



The Flaming Chalice

THEOLOGICALLY DIVERSE • RADICALLY INCLUSIVE • JUSTICE CENTERED

Starr King Unitarian Universalist Church | February 2020 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

Parish Minister

Rev. María Cristina
Vlassidis Burgoa
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Office Administrator

Kelli Abatangelo
office@starrking.org

Church President

Jennifer Koney
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

February is Spiritual Practices Month



FEBRUARY 2

Spiritual Practice or Practicing Spirituality

We use spiritual words and phrases quite liberally here at Starr King. Is it possible we overuse them to the point of diminishing their impact?

– *Bob Meyerson*



FEBRUARY 9

The Search for Love or How to Tame a Wild Yak in its Natural Habitat

Falling in love can be amazing, wonderful, intoxicating and provides one of the best portals to truth, purpose and meaning the Universe offers. It can also be disorienting, confusing, mysterious and scary. It feels like we are asked to set aside every lesson our fear and ego taught us and learn an entirely new language. And the truth is, that is exactly what Love is asking.

– *Guest Preacher*

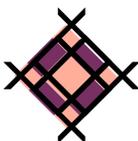


FEBRUARY 16

Multicultural Perspectives on Worship

Join us in a deep reflection about creating worship experiences that reflect our theological diversity, radical hospitality, and social justice commitments.

– *Rev. María Cristina Vlassidis Burgoa*



FEBRUARY 23

Mistakes and Miracles – Guest Preacher and Conversation

Minister of the UU Church in San Jose and Co-author of *Mistakes & Miracles: Congregations on the Road to Multiculturalism*.

– *Rev. Nancy Palmer-Jones*

WHAT'S INSIDE

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January Highlights



Parenting as a Spiritual Practice Service

Bits from the Board

A Common Challenge

We have a common challenge to face:

To become financially sustainable within 10 years.

Addressing and solving this challenge involves all of us, and the outcome affects future and current SKUU members.

Our proposed budget will offer reductions so that we have not just 3-5 years to answer this challenge but **a full 10 years to use to find a solution.**

For our church to exist beyond 10 years requires all of us, working in cooperation with each other, to not only name, face, and address this challenge – but to solve it and thrive.

Each of us has a role to play while we act together and in unison to discern and implement a solution. The Board has the fiduciary responsibility as your elected leaders to ensure the financial viability of this church for us and for future congregants. So far, the Board has identified the problem that even when we reduce the proposed expense budget starting in our next fiscal year:

We are spending more than we bring in and will run out of reserves within 10 years, by current estimates.

We don't have to work in isolation. Each committee also plays a role in assessing the resources we *do* have and in considering:

“Is this the best use of our resources – both time/energy and money – to meet the congregations needs as clarified through our recent strategic visioning process?”

Perhaps these resources can be leveraged or used differently to not only meet our dreams and desires but to grow? A good example of this is how the parents and families and their supporters are stepping up and taking ownership of the transition of the Children's Religious Education (RE). Recent successes include:

The very successful parent/family round table last year

Three Kings Celebration of families and supporters

Recent parent testimonials showing how parenting can be a spiritual practice

These collective successes offer a hopeful view of new answers and opportunities even within our anticipated reduced resources.



We don't yet know the answers and...

Look at all we have!

We are a loving, enthusiastic beloved community in covenant with each other to support each other and all of us together in our search for truth and meaning.

We have our annual canvass campaign that defines the generous pledge amounts (dollars!) we have to work with each year.

We have committed leadership, staff, and congregants offering service all vowing to serve the best interests of the church as a whole in shared ministry.

And we have opportunities! – to reassess our resources and to design new ways of operating and of being in the world.

Working together, I have great hope that we can not only answer this great challenge but THRIVE in ways we have not yet even imagined.

Those are the bits from your board this month.

In gratitude for our beloved community,

– Jennifer Koney



From the Minister

“Radical welcome is about what it takes to build real, resilient, revolutionary community among people who differ from each other. It’s about unlearning cultural norms that create barriers and perpetuate stereotypes and inequities and choosing instead to risk vulnerability, discomfort, and struggle in order to create and sustain deep relationships across lines of difference.”



Beloveds,

Starr King is currently in the process of obtaining our re-certification as a UUA Welcoming Congregation. We are committed to honoring our pledge to make sure that everyone in the congregation has an opportunity to learn about and respond to the current needs and concerns of congregants, their family members, friends, and neighbors who identify as Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, and Queer+ people.

To help us achieve our goal, the Transforming Hearts Collective is offering a six session on-line course to which all of us have access. I invite you to watch the videos anytime from the comfort of your home. During the year, we will also offer opportunities to get together and have deep listening circles and conversations about the issues discussed in the course.

“The Transforming Hearts Collective represents a vision of a world in which queer and trans people can show up fully as ourselves in all of the places we call home.



We are working to create a world where people genuinely care for each other, and we also know that dismantling oppression will take deep love and healing, so we infuse these values into everything we do.

We know the forces of injustice will not be defeated with facts, reason, or new vocabularies, so we teach concrete practices that transform hearts and lead to authentic, embodied transformation.”

Are you ready to take the course?

Go to transformingheartscollective.org and log in using the username: rev.vlassidis@gmail.com and the password: StarrKing20

Adult Religious Exploration

Born to UUism – New to UUism – These Sessions are for You
9 February 2020 – 12:15 pm to 2 pm - Sanctuary

These sessions will be led by our own Rev. Dr. Maria Cristina Vlassidis Burgoa and will focus on our faith's origins, its theology, origins of worship, and the balancing of the body and mind. We will explore those who have been prophetic and those of the modern era. Attention will be given as well to the New UU History, cultural diversity, Black Free Thinkers, Worship that Works, and Theological Diversity. Each session will be highly interactive with mediation, readings, videos, singing, UUA website resources, and time for reflection and sharing. Please join us! The date of the second session will be announced in March.

The Adult Religious Exploration Committee meets on the 2nd Tuesday of the month from 11 am to 12 noon. Please join us and make your ideas known to anyone on the Committee: Nancy Bonner-Benson, Diane Meyerson, Kathryn Lamar, Ethel-May Shaw, Shelia McClellan, The Rev. Dr. Maria Cristina Vlassidis Burgoa, and Mileva Saulo Lewis.



Mardi Gras Canvass Dinner Party!

Sat, February 22, 2020

5:30–8:30 PM – Starr King UU Church

Every year we share a meal and celebrate our community as part of our annual canvass (pledge drive). This year we're having a Mardi Gras Party!

Please join us for music, dancing, and of course jambalaya!



Ongoing Activities

Book Group+: Mistakes and Miracles	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@starrking.org for more information.
Board Meeting	First Thursday of the month, 7–9pm in Fellowship Hall. Open to all.
Adult RE	Second Tuesday of the Month from 11–12 noon in Conference Room.



Starr King Church Calendar

February 2020						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1
2 * 10:30 am Worship Service * 5:00 pm Ordination Ceremony	3 * 6:30 pm Rainbow Group LGBT NA * 7:15 pm BookGroup+: Mistakes&Miracles	4	5 * 7:30 pm Evening Meditation	6 * 10:00 am RE Council * 7:00 pm Board of Trustees	7 * 7:00 pm Drumming Circle	8
9 * 10:30 am Worship Service	10 * 6:30 pm Rainbow Group LGBT NA	11 * 7:00 pm Worship Committee	12 * 12:00 pm SGM afternoons * 3:00 pm Pastoral Care Committee * 7:15 pm SGM Evenings * 7:30 pm Evening Meditation	13	14	15
16 * 10:30 am Worship Service * 12:00 pm Church Bookstore Open * 12:15 pm Peace & Justice Action Team	17 * 6:30 pm Rainbow Group LGBT NA * 7:15 pm BookGroup+: Mistakes&Miracles	18	19	20	21	22 * 5:30 pm Carvass Dinner Party
23 * 10:30 am Worship Service * 12:15 pm H & M Meeting	24 * 6:30 pm Rainbow Group LGBT NA	25	26 * 7:15 pm SGM Evenings	27	28	29

Calendar developed and supported by Kieran O'Shea



February Birthdays

FEBRUARY 4
Kelli Abatangelo

FEBRUARY 5
René L. Castle

FEBRUARY 8
Ellery Medilla
Andy Hansen

FEBRUARY 12
Kirk Klausmeyer

FEBRUARY 13
Bill DeSmidt

FEBRUARY 19
Meredith Schuler
Alison Corson

FEBRUARY 20
Lea Casini

FEBRUARY 21
Nancy Harrison

FEBRUARY 23
Byron Schatz