



THE FLAMING CHALICE

Sunday Worship: 10:30 AM

DECEMBER WORSHIP THEME:
“Love Prevails” this month we explore the enduring power
of love as we celebrate the winter holidays
and bless our sabbatical time as congregation and minister.

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DECEMBER SERVICE PREVIEWS

December 4 To Truly Love One Another

~Rev. Katie Kandarian-Morris and members of the Anti-Racist, Multi-Cultural Alliance

For this day, we'll continue to celebrate the multi-cultural world in which we find ourselves living. What ways can we make our congregation ready to receive and welcome this world? How can it make us better?

December 11 In Seed Time, Learn

~Rev. Katie Kandarian-Morris

In this season of Advent, we make preparations not only for Christmas, but for the upcoming ministerial sabbatical. We call a sabbatical the fallow time, but it is a time of growth for both minister and congregation.

December 13 7pm Weeknight Music & Meditation

~Marla Bacina and Rev. Katie Kandarian-Morris

Join us this Tuesday evening for a repeat of this December night of readings, music and silence. We'll find serenity in the season, perfect antidote for holiday noise and chaos.

December 18 Duermete, Niño Lindo

~Rev. Katie Kandarian-Morris and Irene Stefanko

MULTI-GENERATIONAL

Celebrate the multitude of the holiday celebration together in community. We'll present our instant Christmas pageant, so come ready to participate, and we'll listen to music from the choir, share in the joy of religious and spiritual truths of the season.

After worship, join in for the holiday and sabbatical launch party!

December 24 7pm Christmas Eve candle lighting - Love Prevails

~ Rev. Katie Kandarian-Morris
On this quiet night we come together to consider what is most important. We'll sing the carols, light candles and go into the night with more awe, wonder and appreciation for the ordinary and sacred Christmas message.

December 25 Many Gifts ~Rev. Katie Kandarian-Morris
Come, this Christmas morning to share in a casual service of music, meditation and blessings for our shared ministry. Say goodbye to our minister as the sabbatical begins.

**HAPPY
HOLIDAYS
TO ALL**



MERRY EVERYTHING GOOD KATIE'S BAY VIEW

I love December with all of its full-blown complexity. Besides entering into a real change of seasons, December contains more than the usual share of holidays. These festivities honor varying religious traditions, all of them meaningful, valid and relevant to particular members of the community. Hanukkah occurs sometime in December, moving around each calendar year. This year it falls between December 20 and 28th. In Judaism Hanukkah is a minor holiday, but it's important to remember not only for its message of freedom and miracle making, but also as a corrective to the blinders that sometimes appear in the Christian and secular world that bring Christmas ubiquity and omnipresence. The winter solstice marks that inevitable turn of the star wheel at the darkest time of the year. It reminds us of the earth-centered traditions that find their way into other winter events. Advent and Christmas are holy days recognizing that birth, whether it be sacred or an ordinary miracle, is a recognition that life should go on, and recognized even in the "lowliest" of places. The African-American celebration of Kwanzaa brings together history, culture and family in a weeklong awareness.

I'm a big fan of Advent and Christmas and I find that I sometimes wrestle with an attempt to put the rest of the holiday observances in a month already chock-full. And yet, I can't imagine loving Christmas like I do in a religious tradition that didn't hold some sort of place for the diversity of faith traditions. When my kids were little, we would always light the menorah and say a blessing for the day. I think I confused them at the time—for a number of years they thought we were Jewish. As adults, they have a more mature understanding that we placed value on respecting the wisdom from the world's traditions that inspire us in our ethical and spiritual life. My kids' dad celebrates his birthday on the 21st of December, and solstice traditions were inherent in that midwinter day.

This season is a reminder for me also of the great diversity of belief and expression of these holidays. I know there is a great chance that you will not be in sync with me and so I am challenged to keep an open mind for the way you do the holidays. Regardless of whether you do them up with visits from family, piles of generosity, or a simplicity of activity and spirit, let me wish you well. I wish you every kind of happiness at this time of year, and I pray for you to have everything that makes you more whole. Most of all, I wish you peace—deep, deep peace.

*With Love,
Katie*



Debbie Frederick is healing well from her broken arm.

Frank Burton has a new knee.

Chris Selig's mother is continuing to recover.

Mike Preston's mother died and we send our support to him and his family.

Margarita Jacob needs our healing energy as she suffers with her spinal problem.



SKUU BOARD NEWS

By Andy Hansen—SKUU Board President

Greetings! I hope your holidays are feeling satisfying and manageable as you read this. It's axiomatic that holidays are "supposed to be" filled with family, friends and cheer, along with at least a few gifts given and received. "Supposed to be" can be such a tyrant!

I remember spending the winter holidays with my gathered family in Nebraska a decade or so ago. The details are beyond my recall, but I was having a *terrible* time and finding a lot of fault in my loved ones and my own life. I felt *so depressed* about it afterward. Going back for the next winter holiday, I worried that my current visit would recapitulate my angst of the prior one. Thankfully, I was inspired with a new approach to the holidays that I still employ: The "Good Enough Holidays." I realized I was setting the bar too high: I didn't actually need a *great* holiday or family visit; a "good enough" one would do.

What would I need for my "good enough holiday?" I tried to set modest yet meaningful criteria: I would like to go to one holiday party; give and get at least one gift; do one unselfish thing to improve someone else's holiday; sing Christmas Carols with someone; have at least one person I could check in with about how we each were *truly* experiencing the holidays. If I could have these things, I decided, my holiday would be "good enough" to merit honest satisfaction.

Devising my "good enough" list is only half the process, though. The other half is *planning how to reach my goals*. I have a lot of control over whether my list is achieved. (If I don't, then my list needs revision.) I can ask someone to exchange an inexpensive, thoughtful gift with me. I can be alert for party opportunities and, if necessary, ask to attend one. I can always find ways be of service to others. I can ask someone to be my Holiday Friend to check in with if things get hairy; I can even pre-plan certain times to check in, to avoid shyness about picking up the phone.

Should my "good enough" holiday plans fall short somehow, Plan B kicks in: make a gratitude list. I can *a/ways* find blessings to appreciate, like having eyes to see and living in a country where bombs don't routinely explode. Simple, important blessings. That said, however, I've never failed to manage "good enough" holidays since I began planning them. This allows me to look back on them and feel contented, not short-changed.

That's good enough for me.

Happy Holidays and a blessed, beloved and loving New Year!

Warmly,





Religious Exploration

By Irene Stefanko Director of Religious Exploration

"We don't give thanks because we're happy. We are happy because we give thanks." Douglas Woods

On December 4, 2011, Cynthia Breeden-Johnson the Literacy Plus Program Coordinator at Hayward Public Library will be visiting our Religious Exploration Program. She will bring us a marvelous gift. She will bring us information about children who would love to have books in their homes to read. She'll tell us their first name, their age, and something about their interests. Then the children and youth in our Religious Exploration program will prepare a "little library" for each child wishing books.

Each little library will include about 10 books especially chosen for each child. The books will be placed into a backpack and then the backpack will be personalized with the name of the child who will receive it. On December 10, 2010, about 40 "little libraries" will be delivered to the Literacy Plus Program for distribution during their holiday party.

There is plenty of work to be done before the libraries can be assembled. First, we will be collecting children's books that can be used in the project. If you have any children's books that you no longer need we welcome them for use in this project. Please place them in the box labeled "little libraries" in the hall at the church. Or we could also use your "helping hands. Over the next two weeks we'll need to separate about 40 boxes of books by age and interests and prepare the backpacks for filling. If you would like to help, please come join us on 11/20/11 or 11/27/11 from 11:45 pm to 1:45 pm or 12/4/11 from 10:45 am to 1:45 pm in the area where the pre-school and school-age religious exploration occurs.

These little libraries are powerful indeed. As Katherine Mansfield reminds us that "The pleasure of all reading is doubled when one lives with another who shares the same books."

RE HAPPENINGS FOR DECEMBER Preschool and School Age:

DATE	ACTIVITY
DEC. 4	Giving Cynthia Breeden-Johnson of the Literacy Plus Program the 'little libraries'
DEC. 11	Wahoo! The Insect Discovery Lab will be visiting us.
DEC. 18	Multigenerational Worship and Holiday Party
DEC. 24	Multigenerational Worship: A Christmas Eve Tradition
DEC. 25	Multigenerational Worship: Many Gifts: A Service of Music, Meditation and Blessings,

Infants and Toddlers Care in Fellowship Hall



ARE YOU TECH SAVVY?

LIKE WORKING WITH YOUTH?








































PUT YOUR SKILLS TO GOOD USE!

The Starr King UU Church religious education council is looking for adults who are interested in working with a few nine and ten year olds on a project, possibly a video. Adults need to be tech savvy and enjoy working with youth. Please talk to Irene Stefanko, Doug Sprague, or Lea Casini.

BOARD NEWS

- Starr King Church received the **Creating Justice Banner Society Award** from the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee. The award will be acknowledged in UU World, and in the UUSC annual report and website.
- In response to requests from charitable organizations to use the church Directory the Board decided to restrict the Directory to the church community. We will assist charities in other ways.
- A document describing procedures for the many ways of the church members can make announcements was adopted. It will be able to be accessed from the church website.
- Progress is continuing to be made on planning for the hilltop site.
- **Next Board Meeting Thurs. Dec. 1, 7:00 PM**

DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

																
	4	Devlin Clark		24	Chris Selig											
	7	Mary Lou Schuler		27	Natasha Bugosh											
	13	Zelma Nunez-Borja		29	Glen Jacob											
	13	Stuart Fink		31	Janet Durant											
																



FESCO

GIFTS UNDER THE TREE OR A ROOF OVER THE HEAD?

The following is a portion of the FESCO's Executive Director's article in their newsletter:

"We believe the most important thing our supporters can do for homeless families this Christmas is to ensure that they have a safe, warm place to stay in a supportive environment so that next year, these families will have a home of their own.

The cost of a day at the Shelter for one person -- food, services, utilities, maintenance, and other direct costs -- is \$50. Given our average family size, one night's stay for a family costs \$160. If **FESCO supporters** donate in cash the same amount spent on gifts in previous years, families with nowhere to go at Christmas and throughout the year will continue to have a safe, welcoming environment to help them find their way home again.

There are other programs in our community that provide Christmas gifts for children. Local volunteer groups provide Christmas parties for the families at our shelter. If you were planning to participate in the Adopt a Family program this year, we ask that you consider adopting a family's shelter stay instead."

Starr King has always staunchly supported FESCO. The response to last year's "Move-In Kits" was phenomenal. We provided kits enough to last well beyond this Christmas! Let's listen again to the director's suggestion (plea?) and help in the manner known to be most beneficial.

How many days, for how many families can we provide? Enough to be proud of, surely.

A **FESCO** tree will be available for the donations.

Decorate an envelope; Insert a check; Hang it on the tree using brightly colored ribbons .

“Transforming Ourselves and the World”

The PCD will be holding a series of workshops on “**Transforming Ourselves and the World**”

The first workshop in the series will cover the subject: “**Transforming the Failures of the 20th Century with an Engaged Faith for the Future**”

and will be held at the Berkeley UU Church from on starting Sat. Feb. 4. from 10AM to 4PM.

The cost is 40\$ which includes lunch.

For further information go to the PCD website <http://www.pcd-uua.org/>

UNITARIAN-UNIVERSALISTS AND THE "OCCUPY" MOVEMENT

BY FRANK BURTON *JUUst SOCIAL CHANGE*

Are you wondering how to relate to the Occupy Movement (Occupy Wall Street, et al)?

Is the Occupy Movement the Left's answer to the Tea Party?

Is the Occupy Movement the American Autumn following in the footsteps of the Arab Spring?

What are other thinking UUs saying about it?

There are striking parallels between the objectives which are beginning to form in the Occupy Movement with the objectives of dozens of mainstream progressive political organizations, including AFL/CIO, AFSCME, Code Pink, Faithful America, MoveOn.org, Planned Parenthood, People for the American Way, Progressive Democrats for America, and the Sierra Club. These organizations and dozens of others have composed a **Contract for the American Dream**, setting forth ten planks in a platform for congressional action, such as:

- End the Wars and Invest in America's Infrastructure
- Tax Wall Street Speculation
- Return to Fairer Tax Rates
- Invest in Public Education
- Offer Medicare for All
- Secure Social Security

Over 300,000 Americans have signed the **Contract for the American Dream**. For more information about it, go to <http://contract.rebuildthedream.com/>

While the Occupy Movement has been with us for a little over two months, many people still wonder about its lack of focus. The Unitarian Universalist Service Committee has tied the Occupy Movement into Unitarian Universalist principles in the following open letter.

Open Letter of Support for the Occupy Movement

"I stand with people around the country and the world who are calling for economic justice. My values affirm that each person has inherent worth and dignity; that justice, equity, and compassion should be the guiding principles for human relationships; and that all people deserve access to the democratic process.

"My recognition of the inherent worth of every person compels me to speak out against policies that privilege the demands of corporations over the human rights of people. I support the Occupy movement in its affirmation that protecting workers' rights and ensuring that basic human needs are met must take precedence. All people have a fundamental right to a standard of living adequate for the health and well-being of themselves and their families.

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 8)

UNITARIAN-UNIVERSALISTS AND THE "OCCUPY" MOVEMENT cont.

Open Letter of Support for the Occupy Movement (cont.)

"I also join the Occupy movement in decrying the wealth disparity that leaves millions struggling for economic security. Policies and legislation that promote economic marginalization are morally unacceptable. Everyone is entitled to a government that recognizes and promotes basic economic rights. Justice, equity, and compassion should be foremost in our government's decision making.

"Economic oppression is not only a violation of fundamental human rights, it is also a blow to democracy. When economic power is concentrated in the hands of a few and when corporations are awarded the same status as actual human beings, the democratic process is fundamentally compromised. Basic fairness requires that all people have equal opportunity to participate in political debate and to be represented in government.

"I envision a powerful and radically inclusive movement for economic justice. I recognize economic justice as a right that is due to all people, regardless of race, ethnicity, gender, sexual orientation, language, religion, political or other opinion, immigration status, national or social origin, property, birth, or other status or distinction.

"I sign this letter as an expression of gratitude to all who are working for economic justice in the United States and around the world, as an affirmation of my hope for fair and compassionate economic reforms, and as a renewal of my commitment to help make it so."

TIME Magazine summarized the Occupy Movement in an article entitled "Taking it to the Streets," available here:

https://docs.google.com/document/d/19wCZSsBsZV8Vb-OOLEfv2MulbQzf_xRXP0j6JjLC3zM/edit

TIME also found a link between the Occupy Movement and mainstream progressive organizations in the **Rebuild the Dream Movement** which is being led by Van Jones, former member of President Obama's team who was hounded out of the Administration by conservatives who vilified his earlier flirtation with a Marxist organization: Here's the link to that article:

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1KzLXIGuiZoIN9DFPRuQujSB8BqSQFvsyuNxspmBYzug/edit>

Starr King's JUUst Social Change Committee (formerly Social Justice Committee) is hoping to sponsor a Teach-In about the Occupy Movement some Sunday afternoon soon. If you're interested either in participating in the Teach-In -- or just in attending it -- please send an email to frank.burton.now@gmail.com.

If you could put in the December Chalice that if anyone is interested in bringing refreshments for the Christmas Eve service on 12-24, please contact Lavon Hodges at 510-487-8362 or at LavonH6661@comcast.net. Much appreciated.

IMPORTANT DATES FOR YOUR CALENDAR

Dec. 3rd. 10:00AM to 1:00PM

Rev. Mark Morrison-Reed “**Eight Keys to Becoming a Multicultural Congregation**”

Dec. 18th.

Our **Holiday Party** / Katie's Sabbatical Send Off Party. Inter-generational Service, **Tree decorating** / **Pot luck** Good Wishes for Katie and the Congregation during Katie's Sabbatical.

Dec. 24th. 7:00 PM

Christmas Eve Service

Dec. 25th 2:00 PM

Christmas Dinner at SKUUC. All are welcome. Sign up sheet in the Fellowship Hall. Contact - Colleen & Dirk Dino

Jan. 1st.

\$100 **Deposit for Ashland Trip** due to Donnie Rett

Jan. 21st.

Circle Supper Sign up sheet in the Fellowship Hall

Feb. 25th.

Service Auction

TODAY !

Time to Start Thinking of a Service You Could Offer for the Service Auction

WANTED:

Sunday Coffee Servers & Snack Donations

Signup sheets will be located at the Community Table in the Fellowship hall.

Please see Lavon Hodges if you have any questions. Many Thanks

Come one, come all - spread the word! Another great weekend in Ashland

ASHLAND – 2012

Twelfth (or so) annual fun trip north. Purpose is to enjoy each other's company and to see several plays produced by a world-class company. Lodging - Plaza Inn, as in the past. Attendees arrange their own transportation.

Further details (welcome, group dinner, back stage tour(?) TBA.

Arranged by Starr King Unitarian Universalist Church in Hayward.

PARTICULARS:

DATES: Friday, March 30 – Sunday, April 1

(extra night before or after may be arranged ahead at our special rate . . . must be done **early**, as this depends on how full the Plaza is)

PLAYS: Fri. evening – *The White Snake*

Sat. afternoon – *Romeo and Juliet*

Sat. evening – *Animal Crackers*

(Sun. morning) - Talk by actor

COST: \$250.00 per person, double occupancy

DEPOSIT: \$100. due by January 1, 2012

Full payment due March 1, 2012

CONTACT INFO:

Donnie Rett – bdrett146@att.net

15902 Wellington Way

San Leandro, CA 94578

(510)276-0545

Further info to follow. Watch your email and/or Starr King's weekly announcement sheet and *The Flaming Chalice*.

Reservation Form:

Name: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Amount enclosed: _____

Rooming with: _____

ON GOING FUN AND UPCOMING ACTIVITIES

- BOOK CLUB** The book group will meet Thursday, December 8, 7 PM, at the home of Marge Schwab (510-538-3226) to discuss *Cutting for Stone* by Abraham Verghese. All are welcome. Please notify the hostess if you plan to attend.
- CHURCH BOOKSTORE** The bookstore is open every 3rd. Sunday (December 18) after the service
- DRUM CIRCLE** Meets the 1st. Friday (December 2) from 7-9 PM. Come enjoy a fun and spiritual evening
- EVENING MEDITATION** Meets every Wednesday from 7- 8pm. Come practice meditation and reap its benefits.
- STARR KING ELDERS** Meets every 3rd Wednesday (December 21) at 12:00 noon. Bring your lunch and enjoy learning about and discussing topics of particular interest to our elder (self-identified) members
- FILM GROUP** Saturday, December 3, 2011 At 7:00 P.M.at Stuart Fink's Home "Saving Grace" (2000) Starring Brenda Blethyn And Craig Ferguson. Comedy About A Financially Struggling Widow (Rated R For Language). Let Stuart know if you are coming and please bring a movie snack to share.
- JUUST SOCIAL CHANGE** Meets on the second Sunday (December 11) after the service, at 11:45 AM. All are welcome.
- MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE** Meets on the third Sunday of each month (December 18), after the service at 12:00 P.M.
- MORNING DISCOVERY** Meets in the fellowship hall from 10 to 11:15 A.M. on first and third Wednesdays (December 7 & 21). All are welcome to join us to explore community and spirituality, discussion and shared silence.
- NO ROOM FOR RACISM** Vigils are held every third Friday (December 16) from 4 to 5 P.M. at the intersection of Jackson-Mission-Foothill. An opportunity to stand for your values! Sponsored by South Hayward Parish.
- STARR KING PARENTS** To join this active, informative and fun group, contact Sara Raymond at seraymond@gmail.com
- SKIFFLE** Meets 1st. Wednesday of the month (December 7) from 7 to 9 PM. If you're considering coming for the first time, best to give a call to Bob Meyerson at 510 581 2037.
- SKIT** Improv. group meets in the Sanctuary on 2nd. and 4th. Thursdays at 7:30 P.M. (December 8 & 22)
-

HOW TO REACH US

Starr King Unitarian Universalist Church

22577 Bayview Avenue

Hayward, CA 94541

Church Office: 510/581.2060

office@starrking.org

Parish Minister: Kathryn Kandarian-Morris

minister@starrking.org

Home phone: 510/537.6565

Church President: Andy Hansen

president@starrking.org

Home phone: 510/301-6938

Church Website: <http://www.starrking.org>

Webmaster Beth Olgilvie,

webmaster@starrking.org

Church Office Hours

Tuesday, Wednesday & Thursday

9:00am-2:00pm

Church Leadership

Board of Trustees

President: Andy Hansen
 Vice President: Colleen Dino
 Secretary: Nancy Harrison
 Treasurer: Frank Satterwhite
 At Large: Lea Casini

Roy Dickerson
 Georgia Gruver
 Glen Jacob
 Donnie Rett
 Mary Swain

Office Manager: Kelli Abatangelo

Minister: Rev. Katie Kandarian-Morris
 Religious Education Dir. Irene Boczek

Committee Chairs

Adult Religious Education – Chris Selig

Buildings –

Chalice Editor – Georgia Gruver

Church Website – Beth Olgilvie

Committee Council – Colleen Dino

Committee Ministry-Bob Britton, Doris Haskell,

Dirk Dino, Diana Dickerson, Keith Lewis

Communications Comm. – Melody Appleton

FESCO – Donnie Rett

Finance — Keith Lewis

Fundraising – Karen Cook

Hospitality/Membership – Diane Meyerson

Green Sanctuary – Stephanie Smith

Grounds – Carol Henrie, Walt Korus

Interior – Sherry Thomas

Kitchen Manager – Sherry Thomas

Pastoral Care – Karen Cook

R.E. Council – Doug Sprague

SKARF – Carey Sanchez Para

Social – Joyce Kinnear

Social Justice – Evelyn Cormier

South Hayward Parish – Jim Forsyth

Sunday Coffee – Lavon Hodges

Ushers – Susan Blanc

Volunteer Coordinator – Karen Cook

Worship Committee – Bob Meyerson

Publishing Deadline:

2nd Sunday of the Month Prior to Publication.

Please put all contributions in writing & keep articles under 500 words.

Post to:

Georgia Gruver

2932 Tribune Ave.

Hayward, CA 94542-

Email to:

newslettereditor@starrking.org