



The Flaming Chalice

THEOLOGICALLY DIVERSE • RADICALLY INCLUSIVE • JUSTICE CENTERED

Starr King Unitarian Universalist Church | November 2022 Newsletter



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NOVEMBER 6

The only lasting truth is change

“People do not resist change, per se. People resist loss.” (Ron Heifetz and Martin Linsky). There is so much change around us all!! Your interim time here in your congregation. Coming tentatively out of the worst of the pandemic. Political and cultural and structural changes abound. There is loss in every change, even “good” changes. Join us for reflection and community as we ponder the reality of change.

Reverend Ruth Rinehart leads.

NOVEMBER 13

Transitions: a process of change

This will be an intergenerational service! We are experimenting with a shift in how we welcome our youngsters. Once a month for the foreseeable future, we will welcome the children into the sanctuary on Sunday mornings – the other Sundays, they will be in Sunday School for the full worship hour, rather than coming into the service for their circle time.

Reverend Ruth Rinehart leads.

NOVEMBER 20

Transgender Day of Remembrance

Transgender people suffer an inordinate amount of violence, far too often brutal and fatal. We will honor those who have lost their lives to this violence, as we imagine a more beautiful world in which every body is sacred.

Reverend Ruth Rinehart leads.

NOVEMBER 27

Whalesong

What can our deepest relatives in the sea teach us facing the vast changes due climate change with resilience and hope?

Guest Rev. Cat Boyle leads.

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From the Minister

Rev. Ruth Rinehart

Hello Starr King, beautiful people. We are in the thick of our service auction, and I am so happy to see so many donations! I hope you donated, and I especially hope you will bid on many items, for good things, for good fun, and for good stewardship of this beloved community. I came back to my childhood faith of Unitarian Universalism in 2008, when David and I needed a religious education program for our youngest daughter. It took me several years to understand how important the auction is in the full-year life of the church.

A service auction provides you many opportunities to spend time with and get to know other church members throughout the year. I love how our social calendars are filled up through auction offerings. It is a fine way to support your community financially, but perhaps even more important, it offers so many different ways to come to know each other better. Keep this in mind, as you peruse the many different [auction items](#) this year.

The monthly theme for November is Change. It's all around us, isn't it? "The only constant is change." We all often resist change, to no avail. It comes anyway. Like the days coming one after another, the seasons and the years, it happens. Acceptance is one response. While that can seem passive, it frees up the resistance within to allow for more creative adaptation.

What is changing in your days, in this time? What is changing in your community, your relationships? What changes are you welcoming? Resisting? Look within, dear ones. To that still small voice within. Where can you rest? And...where do you see action ahead?

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The Journey, by Mary Oliver

*One day you finally knew
what you had to do, and began,
though the voices around you
kept shouting
their bad advice—
though the whole house
began to tremble
and you felt the old tug
at your ankles.
"Mend my life!"*



From the Minister

Rev. Ruth Rinehart (cont.)

each voice cried.

But you didn't stop.

You knew what you had to do,

though the wind pried

with its stiff fingers

at the very foundations,

though their melancholy

was terrible.

It was already late

enough, and a wild night,

and the road full of fallen

branches and stones.

But little by little,

as you left their voices behind,

the stars began to burn

through the sheets of clouds,

and there was a new voice

which you slowly

recognized as your own,

that kept you company

as you strode deeper and deeper

into the world,

determined to do

the only thing you could do—

determined to save

the only life you could save.

Announcements

100K Trees for Humanity Introduces Hayward Tree Planting Project

Amos White, Founder and Chief Planting Officer for 100K Trees for Humanity, introduced the Hayward Tree Planting Project to the Starr King UU community after service on Sunday, October 23.

Amos created 100K Trees in 2019 as a community climate action response to America's withdrawal from the Paris Agreement. Since then, 100K Trees has planted more than 450 trees and formed partnerships with Sierra Club, American Forests, Cal Haas School of Business and others.

Amos presented the CA Urban Greenbelt Initiative to plant 433 CA communities by 2030 and introduced the Hayward Tree Planting Project. This project is environmentally justice centered and will ultimately plant over 340,000 trees in order to restore our tree canopy to 92% and improve our air, health, and well-being.

Starr King UU Church has been invited to participate. The Hayward Tree Planting project is forming and developing action teams around growing trees, mapping planting sites, and involving school and members of the community in planting and caring for trees as a direct climate action to help cool the planet.

More information can be found at www.100ktrees4humanity.com or by contacting Jennifer Koney (jkoney@comcast.net), Claudia McDonagh, or Ethel-May Shaw.



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Starr King Choir

Dear Starr King Community,

The long awaited return of the Starr King Choir is finally here! The choir is open to all interested singers able to make a commitment to the choir's schedule. Attendance each week is not mandatory, but highly encouraged. If a rehearsal must be missed, additional rehearsal resources would be available to all who sign up to sing.

We will be rehearsing on **Mondays from 7:00-8:00pm in the Fellowship Hall**, beginning on **Monday, November 7**. If you are interested in finding out more about music and worship at Starr King Unitarian Universalist Church, please email Linli Wang at music@starrking.org.

Please come sing with us!

[Click here to fill out the sign-up sheet.](#)

—Linli Wang, music director





Online Auction: October 31–November 5
Live Auction: Saturday, November 5

Starr Light, Starr Bright!

With all the stars you see at night

We wish you may, we wish you might

Join our auction in delight!

The bi-annual Starr King service auction is our top fundraising event, and one of our funnest events. This year's live auction takes place Saturday, November 5th, starting with registration at 5:30 pm. The evening will be celebrated with delicious homemade minestrone and mulled wine. Not to mention sparkling companionship and a heavenly ambiance.

Don't forget to bid online as well, at [Auctria](#), where dozens of exciting offers are waiting to be snatched up. These bids run the week of Oct 31-Nov 5. Our goal this year is to reach \$20,000. Last time we managed to surpass our goal. With your help, we can do so again. Please bid generously! Straight monetary donations are also accepted on Auctria.

The service auction is a great way to support our church by serving one another. Do come for the social occasion, even if you don't have money to spend on high value items. We look forward to seeing all your bright stars.

Peace and Justice Action Team

PJAT Report for Nov 2022 Chalice

Last meeting: October 2

Next meeting: November 13 after worship, around noon

All are welcome. Please join us!

UU the Vote – Bob Britton

Bob exhorted everyone to get cracking. The midterm election is critical. There's still time to make a contribution! Send money, make phone calls, send texts. Our democracy is on the line here.

Indigenous Solidarity – Ben Ogilvie

Juristac. The public comment period on the Draft Environmental Impact Report for the Sargent Ranch Quarry at Juristac was extended 6 weeks, to Nov 7.

If you have not yet submitted a comment, please do so now. The conservation organization Green Foothills has [an easy form you can use](#) to submit a comment. You can submit their letter as is (it's good!) or change it as you wish.

Upcoming events honoring Native American Heritage Month

Muwekma Ohlone Tribe Flag Raising

Sunday, Nov 6, 2pm

César Chavez Plaza, 457 E Calaveras Blvd, Milpitas

The invitation says: *“Join us as we celebrate Native American Heritage Month with a blessing, land acknowledgement, and cultural dances.”*

American Indian Heritage Celebration

Nov 11-13, Fri 4-10pm, Sat 12-11pm, Sun 12-8pm

Santa Clara County Fairgrounds, Gateway Hall, 344 Tully Rd, San Jose

Free event. American Indian Market, Pow Wow, Frybread Booths, Aztec Dancers. This event is a joint production of the Muwekma Ohlone, the Amah Mutsun Tribal Band, and the Esselen Nation.

Unhoused justice

Several members of the congregation went to the Cob on Wood community in west Oakland multiple times with concerns about Caltrans breaking up the encampment without viable alternatives for the residents.

SKUU Rainbow flag – Darryl Ray

Our Starr King UU pride flag has gone missing, and PJAT was asked to facilitate purchasing a new one. Rather than replacing it with an identical style flag, the group explored whether we could have a flag that was even more inclusive than the old one.



Peace and Justice Action Team

PJAT Report for Nov 2022 Chalice (cont.)

As a result, we have replaced it with the Intersex-inclusive Pride Progress Flag. This is the same flag that the Castro Valley Unified School District has chosen to be displayed on murals at all its schools. Along with the original Pride Flag's rainbow colored horizontal stripes there are five arrow shaped bands of black, brown, light blue, pink and white. The black and brown colors represent marginalized LGBTQ people of color, as well as those living with AIDS/HIV and those who have died from AIDS/HIV complications. The light blue, pink and white represent the transgender community. The yellow triangle and purple circle's colors were picked specifically to avoid "referencing gender stereotypes, like the colors pink and blue". The circle, which is unbroken and unornamented, symbolizes wholeness and completeness, and intersex people's potentialities.



PJAT Action Alerts (text messages)

We now have a texting service that enables us to send text alerts to a list of subscribers. There are 34 people on our list. If you're not already receiving these alerts, you can [sign up here](#). This is not a group text so you won't see replies from anyone, just the one text with the message, and you can unsubscribe at any time by replying STOP. We will use this service to send notices of urgent upcoming events– demonstrations or rallies in the next few days, legislative alerts where urgent phone calls are needed, etc.

Land Acknowledgment

In October, the board decided to give management of the land acknowledgement content and process to the Minister and PJAT together. Any changes to the land acknowledgement will be discussed in an open forum announced at least one week ahead of time so all interested people may attend.

Other areas we're working on and leads:

Reproductive Justice – Mileva Lewis & Diane Meyerson

The Reproductive Justice group is considering an after church education session about all aspects of the law and the work just completed by the California Legislature.

Earth Justice – Claudia McDonagh

SoUllful Family Ministry

October Highlights

Sharing a Thought....

So much happens right under our noses and we don't always catch it. This time I did.

"Pumpkin Boys"

Five, 5 year old boys were very busy collecting pumpkins from our interactive pumpkin patch. They'd gathered up the pumpkins, put them in a wagon, carted them up the slope and placed them in the back cottage's door way. They declared themselves the "Pumpkin Boys." As they unloaded the pumpkins there was much discussion about how to line them up and who was assigned to stay and guard them while the others headed down the slope, with their empty red wagon.

Olly sat guard, holding a small stick to fend off intruders. He declared they were now the Pumpkin Soldiers and I was to be the Pumpkin King. I suggested a "Pumpkin Queen?", "No" he said, "You are the Pumpkin King". I accepted the role with honor and saluted him. He saluted back and went back to guarding the pumpkins.

The boys returned and had decided to move some of the pumpkins. Drake had thought no, the pumpkins should stay where they are. More discussion took place and they all agreed on a compromise, some would remain and some could be moved.

Now, what just happen here under our noses? Lots. A community was created, roles and responsibilities were assigned, the power of decision making was equally distributed, problem solving with respect and a challenge to gender determined roles, (a girl king!). Children learn through play and if we all paid attention, I bet adults learn through play too.

Circle Time

Mr. Sun taught us how important it is to return to our community. The garden and it's guests (flowers, butterflies, snails and worms) missed the sun when it choose not to rise. The story "The Humming Bird Brings Fire" was a special story connecting us to



SoUUlful Family Ministry

October Highlights (cont.)

our native lands. Our visitor, a non-binary, singing rainbow alligator encouraged us to be who we want to be. Finally, think about it; the more apples we eat, the more seeds we plant, the more seeds we plant, the more apple trees we grow and we are right back to the more apples we eat. It's all about the cycle of sustainability.

Classroom

Our class is growing, growing up in years and growing in numbers. Welcome Drake's little brother, Will. Our interactive pumpkin patch has kept everyone busy in the spirit of Fall. Our Halloween party was the best.

Winter Garden up dates:

The plants, broccoli, lettuce, spinach and our sweet pea tee-pee survived visiting deer. I indirectly invited them in by forgetting to close the garden gate. No worries, we have enough crops to enjoy a future salad snack.

Gratitude

Because of the support SoUUlful Family Ministry receives, our children experience a loving and connective community. The classroom volunteers help to create a safe exciting environment where children of all ages can explore and play. A special shout out to Darryl and Renee Ray!!!! Thank you so much for our bales of hay. That totally made our pumpkin patch a success. Let's not forget the helpers at our Halloween celebration, thank you too!! For those who donated items to our dramatic play space, much appreciated (We could use more donations).

-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.
Starr King Choir	Every Monday 7:00-8:00 pm. Contact: Linli Wang at music@starrking.org
Adult RE	(On hold) Contact: Mileva Saulo Lewis at milevalewis@comcast.net

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.



November Birthdays

November 2
Bob Meyerson

November 3
Diana Dickerson

November 6
Kathryn LaMar

November 8
Bob Rett

November 10
Lorie Miller
Bob Simoni

November 14
Hank Wagner

November 30
Susan Blanc