



Newsletter

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

March 2016

THE FLAMING CHALICE

**Church Office Hours: Tues, Wed, and Thur;
9:30 am to 2:30 pm**

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DRE Office Hours: Wed, Thurs; 10:30 am to 2:30 pm

Sunday Worship: 10:30 am March Service Preview

Sunday, March 13 Canvass Sunday

Why the World Needs Unitarian Universalists

Rev. Joy Atkinson

On this Sunday, when most visits between canvassers and pledgers will take place in the afternoon, our Canvass Sunday service will explore the value of Unitarian Universalism and this UU community to each of us and to the world at large. Suppose there were no religious community like ours?

Sunday, March 20 Palm Sunday

Cross and Crossroads

Rev. Joy Atkinson

The symbol of the cross is older than Christianity and rich with layers of meaning. Join us as we explore and celebrate Palm Sunday and the "crossroads experiences" in our lives.

Sunday, March 27 Easter Sunday
Intergenerational Service

Hope Is the Thing With Feathers

Rev. Joy Atkinson

Join us as we celebrate Easter and hope with song, story, and a homily. Our children will participate in the service for an extended time and will then enjoy an Easter Egg hunt.

March 6, 2016

Writing About Spirituality

Glenn Jacob and the Worship Committee

You may know that we have a few aspiring writers here at Starr King. Join us today for a lay-led service as we hear from a few of them talk about the process, the craft, and the spirituality of putting words on paper.

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March Birthdays

Date	Name	Date	Name
March 2	Joey Murdach	March 17	Ruth Kuftin
March 4	Collin Carrell	March 17	Shea Robinson
March 8	Bill Hitchings	March 19	Greg Kuftin
March 10	Audrey LePell	March 22	Karen Cook
March 11	Ray Oducayen	March 22	Kelsie Kramer Stone
March 12	Rebecca Parr	March 24	Cara Prout
March 12	Darryl Ray	March 26	Sherry Thomas
March 13	Margarita Jacob	March 26	Maya Para
March 14	Sara Wagner	March 28	Brian Johnson
March 16	Renee Ray		

Words of Joy

*By
Joy Atkinson,
Interim Minister*

The late UU minister John Wolf expressed some of the reasons why we would want to support a Unitarian Universalist congregation:

You want to support it because it has a free pulpit. Because you can hear ideas expressed there which could cost any other minister his or her job. You want to support it because it is a place where children can come without being saddled with guilt or terrified of some 'celestial peeping-tom,' where they can learn that religion is for joy, for comfort, for gratitude and love...You want to support a Unitarian Universalist church because it is more concerned with human beings than with dogmas. Because it searches for the holy, rather than dwelling on the depraved...You want to support a Unitarian Universalist church because it can laugh...You want to support it because it insults neither your intelligence nor your conscience, and because it calls you to worship what is truly worthy of your sacrifice.

For these and so many other reasons, we who enjoy the great heritage of religious liberalism need to support our religious communities as generously as we can, so that we can continue to sustain vital and healthy congregations that embody our Unitarian Universalist values, care for and serve our members, and bring our message to the larger world.

As we move toward the annual pledge drive here at Starr King Church, which we will launch with a dinner on March 12th—the night before Canvass Sunday—may you be mindful of the many gifts and blessings that this congregation and its members bring into your lives: friendships and social connections, the religious education of your children, learning opportunities and activities for adults, Sunday morning services that bring the community together to celebrate life, care for one another, inspire action and provoke thought, and opportunities for service to the larger community through and beyond the organizations we support—community organizations such as South Hayward Parish, Family Emergency Shelter Coalition, Faith Alliance for a Moral Economy, and the new Eden Area Interfaith Council. In supporting this congregation, you are supporting and strengthening our unique Unitarian Universalist voice and our cherished principles of equality and justice, world community and human dignity, the open quest for truth and meaning, the democratic process, and deep reverence for the interconnected web of life on this fragile and beautiful planet.

Please consider making your annual pledge a generous one, to support the programs, activities, and values of this congregation as it enters a new phase in its ongoing congregational life. Thank you in advance for your support.

Joy



President's Report February 2016

By Diana Dickerson

Hello fellow members and friends of the Starr King UU Church,

We are past the holidays and still looking for more water from el-naño-niño. Keep your fingers crossed that we will at least get our average annual snow pack. We could sure use a break.

We have lots of activities planned this month in addition to our Sunday Services that offer a chance to catch our breath and reflect. We have meditation, drumming, the ARMCA movie night, small group ministry, and we have the group read discussion on the 27th. There is also the small business of running the church.

There are lots of things keeping us all busy. We will be preparing our reports for the Annual Congregational Meeting. We will soon be announcing the date of the meeting and the deadline for reports to be included in the report. Wow, is it that time again? It must be because all our tax people are working long hours trying to find deductions.

Speaking of deductions the best one of all is to help the congregation.

Yes it will be the Canvas Kick-Off March 12. There will be a grand dinner and, hopefully, the rich desserts will make it easier to dig into our pockets. I hope everyone realizes the importance of this event; we have big dreams this year, and, while we know we can't make all of them come true, we need your support to maintain our staff and support the causes we believe in.

I know when I go to the store I can't believe the cost of things (I used to accuse "old" people of that), and I know a loaf of bread shouldn't cost over 2 bits, but it does now. I know there are trips to be taken, toys to be had, and for some a meal that can barely be afforded, but the church is valuable in my life and I know it is for those who are reading these words. That is why I am asking you to consider upping your pledge this year; please consider raising your pledge by 10%, 15%, or any amount you can. Please be generous, as we have dreams and responsibilities to you and our community.

In Service Together,
Diana



Religious Exploration— Plans and Announcements

By Allison Prout

March RE Theme is Technology

This month we premier two Techshops for RE. The first will introduce Raspberry Pi computers. The second will focus on software and basic programming with SCRATCH. Roy Dickerson, our tech guru, will spearhead the effort to teach technology to our youngest and brightest.

The goal of these Techshops is to spark the imaginations of our young ones with technology. Raspberry Pi and SCRATCH were designed to introduce computer technology to youth and to engage them in using skills that will enable them to thrive in the 21st Century workplace. If our youth respond enthusiastically, we envision organizing a SCRATCH Coding Club after church services on a monthly basis.



In keeping with the technology theme, we will take a field trip to the San Francisco Airport this month to get a sneak preview of the new control tower. How does this relate to Religious Education? The ability to communicate and operate in the modern world has been enhanced by technological advances. These serve, above all else, to connect us to each other and the world around us. Simply put, technology is awe inspiring.

Live Your Values!

Allison



Notes from the Search: Halfway Through the Interviews

Your Search Committee is excited to report that we are halfway through the pre-candidate interviews. We have two more, in early and in mid-March. Then we will be meeting the third week of March to identify our final candidate.

We have been blessed with amazing candidates for our pulpit! The process has been intensive, the interviews deep and wide, and the sharing personal and candid. We are keeping all of your needs, wants, and dreams in our hearts and minds as we explore the possibilities with each of these ministers.

Each of the ministers we have spoken with has been extremely different from each other, except in the area of intelligence, passion for ministry, insightful questions for us, originality, and commitment to the process. The Search Committee has worked many hours to explore with these people whether there is a fit. We have at times felt like we'd like to bring all of them home with us! 😊

However, we are narrowing in on our candidate. We feel in our hearts that we are close to finding that person who will be working with all of us over the next many years. In fact, we will know who that person is in just six weeks! By the second week of April, we will have settled on the candidate we will present to you for your all-important assessment and, hopefully, approval.

Thanks for hanging in there with us!

Heidi Green and the rest of the Search Committee



Special Activities

Hike on March 12

Let's do an 8 mile round trip hike to the former home of the Ukrainian preacher Agapius Honcharenko in a rarely visited part of Garin Regional Park in Hayward. Bob and Sandy Simoni are leading the hike and will meet with you at the Ziele Creek trailhead on Ziele Creek Drive **at 10 am**. Parking is FREE.

The first part of the hike is 4 miles mostly uphill through some woods, open hillsides, and part of a residential neighborhood. Once the group arrives at the old farm, there will be a picnic lunch in the shade of some big trees before exploring the area. (Bring your own picnic lunch and plenty of water).

The hike down will be on a slightly different route, and the group should be back between 2:30 and 3 pm. For those who want to do a shorter hike of 4 miles round trip that has a lot less elevation gain, meet the group at 11 am at the halfway point on Carden Lane by the soccer field near the Stonebrae elementary school.

Contact Bob Simoni for further details at 510-205-2217.



Sandy Simoni on the hike in a previous year; Photo by Bob Simoni

Canvass Weekend: March 12 and 13

Starr King UU Church Canvass for the fiscal year 2016 (beginning in July) will be March 12 and 13. We're doing it a little different this year. Members will be contacted by fellow church members to arrange for canvass visits. But first, dinner! **Canvass begins with dinner on Saturday, March 12. Join us at 6pm** for an evening of food and fun to celebrate our community. On Sunday, worship service will focus on the canvass and its role in nourishing the church. That afternoon, we'll visit with each other to share our hopes, our visions, and our financial commitments to support the church in the coming year.

Save the Date: Earth Day Fair Sunday, April 24

Church Calendar for March 2016

For details about any of these activities, go to www.starrking.org/calendar, and let your cursor hover over a particular event.

March 2016						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 * 6 pm SGM Steering Comm	2 *10 am Morning Discovery *7 pm Evening Meditation	3 * 7 pm Board	4 * 7 pm Drumming Circle	5
6 * 9:30 am Green Sanctuary * 10:30 am Worship	7 * 7 pm Small Group Ministry	8 * 6:30 pm Small Group Ministry	9 * Noon Small Group Ministry * 3 pm Pastoral Care Committee * 7 pm Evening Meditation * 7 pm ARMCA	10 * 7:30 pm SKIT	11	12 * 10 am Hike at Garin Park * 6 pm Canvas Kickoff Dinner
13 * 10:30 am Worship * Noon Peace and Justice	14	15	16 *10 am Morning Discovery * Noon Elderberries * 7 pm Committee Council * 7 pm Evening Meditation	17 * 7 pm Worship Committee * 7 pm RE Council	18 * 5:30 pm ARMCA Movie Night!	19
20 * 10:30 am Worship * Noon Hospitality and Membership * Noon Church Bookstore Open	21 * 7 pm Small Group Ministry	22 * 6:30 pm Small Group Ministry	23 * Noon Small Group Ministry * 7 pm Evening Meditation	24	25	26
27 * 10:30 am Worship * Noon ARMCA Common Read Discussion	28	29 * 1 pm Executive Committee Meeting	30 * 7 pm Evening Meditation	31		

Starr King UU Church Ongoing Activities

Activity	Event Schedule
<i>Church Bookstore</i>	Open on the third Sunday of the month, after the service.
<i>Drum Circle</i>	Meets on the first Friday of the month, from 7 to 9 pm, in the Sanctuary. Open to all adults and mature children.
<i>Evening Meditation</i>	Meets every Wednesday, from 7 to 8 pm. Open to all.
<i>Starr King Elderberries</i>	Meets on the third Wednesday at noon. Bring your lunch. Open to all self-identified elders.
<i>Morning Discovery</i>	Meets on the first and third Wednesdays, from 10 to 11:15 am, in the Fellowship Hall. Open to all.
<i>Small Group Ministry</i>	Meets twice a month for a predetermined number of months. Registration is required, and groups are open to new members twice a year. Contact sgm@starrking.org for more information.
<i>SKIT (Starr King Improv Troupe)</i>	Meets on the second Thursday of the month at 7:30 pm. Open to all.