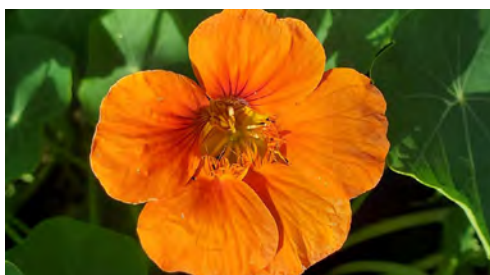




# The Flaming Chalice

THEOLOGICALLY DIVERSE • RADICALLY INCLUSIVE • JUSTICE CENTERED

Starr King Unitarian Universalist Church | May 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](mailto:office@starrking.org)

For pastoral care, please reach out to Rev. Maria 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://facebook.com/StarrKingChurch)

### Parish Minister

The Rev. Dr. Maria 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)

## MAY THEME: CELEBRATION

### MAY 2

#### Volunteer Appreciation Day

Our volunteers are the heart of our Starr King Community. Join us as we honor them and show our appreciation for all the ways they contribute to our congregational life.

*Service led by Rev. Maria Cristina Vlassidis Burgoa*

### MAY 9

#### MOTHER'S DAY

We celebrate all moms and grandmothers, aunts, foster, adoptive moms, Trans parents, and gender queer folk who gave birth. We recognize that parenting is not easy and that parent-child relationships are complex. We'll create the space to feel the complexity of happiness, grief, bitterness, love, gratitude, anger, joy, peace, frustration, loss and fulfillment that comes from navigating these relationships.

*Service led by Rev. Maria Cristina Vlassidis Burgoa*

### MAY 16

#### Minister Appreciation Day

It has been 5 years since we asked Rev. Maria Cristina to be our settled minister and she said "¡Si!"-- 5 years of learning and growing, finding our way together through all the complexities of a multicultural shared ministry. Please join us in this service of love and gratitude, celebrating our beloved minister.

*Beth Ogilvie leads*

### MAY 23

#### A Celebration of Allyship

Join Bob Meyerson and Rev. Maria Cristina as they reflect on the meaning of allyship. There are many different methods of allyship, starting with a personal recognition of racism on an individual level and continuing onto more active forms of allyship. Within our Unitarian Universalist faith, Allies for Racial Equity is an organization which disrupts oppression, uproots white supremacy, and plants seeds of justice. Allyship is a ministry of faith which leads all who participate to spiritual growth and wholeness. We honor each other's humanity and capacity for growth by offering ourselves and each other grace and accountability.

### MAY 30

#### Pride Celebration

Nayela Reynoso and Rev. Maria Cristina have collaborated to create not one but two Pride celebration services this year. On this first Pride service, we welcome Carrie King, illustrator of "Kensie's Queen" a children's book about family, adversity, and LOVE! Kensie's uncle is a fabulous drag queen named Aunt Esmeralda. They adore each other, and together they prove that love is a drag family value. Goodie bags will be delivered containing rainbow candy, rainbow flags, stickers, and other fun stuff to celebrate Pride.

## WHAT'S INSIDE

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# April Highlights



# From the Minister

## May: A Month for Celebration

It might seem too early to celebrate when we are still in the midst of a pandemic, still witnessing acts of violence and injustice all around us, and feeling uncertain about the future...and yet there are so many reasons to celebrate in order to nourish our sense of hope. I keep going back to Chardi Kala, a Sikh practice which encourages us to maintain a positive and joyful spirit even as we experience fear, grief, illness, and loss.

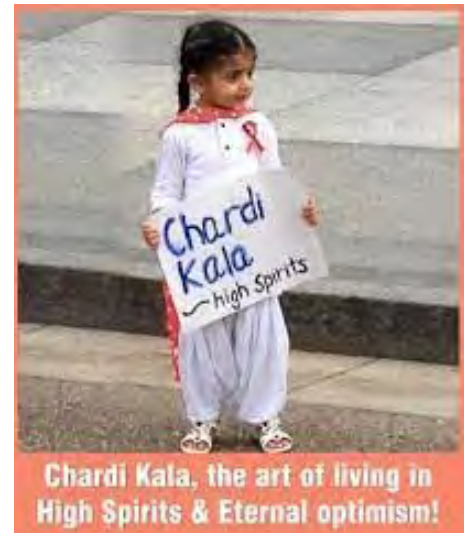
My friend and colleague Valarie Kaur teaches us that Chardi Kala is not about the future, but about the present and that we last if we are grounded in Chardi Kala: "It's a way of moving through the world. Grieving with others, fighting with and for others, loving and rising up with others...If we can live into the spirit of Chardi Kala now, we can create pockets of revolutionary love in our homes, in our classrooms, and in our communities..."

My prayer for this month and every day, is that we try not to forget all the reasons we have for celebrating: The gift of life, being surrounded by loving friends and family, our courage to keep moving forward despite the heartbreaks, our strength to help ourselves and others, our compassion to lift someone's spirits, our loving hearts, the people and things that bring us joy, and this loving community that embraces both our laughter and our tears.

During this month we will create spaces to celebrate our Volunteers, our Moms, our shared Ministerial journey, our work for Peace and Justice, and our Pride. The invitation is to express our gratitude as we lift up all the people that bring the spirit of Chardi Kala into our hearts.

With you in Eternal optimism,

– Rev. Dr. Maria Cristina Vlassidis Burgoa



# Bits from Your Board

## **ANNUAL MEETING OF THE CONGREGATION**

Each year, members of our Congregation meet to vote on our annual budget and to vote on candidates for positions on the Board of Trustees and on the Nominating Committee as per our bylaws. In short, we need to approve an operating budget and to fill vacancies created by term limits. This year, our Annual Meeting will be held on:

**May 16, 2021 immediately following worship at 11:45 a.m. via Zoom.**

*(Link to the zoom meeting is the same as for Sunday service - we will continue after service with a short break).*

As with last year, you will be able to participate either by telephone, smartphone, or computer through the Sunday service Zoom link and your participation is so very important. Please let us know if you need assistance in participating. All pertinent materials, including the agenda, the slate of candidates, the proposed budget, and the 2021 Annual Report will be sent with the meeting announcement and will also be screen shared at the meeting for your convenience. Votes will be taken by raised hand vote via zoom – observing yeas, nays, and abstentions. In the event of a close visual vote, we will do a name call vote to count and record. Members must be present to vote unless they have requested a paper ballot by May 5.

This meeting also serves as an opportunity to both update the Congregation on the work of the past year and to recognize those who worked on behalf of our greater good. We get a chance to show gratitude to those who have been doing the work of our church!

Looking forward to our Annual Meeting and gathering to give thanks, and...

Those are the bits from your board for this month!

In deep gratitude,

*–Jennifer Koney*

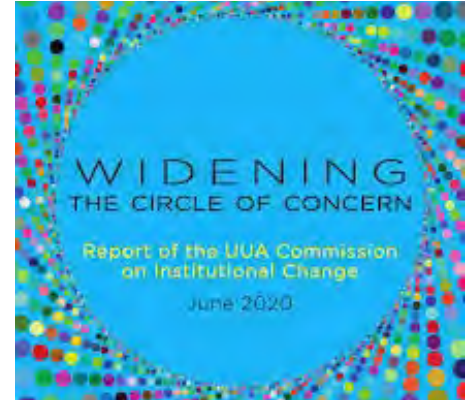
*You are*  
**Appreciated**



# Widening the Circle

## Widening the Circle - Let's Walk this Journey Together

*The shape of our knowledge becomes the shape of our living<sup>1</sup>*



Earlier this year, in January and February we were privileged to hear from Christina Rivera and the Reverend Leslie Takahashi about their respective roles in influencing the need for the Widening the Circle of Concern study and their leadership in its coming to fruition. Their presentations were not only reflections of their perspective of the necessity for dramatic change but also an invitation; an invitation to learn, to be aware, to grow into the Beloved Community that we envision.

This is unique journey as a spiritual community... a journey of reflection of discerning hard truths, acknowledging the concerns and pain of those among us who have experienced as well what has been expressed by others in the report. More important however, will be the actions and activities we will take to become the Beloved Community we envision.

We take this journey as individuals as well as members of a community. Start by reading the report. Open your hearts and minds:

*“to understand the lamentations and learnings the assembled Black people, Indigenous people and people of color identified...”* (The Report, p. vii).

Read with compassion... *The etymology of that word – com, meaning “with” or “together” and, “passion,” derived from pati, which means “endure, undergo, experience.* (The Report, p. xix).

The Report asks, *“how will our “living tradition” keep up with the times?”* Start reading now:

- What will be your answer?
- What will be our answer?

For Paperback copies - *Widening the Circle of Concern* – email [Reverenda](mailto:Reverenda)

PDF format here: [https://www.uua.org/sites/live-new.uua.org/files/widening\\_the\\_circle-text\\_with\\_covers.pdf](https://www.uua.org/sites/live-new.uua.org/files/widening_the_circle-text_with_covers.pdf)

<sup>1</sup>Palmer, P.J. as cited in Brooks, D. NY Times, 15 April 2021. Wisdom isn't what most people think it is. It's more about listening than talking.

# Thank you from your 2021 Canvass Team

Dear Friends,

Together we have reached 95% of our canvass goal! We appreciate your support through these turbulent times. Your commitment is a testimony to the hope we all share in building a fairer and more peaceful future. We will continue to plant seeds of hope and serve our community together.

*Thank You, Gracias, Merci, Danke, Sie Sie, Arigato, Efcharisto, Grazie, Obrigado!*

With gratitude,

Your 2021/22 Canvass Team:

Claudia McDonagh, Keith & Mileva Lewis, Diane Meyerson, Beth Ogilvie, Allison Prout



*Deep Hope  
Grows Here*



STARR KING  
UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CHURCH

# SoUllful Family Ministry

## March Highlights

### Happy Heart Circle Time:

In the Month of March we learned that our imagination can be adventurous. We buckled up for a magic carpet ride over the rainbow to discover our dreams. Our new friend Queen Howdy-Do-You, the Queen of Imagination, encouraged us to use our imagination to problem solve and to dream our dreams.

**Family Time Activities** kept everyone busy from making blanket forts to sipping veggie smoothies, exploring the "crop to plate" process. Also, our families provided birdie treats with "Shake, Rattle and Throw," bird seed egg shakers. Lets all crack a smile over that.

### Gratitude Message:

I am so grateful for all the support Family Ministry receives. The smiles on our children's faces tells the story. We are truly a supportive community. Thank you to the drivers, Lea Casini, her husband David and Lavon Hodges who continuously remain committed to delivering the art bags to our families. Thank you to our guest speakers, Corina Vasaure and Xiomara Tapia, who spoke from their hearts; answering the call of raising daughters to be proud women who answer their dreams with "Yes I can!"

*-Lorene Miller*



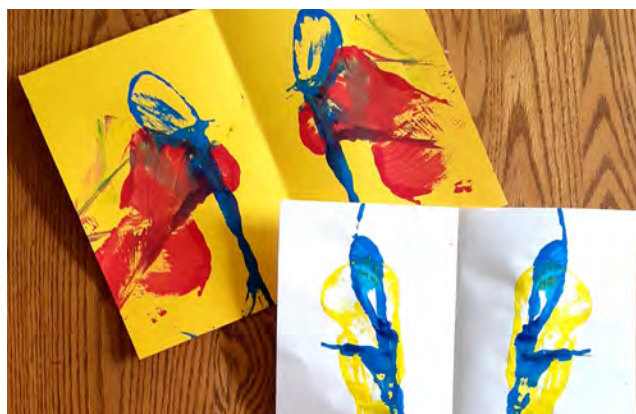
# SoUllful Family Ministry

## April Highlights

We were very busy this month exploring diversity, widening our circle to include more friends who love us for who we are. We learned that yoga calms ourselves from the inside out by sitting like a star fish, stretching, breathing, roaring like a tiger and flapping our wings like a butterfly.

It was very exciting to find our names in a rainbow and make a "Happy Garden". For Earth Day, we learned how to love and take care of our "Big Garden. Using string and paper mache', we empowered our imagination to create simple beauty. Love and happiness filled our big Easter Egg. It was fun to have Barky and Alligator visit us. They makes us smile and laugh.

-Lorene Miller





# Ongoing Activities

All in-person activities done virtually or on hold until further notice.  
Please check the website at [starrking.org](http://starrking.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, 7:00–8:30pm on Zoom. Open to all. Contact: Diane Meyerson
<b>Small Group Ministry</b>	Contact <a href="mailto:sgm@starrking.org">sgm@starrking.org</a> for more information.
<b>Board Meeting</b>	First Thursday of the month, 7–9pm on Zoom. Open to all. Contact: Jennifer Koney
<b>Family Storytime</b>	Every Monday 6:30pm on Zoom. Contact: Dr. Rev. María Cristina
<b>Peace and Justice Action Team</b>	Usually the second Sunday of the month after worship but not always, so check the church calendar and the announcements email to confirm.
<b>Adult RE</b>	<b>(On hold)</b> Second Tuesday of the Month from 11–12 noon on Zoom Contact: Mileva Saulo Lewis
<b>Choir Practice</b>	<b>(On hold)</b> Meets every Sunday from 9–10:15am in the Fellowship Hall. Contact: Lea Casini
<b>Church Bookstore</b>	<b>(On hold)</b> Open on the third Sunday of the month, after the service. Contact: Evelyn Cormier



## May Birthdays

**May 12**  
Laura Otermat  
Torsten Fink

**May 16**  
Lavon Hodges  
Beckett Wagner

**May 21**  
Karen Kramer

**May 29**  
Carol Henrie