



# The Flaming Chalice

THEOLOGICALLY DIVERSE • RADICALLY INCLUSIVE • JUSTICE CENTERED

Starr King Unitarian Universalist Church | January 2022 Newsletter



## CHURCH OFFICE HOURS

**Monday 11–4pm;**

**Wednesday 9:30–3pm;**

**Thursday 9:30–3pm**

To meet with the minister for pastoral care or to discuss congregation life, please call the church office for an appointment.

[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://facebook.com/StarrKingChurch)

### Parish Minister

The Rev. Dr. María Cristina  
Vlassidis Burgoa  
[minister@starrking.org](mailto:minister@starrking.org)

### Board President

Roy Dickerson  
[daesworkgd@comcast.net](mailto:daesworkgd@comcast.net)

### Newsletter

Kelly and Nathan Heigert  
[newsletter@starrking.org](mailto:newsletter@starrking.org)

## JANUARY 2

Join guest speaker Rev. Pratima Dharm as we usher in the New Year 2022 with a message of self-discovery and a path toward spiritual well-being and wholeness.

*Guest Preacher: Rev. Pratima Dharm*

## JANUARY 9

### Bodhi Day

Bodhi Day is a Buddhist holiday commemorating the day the historical Buddha, Siddhartha Gautama, reached enlightenment around 596 BCE. Prince Gautama took his place under the Bodhi tree vowing to remain there until he attained supreme enlightenment.

*Rev. Maria Cristina preaches*

## JANUARY 16

### MLK Sunday: The Radical MLK

There comes a point when we must pivot from the response that is reasonable to the one that the writer Cornell West calls, “radical,” a solution that goes to the root of the problem, that questions the most fundamental assumptions and argues for new ways of looking at the world...

*Rev. Maria Cristina preaches*

## JANUARY 23

### The Miracle of Transformation

Change is inevitable. Growth is optional. Change, though uncomfortable, presents us with opportunities. “Every experience we go through is a mirror... every situation provides an opportunity to change our thoughts, create new energies, and respond differently.” –*Marianne Williamson.*

*Rev. Maria Cristina, Nayela and Mireya Reynoso co-lead*

## TUESDAY, JANUARY 30

### Chinese New Year

Chinese New Year, or the Spring Festival, is the most important celebration observed in China, with cultural and historic significance. The festival signals the beginning of spring, and the start of a new year according to the Chinese lunar calendar.

*Rev. Maria Cristina preaches*

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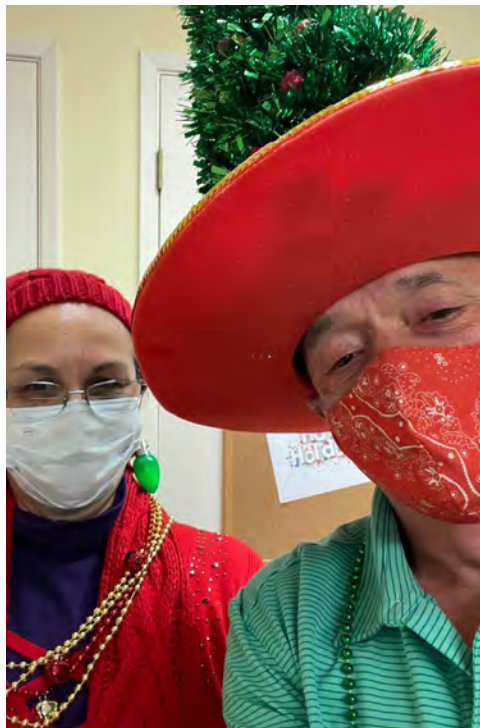
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# December Highlights



# From the Minister

## January's Theme: Transformation

The New Year announces the coming of the Three Kings, The Magi/Los Reyes Magos, on January 6th, the Feast of the Epiphany. We celebrate their journey and their courage to take a different path. We also celebrate with child-like awe the magical power of a guiding star. Epiphany reminds us to open ourselves and receive the gifts before us. Being open, we can experience magic all around us! There is magic in compassionate words. There is magic in music. There is magic in forgiveness. There is magic in transformation. Choosing a different path, letting go of old patterns, having a change of heart, can be magical.



Where are you on your journey? What are you carrying into this New Year? What would make the journey a little brighter? What might be the new possibilities?

Epiphanies, by definition, are unexpected and surprising. They happen in the most unlikely places to unlikely people at unlikely times by unlikely means. They might bring changes that can be disruptive and even inconvenient. They happen in the places where we struggle, the in-between spaces, and in the places that scare us. They might manifest themselves when we least expect them. It is not lost on me that it took three Magi to find the way, and that being part of a community encourages transformation and helps us find the light when our spark is dim. Magic happens when we connect to community. It happens when we are open to receiving and sharing the gifts of the spirit. We are part of a caring community that makes magic happen every day. We are on a shared journey to nourish our spirits and experience the miracle of transformation. When we change our minds, we can also change our hearts, and together pivot towards the light. This is what is known as a revolution. Even the slightest turn can signify a tremendous transformation that offers us the possibility of a new beginning.

As we welcome the New Year, may we experience a sense of magic every time we allow ourselves to be transformed. May we feel the love from our Starr King community that illuminates our hearts. And may we share this magical love and light every time we gather together.

With Gratitude and Love,

—Rev. Maria Cristina

# From the Minister

## Where I am From...

"I am from my parents daring to believe  
in the future...

From my own backyard...

My puppy castle...

My family and friends...

My dreams...

My desire to create and serve the  
future...

I am from Scotland, England, Ireland,  
Sweden, Norway, Germany,

And I am from safe suburbs,

From schools and universities...

From world travel...

From daring to create family, friendships,  
spiritual community, peace and justice!"

—*Claudia*

"I am from the ashes of the destruction of  
WWII in Berlin, Germany; of the American  
occupied part of Berlin." —*Doris Wolf*

"I am from Montana, in a little town about  
2 miles away and lived on a farm

until I graduated from high school and I  
went to the 'big city'

of Great Falls and I went to college and  
worked at the hospital"

—*Evelyn Cormier*



"I am from  
high expectations  
substance abuse  
hopelessness  
success  
failure  
regret  
happiness  
loving  
being loved  
contentment"

—*Anonymous*

# From the Minister

## Where I am From... (cont.)

"I am from  
mountains and deserts  
forests and sand dunes  
oceans and rivers  
blue skies and thunderclouds  
and wispy bits.  
My parents and their parents and their  
parents back to the start of time;  
Hope and Love and Respect and Pain  
and Regret  
and Joy and Anger and Peace;  
and the ever flowing river of time –  
or is it a lake?"

–Ben

"I am from Compton on the 'wrong side'  
of the tracks  
I am from a mother adopted out of shame,  
labeled illegitimate.  
I am from a family struggling through  
mental illness.  
I am from a father who sacrificed  
everyday for love of family."

–Bob B.

"I am from a broken family,  
a teenage mother  
San Francisco  
West Coast  
A place of love  
Grandma's favorite granddaughter."

–Anonymous



# From the Minister

## Where I am From... (cont.)

"I am from the mountains and the sea  
from the sun rays gleaming through the trees  
from the puppy wagging his tail  
and from the speeding car and the racing horse  
from the fallen fruit and the tied up prisoner  
I come before you out of a drift and a dream  
I am from the angry pot that burns in the kiln melting the glaze  
of color to cover the shape forever it can last  
I see them wondering, walking, crawling;  
those who have been tortured who have stared  
at the brutality of others who are from that hell  
I walk in the earth's womb, her gardens  
I hold flowers, I hear birds  
and see the dreams of my ancestors.  
I am the dreamer of the drum and the shaft of the arrow that sails in the wind."

—Ethel-May

"I am from  
Alhambra/San Gabriel/Temple City  
California  
Mid-western migration,  
my grandmother  
Pooh's lap  
Quaker Sunday school  
Football practice  
So California swim parties  
Mom's organ playing  
Scotland, Ireland, England & France."

—Darryl Ray



# Bits from Your Board

## SKUUC Board Notes for the New Year

Happy Holidays! The board recently had our retreat, and the focus was on both regathering as we get back together and our long-term financial sustainability. We are gradually moving closer to “normal” whatever that is going to mean. We intend to keep the Zoom sessions going as this is a way to include many both near and far who would not be able to join us on Sundays. We are singing and using hymnals again, so we are getting there. We are still concerned about being safe in this time of COVID so the windows are open and the fans turning; you are encouraged to wear a coat this winter. We have plans to meet with the congregation more often than our once-a-year meeting; the plan is to have a quarterly get together after church to discuss things; this will help us get your input on things and keep you in the loop.

Money is an issue for us as we are spending more than we are taking in for our annual budget; we are ok for the next few years, but we need to generate funds or cut spending. We are looking into having a pre-school use our space as this would generate income and be in-line with our values. This will be an impact on our use of the church and there will be initial costs, so we are looking at the pros and cons. Another idea is to promote the church for events; this will also be a good way to outreach to the community. Maybe you have ideas as to how we might better utilize the church and grounds to reach out to the community and offset some of our expenses.

We have been spending a lot over the last year or so, but it has been money well spent. We spent a lot on the solar panels, the parking lot, tree trimming, and general cleanup of the grounds and church as we started back up. Most of these costs were outside our operating budget but they were big expenses. We know that these are tough times, and you may not be able to contribute as much as you would like, but please keep in mind what benefits you get from the church as you contribute.

It seems like only yesterday that the church year started but we will soon be looking at filling leadership positions on the board and as we get closer to that “normal” that we have been looking for there is a need for volunteers to reinvigorate things, Things like gardening, sound booth, and other work around the church are a great way to deepen relationships and learn about each other.

*–Roy Dickerson, Board President*



# Nominating Committee

## Message from the Nominating Committee

### Are you interested in serving the church in a meaningful way?

Every May at the annual congregational meeting, the Nominating Committee presents a slate of candidates for open positions on the [Board of Trustees](#) and the [Nominating Committee](#). The positions of Board Secretary and Treasurer are up for reelection this year, and both incumbents, Diane Meyerson and Terri Owen, have agreed to serve another term. We are delighted and grateful! Please thank them! This leaves 4 open positions: 2 at-large board members and 2 nominating committee members.

- If you feel called to serve our congregation in this important way, please click the links above to review the job descriptions, then fill out this brief [nomination form](#). Serving the church this way is an opportunity to connect more deeply with our beloved community, and help guide our congregation ever closer to our shared values.
- If you are interested in training before volunteering or have any other questions, contact any of us (Stephanie, Karen, Beth, Darryl, Mary Lou) or write to the committee at the address below. We welcome your interest!
- You can also [use the form to recommend someone else](#) you feel would be a good leader for our church.

If you would like to receive these materials in another format, such as PDF (or paper!) or have any questions, please contact the committee at [nomcom@starring.org](mailto:nomcom@starring.org). or write to us at Starr King UU Church, 22577 Bayview Ave., Hayward CA 94541.

### Nominating Committee Vision

We (the NomCom) endeavor to nominate individuals for church leadership who embrace the following vision:

- 1. We (the congregation) are relational and spiritual as well as practical.** Our meetings are spiritually uplifting and deeply nourishing as well as supportive of our community in practical ways.
- 2. We have strong partnerships among the minister, the board, and the congregation.** These working relationships are invigorating and mutually rewarding, and strengthen our shared ministry.
- 3. We have compassion with accountability.** We recognize that living our values fully requires attention and feedback and frequent adjustments to how we are together. We embrace the redemptive process of listening, owning our wrongs, apologizing and repair, understanding that this leads to grace\* and true community.



# Nominating Committee

## Message from the Nominating Committee (cont.)

**4. We plan for future generations.** Our decision making looks beyond the present to when the children of the church are grown, and when their children are grown, to the kind of church we want for them.

**\*Grace:** The state of living in alignment with our values. When we are “missing the mark” in some way, we fall out of grace. The redemptive process restores us to grace.

– *The Nominating Committee*

*Stephanie Smith (chair), Karen Cook, Beth Ogilvie, Darryl Ray, Mary Lou Schuler*



# PWR Regional Assembly 2022

## Reflect, Rejoice, Renew

<https://www.uua.org/pacific-western/blog/ra-2022>

Our PWR Regional Assembly is that inspirational, radically inclusive, beyond-the-congregation UU community we've missed. We can engage fully, wherever we are. Whether onsite at the hotel on the bay in San Diego, or online in the comfort of our own homes, we will have opportunities for connection in small groups, inspirational worship, transformative learning, and just plain community fun.

Our speakers aren't fully worked out yet (because, well, you know, COVID) but here is what we know for sure:

- We'll start on Friday, February 4th with an optional Border Justice experience. With on-line and in-person components, our community service/learning/justice opportunity is being developed with UURISE and other local partners. All onsite events will happen on the US side of the Mexican border. Friday evening is when the main conference begins.
- Our theme, Reflect, Rejoice, Renew, sums up the experience we're creating with our speakers, workshops, small groups, and social time. We've been through so much upheaval, grief, and change in our lives and in our religious communities. Together we will be: rejoicing in one another's company again, reflecting on what we've been through, and renewing ourselves, our commitments, and our UU faith.
- We conclude on Sunday, February 6th with a worship service, pre-recorded and broadcast to both an onsite and an online audience. And this service will be yours to use for your own congregation, too.
- We're venturing into new territory together, with a fully-online and fully-onsite unified program. It's our first major UUA multiplatform event! You'll be part of history! This will be an experiment, and we'll all be blessed with the joys, and challenges, of trying new things.

**Where: Virtual and San Diego, California**

Hyatt Regency Mission Bay, 1441 Quivira Road, San Diego, California You can explore the venue directly; for our group rate, please make Hotel Reservations (Hyatt.com)



Pacific Western  
Region

# PWR Regional Assembly 2022

**Reflect, Rejoice, Renew (cont.)**

**When: Friday, February 4 through Sunday, February 6, 2022**

[Schedule](#)

[Register Online](#) today!

**Important Deadlines: Registration for onsite attendance ends January 4th.  
Registration for virtual attendance ends January 23rd.**

## **More info**

**If you've never been to a regional assembly before, ask Beth Ogilvie about it. *It's awesome.* It's like General Assembly in some ways: the inspiring energizing experience of being with LOTS of other UUs, getting acquainted, learning together, and worshipping together. But it's also smaller and more intimate; a chance to meet people from our region and our area; also a chance to get to know our wonderful UUA regional staff members. Beth is participating virtually and would love to see you there!**



# *Peace and Justice Action Team*

**Our next meeting will be Jan. 9 after church.**

**STARR KING MOVIE NIGHT: "GATHER"**

**JANUARY 14, 7:00 PM, VIA ZOOM**

Join us for a virtual movie night in January! This incredible film documents the growing movement among Native Americans to reclaim their spiritual, political, and cultural identities through food sovereignty.

# GATHER

THE FIGHT TO REVITALIZE OUR NATIVE FOODWAYS



# SoUllful Family Ministry

## December Highlights

### Sharing Thoughts...

“Wow, our classroom looks great, nice job cleaning it up.”

Ramona looked at me and said, “It's not a classroom.”

“Uh?”, crinkling my brow, “Then what is it?”

Ramona thought for a moment and said, “It is a *clurch*: part classroom part church.”

I turned to Olly and asked what would you call it? He looked around and said, “It's a yellow, happy, sunflower church room.”

Amazing, so much happens in the confounds of our “Yellow, happy, sunflower church room” or as Ramona would say, a “clurch.” For thirty plus years I have worked with children, their families, parents and teachers and I believe that all of those experiences has funneled down to 22577 Bayview Avenue. I am feeling the calling. Its not so much what's in the room, but rather what happens in that room.

This past month, the children understood the Pagan way of honoring the evergreen Christmas tree. They experienced the Winter Solstice first hand by crawling out from a darken fort into the Light, and created a Light altar. We addressed Joseph and Mary's journey and connected it to opening our doors to all those who knock upon them, much like our Heart's door which opens with Love and Kindness and spreads Joy through out the world. Finally we thought about the concept, “Home is where the Heart is.” Wherever your Heart is, that is your home and that is where love grows.

### Circle time (virtual and in-person)

The children continue to light their candles and share how their heart feels. Not only does our heart feel, but it can have more than one feeling and it can have different degrees of feelings. These feelings are important, because they are special, and they belong to you. In our circle, we talked about the Winter Solstice, Mary and Joseph's journey and opening our Heart's door to Love and Kindness.



# SoUUlful Family Ministry

## December Highlights

It was especially fun to have participated in our annual Christmas Pageant. Included in the classic animals visiting the baby Jesus was a small mouse (Ramona) and a Cheetah (Soren).

Our Las Posadas and party was really fun. While we were walking the neighborhood you could really feel the connection among us. Best expressed by Ramona holding her friend's hand and saying, "We are best friends forever!!"

### Fun Family Projects

For the Winter Solstice the children painted with ice, for Las Posadas they were inspired to create the Christmas Star and for the pageant they made a Christmas ornament. To honor our homes we made gingerbread houses and lastly they spent family time creating smiles and giggles with an indoor balloon volleyball game.

### Expressing my Gratitude

I am so thankful for our children and families. I do not do this alone. I am very grateful for:

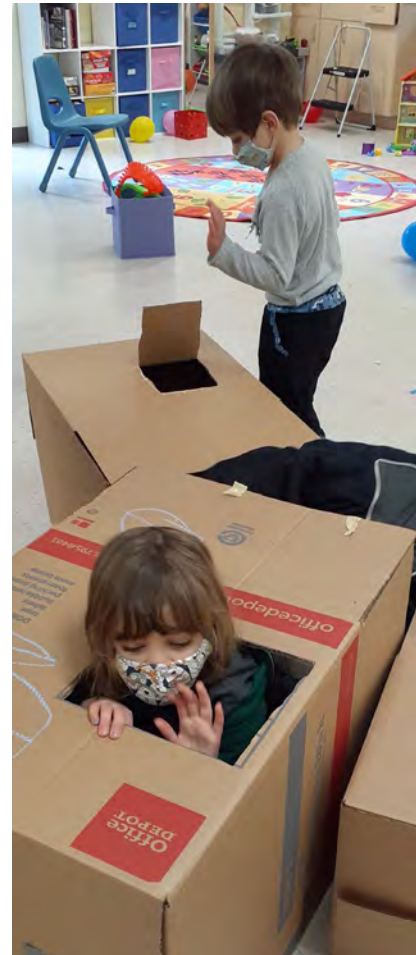
- Lavon H. for delivering our art bags
- Rev. Maria Cristina for the wonderful Las Posadas event and the Christmas Pageant.

Classroom volunteers:

- Donnie R.
- Kelly H.
- Laurie M.
- Lea C.
- Bethany S.
- Amy P.
- Glenn J.

I wish everyone a very Happy and Hopeful New Year,

—Lorie Miller, SoUUlful Family Ministry Coordinator



# Ongoing Activities

Starr King welcomes all church interest groups and committees to meet in-person at the church either inside or outside the facility. If your group has been meeting by Zoom, it may continue to do so, by discretion of the group. All groups meeting in-person on the Church grounds should continue to observe COVID safety protocols by:

- Wearing masks
- Practicing social distancing
- Refraining from serving and sharing refreshments

We applaud your continued participation in SKUUC activities.

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<b>Evening Meditation</b>	First Thursday of the month, 7:00–8:30pm, every Wednesday after, 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: Roy Dickerson
<b>Peace and Justice Action Team</b>	Second Sunday of the month after worship (after a 15-20 minute break) in a hybrid model via Zoom using the same link as the service.
<b>Family Storytime</b>	(On hold) Every Monday 6:30pm on Zoom. Contact: Dr. Rev. María Cristina
<b>Adult RE</b>	(On hold) Second Tuesday of the Month from 11–12 noon on Zoom Contact: Mileva Saulo Lewis
<b>Choir Practice</b>	(On hold) Meets every Sunday from 9–10:15am in the Fellowship Hall. Contact: Lea Casini

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## January Birthdays

**January 4**  
Sherman Lewis

**January 6**  
Roy Dickerson

**January 9**  
Jacqueline Black

**January 10**  
Walt Korus

**January 15**  
Mary Swain  
Ethel-May Shaw

**January 16**  
Sandy Simoni

**January 18**  
Allison Prout

**January 23**  
Mileva Saulo-Lewis

**January 25**  
Debbie Frederick