Day: Awareness**                      **7 RE Reflections**

# October Highlights



**STARR KING** UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CHURCH  
 Rev. Maria Cristina Burgoa, Minister, [Minister@skuuc.org](mailto:Minister@skuuc.org)

*Be doers of the word, and not merely hearers.  
 Those who look into the perfect law,  
 the law of liberty, and persevere,  
 being not hearers who forget but doers who act  
 - they will be blessed in their doing.  
 James 1*

**Restore Medi-Cal Benefits**

It is unconscionable and a detriment to successful re-entry into the community that many persons leaving custody of the Alameda County Sheriff's Office do not have access to essential medical care because Medi-Cal benefits for which they are eligible have not been restored upon their release from custody.

**Alameda County Ranks Near the Bottom**



Bob Britton organized a presentation before the Alameda County Board of Supervisors to present signed petitions from various congregations. The petitions ask the Board of Supervisors to enforce the reinstatement of Medical benefits to inmates before release to facilitate their return to their communities.

Our annual Dia de los Muertos service

# Bits from the Board

Starr King UU Church was representing and living into our values while participating in the Climate Action Event at Lake Chabot on September 21. **Many thanks to Ethel-May Shaw, Sheila McClellan, Will Fitch, Doris Wolf, Karen Kramer** and other friends who showed up as part of the week of climate action initiated by youth world-wide.



Your Board has been busy! We had our annual Board/COM retreat on Saturday, September 28 and had rich discussions as to what our focal points should be for the year. Our top choices were **Budget Sustainability** and **Preemptive Radical Hospitality: Ready for those yet to come**. Resonating throughout was “caring for each other as we care for the world” and “marrying our aspirations and priorities with our financial abilities, year after year.” Looks like we have our work cut out for us! Both of these focal points tie in closely with what’s coming out of the *Envisioning Our Future* process and workshop held on Sunday, September 29. We had such inspiring input! Connecting the dreams of the congregation to the work of the Board and the Minister strengthens our shared ministry. **Many thanks to Mileva Lewis, Terri Owen, Beth Ogilvie and Rev. María Cristina** for their work with this very important visioning process.

Along those lines, please mark your calendar and plan on attending the first **Congregational Discussion on Sustainability and Our Budget** to be held on **Sunday, November 17 from 12:15–1:15pm** in the Sanctuary. All are invited to attend and participate!

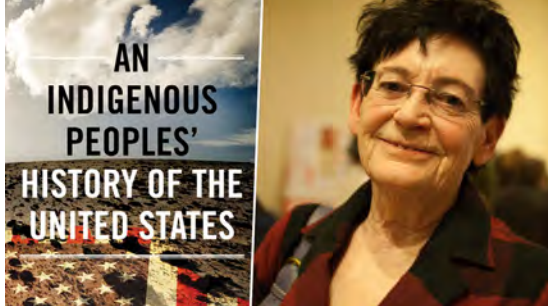
**Those are the bits from your board this month –  
In gratitude for our beloved community**

– Jennifer Koney

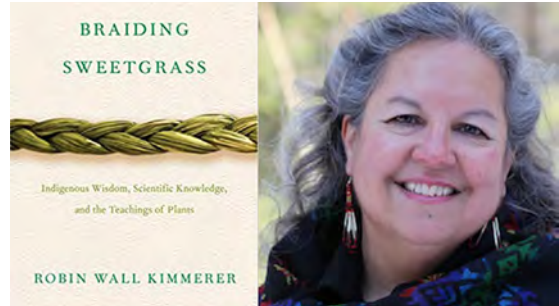


# Indigenous People's Day: Awareness

In response to our sermon on Indigenous People's Day, some were curious about resources and websites that might be valuable for gaining more awareness. Here are some resources, many used while preparing for that sermon:



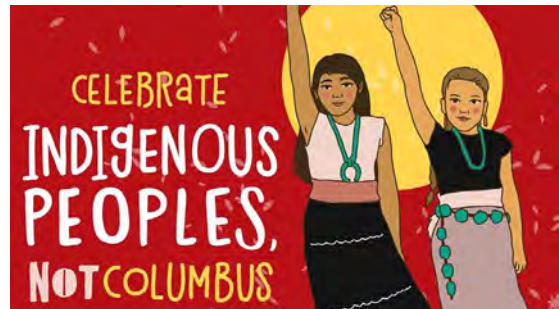
**Roxanne Dunbar-Ortiz**  
(her bio and a couple of her books on Beacon Press)  
[http://www.beacon.org/cw\\_contributorinfo.aspx?ContribID=819&Name=Roxanne+Dunbar-Ortiz](http://www.beacon.org/cw_contributorinfo.aspx?ContribID=819&Name=Roxanne+Dunbar-Ortiz)



**Robin Wall Kimmerer's book, "Braiding Sweetgrass"**  
<https://milkweed.org/book/braiding-sweetgrass>



**Sogorea Te' Land Trust's local work:**  
<https://sogoreate-landtrust.com>



**All My Relations podcast**  
<https://www.allmyrelationspodcast.com>

May your reading bring you new insights and discoveries.

– Jim Lewis, Community Minister

## First Steps Faithify Campaign

Over 30 years I found Unitarian Universalism through this church. Although I was only a member here a few years, Starr King Church of Hayward planted the seeds that have grown into my rich and rewarding lay UU ministry. In 1986, my husband and I worked with this Church and the community to help open FESCO. I see on your website that you are still dedicated to giving people a second chance. This week my current church in Illinois kicked off their first ever Faithify campaign, a campaign to open the doors to a transitional house for people returning home from prison. Without this housing, these men are often homeless.

For more information on the campaign, please visit <https://faithify.org/projects/open-firststeps-re-entry-house/>

In Faith on the prairie,

– Mona Shannon

# Church Common Read

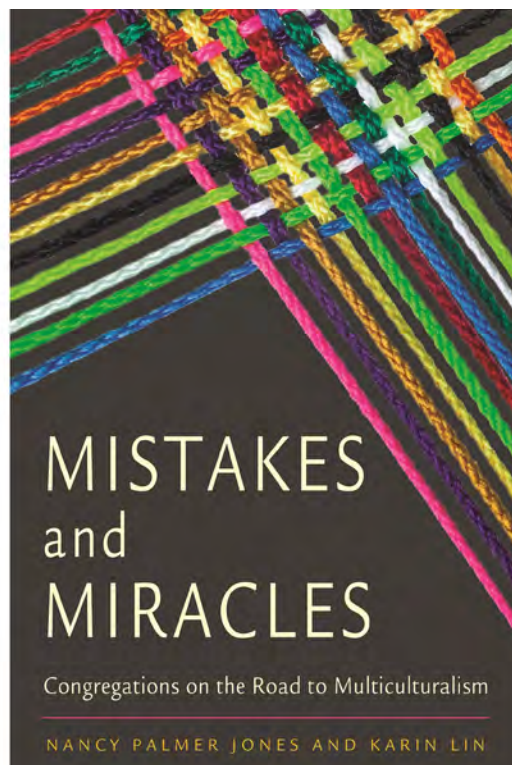
## Mistakes and Miracles, Congregations on the Road to Multiculturalism

In light of the leading value that came up for us in our Envisioning Process – **Radical Hospitality, Welcoming, Multiculturalism, Inclusion, Celebrating Diversity** – our common read this year is *Mistakes and Miracles, Congregations on the Road to Multiculturalism* by Rev. Nancy Palmer Jones of the First Unitarian Church of San Jose and Karin Lin of First Parish Cambridge.

The UUA bookstore says of this book:

What calls Unitarian Universalists to create multicultural, antiracist Beloved Community? What do congregations need when they embark on this journey? What common threads run through their stories? Nancy Palmer Jones and Karin Lin – a white minister and a lay person of color – share how five diverse congregations encounter frustrations and disappointments, as well as hope and wonder, once they commit to the journey.

Mistakes abound. Miracles of transformation and joy emerge too. Extensively researched and thoughtfully written – with reflection questions at the end of each chapter – *Mistakes and Miracles: Congregations on the Road to Multiculturalism* will guide readers to apply these stories to their own communities, develop next steps, and renew their commitment to this hard but meaningful work.



We're privileged to have one of the authors, Rev. Nancy Palmer Jones, preach at our church on February 23rd and lead a discussion afterwards!

If you want a more in-depth discussion, come to book group on the **1st and 3rd Mondays at 7:15** in the sanctuary beginning November 4. We'll have 8 sessions, one for each chapter. This is a special series of "Book Group+". Everyone is welcome!

Books available at a discount (\$20) at church the next few Sundays.

– Beth Ogilvie

# Farewell to SKIT

## This month marks the end of one of Starr King UU church's longest running social activity groups

SKIT (Starr King Improvisational Theater) was started by Bill Schwab sometime around 1990. When I started coming to the church in 1994, it had already been running for a few years. As I got to know Bill, and he discovered my interest in theater, he of course invited me to join the group. I was working swing shift at the time, and could not participate in any evening groups. But eventually I did join around 1997 or so, and have loved it ever since.

Bill's signature SKIT was called "What's-it's" where he would bring in a few of his collection of mysterious antique do-dads, and you would have to try to tell a story that would explain what the mystery item was. We were usually stumped until finally Bill would explain what the thing really was.

One highlight of my memories of SKIT, was the first time the group performed in public in front of a large audience. We played at a FESCO benefit show that was held in the auditorium of Mureau High-School. It was thrilling and terrifying!

Over the years, many wonderful church members have been part of SKIT. Mary Lasack, Jean Gaylord, Sandra Walton, and Hans and Arlette LeGrand just to name a few.

After Bill could no longer participate, we started using a rotating schedule of SKIT leaders. When it was your turn, you would decide what improv games to perform. We would choose among old favorites, as well as new activities borrowed by such shows as "Who's Line is it Anyway?"

More recently SKIT did a couple of shows at Chanticlears Theater in Castro Valley. We performed at an improv competition called "Night of the Nerds". and we also served as the entertainment for a recent annual awards show. SKIT also performed at many church functions and special services.

Often, friends and guests have come to SKIT night, but for the past few years, the core SKIT group has been myself, Bill and Ruth DeSmidt, Stuart Fink and Betsy Dye. Now with Betsy gone, and Stuart planning to move away in a few months, there are not enough core members to sustain the group.

The final regularly scheduled SKIT show will be Thursday November 14 from 7:30—9:00PM. We will feature our "Greatest hits" and favorite SKITS. We hope that some folks will join us for this last Hurrah (and some Ha Ha Ha's )

I'm sure we will still get together for special events from time to time.

We have had so much fun, and so many laughs over the course of almost 30 years. Recently at Betsy's memorial, I was congratulating William and Cloe Dye on what fine public speakers they had become. They both said that the times that Betsy had brought them to SKIT and encouraged them to participate made them less afraid to speak out, and better at public speaking.

I too credit Improv for making me less shy, and better at acting, better at talking to people at work, and a better Worship associate.

So long and farewell to SKIT.

— Glen Jacobs



# RE Reflections

## “Grateful for our first Family Ministry workshop led by Lorie Miller”

– Rev. María Cristina Vlassidis Burgoa

The RE group and families creating an interconnected “web” at the workshop



# Ongoing Activities

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<b>Book Group+: Mistakes and Miracles</b>	Meets every 1st and 3rd Monday at 7:15pm in the sanctuary.
<b>Choir Practice</b>	Meets every Sunday from 9 – 10:15am in the Fellowship Hall
<b>Church Bookstore</b>	Open on the third Sunday of the month, after the service
<b>Drum Circle</b>	First Friday of the month, 7 – 9pm, in the Sanctuary. For adults and mature kids.
<b>Evening Meditation</b>	Every Wednesday, 7:30 – 8:45pm. Open to all.
<b>Elderberries</b>	Third Wednesday of the month, at noon. For self-identified elders. Bring your lunch.
<b>Small Group Ministry</b>	Contact <a href="mailto:sgm@starring.org">sgm@starring.org</a> for more information.
<b>SKIT Improv Troupe</b>	Second Thursday of the month, 7:30pm. (Final month)
<b>Board Meeting</b>	First Thursday of the month, 7-9pm in Fellowship Hall. Open to all.

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# Starr King Church Calendar

November 2019						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2
					* 7:00 pm Drumming	* 2:00 pm Private Rental
					Circle	
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
* 10:30 am Worship Service	* 6:30 pm Rainbow Group LGBT NA		* 7:30 pm Evening	* 10:00 am RE Council		* 6:00 pm BOT/COM
* 12:15 pm Budget Presentation	* 7:15 pm BookGroup+		Meditation	* 7:00 pm Board of Trustees		Dinner
for Board	Mistakes&Miracles					
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
* 9:00 am Choir Practice	* 6:30 pm Rainbow Group LGBT NA	* 11:00 am Adult RE	* 12:00 pm SGM afternoons			
* 10:30 am Worship Service			* 3:00 pm Pastoral Care			
* 12:15 pm Peace and Justice			Committee			
* 12:15 pm UUMA Special Guest			* 7:15 pm SGM Evenings			
			* 7:30 pm Evening			
			Meditation			
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
* 10:30 am Worship Service	* 6:30 pm Rainbow Group LGBT NA		* 1:00 pm Staff Meeting			
* 12:00 pm Church Bookstore	* 7:15 pm BookGroup+		* 7:00 pm Transgender Vigil			
Open	Mistakes&Miracles		* 7:30 pm Evening			
* 12:15 pm Congregational			Meditation			
Discussion						
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
* 10:30 am Worship Service	* 6:30 pm Rainbow Group LGBT NA		* 12:00 pm SGM afternoon	* 3:00 pm Thanksgiving		
			* 7:15 pm SGM Evenings	Dinner		
			* 7:30 pm Evening			
			Meditation			

Calendar developed and supported by Kieran O'Shea



## November Birthdays

**NOVEMBER 2**  
Lesley Hitchings  
Bob Meyerson

**NOVEMBER 3**  
Diana Dickerson

**NOVEMBER 6**  
Kathryn LaMar

**NOVEMBER 8**  
Bob Rett

**NOVEMBER 10**  
Bob Simoni

**NOVEMBER 11**  
Jordan Lowell Baker-Blanc

**NOVEMBER 14**  
Hank Wagner

**NOVEMBER 21**  
Alyssa Joy Baker-Blanc

**NOVEMBER 30**  
Susan Blanc