



The Flaming Chalice

THEOLOGICALLY DIVERSE • RADICALLY INCLUSIVE • JUSTICE CENTERED

Starr King Unitarian Universalist Church | February 2021 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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Hayward, CA 94541
(510)581-2060

starrking.org

facebook.com/StarrKingChurch

Parish Minister

The Rev. Dr. Maria Cristina
Vlassidis Burgoa

minister@starrking.org

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Newsletter

Kelly and Nathan Heigert

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FEBRUARY 7

Honoring Rosa Parks

Rosa Parks is known for refusing to give up her seat on a bus. Her courageous act is now American legend. In textbooks and documentaries, she is portrayed as the meek seamstress gazing quietly out of a bus window. But she was a lifelong activist who had been challenging white supremacy for decades before she became the famous catalyst for the Montgomery bus boycott.

Service led by Rev. Maria Cristina Vlassidis Burgoa

FEBRUARY 14

Unitarian Universalists affirm unconditional, universal love as a foundation and grounding for our actions in the world. We strive to be of service to our communities and advocate for change on local, state, national, and international levels. On this Valentine's Day, we will consider together what love truly is and how we are called to live our lives guided by it.

Service led by Rev. Maria Cristina Vlassidis Burgoa

FEBRUARY 21

Widening the Circle of Concern. If these pandemic times have taught us anything, it is that we need one another and that we have been through much together. As we look at reemerging from this pandemic, we have the opportunity to deepen our commitments to one another and to the many who are drawn by the power of our theological legacy. Join Rev. Leslie Takahashi, chair of the Commission on Institutional Change which looked at what Unitarian Universalism needed to do to create more diverse, inclusive and equitable congregations.

Rev. Leslie Takahashi, Guest Preacher.

Rev. Leslie Takahashi is the lead Minister of the Mt. Diablo Unitarian Universalist Church. She has been active in many volunteer roles in the UUA, UUMA and at the local level where she participates now as part of the Faith in Action East Bay justice network. Her work has been published in many anthologies and she is the primary author of The Arc of the Universe is Long: Unitarian Universalism and the Journey Towards Wholeness and of Widening the Circle of Concern: The report of the Commission on Institutional Change. She is the mother of two children and two bully breed pups and loves walking, water and gardening.

FEBRUARY 28

Purim/Esther-Purim is a joyous Jewish holiday. The story of Purim is recounted in the Book of Esther, whose eponymous heroine plays the leading role in saving her people. The centerpiece of the communal celebration is the reading of the Scroll of Esther, the Megillah, in the synagogue. This is a raucous affair, with whoops, hollers, and noise being made every time that Haman's name is mentioned, so no one can hear the name of this horrible evildoer.

Service led by Rev. Maria Cristina Vlassidis Burgoa

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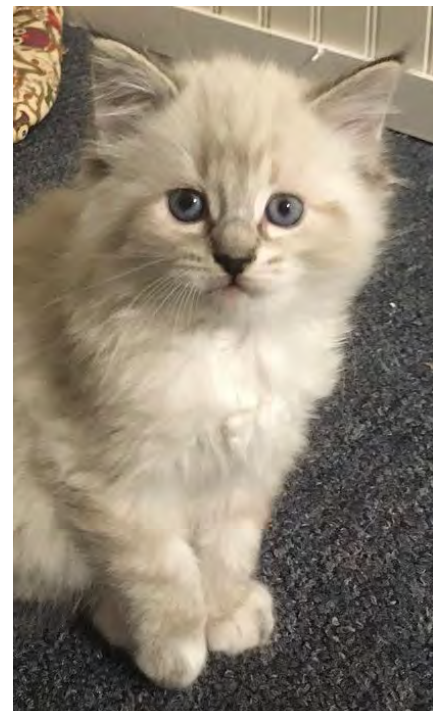
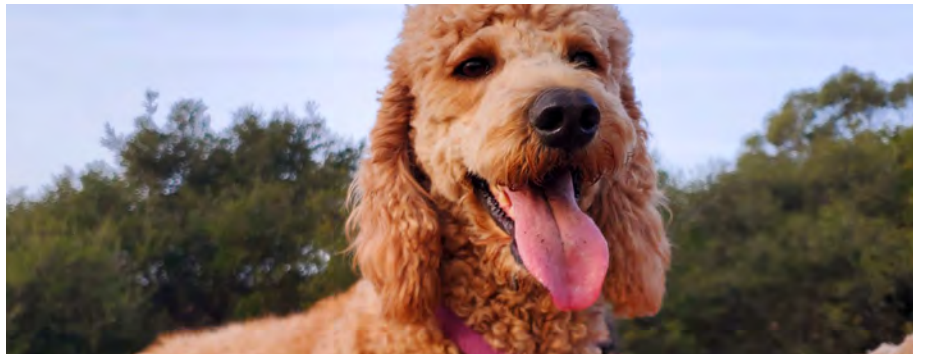
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January Highlights



From the Minister

Beloveds,

It is difficult to put into words the mixture of feelings I experienced while watching the inauguration ceremony. After four years of what felt like the longest night ever, it was not easy to instantly jump into joy and exhilaration.

Don't get me wrong, my brain was telling me that this was really happening, that the change we have all been working so hard to bring about was finally here, and while tears were streaming down my face, my emotions needed some time to adjust...to be released and to experience in my body a sense of freedom. I needed to also look back and remember... The memories of our Starr King gathering right after the 2016 elections are still fresh.

We were heartbroken after the devastating results and yet we came together to offer each other a safe space to express our fears, rage, and disappointment. People who had never been to our church heard about the gathering and came seeking refuge, prayers, and kindness. I remember vividly first the silence, the sound of weeping, and then people being invited to come up to receive a blessing, prayers, or a silent reassuring laying on of hands. That was such a powerful moment of communal love!

Our sanctuary became a refuge to our members as well as to visitors, like the two women who wept aloud and shared with us their fear about the new administration revoking the marriage and parental rights attained by LGBTQ people. During that gathering I recommitted myself to my call to the Ministry and specifically to my shared journey with Starr King. I recommitted myself to minister to our congregation providing pastoral care, offering meaningful worship services, providing support to our families, our Board and Committees, and supporting our social justice efforts in the larger community, including the UUA.

Remembering that 2016 gathering has given me perspective about how resilient and brave our Starr King congregation has been throughout these long four years, especially this last year during a devastating pandemic. Our congregation recommitted itself to healing the heart of Democracy, to put a stop to a destructive and hateful administration, and to breathe new life into our battered nation.



From the Minister

As I remember that poignant evening in 2016, I also remember that during every day of the last four years Starr King members bravely showed up and got work to make change possible. We joined in the efforts, in whatever measure we could, to bring about a new day. Our work has resulted in a new dawn and collective hope. And as we say on Sundays: "Worship has ended, service begins."

Now our commitment and our work as part of a larger movement needs to continue as strong as ever. As we begin to experience a sense of relief and renewed hope, let us continue to open our hearts and our sanctuary doors, including virtual ones, to everyone in need of a loving community. Poets Maya Angelou and Amanda Gorman invite us to greet this new day with courage and to let our light shine bright. May this light illuminate our shared journey for the next four years and reaffirm our commitment to siding with Love, Peace, and Justice.

With Love,
–Rev. Maria Cristina

*"Lift up your faces, you have a piercing need
For this bright morning dawning for you.
History, despite its wrenching pain
Cannot be unlived, but if faced
With courage, need not be lived again.
Lift up your eyes upon
This day breaking for you.
Give birth again
To the dream..."*

Excerpt from "On the Pulse of Morning" by Maya Angelou



Bits from Your Board

NOTICE: Informational Meeting Regarding Proposed Amendments to the Bylaws on Feb. 7 and Special Congregational Meeting to Vote on Said Amendments on Feb. 28

Read proposed bylaws here: https://drive.google.com/file/d/1DpFUgnFIHV4YiQ_6BvAT28jchJ8nfFnt/view?usp=drivesdk

Dear Members of Starr King Unitarian Universalist Church,

We'll be having a presentation to the congregation after the church service on February 7, 2021 to go over the full text of the proposed changes and updates to the bylaws of our church. This meeting will provide the background and rationale for the recommended changes. There will be time for questions. Recommendations for changes will be taken under advisement by the Board of Trustees afterwards.

Additionally, will be holding a SPECIAL MEETING OF THE CONGREGATION for members to vote on these proposed bylaws changes on FEBRUARY 28, 2021 right after the church service. A recent email was sent to members via Constant Contact announcing this and included the full text of the proposed changes for your review.

It has been over 4 years since we last revised our bylaws and the time has come to make revisions and clarifications to our bylaws again. The Board of Trustees, working closely with the Nominating Committee, has been reviewing and developing these amendments for over a year and has voted to proceed with these proposed revisions, which include reducing the size of the Board of Trustees, further defining the work of the Nominating Committee, and editorial corrections. We look forward to presenting these recommendations to you on February 7th via zoom and on voting on these amendments on February 28th. (Please note: Only active members of the congregation are eligible to vote.) Passage of bylaws amendments requires a two-thirds vote of those active members present at the congregational meeting.

NOTICE OF SPECIAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING TO VOTE ON AMENDMENTS TO THE BYLAWS:

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 28, 2021 immediately after church service via Zoom

Additionally, you are invited to attend a presentation by Mileva Saulo Lewis on behalf of the Board of Trustees outlining the full text of the proposed amendments to the bylaws. This presentation will be held:

PRESENTATION: SUN., FEB. 7, 2021 immediately after church service via Zoom

Bits from Your Board

Financial Sustainability – Housing Exploration Update

Several months ago, the Board of Trustees began a study as to whether the building of a rental residency on our property would aid our long term financial sustainability. Claudia McDonagh and Roy Dickerson conducted an in-depth analysis of possible costs. A comprehensive financial analysis about the impacts of building a residency to our current and future finances was completed by Marilyn Mosher and Keith Lewis. After a thorough review and careful discussion about the potential benefits and liabilities, the Board of Trustees voted at the meeting of January 7, 2021 not to proceed with the project at this time as it would not help our long-term financial sustainability goals. The Board of Trustees will continue to explore way in which our financial sustainability can be enhanced.

–Jennifer Koney

*President, Board of Trustees
Starr King UU Church*

NOMINATING COMMITTEE

Looking for new members for the Starr King UU Church Board of Trustees and Nominating Committee

The Nominating Committee is seeking candidates who are willing and able to serve and help guide our congregation closer to our shared values in this rapidly changing world. If you feel called to serve our congregation in this important way, you are invited to review the descriptions of responsibilities for the [Board of Trustees](#) and the [Nominating Committee](#), then fill out this brief [nomination form](#).

If you would like to receive these materials in another format (such as PDF or US mail) or have questions, please contact the Nominating Committee at noncom@starrking.org. The Board of Trustees and the Nominating Committee are important working organs of our church. The positions require thought and creativity. They also offer opportunities for deeper connection and the satisfaction of meaningful service to our beloved community.

Again. If at all interested, reply to noncom@starrking.org or send mail to: Starr King Unitarian Universalist Church, 22577 Bayview Ave., Hayward CA 94541.

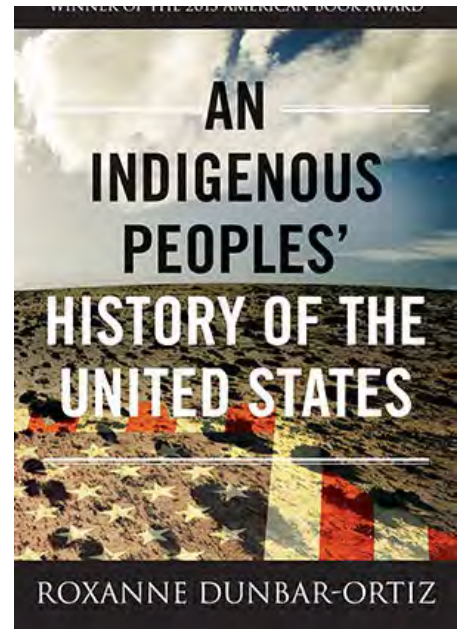
Peace and Justice Action Team

New Book Group to read *An Indigenous Peoples' History of the United States*

Please join members of the Peace and Justice Action Team in reading *An Indigenous Peoples' History of the United States* by Roxanne Dunbar-Ortiz, the 2019-2020 UUA Common Read. We will meet every 2 weeks beginning Monday, Feb 8, at 7-8:30 PM. This is part of our response to the [Action of Immediate Witness to Address 400 Years of White Supremacist Colonialism](#) passed last summer at General Assembly.

Everyone in the congregation is welcome. Email or text me for the Zoom link.

– Beth Ogilvie
beth@betho.us, 510-363-0612



The history of the United States is a history of settler colonialism—the founding of a state based on the ideology of white supremacy, the widespread practice of African slavery, and a policy of genocide and land theft.

–Roxanne Dunbar-Ortiz

SoUUful Family Ministry

January Highlights

in the month of January we explored the many journeys of our Heart. We could be either a Turtle, slow and grounded, or a Butterfly, flipping from flower to flower when traveling on our adventures. Being mindful and present teaches us to appreciate the beauty that surrounds us. We also learned that guided meditation is a special journey of feelings.

Special Thank You

I want to share my heart felt gratitude for our youth who shared their interest.

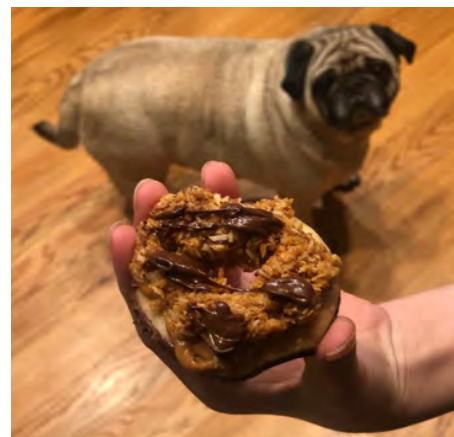
Maya Middleton: Baking Somoas cookies. OMG they look so good

Liana Klausmeyer: Art work, "Wolf." Great details in the picture.

Continued appreciation for the SoUUful Family Ministry team.

Thank you!! Lea and Lavon for delivering the art bags to the children.

-Lorene Miller



Women & Religion Retreat

Women & Religion PCD

VIRTUAL Retreat

Saturday, March 13 8:30am to 8pm on Zoom

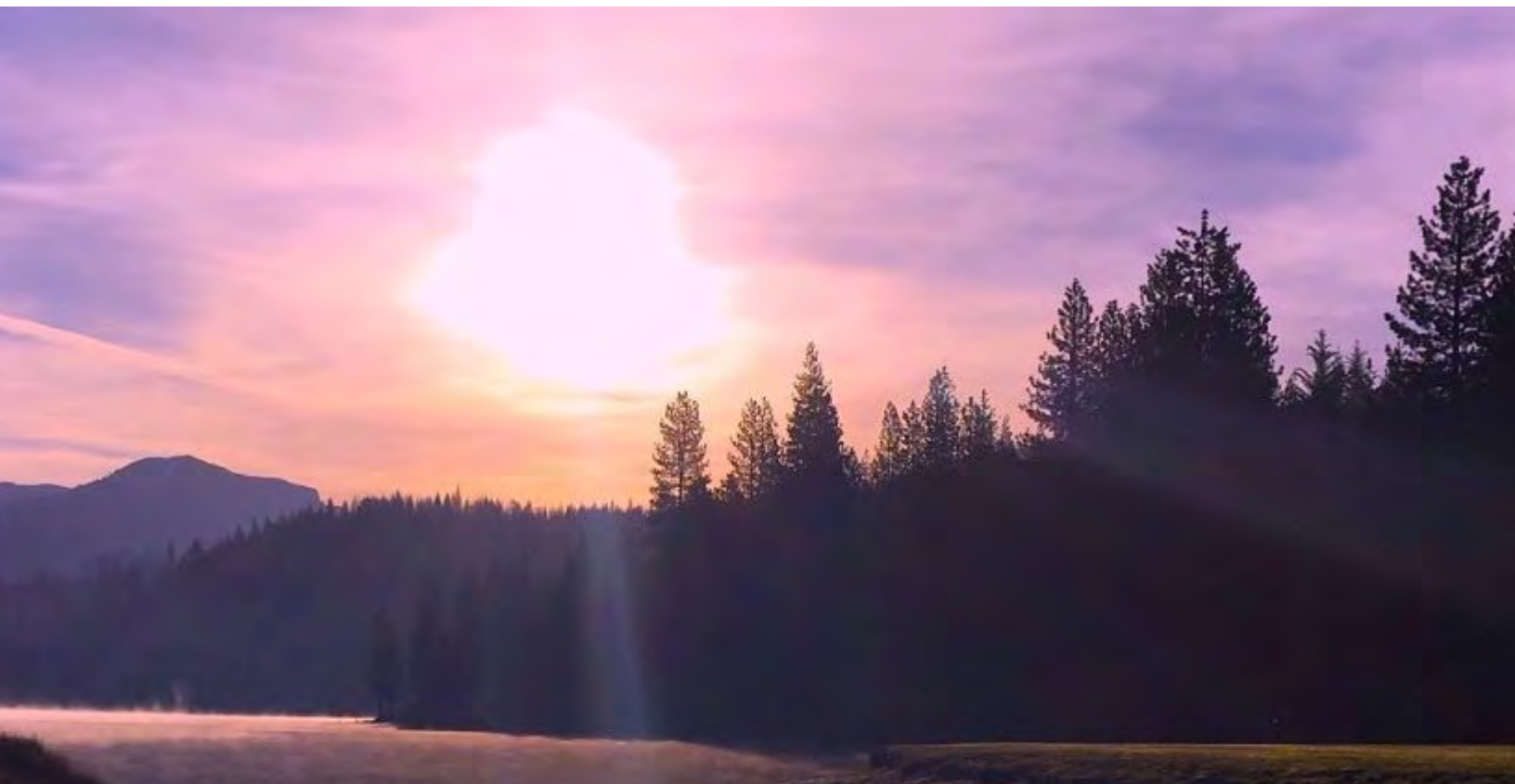
Theme: HANGING IN, HANGING ON

We will share our lives in an opening orientation, touch groups (affinity circles), learning sessions (workshops), a scavenger hunt in your home, Suffragist bingo, a memorial for lost members (Liz Fisher and Meg Bowman in 2020), and a closing session.

Registration is \$25. Net proceeds will be split between Women & Religion Continental and International Women's Convocation.

To be added to the retreat email list, send a blank email to:

PCDUUwomen+subscribe@groups.io. We will email you when registration is open.



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 Monday 6:30pm on Zoom. Contact: Dr. Rev. María Cristina
Peace and Justice Action Team	Usually the second Sunday of the month after worship but not always, so check the church calendar and the announcements email to confirm.
Adult RE	(On hold) 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



February Birthdays

February 2
Kelli Abatangelo

February 5
René L. Castle

February 6
Frank Howell

February 7
Oliver Heigert

February 8
Ellery Medilla

February 9
Kent Gabel

February 12
Kirk Klausmeyer

February 13
Bill DeSmidt

February 15
Carla Walter

February 19
Meredith Schuler
Alison Corson

February 20
Lea Casini

February 21
Nancy Harrison