



The Flaming Chalice

THEOLOGICALLY DIVERSE • RADICALLY INCLUSIVE • JUSTICE CENTERED

Starr King Unitarian Universalist Church | November 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

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NOVEMBER 1

Day of the Dead

We Remember Them. Join us as we gather to honor our dearly departed. This year our Starr King SoUUlful Families, with guidance from Lorie Miller and inspiration from creative volunteers, have created beautiful ofrendas/offerings to decorate their family altars.

Service led by Rev. María Cristina Vlassidis Burgoa

NOVEMBER 8

Processing

Join us as we process the results of the election. As a people of faith, we need to be in this for the long haul. Not just this week, but every week until we reach that time when "justice shall roll down like waters and peace like an ever-flowing stream."

Service led by Rev. María Cristina Vlassidis Burgoa

NOVEMBER 15

Veteran's Day

On November 11th we commemorate the cessation of hostilities on the Western Front of World War I. Around the world people celebrate Remembrance Day as a sign of respect for the 20 million people who died in World War I.

Service led by Rev. María Cristina Vlassidis Burgoa

NOVEMBER 22

Thanksgiving

We gather to express our gratitude for all the blessings received during the year and to show our solidarity with South Hayward Parish. Our SoUUlful Families Ministry will be coordinating a food drive and will be reaching out to the congregation for food donations.

Service led by Rev. María Cristina Vlassidis Burgoa

NOVEMBER 29

"Forged by Fire. Formed by Faith"

In the year 2525, Unitarian Universalist religious education and faith formation practices have become indispensable to the work of building the Beloved Community. It was a complex, challenging, and deeply rewarding dialogue over five centuries that broke us open so that we could recommit to different ways of being religious and risking faithfully. Gather as we remember and celebrate the future of our faith.

Guest Preacher: Gregory C. Carrow-Boyd

Gregory C. Carrow-Boyd, MEd, is a Master Credentialed Religious Educator and Aspirant for Ministry. He serves on the Board of Trustees of our Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA).

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October Highlights



From the Minister

We Remember Them!

On Sunday, November 1st, we commemorated the annual Day of the Dead to honor our dearly departed. This tradition invites us to remember our loved ones, including beloved members of the Starr King Church community. The service was led by Rev Maria Cristina, Xiomara Tapia, and Guadalupe Perez-Middleton, with musical guests Jennifer Koney, Ray Oducayen, and Xiomara Tapia.

During the service, our SoUUlful Families shared the ofrendas they created for their home altars: Paper marigolds, monarch butterflies, hummingbirds, sugar skulls, papel picado, and picture frames. What a blessing to share a Latin American tradition which unites us in a universal desire to honor the memory and celebrate the life of our loved ones in community. We call their names and we respond: Presente! Their spirit is with us!

"We need one another when we mourn and would be comforted.

We need one another when we are in trouble and afraid.

We need one another when we are in despair, in temptation, and need to be recalled to our best selves again.

We need one another when we would accomplish some great purpose, and cannot do it alone.

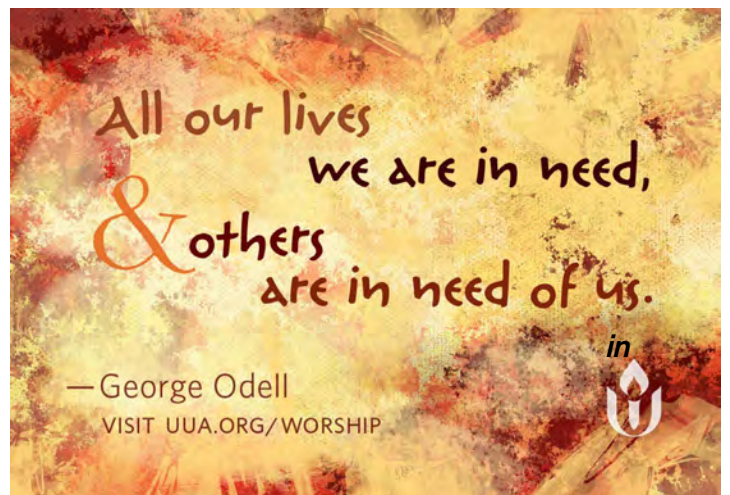
We need one another in the hour of success, when we look for someone to share our triumphs.

We need one another in the hour of defeat, when with encouragement we might endure, and stand again.

We need one another when we come to die, and would have gentle hands prepare us for the journey.

All our lives we are in need, and others are in need of us."

*—By George Odell: Reading #468
Singing the Living Tradition, the
Unitarian Universalist Hymnal.*



From the Minister

We Remember Them!

A Litany of Remembrance

Poem by Rabbi Sylvan Kamens and Rabbi Jack Riemer

In the rising of the sun and in its going down,
we remember them.

In the blowing of the wind and in the chill of winter,
we remember them.

In the opening of buds and in the rebirth of spring,
we remember them.

In the blueness of the sky and in the warmth of summer,
we remember them.

In the rustling of leaves and in the beauty of autumn,
we remember them.

In the beginning of the year and when it ends,
we remember them.

When we are weary and in need of strength,
we remember them.

When we are lost and sick at heart,
we remember them.

When we have joys we yearn to share,
we remember them.

So long as we live, they too shall live, for they are now a
part of us,

as we remember them.



Service Auction

Deep gratitude to the Service Auction Team for a successful auction that surpassed our goal: \$19,000+ Thank you Diane Meyerson, Allison Prout, Roy Dickerson, Mileva Saulo-Lewis, Beth Ogilvie, Terri Owen, Rene & Rene' Castle, and Bob Simoni.

Thank you to everyone who participated in donating items, bidding, and donating cash. Kudos to our Auctioneer Jennifer Koney who kept us entertained with her wild costumes and hilarious jokes! The live auction was so much fun that even Mama Lily did the Monster Mash!

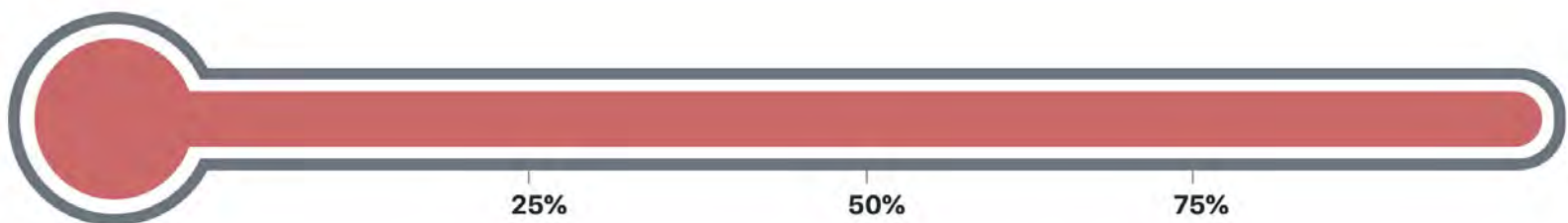
Starr King Unitarian Universalist Church's Fall 2020 Auction

Welcome to our first online auction!



[Home](#) [Catalog](#) [Donors](#) [Contact Us](#) [My Account](#)

Our Fundraising Target



Raised
\$19,711

Goal
\$15,000

Achieved
131%

Service Honoring the Trees

On Sunday, October 25th, our Starr King SoUUiful Families led us in a beautiful service honoring the trees. They wrote poems, stories, and shared their art. We are grateful and so proud of you!

Chalice Lighting, read by Nayela

They asked: "If a Tree should fall in the woods and you are not there, does it make a sound?"

And the answer came, "If a tree should fall and no one is there, listen for the cry of mourning birds who grieve the loss of their nests. They know where the tree lies. They call you to companion them as they search for a place to rest. Listen then, for the mourning birds."

-By Aaron R. Payson

People and Trees, by Joanna and Chiara

We start as seeds hiding
popping out as sprouts after biding
Our time in warm and dark
Finding ourselves in light, a difference that
is stark.
Some sprouts find they are under
Their parents watching them grow with
wonder.
Others may have traveled far
To survive alone or in conditions bizarre.
From sprout to sapling to tree
Time passing slow until you look back from
history.



Service Honoring the Trees

Some stand tall, others wide.

Some slant against wind that pushed them on one side.

Our colors may slowly change

While we watch our surroundings rearrange.

Reacting and growing

Dancing in the wind always blowing.

With love we give to those who found us

Food, shelter, protection to any around us.

[How is it that you are different from me, if I am not so different from a tree?]

Call To Worship, read by Amy

"We are Unitarian Universalists. With minds that think, hearts that love, and hands that are ready to serve. Together we care for our earth, and work for friendship and peace in our world. Welcome to our service. This morning we gather together as a community to honor the trees. We are grateful for their shade, beautiful leaves, fruits, and wisdom. The trees are our relatives. When the forest fires rage, we feel sad for the people who lost their homes, for the trees that died, for the birds who lost their nests, and for the habitats that are destroyed. Many of us have visited the big redwood forest, or climbed



Service Honoring the Trees

an apple tree, or gathered with our families under the shade of a tree. We love trees! The trees are part of our families too! Today we celebrate the trees in song, poetry, stories, photographs, and art. This is our way to express both our sadness for the trees we have lost and also our hope for a future when all humans will care for Mother Earth and consider the trees part of their families too. We hope you enjoy the service and continue to work hard to protect the trees and all nature. Our future depends on it!"

The Gift of the Tree, by Lenore Hetrick, read by Mireya

Trees offer to those that love them

A message of peace and rest.

They bring the glow of the setting sun

As it vanishes west.

They tell of years that swiftly pass,

With little mark or scar.

They tell of evenings that know naught

But calm of evening star.

Trees offer those that love them

Infinite wisdom and grace.

Underneath their boughs tree lovers

See eternity's face.



Bits from Your Board

Current Board Business

- Supporting our sustainability by celebrating our very successful Online Service Auction, and continuing to encourage our ongoing pledges.
- Board Development – Board members will be participating in a 6 hour training presented by the UUA regarding “Leading in These Times.”
- Bylaws revisions: We’re finalizing the timeline to present bylaw revisions to the congregation for discussion and a vote in Jan./Feb. 2021.
- Racial Justice Efforts: ; the “Widening the Circle Initiative” continues and the See No Stranger book and discussion group has just concluded.
- The Board is in the exploring the idea of building a residence on church property. We are proceeding very carefully and thoughtfully. Currently, we are gathering expense information and questioning the financial feasibility and long term impacts. PLEASE NOTE: We are gathering information only and no action will be taken without congregational input. Stay tuned for updates in the future!

Those are the bits from your board this month.

In gratitude for our beloved community.

– Jennifer Koney

From Peace and Justice Action Team

For all UUs of Color: **DRUUMM – Diverse Revolutionary Unitarian Universalist Multicultural Ministries**

DRUUMM is a Unitarian Universalist People of Color Ministry and anti-racist collective bringing lay and religious professionals together to overcome racism through resistance and transform Unitarian Universalism through our multicultural experiences.

For Black/African Descent UUs: **BLUU – Black Lives of Unitarian Universalism**

Formed in the wake of several conversations among Black UUs at the July 2015 Movement for Black Lives Convening in Cleveland, OH.

For White UUs: **ARE - Allies for Racial Equity**

We are all called to take bold steps to undo white supremacy in our Unitarian Universalist faith communities.



Bits from Your Board

Current Board Business

Examples of White Allies*

Excerpts from White Allies – The Struggle for Racial Justice

by Drick Boyd, 2015

*(*Please note: While it is my hope to show examples and the legacy of Whites who have taken action for racial justice in their time, in no way is this meant to position White ally action as more important or a stronger voice than the actions of People of Color. – J. Koney)*



Mary White Ovington

1865-1952

“On the night of August 14, 1908, an angry mob of 5,000 to 10,000 White men gathered outside the Springfield, Illinois, city jail demanding that the sheriff hand over two Black prisoners being held in jail. Earlier that summer one of the prisoners, Joe James, had been accused of breaking into the house of a local White resident and attempting to rape his daughter. The other prisoner, George Richardson, had also been accused of raping a White woman. In both cases the evidence against the men was spurious; they simply were Black and convenient scapegoats. However, in that racism-charged atmosphere facts were not important, and when the crowd was told that the prisoners had been transferred to a jail sixty miles away, they went on a rampage.

They moved into a predominantly Black neighborhood, destroying businesses and attacking anyone who was in their way; from there they proceeded to residential areas, throwing bricks and burning homes. As firefighters came to put out the fires, an estimated 12,000 Whites watched them burn. The next day thousands of Blacks fled the city, and the National Guard sent in 5,000 troops to restore order, but the mobs continued their path of destruction. When the riot was over, forty homes had been burned, twenty-four businesses had been destroyed, seven people (two Black, five Whites) had died, and many more were injured. Indictments were brought against eighty individuals, but none were convicted. Although James was later executed for rape, Richardson was set free when his alleged victim admitted to making a false accusation.”

This riot, and the call for “White citizens of conscience to take action” motivated the 43 year old Mary and act she did. She combined her work in poor communities and

Bits from Your Board

Current Board Business

in the NAACP with research and writing to fight against the ongoing violence against Black communities. “While she was instrumental in the formation and the operation of the NAACP in its early years, she operated in a low-key, behind the scenes manner, quietly doing the work of racial justice.”

Mary White Ovington was a friend of and admired W.E.B. DuBois. However, they didn't always agree. With some difficulty and occasional breaks in their relationship, ultimately they handled their differences by acknowledging their divergent perspectives and strong emotions – not diminishing them – but building together with the differences, not around them. In doing so, they found a way to respect each other's perspective and critical role in advancing racial justice and “liberty and justice for all.”



SoUful Family Ministry

October Highlights

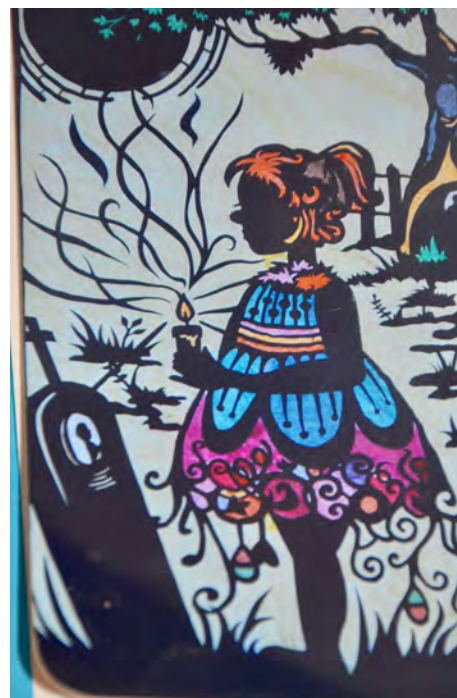
Through out the month of October, they honored their ancestors. To entice their visits they made traditional Dia de los Muertos, (Day of the Dead), and ofrendas (offerings) for their alters. The humming bird, and the monarch butterfly serve as sacred messengers, the decorated skulls help to celebrate the past lives of the dead and the papel picador (tissue paper banners), symbolize the wind, one of the elements of life. What fun we had remembering...our loved ones will always be in our hearts.

Special gratitude for our guests this month.
THANK YOU for your participation and support!

- Lorie Miller: Tissue Paper Marigolds.
- Jennifer Koney: Picture Frames
- Xiomara Tapia: Sugar Skulls
- Guadalupe, David, Emma, Maya and Pancho Middleton: Pan de Muertos
- Glen Jacob: Original story, "Sally and the Day of the Dead"

A continued appreciation to our drivers, delivering the family's art bags

- Lea Casini
- I would like to welcome a new driver to our SoUful Family team, Lavon Hodges!



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, 7:00–8:30pm 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 on Zoom. Open to all. Contact: Jennifer Koney
Family Storytime	Every Friday 5:30pm 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



November Birthdays

November 2

Lesley Hitchings
Bob Meyerson

November 3

Diana Dickerson

November 5

Alejandro Diesta-Troutman

November 6

Kathryn LaMar

November 8

Bob Rett

November 10

Lorie Miller
Bob Simoni

November 11

Jordan Lowell Baker-Blanc

November 14

Hank Wagner

November 21

Alyssa Joy Baker-Blanc

November 30

Susan Blanc