



The Flaming Chalice

THEOLOGICALLY DIVERSE • RADICALLY INCLUSIVE • JUSTICE CENTERED

Starr King Unitarian Universalist Church | August 2020 Newsletter



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

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

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Newsletter

Kelly and Nathan Heigert

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AUGUST 9

Teo Drake is a spiritual activist, an educator, a practicing Buddhist and yogi, and an artisan who works in wood and steel. As a blue collar queer-identified trans man living with AIDS, he has 101 reasons to not want to be present in his own skin. The physical and spiritual practice of yoga and Buddhist traditions made it possible to begin to heal and feel at home in his own body. He is committed to creating spiritual spaces that are more welcoming and inclusive of queer and transgender people. Join us in welcoming Teo!

Guest speaker Teo Drake

AUGUST 16

No Room For Racism

Our church has a proud legacy of activism from 50 years ago that can inspire us in our work today. Come hear testimonies from elders who were there, who marched and lobbied and conspired and collaborated, who attended countless meetings and marched some more to make the world more just and equitable. We have a legacy and a reputation to live up to!

Led by Beth Ogilvie

AUGUST 30

Rev. Jim offers a Chaplain's perspective on pastoral care. How can we support each other, especially someone whose experience we don't share?

Rev. Jim Lewis is Worship Associate

WHAT'S INSIDE

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July Highlights



"Allison received her quilt. She loves it and has the perfect place to hang it in her home. She admired every single square and all the craftsmanship it took to put it together. Thank you all and special thanks to Lea, Natalie Forrest, and Zelma Nunes Borja for sewing it together."

Bits from Your Board

And just who *is* our Board of Trustees?

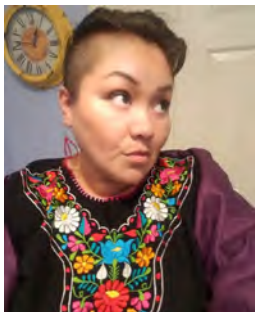
At our annual meeting this past May, we said a fond farewell and big THANK YOU to several outgoing Board members and welcomed several new members to the Board, including a new treasurer! Because the Board has the primary function of serving you, our church, through shared ministry in caring for the church's safety and well-being of the facility, the finances, and the congregation, it's important to know who we are:

Introducing Your Current Board –



Mary Swain
At-large

“I’m very excited to be on the Board and also to be working with Reverenda. Though I never thought we would be meeting virtually, we are adapting and finding new ways to stay connected. When this is behind us, I think we will find that we are a stronger congregation because of what we have gone through together.”



Xiomara Vargas Tapia
At-large

“One of the reasons I wanted to be on the Board is that I wanted to have representation as a woman of color and as a queer woman. It is important to me and to our congregation to embody diversity.”



Natalie Forrest
At-large

“The church is important to me and I want to be able to have a say in how it’s run.”



Ethel-May Shaw
At-large

“I joined to serve the community and to help realize the church's intentions in becoming a welcoming congregation.”



Bob Simoni
At-large

Bob has been a Unitarian for over 20 years and a member of 3 different UU churches, and was on the board of the previous one. He's looking forward to putting his experience to use helping out at Starr King.



Zelma Nunez-Borja
At-large

“I am an old timer that has been involved with the church in several ways and positions. One of my favorite projects was organizing a Sunday recycling of glass, aluminum and newspapers with Wink and Hellen Smith, Evelyn Cormier and other members. At that time Hayward didn't have an official system for doing it. Being a board member was not in my mind but when I was approached, I realized the possibility of being more involved again with the church by serving on the board.”



Terri Owen
Treasurer

“I will strive to fill the extremely competent and oh-so-fashionable shoes of Marilyn Mosher. Thank you Marilyn, for your long service as Treasurer. We salute you!”



Mileva Saulo Lewis
Secretary

“Service has been a part of my life since Girl Scouts and my teen age years in a youth group at my church. Now, as an adult, service to my church communities, is a way to 'Return that gifts that I have been given' – to use my knowledge, skills, and abilities to further the goals and aspirations of this spiritual community. It is my ministry.”



Roy Dickerson
Vice President/President-Elect

“I joined the church board because this community means a lot to me and I think this work is important. Diana and I joined the church because we believe in the core values in our mission statement and the people we met here. Like anything worth having it takes effort and resources to keep it going but it also gives those who make that effort and donate those resources a great deal in return.”



Jennifer Koney
President

“I am grateful for this beloved community and I value our covenantal relationship as we seek and live out our shared values. I am honored to serve as a leader in this congregation and I continue to be enriched with this rewarding experience of shared ministry with you.”

And we're inviting **you** to develop your leadership skills in service of this community! All are welcome to check us out and see what we do at our monthly board meetings – held the first Thursday of each month at 7pm (via zoom these days.) Just let me know and I'll be sure and send an invite!

jkoney@comcast.net; (510) 846-1325.

That's the “Bits From Your Board” this month-

In service and gratitude,
– *Jennifer Koney*



Special Announcement

From UUA President, Rev. Susan Frederick-Gray



"... As I reflect on what we all have been navigating together over the last five months, I am astounded. We have created new ways of gathering, new systems and practices, new ways of working and being in relationship. In our daily decisions at the UUA, we returned frequently to a core question: What is essential?"

**Take time for yourself, dear leaders,
and support those around you in
taking the time they need.**

Now that we are contemplating a longer horizon of virtual gatherings, along with the vital work of pastoral care and organizing for justice, the core question remains, even as our answers may change.

What is essential? What are your congregation's goals and what might be the best way to achieve them? Are the tools and practices you developed under pressure still a good fit for the long haul?

If I am honest, the idea of a whole year like the last five months is overwhelming. As a parent, as the beginning of the school year looms, I am wrestling with the anxiety, uncertainty and complexity of trying to figure out what this coming year will look like and how to manage working and parenting. This is alive for so many UUA and congregation staff who are caring for children. Similar uncertainties and demands are alive for staff and households for a whole host of reasons. I find myself asking what is essential and what is realistically possible.

This is a good time to check in with your leadership teams to ask whether what you have been doing is sustainable. This is a good time to pause and reflect anew on your core mission and how best to embody it, with care for one another and the world at the center of your conversations.

Recently Jan Gartner, the UUA's Compensation and Staffing Practices Manager, noted that the stresses of our times restrict the very creativity these times require of us. So, take time for yourself, dear leaders, and support those around you in taking the time they need. Rest and joy are sources of our creativity and critical for our spiritual strength, resilience and survival. We and our faith will be better for it.

Yours in love,

Susan

P.S. As part of my President's Report at Virtual General Assembly, I shared this short video, [Stories of Impact: The UUA's Response to COVID-19](#). It is a testimony to what it means to pull together and attend to what is essential.

And for all who are parenting: [Resources for Parenting During a Pandemic](#).



Climate Action Team



Thanks to Senator Wieckowski & Legislative Director, Chris Clemons for the 7/16/20 Zoom district meeting on July 16, 2020. Fifteen climate advocates from 7 climate/environment organizations discussed AB 345, AB 1080, AB 3214 and AB 3030. Additionally, they asked for the greenest, and most socially just possible recovery as the state revises its fiscal outlook and strategy post-pandemic.

– Mary Buxton

Ongoing Activities

All in-person activities done virtually or on hold until further notice.
Please check the website at starrking.org for updates.

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



August Birthdays

August 2
Joyce Kinnear

August 4
Sylvia Blake

August 13
Al Murdach
John Gruver

August 16
Tasha Casini

August 19
Frank Burton

August 20
Marge Schwab

August 21
Regina Fassano

August 25
Gerald Mosher

August 27
Jennifer Koney