



## Newsletter

***Starr King Unitarian-  
Universalist Church of  
Hayward California***

***April 2016***

# THE FLAMING CHALICE

**Church Office Hours: Tues, Wed, and Thur; 9:30 AM  
to 2:30 PM**

**22577 Bayview Avenue**

**Hayward, CA 94541-510-581-2060**

**Office Manager: Kelli Abatangelo:  
office@starrking.org**

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

**Newsletter: [newslettereditor@starrking.org](mailto:newslettereditor@starrking.org)**

**Parish Minister (Interim): Rev. Joy Atkinson  
minister@starrking.org**

**Church President: Diana Dickerson  
president@starrking.org  
Home phone: 510-786-2922**

**Director of Religious Exploration: Allison Prout  
dre@starrking.org  
DRE Office Hours: Wed, Thurs, 10:30 AM to 2:30 PM**

## **Sunday Worship: 10:30 AM February Service Preview**

April 3

**April's Fool: The Comic and the Cosmic**

Rev. Joy Atkinson

Laughter is good for the body, the soul, and the community, and the comic spirit can be a vehicle for self-transcendence. There is so much to be serious about—the sorry state of politics; the urgent needs of the world; our personal troubles, losses, and worries. This Sunday, let's put our concerns aside for a moment, explore the comic spirit, and usher in the month of April with a bit of mirth.

April 10 (UU Service Committee Justice Sunday)  
**Compassion, Community and the Pursuit of  
Happiness**

Rev. Joy Atkinson

In a nation obsessed with consumerism, which measures success by the gross national product, what has happened to compassion, sharing and a sense of community? What did our nation's founders mean by "the pursuit of happiness?" The collection this Sunday will support the work of the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee.

April 17

**Hungry for Truth**

Laura Thompson

Our fourth principle promotes a free and responsible search for truth and meaning in our lives. Join ministerial candidate Laura Thompson as she shares a theological recipe for finding truth. Laura Thompson is currently serving as the Ministerial Intern and Campus Minister at the UU Church of Davis. Her permanent home is St. Paul, Minnesota.

April 24 (Earth Day Service)

**Re-Weaving the Web**

Rev. Joy Atkinson

The seventh principle of our Association calls upon to affirm the "interdependent web of all existence of which we are a part." As a species, we have been responsible for tearing at the strands of the delicate web of life that sustains us on our planet, through such phenomena as global warming, extinction of species, oil spills, ozone depletion. What can we do to repair some of the damage?

## ***What's Inside***

Sunday Services, cover  
Birthdays & Announcements, 2  
Words of Joy (Minister's Report), 3  
Common Read Book Discussion, 3  
President's Column, 4  
Weed & Feed, 4  
RE Reflections, 5

Seder Invitation, 6  
Search Committee Report, 6  
New Members' Welcome, 7  
PCD Annual Meeting, 7  
Hiking Group, 8  
FESCO Shelter Shuffle, 8-10  
April Calendar, 11

## ***Birthdays & Announcements***

**Colleen Saia** has compiled a spreadsheet for all of our birthdays. You can see a complete printout on the welcome table at the back of the Social Hall. Please contact her with any additions or corrections.

### ***April Birthdays***

Date	Name	Date	Name
3	Andrea Kuftin	21	Andy Matthews
10	Karen Carrell	23	Henry Wagner
11	Frank Satterwhite	27	Stephanie Smith
14	Georgia Gruver	28	Charlie Murdach
16	Molly Hitchings	30	Bill Schuler

### ***Starr King Earth Day Fair—Coming April 24!***

- Who** You and Sulphur Creek Nature Center, Sunnyslope Farms, Stopwaste.org, Citizen's Climate Lobby and [More!](#)
- What** Animals, Education, Art, Plants, and Opportunities to Grow a Greener World
- Where** Starr King Unitarian Universalist Church, of course
- When** Sunday, April 24, after church service \*



***\*Children will be able to meet the Sulphur Creek animals and attend the fair during the service! Please have them wear clothing that's ok to get dirty!***

**Wanted:** As always, we gratefully accept gently used items for the Freecycle table and any plants/seeds you'd care to share.

QUESTIONS? Please contact Colleen Saia, 510-773-1497

### ***April Game Night!***

The next Starr King Game Night will be Saturday, April 16, 2016, 6:30 to 9:00 PM at the church. Please join us for an enjoyable evening of lively, inter-generational game-playing. Bring a snack to share, your favorite game(s), and a friend or two. Drinks will be provided. Even if you cannot bring anything, please come and join the fun. Questions may be directed to Rene or Rene' Castle or Beverly Powell.



## ***Words of Joy***

***by  
Joy Atkinson,  
Interim Minister***

Near the beginning of April, the hard-working Ministerial Search Committee will ask one of the “pre-candidates” they have been interviewing to be the candidate for the settled ministry of this congregation. And then, in May, comes the moment you have been waiting for—the presentation of the ministerial candidate during what we call “candidating week,” which is a very intensive week in the life of a congregation and of a ministerial candidate. The minister will speak on two consecutive Sundays, and be available during the intervening week to meet with groups, committees and in various social functions. Following the second service that the candidate presents, a congregational meeting will convene to discuss and vote on whether or not to call the candidate as your settled minister.

This process of calling a minister is a vital and participatory one in the life of a UU congregation. Unlike some other religious traditions, Unitarian Universalism operates through congregational polity. Only the congregation has the power to call and to ordain ministers. Ministers are not ordained by or appointed to congregations via the authority of a denominational body. The *congregation* is the authorized body. So it is especially important for all voting members to participate in this process—to listen to and meet the candidate, to be part of the discussion at the congregational meeting, and to vote. This is a very exciting time in the life of a UU congregation!

Spring is a time for new beginnings, and this spring in particular, a new era is dawning at Starr King Unitarian Universalist Church. May this season, bringing the freshness of new blooms after a rainy winter, also bring freshness and renewal to Starr King Church, and to the ongoing journey that is your life!



***Joy***

### ***Common Read—Book Discussion***

Join us immediately following the service on April 17 for a discussion of the book ***Why Are All the Black Kids Sitting Together in the Cafeteria?*** A Common Read invites participants to read and discuss the same book in a given period of time—a means of building community by giving diverse people a shared experience, shared language, and a basis for deep, meaningful conversations.

## ***President's Report***

***by Diana  
Dickerson***



Just when I thought we were as busy as we could possibly be, the 2016.2017 canvass began! Stephanie Smith and Diane Meyerson had been working and planning behind the scenes. On March 12, they hosted a delicious meal for about 60 people--the kick-off of our Canvass Campaign. Chris Appleton was the chef, and the fare was terrific. During the meal (between courses) we sang fractured songs – old classics with new words about pledging.

Rev. Joy was our emcee and she joked, lead our singing, and generally kept things moving along and kept us entertained.

Sunday morning our canvassers got what they needed to contact every member in person to talk about our budget and how we fund it. We asked our supporters to consider an increase of 10 or 15 percent of their current pledge to fund our proposed budget. If everyone were able to raise their pledge by 15% we could add a Choir Director to our staff. Many members have mentioned that they would like to have a larger choir and this is the way to move in that direction. It would help a great deal if everyone would try to meet with your canvasser in person.

Our Committee Chairs are beginning to provide their annual reports for our Annual Congregational meeting on Sunday, May 1, 2016 right after the service. The last day to turn in reports is April 5, 2016. We have to mail the meeting notice with the agenda and the reports by April 21, 2016 as required in our bylaws. Kelli will be working on this and still will need time for her regular duties, so please get your reports in on time.

Many of us are preparing for the annual Ashland trip to see plays. Usually only one is from Shakespeare and there are two other offerings. It is a lot of fun to share this experience with friends. I will tell you more in May.

Thank you all,  
Diana Dickerson

### **WEED 'N FEED: SATURDAY, April 9**

**10:00 - 12:00 (Work Party)**

**12:00 - 1:00 (Potluck Lunch)**

Calling all green and brown thumbs! Please join the Committee Council to get SKUU's grounds ready for spring. Please bring a potluck item to share, your own gloves, sunscreen, hat and any gardening tools you may wish to use/share. Sign-up sheet in back of fellowship hall.

NB: If you're able to do some gardening between any of the Weed & Feeds, Walt Korus could always use help. So feel free to check in with him and "come on down!" Questions? Please contact Diana Dickerson



## ***Create Rituals that Foster Connection***

In March, my daughter and I attended game night at Starr King. I cannot remember the last time I laughed so heartily. I forgot how good it felt! Playing games allows us to step outside of ourselves for a while, and forget our worries. It allows us to see the childlike side of adults that they seldom show to others. It is a great way to build community.

Consequently, my family decided to hold a weekly game night to foster better communication and connection between us. We found that our habit of watching TV together in the evenings didn't foster the kind of interaction we'd like. So, one night a week we will be forced to work together, and to talk to each other, rather than retreating into our own little worlds.

I encourage you to do something that will keep the communication flowing in your family. If not game night, then regular discussions during dinner are a good option. For example, each family member can share one good thing and one bad thing that happened to them that day. Or, you can ask family members to name one thing that they are grateful for. A daily gratitude practice is a great way to keep a positive perspective.

Building and maintaining family and community connections is important work; it is the basis for creating a fair and peaceful world. I invite you to come and build connections by playing games together. Our next Game Night will be on Saturday, April 16 at 6:00 PM in the Fellowship Hall, families welcome. A Family that plays together, Stays together!

*Allison*

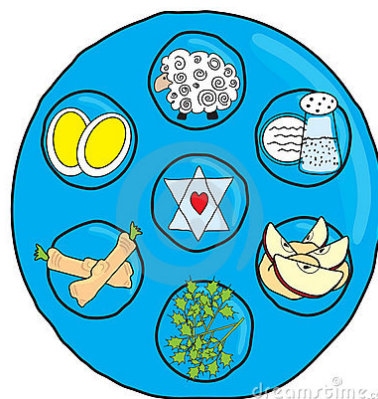


## ***Join us for Starr King's Annual Passover Seder***

Come join the festivities and hear the timeless tale of Passover, told by Reverend Joy using the *UU Haggadah*. It's a meal filled with traditional symbolism and song; fun for the whole family. We will meet at 6:00 PM on Saturday, April 23, and sit down for Seder at 6:30. Meal will follow Seder at 7:00 pm. Do not come hungry!! Look for signup sheets in Fellowship Hall in April.



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dreamstime.com

## ***From the Search Committee***

## ***We're Almost There***

***By Heidi Green***

Your Search Committee has exciting news. By the time you read this, we will have chosen the candidate we will present to you in May! However, we won't find out until sometime between April 7<sup>th</sup> and April 10<sup>th</sup> whether our chosen candidate has also chosen us.

Here's the process: We will let the Transitions Office know who we want by April 4<sup>th</sup>, and we will make the offer on April 7<sup>th</sup> at noon. That's when all the congregations will make their offers. While we hope our candidate will immediately say YES!, there are a few days for considering the offer.

If we and our candidate are a match, we'll let you know we have a candidate at church on Sunday, April 10<sup>th</sup>. However, we won't be able to tell you who it is until we run a background check, negotiate the terms, talk with additional references, and some paperwork. As soon as we possibly can, we will let you know who we are respectfully bringing to you for your consideration.

We have a tentative candidating week set up from May 7 to May 15. Both Sundays the candidate will preach, and we'd like to encourage you now to clear your calendars to plan to be there, especially for the second Sunday. That's the day we'll vote on whether to call the candidate. In between the Sundays, the candidate will attend various special meetings of committees in order to get acquainted. These will not be meetings for regular business, but rather the agenda would be to get to know each other.

We are looking for a unanimous vote in favor of the candidate!

It's possible the week may shift slightly, depending on the candidate we choose, but we will let you know as soon as possible so you can make your plans.

Thanks for hanging in there with us, and for trusting us with this incredibly important decision. This has been a high-integrity process in which all of us have been fully engaged, and we are very impressed by the individuals we have interviewed.

We can't wait to tell you more!!!



## ***Welcome New Members***

On Sunday, March 20 we introduced and welcomed three new members to our congregation. Short profiles of these new members are given below. If you haven't yet met them, be sure to introduce yourself to them when you see them around!

**Beverly Powell** moved to San Leandro 12 years ago to support family members already living here. She came here from Chicago, but grew up on the East Coast - Miami and New York. She attended college in New England. She is retired. At church, Beverly is enjoying being in the Small Group Ministry program and serving on the Pastoral Care Committee. At home, she likes gardening, reading and bread-baking.

**Sheila McClellan** grew up in this area. She and her brother learned to swim where the Crow Canyon and San Lorenzo Creeks merge, and she grazed her goats at Don Castro. Sheila has a general secondary teaching credential and a masters in environmental education with a focus in horticultural therapy. She has taught high school and then moved into an eclectic career as a director of various mental health programs. She now teaches part time at Baywood Retirement Center. Sheila and family joined this church in 1972. Her children, Katie and Ian, started in the nursery and became baby sitters. Twenty-five years ago she met her partner, Ethel-May. (see next profile). Sheila says that this church is a warm welcoming home for her and Ethel May.

**Ethel-May Shaw** was born and raised in the Bay Area. She has taught high school students, worked as a potter, taught older adults, and worked with individuals afflicted with severe psychiatric illnesses. Though retired, she still teaches a ceramics class at the Hayward Arts and Recreation District's Senior Center. Her spiritual practices include Catholicism, Siddha yoga, gardening, music, literature, art, and psychology. She is honored to be welcomed into this church, and looks forward to continuing to pursue her knowledge and celebration of the mysteries, sanctity, and harmonies of the world.

**PCD-UUA ANNUAL MEETING COMING SOON**

**April 22-24, 2016 - Fremont Doubletree Inn**

**This years theme:**

***Congregational Excellence:***

***Doing Together What We Cannot Do Alone!***

**For complete information, registration and reservations go to:**

**<http://www.pcduua.org/events/district-assembly/>**

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## ***Hiking Group News***

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Twelve people participated in the March 26 hike in Garin Park, and here they are! This hike was so successful that another one is now planned for April 2 (see below).

Sounds like hikes may become a permanent activity for SKUUC!



### **Saturday April 2 10AM: Join Us for an 8.2-Mile Hike to Meyers Cottage in Garin Park**

Bob Simoni will lead another hike in Garin Park. We'll start at the trailhead entrance on Ziele Creek Drive in Hayward where parking is free. We'll first hike downhill past Garin Barn to Meyers Cottage on the hilltop trail and then back to Garin Barn following Dry Creek. That's a total of 5.5 miles. We could have the picnic lunch at Meyer's Cottage or Garin Barn. To hike back up to the trail entrance from Garin Barn is another 2.7 miles for a total of 8.2 miles. If some people don't want to end the hike with this somewhat arduous climb, they could arrange to have a friend continue on and then drive back to the Garin Barn lot and get them (or you could do a car shuttle before the hike so a car is waiting at the Garin Barn lot, which is the park's main entrance).

This hike is also listed with the hiking group from the UU Churches in Redwood City and Palo Alto, so it's a good opportunity to meet fellow UUs from nearby churches. Bring lunch, water, and good shoes. Additional water and bathrooms are available at Garin Barn and Meyer's Cottage. Hiking shoes and a hiking pole are recommended. For questions, Bob's email is [bobsimoni@gmail.com](mailto:bobsimoni@gmail.com).



### ***2016 FESCO SHUFFLE WALKATHON***

Support FESCO (Family Emergency Shelter Coalition) in its efforts to end family homelessness in Alameda County by joining us at our Nineteenth Annual FESCO Shuffle Walkathon on Saturday, April 30. You can walk as a team or as an individual in this family-friendly, dog-friendly event along the beautiful path at the San Leandro Marina. Check-in starts at 8:30 am at the Seagull Picnic Site and the walk begins at 10:00. You can walk from one to three miles, or even be a benchwarmer! The event also offers morning refreshments, lunch, entertainment, and a raffle!

*Continued on page 9*

## ***FESCO Shelter Shuffle Walkathon (continued)***

*Continued from page 8.*

If you are attending, you can sponsor yourself or get your friends and families to sponsor you. If you are unable to attend, please consider sponsoring a walker or making a direct financial contribution to FESCO. Your donations make it possible for FESCO to help homeless families gain stability and find permanent housing! Sign up to walk or to donate at [www.firstgiving.com/21524/19th-annual-fesco-shuffle](http://www.firstgiving.com/21524/19th-annual-fesco-shuffle).

For more information or a pledge sheet, go to [www.fescofamilysHELTER.org](http://www.fescofamilysHELTER.org) or call Joy Vail at the FESCO office at 510-886-5473, ext. 105.

Here is a map of the San Leandro Marina Park. **Change :** This year, the Shuffle will be in the Seagull Picnic Area; be sure to park in lot closest to that area. The full flyer appears on the following page.





Helping families gain stability  
and permanent housing

## FESCO Shuffle Annual Walkathon

Saturday  
April 30, 2016  
San Leandro  
Marina Park

Seagull  
Picnic Site

**Get out.  
Get active.  
Give back.**

Join hundreds of walkers as they take a step toward ending family homelessness.

Walk as an individual or as a team in this family-friendly, dog-friendly walk along the beautiful paths of the San Leandro Marina Park.

## Schedule

- 8:30 am Check-in/T-shirt pickup
- 9:30 am Opening Ceremony
- 10:00 am Walk Start
- 11:00 am Lunch & Entertainment
- 12:00 noon Closing Ceremony



## Sign up!

Online team sign-up at:  
[www.firstgiving.com/21524/19th-annual-fesco-shuffle](http://www.firstgiving.com/21524/19th-annual-fesco-shuffle)

**[www.fescofamilyshester.org](http://www.fescofamilyshester.org)**

For more information call:  
Joy Vail, Office Manager, 510-886-5473, x105

# Church Calendar For April, 2016

For details about any of these activities, go to [starrking.org/calendar](http://starrking.org/calendar), and let your cursor hover over a particular event.

April 2016							« Prev	Next »
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday		
<b>3</b> * 9:30 am Ashland Trip (all day) * 10:30 am Worship Service * 11:40 am First Sunday Visitor's Circle	<b>4</b> * 7:00 pm Small Group Ministry	<b>5</b> * 9:00 am Deadline for Committee Reports * 6:00 pm SGM Steering Committee	<b>6</b> * 10:00 am Morning Discovery * 7:00 pm Evening Meditation	<b>7</b> * 7:00 pm Board of Trustees Meeting	<b>8</b> * 7:00 pm Search Committee Meeting	<b>9</b> * 10:00 am Weed n' Feed * 11:00 am Website Work Group	<b>2</b> * 8:00 pm Ashland Trip	
<b>10</b> * 9:30 am Green Sanctuary * 10:30 am Worship Service * 11:45 am Library Dedication * 12:00 pm Peace and Justice Meeting * 12:00 pm Search Committee Meeting	<b>11</b> * 11:30 am Adult RE Committee * 6:30 pm Small Group Ministry	<b>12</b> * 11:30 am Adult RE Committee * 6:30 pm Small Group Ministry	<b>13</b> * 12:00 pm Small Group Ministry * 6:00 pm Pastoral Care Committee * 7:00 pm Evening Meditation * 7:00 pm ARMCA	<b>14</b> * 7:30 pm SKIT	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b> * 6:30 pm Game Night		
<b>17</b> * 10:30 am Worship Service * 11:45 am ARMCA - Community Discussion * 12:00 pm Church Bookstore Open	<b>18</b> * 9:30 am Notice of Annual Meeting * 11:00 pm Small Group Ministry	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b> * 10:00 am Morning Discovery * 12:00 pm Elderberries * 7:00 pm Evening Meditation * 7:00 pm RE Council	<b>21</b> * 8:00 am Annual Mtg Notice is Mailed * 7:15 pm Morning Committee	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b> * 8:00 am Set up for Earth Fair * 6:00 pm Seder Rescuer Dinner		
<b>24</b> * 8:00 am Earth Fair Day * 10:30 am Worship Service	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b> * 10:00 am Executive Committee Meeting * 6:30 pm Small Group Ministry	<b>27</b> * 12:00 pm Small Group Ministry * 7:00 pm Evening Meditation	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b> * 4:00 pm Oakland Youth Retreat	<b>30</b> * 8:00 am Oakland Youth Retreat		