



The Flaming Chalice

THEOLOGICALLY DIVERSE • RADICALLY INCLUSIVE • JUSTICE CENTERED

Starr King Unitarian Universalist Church | September 2022 Newsletter



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Rev. Ruth Rinehart will be out of the country from Sept. 2-16. For Pastoral Care during this time, please contact one of the following:

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SEPTEMBER 4

Yes you can! Yes, We Can!

A celebration of live music and poetry readings – A tradition since 2003, don't miss this Labor Day Sunday service centered on social justice and HOPE. Though you can't talk about social justice without talking about social injustice, you can't fight for justice without hope. Come and be inspired!

Special Plate: The Offertory this Sunday will be donated to Faith in Action East Bay.

Bob Britton leads.

SEPTEMBER 11

Pastoral Care Team

The pastoral care committee lovingly supports members through crises and transitions. Learn more about how they work with the minister to respond, with kindness and respect, to the needs of the church community. *Karen Cook, Al Murdoch, Mileva Saulo Lewis, and Darryl Ray.*

SEPTEMBER 18

Question Box Service!

Everyone is invited to send questions to Rev. Ruth at minister@starrking.org. She will answer as many of them as she can during this service. Ask whatever question is burning in your heart!

Reverend Ruth Rinehart leads.

SEPTEMBER 25

The Spiritual Practice of Movement

Breathing is our birthright, and so is movement. Aldous Huxley once noted: "Movement is so intertwined in the deep order of things that it is with their muscles that humans most easily obtain knowledge of the divine." Join us for movement and play and community.

Reverend Ruth Rinehart leads.

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August Highlights



From the Minister

Rev. Ruth Rinehart

Hello beloveds. I hope to come to know you much more over these coming months. (Remembering that I am out of the country for the first two weeks of September.) One way to do this is to ask for questions from you. The Sunday morning on the 18th will be a Question Box Service (one of my favorites!). Email your questions minister@starrking.org, with the words “question” or “question box” in the subject line. I’ll answer as many as I can, and use the ones I can’t answer on Sunday morning as fodder for future sermons. Of course, I want to hear from you, even if you don’t have a question for that Sunday service.



Unitarian Universalist congregations together affirm and promote Seven Principles (and many congregations have adapted [the Eighth Principle](#) as well). Today, I am thinking of our [Third Principle: Acceptance of one another and encouragement to spiritual growth in our congregations](#).

While we may believe many different things, we are a faith community and we each have our own spiritual work. (If you’ve ever heard you can believe anything you want as a Unitarian Universalist, that’s actually not true, and I’ll be preaching on that in the months to come).

Acceptance of one another can be hard. It is easier when you have spiritual practices, to ground you, to nourish and uplift your spirit. What are your spiritual practices? Mine include meditation, prayer, being in nature, movement and music. Throughout my life, I have had times where I felt I was living the phrase “prayer without ceasing.” Those times are precious; they are hard to MAKE happen. But, I believe in prayer – not in an intercessory divine being who will come down to do what I ask, no. I believe in prayer, because the pray-er is changed; when I pray, I am changed. When I pray, my heart shifts and softens. When I pray, I am lifted closer to my aspirations to be my better self. What are your spiritual practices?

Transition usually involves grief. Change means that what WAS is no more. Even when changes are good (for example, job promotions or weddings), there is still stress involved, and the loss of what is being left behind. I am considering offering a six session group on grief and loss; please let me know if you would be interested in that. It would be on zoom, 90 minutes each time, on a Monday or Tuesday or Wednesday evening. It would be limited to 12 participants. Please let me know if you would be interested in this sort of group.

Be well, dear ones,

–Rev. Ruth

Juristac

Come to the Rally!

**Saturday, Sept 10, 1–4pm
McEntee Plaza, San Jose**

[Sign up here](#)

Our church is co-sponsoring the rally, along with over 50 other organizations. See protectjuristac.org/rally for the list and logos of co-sponsors.

Volunteers needed!

1. Help sell t-shirts at the rally! We are in charge of the t-shirt sale table.
2. The tribe needs people for setup and/or cleanup, people who can go at 10 to setup or stay till 7 for cleanup.

Please plan to go! We need a huge turnout. If you're thinking about it, or you've decided, and if you can help, please let Ben know [on this simple form](#) or email her at beth@betho.us.

“Human rights and eco-resilience or 15 jobs and sand.”

If you're new to the Protect Juristac campaign, please see the Amah Mutsun Tribal Band's ProtectJuristac.org website. This [4-minute video](#) tells the story.

Side with Love.

The UUA's Side with Love team has shared the Juristac story! [Read their blog post](#) or see it on Facebook.

Santa Clara County Planning Commission hearing, Thursday, Aug 25.

We had a great turnout! 84 people spoke against the quarry, including 7 Starr King people! Bob Britton, Rene G Castle, Nathan Heigert, Ben Ogilvie, Darryl Ray, Stephanie Smith, and Joanna Zinsli. Only 5 people spoke for it, including the developer and a couple of unions. Planning Commission meetings rarely get this kind of turnout. Nothing was decided, of course – it wasn't that kind of meeting – just a listening session. Still – the Commission knows we're watching and we care.



RALLY
for
JURISTAC

SATURDAY
SEPTEMBER 10TH
1:00pm–4pm
SAN JOSE
@ McEntee Plaza
70 W. Hedding St

STAND WITH US — The sacred ceremonial heartland of our tribe near Gilroy is threatened by a proposed 403-acre sand and gravel mining operation.

Santa Clara County has released an environmental analysis of the project and will soon decide whether to deny or approve permits for the mine.

Join us in front of the County building to stand together for the land, for cultural survival, and to show the strength of our collective determination to protect Juristac.

protectjuristac.org/rally

Peace and Justice Action Team

Meeting Agenda: August 14, 2022 (Selected Notes)

Indigenous Solidarity:

Rene Castle, Ben Ogilvie and Mary Lasack attended the Gilroy City Council meeting on Aug 15. The Council voted unanimously to oppose the Sargent Ranch Quarry Project.

On August 25th eight members of Starr King attended the Santa Clara Planning Commission's Zoom meeting where the draft Environmental Impact Report was discussed. Seven members were able to speak in opposition to the quarry project and in solidarity with the Amah Mutsun Tribal Band. 84 people spoke up against the project and five spoke in favor.

A new area of concern is Reproductive Justice:

Joanna, Diane, Mileva, Ben attended three UUA Reproductive Justice webinars in the past month. PJAT will be adding Reproductive Justice as a new area to work on.

Community Partnerships and Justice in our Jails:

We have a new Sherriff, Yesenia Sanchez. She will be starting in January. There is still the office of Alameda County District Attorney that needs to be decided in the November election.

At our upcoming Labor Day Church Service there will be a special plate for Faith in Action East Bay, a group dedicated to bringing members of diverse faith communities together to achieve transformative change within the Alameda County justice system.

Climate Justice:

We will have more to report on climate justice next month.

Important Event coming up: "Rally for Juristac," Saturday, September 10th, from 1:00 to 4:00 at McEntee Plaza in San Jose. Members of PJAT plan to attend with our new banner "No Quarry on Sacred Land." We hope that you can join us!

-Darryl Ray, PJAT facilitator

Zoom Inclusion Group

Zoom Greeters

As part of The Zoom Inclusion Group's (ZIG) mission of fostering greater inclusion of congregants over Zoom, ZIG and Hospitality & Membership (H&M) are seeking volunteers for the role of Zoom greeters.



Just as H&M recognize attendees as they enter the church, Zoom greeters would individually welcome callers as they dial in to the weekly service as well as performing some of the following tasks:

- Help admit callers into the Zoom call
- Help spotlight callers for segments of the service such as Family Ministry
- Speak up for the Zoom callers if there are technical difficulties such as sound not coming through
- Guide and moderate any discussion after service

As hybrid services continue, such individualized attention has already improved the experience of some Zoom attendees. Ideally we are looking for four or so volunteers to rotate every week. Email Nathan at zig@starking.org if interested.

SoUllful Family Ministry

August Highlights

Sharing thoughts...

“So Many Choices”

If you haven't noticed, our classroom offers a great many activities for our children to choose from. Developing decision making skills begins with the question, “What do I want to do?”

Pause for a moment and think how we adults process a decision. There are a great many questions we ask ourselves. We evaluate the pros and cons, process the potential outcome and go with our choice. Our children also ask those important questions while deciding “Do I play with the bird seed, paint, create with legos, put a puzzle together, build with blocks, play with play dough and/or read a book?” On the surface it may appear to be an easy answer, but they too, evaluate the pros and cons, process the outcome and go with their choice.

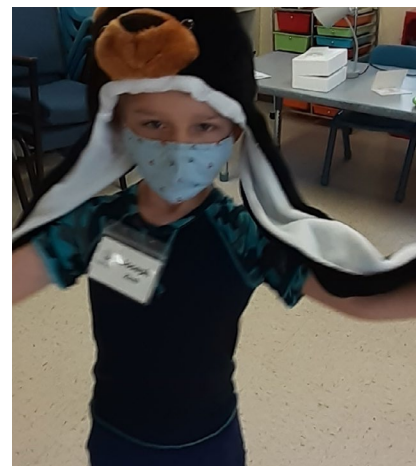
Understanding what you want creates a strong sense of self. In the years to come, our children will have the skill set to make a decision, explore their passions and have the confidence to stand strong in their beliefs. And to think it all started with “bird seed.”

Bless it Be.

–Lorie Miller Family Ministry Coordinator

Happy Heart Circle Time

The month of August was busy one. We began with exploring the importance of a supportive community. Our problems can seem light as a feather when we have the support of our friends. We harmonized with the congregation during Linli's Sing-A-Long service. This month was special, our children met a new friend, Rev. Ruth with the help of a “Ickidy-Pickidy-Bumble Bee.” Warning: You will find yourself humming this song all day long! We finished off this month with sharing our thoughts on “What is a church?” We concluded it takes many community hands to build and sustain an all welcoming church.



SoUUlful Family Ministry

August Highlights (cont.)

A Special Guest

Jennifer Koney provided a guided journey “Meditation and Water Colors” with our children. The focus was processing our Spirit with water colors. The Meditation moment reappears when reflecting upon their water color paintings at a later date.

Children's Community garden

“From Seeds to Sharing” was what our children experienced with their garden. Our Special Garden slide show documented the journey. The goal was to have the children understand that the food we donate just doesn't get packed up in a car and driven off. The food actually feeds a family.

Our plans is to continue with a fall garden. We will be planting carrots, beets, broccoli and salad greens. This is a community garden and all of you are welcomed anytime.

Gratitude

Each month I am reminded of all the loving support our children receive from our volunteers. Thank you, Lea C., Diane M., Kelly H. Lavon H, our guest volunteer, Jane L. and Laurie M.

–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 will 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 Starr King activities.

Evening Meditation	Every Wednesday 7:00-8:30 pm, on Zoom. Open to all. Visitors welcome. Contact: Diane Meyerson
Small Group Ministry	Contact sgm@starrking.org for more information.
Board Meeting	First Tuesday of the month, 3:30–5:00 pm on Zoom. Open to all. Contact: Roy Dickerson
Peace and Justice Action Team	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.
Starr King Singers	Sundays before the service from 9:30-10:00 a.m.
Adult RE	(On hold) Second Tuesday of the Month from 11–12 noon on Zoom Contact: Mileva Saulo Lewis
Choir Practice	(On hold) Meets every Sunday from 9–10:15am in the Fellowship Hall. Contact: Lea Casini

We would love to celebrate your Birthday in The Chalice. If your special day is not already listed, please let us know the day and month of your Birthday. Send information to ddmeyerson@gmail.com.



September Birthdays

September 2
Mary Lasack

September 11
Marilyn Mosher

September 19
Corina Vasaura

September 9
Ruth Hultman-DeSmidt

September 14
Kirk Smith

September 29
Donnie Rett

September 15
Terri Owen