

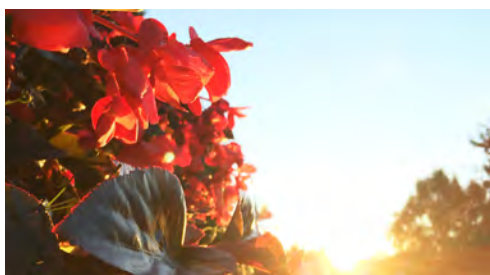


# The Flaming Chalice

**THEOLOGICALLY DIVERSE • RADICALLY INCLUSIVE • JUSTICE CENTERED**

Starr King Unitarian Universalist Church | July 2020 Newsletter

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## **CHURCH OFFICE HOURS**

Due to COVID19 shelter in place orders, the church office is closed until further notice.

Kelli is working from home and can still be reached via

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

For pastoral care, please reach out to Rev. María Cristina via email or phone (617)895-9267.

22577 Bayview Avenue  
Hayward, CA 94541  
(510)581-2060

[starrking.org](http://starrking.org)

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

### **Parish Minister**

The Rev. Dr. María Cristina  
Vlassidis Burgoa

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

### **Office Administrator**

Kelli Abatangelo

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

### **Church President**

Jennifer Koney

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

### **Newsletter**

Kelly and Nathan Heigert

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

## **JULY 5**

Rooted, Inspired, and Ready: Reflections on UUA General Assembly.

*Rev. María Cristina leads. Lorie Miller is Worship Associate.*

## **JULY 12**

Our Guest Preacher/Musician is Rev. Summer Albayati: "I am a minister, writer, educator, musician, singer, mother, daughter, sister, friend, and lover of life. My life consists of helping others. Who would I be if it was only about me? I try to live my life transforming the world. My motto from Gandhi: "Be the change you want to see in the world."

*Rev. Jim Lewis is Worship Associate.*

## **JULY 19**

Healing Rituals: Recharging Our Weary Spirits. With movement, poetry, prayer, music, and storytelling, this worship experience fosters joy and restores vitality, offering us strength as we continue our shared journey toward building the Beloved Community.

*Rev. María Cristina leads; David Longfellow is Worship Associate.*

## **JULY 26**

Our special Guest Speaker is Alex Kapitan. Alex is a trainer, speaker, consultant, editor, and anti-oppression activist. A transgender and queer lifelong Unitarian Universalist, Alex grounds radical social justice work in a place of faith and love, and also does interfaith ministry to help queer and trans people connect to religion and spirituality.

*Rev. Maria Cristina is Worship Associate.*

## WHAT'S INSIDE

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# June Highlights



UUA GA 2020 Welcoming Celebration presented by Dr. Rev. María Cristina Vlassidis Burgoa in solidarity with the Mashpee Wampanoag people



# From the Minister

## We Dance

*by Rev. Dr. María Cristina Vlassidis Burgoa*

**We Dance! We dance! We dance!**

**We dance to mourn.**

**We dance to celebrate.**

**We dance to announce war.**

**We dance to pray for peace.**

**We dance to heal.**

**We dance to pray.**

**We dance to live.**

**We dance to testify.**

**We dance to protest.**

**We dance to bear witness.**

**We dance in solidarity.**

**We dance to be.**



**We dance and sing to feel Mother Earth supporting us, holding us,  
Blessing us, reminding us that we are earth,**

**We dance to the beat of the drum to become one with Pachamama's heartbeat.**

**We dance because our ancestors danced even when doing so they risked their lives.**

**We dance even when our dances are outlawed and our lands stolen and desecrated.**

**We dance because we can hear our ancestor's voices singing a victory song.**

**We dance and we sing to to the new seeds to be planted,**

**To the new green corn and to the desert in bloom.**

**We dance in the struggle, in the in-between spaces that intersect our race, language,  
gender, immigrations status, in between the drops of blood quantum that will never be  
enough to embrace our whole divine selves.**

**We dance to cast a spell and shine a light in the hearts of all who would deny our  
inherent worth and dignity, on all who have written books to prove that we do not exist,  
on all who would only have us as relics in a museum or caricature logos for profit.**

**We dance to celebrate a baby's first smile, their first acorn porridge meal, and when our loved ones make the journey towards the great grandfather Pehuen tree, or the bottom of the ocean.**

**We dance when words are inadequate and we need to feel our bodies tremble with emotion in order to show the image of our souls.**

**We dance in the middle of concrete jungles, crowded streets, under the one remaining tree in the forest, and even in our dreams.**

**We dance when our hearts are broken open by the continued erasure and violence against our peoples and cannot answer our children's questions about tomorrow...**

**We dance when our youth begin to understand and speak proudly the dreams of the ancestors.**

**We dance to feel the power of Creator, the Spirit of Life, the Ashe, pumping in our veins, dripping from our sweat, all along creating more life around us.**

**We dance the lonely cueca so that our disappeared will know that we will never forget them.**

**We dance to honor our bodies, to bless our bodies, our beautiful black, brown, cafe con leche, canela, and everything in between bodies, our temporarily abled and forever proud crip bodies, bodies that heal, bodies that bless, bodies with invisible pain but visible scars, bodies that know trauma and hold the true history of this nation in our bones and broken dreams, bodies that defy gravity and take down the doctrine of discovery drum beat by drum beat, step by step, stomp by stomp, raised fist by raised fist, warrior song by warrior song.**

**We dance because we are here, we are strong, we love life and will continue dancing, because we can, because we must!**

**We will dance until the land is returned and healed, until this turtle island is once again honored, until all can breathe free, without borders, until we/all of us Queer/Trans/2 Spirit siblings can dance in freedom and joy, without reservations.**

**We dance! We dance, We dance!**



# *Congrats, Claudia!*

**Congratulations to Claudia McDonagh, (currently serving on the Committee on Ministry) on her birthday and her retirement. Blessings on her new dance around the sun and new adventures!**

*– Rev. Dr. María Cristina Vlassidis Burgoa*





# Bits from Your Board

*"As Unitarian Universalists, we – the Board and Congregation of Starr King UU Church - affirm the inherent worth and dignity of each person and specifically condemn the murder of George Floyd and police violence against black people. It is time to renew our core beliefs and use them to guide our actions. George Floyd's death is a stark reminder that change is needed. As such, we commit to show up, speak out, and actively work to create what we seek in ourselves and in our community – working to dismantle systematic racism and to build racial justice with accountability. **BLACK LIVES MATTER.***

*We have work to do; please join us."*

In response to the murder of George Floyd and police violence against black people, both recent and ongoing, the Board has released the above statement and has posted it on our website. This statement speaks directly to us as a congregation and is a continuation of our call for action taken at a special meeting on November 1, 2015 when we approved the Black Lives Matter Resolution. So, now what?

As Reverenda says when she ends each service: "Worship has ended, service has just begun." This is an invitation to you to take anti-racism action and to do service. I like to think of this as being "response- able" – We are able to respond and take action. As an individual and as a congregation, taking notice and then accepting responsibility to take action as full and active members of our congregation and our greater community.

At their June 14th meeting, the Peace and Justice Action Team, at the request of the Board, discussed possible action steps to go beyond our statement and to engage in transformational change. Their current recommendation is to invite each member of our congregation to participate in the 21-day Racial Equity Habit Building Challenge by America and Moore (see below) and to make their commitment public by letting others know. So far, there are nine of us, including myself, who have made their commitment and are participating and tracking our actions. PLEASE JOIN US! Email Stephanie Smith ([st2smith@yahoo.com](mailto:st2smith@yahoo.com)) to participate. There are plenty of resources and guidance on the website:

[www.eddiemoorejr.com/21daychallenge](http://www.eddiemoorejr.com/21daychallenge)

**BLACK LIVES MATTER.**

We have work to do; please join us.

That's the "Bits From Your Board" this month – in service and gratitude,

– Jennifer Koney

**"Not everything that is faced can be changed, but nothing can be changed until it is faced."**

– James Baldwin

**"Justice is what love looks like in public."**

– Cornell West

**"We can establish a world that recognizes the dignity of every single human being and that we can make that world using the power of love."**

– Melissa Harris

# RE Reflections

**"If you are brave enough to say goodbye,  
life will reward you with a new hello."**

*– Paulo Coelho*

It is with mixed emotions that I leave for summer break, knowing that my time as your Director of Religious Education has come to an end. I have enjoyed my five year tenure and I thank you for giving me the opportunity to serve you.

I began the transition from congregant to paid staff when I volunteered to replace outgoing DRE as acting director at the end of 2015. Over the next five years I trained and explored the position. We made many attempts to energize and modernize the program in keeping with the current demographic trends facing all organized religions. We explored and continue to explore the shift from religious exploration to family ministry. One of the most important lessons I have learned is the focus on connection versus perfection.

It was my pleasure to work with the families and children of SKUUC. I particularly appreciate the work of the volunteers who so generously shared their time and talents with us. The members of the RE Council have been invaluable in making the work of family ministry possible. I would also like to express my deep gratitude to Reverenda María Cristina for supervising me, setting goals for the program and for working tirelessly to promote family friendly multigenerational services and stories for all ages. It takes a Unitarian Universalist Village to raise a Unitarian Universalist Child. We are that village.

The UUA has been a trusted source for curriculum and training to support religious educators. I have enjoyed the support and shared resources of my professional colleagues in the Pacific Central District of LREDA (Liberal Religious Educators Association). As I step down from my staff position I will follow the guidance from the LREDA Code of Professional Practices:

*When leaving a position of religious education leadership for any reason, I will refrain from being involved in the process of selecting my successor. I will support my successor by leaving room for them to establish their own identity and leadership in the congregation. I will refrain from accepting positions on policy-making bodies in the congregation or community (such as the Board, Religious Education Committee, Finance Committee, or Personnel Committee) for two years after my professional leadership has been concluded in that congregation. For two years, I will not accept or volunteer for roles in the religious education program, and will encourage members of the congregation to speak to the current religious educator or other appropriate persons for answers to all current religious education issues or concerns.*

*– Allison Prout*

# Amazon Fund Raising Ended

Amazon has decided to terminate it's fund raising program with us because we weren't meeting all their terms such as promoting their products on our website, so we will be removing the link from our website and request you stop using any bookmarks you have saved. Over the past 5 years, we did raise \$4,500. Amazon has another fund raising program for charities called Amazon Smile, so if you want to support your favorite charities, you can signup here: <https://smile.amazon.com>. There is a Starr King UU Fellowship listed, but it's the one in New Hampshire, not us. There are many local charities to choose from including South Hayward Parish, and they would get 0.5% of your purchases from that site.

– Bob Simoni





# Ongoing Activities

All in-person activities done virtually or on hold until further notice.  
Please check the website at [starring.org](http://starring.org) for updates.

<b>Drum Circle</b>	First Friday of the month, 7–9pm on Zoom. For adults and mature kids. Contact: Kathryn LaMar
<b>Evening Meditation</b>	Every Wednesday, 7:30–8:45pm on Zoom. Open to all. Contact: Diane Meyerson
<b>Small Group Ministry</b>	Contact <a href="mailto:sgm@starring.org">sgm@starring.org</a> for more information.
<b>Board Meeting</b>	First Thursday of the month, 7–9pm in Fellowship Hall. Open to all. Contact: Jennifer Koney
<b>Family Storytime</b>	Every Thursday 7pm on Zoom. Contact: Dr. Rev. María Cristina
<b>Adult RE</b>	Second Tuesday of the Month from 11–12 noon on Zoom Contact: Mileva Saulo Lewis
<b>Book Group+: Trans Inclusion for Congregations</b>	(On hold) Meets every 1st and 3rd Monday at 7:15pm in the sanctuary. Contact: Beth Ogilvie
<b>Choir Practice</b>	(On hold) Meets every Sunday from 9–10:15am in the Fellowship Hall. Contact: Lea Casini
<b>Church Bookstore</b>	(On hold) Open on the third Sunday of the month, after the service. Contact: Evelyn Cormier



## July Birthdays

**JULY 1**  
Daniel Casini

**JULY 2**  
Mary Shields

**JULY 3**  
Jo Murdach

**JULY 4**  
Will Fitch

**JULY 7**  
Liz Nelson

**JULY 9**  
Jim Otermat

**JULY 15**  
Evelyn Cormier

**JULY 19**  
Corina Vasaure

**JULY 21**  
Jessica Ringlein-Doerr

**JULY 26**  
Lillian Carrell

**JULY 27**  
Laurie Matthews

**JULY 28**  
Natalie Forrest

**JULY 30**  
Barbara Ryan  
Thana Ray  
Jessica Schuler

**JULY 31**  
Amber Gable