



## Newsletter

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

***May 2016***

# THE FLAMING CHALICE

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

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[minister@starrking.org](mailto:minister@starrking.org)

**Church President: Diana Dickerson**  
[president@starrking.org](mailto:president@starrking.org)  
Home phone: 510-786-2922

## ***Sunday Worship: 10:30 am May Service Preview***

May 1, 2016

**Unitarian Universalist Journeys: Living the  
Questions**

Rev. Joy Atkinson

What constitutes a distinctly Unitarian  
Universalist spiritual journey? Join us for an  
interactive service exploring the “path with  
heart”—Unitarian Universalism.

Sunday, May 8

**The Power of Abundant Love: Transforming  
scarcity mentality into abundance and gratitude**

Rev. Maria Cristina Vlassidis Burgoa; Ministerial  
Candidate

Sunday, May 15

**We are the ones we've been waiting for:  
Building the Beloved Community through shared  
ministry**

Rev. Maria Cristina Vlassidis Burgoa; Ministerial  
Candidate

Sunday, May 22

**Nestled in the Womb of the Stars**

Rev. Joy Atkinson

When we are faced with crises—either personal or global—how do we find comfort for ourselves, and how can we comfort others? This is an auction sermon, purchased by Nancy Harrison at the last service auction.

Sunday, May 29

**From Mozart to Motown, Bach to Blues**

Rev. Joy Atkinson

The service will celebrate music and explore its role in our lives.

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## May Birthdays

Date	Name
May 7	Emma Miyoshi
May 16	Lavon Hodges
May 16	Beckett Wagner
May 21	Karen Kramer
May 29	Carol Henrie

## Hold Your Calendar and Buy Tickets for this Baseball Outing

**Baseball Outing on Sunday, August 7 at 1:05 pm**  
**A's vs Chicago Cubs**  
**Contact Bob Simoni by May 15 to purchase tickets.**

Come join fellow Starr King members and their families to watch our local Oakland A's take on the Chicago Cubs in a rare visit to the Oakland Coliseum. Tickets are planned in a block on the third base side in section 225. They can be either in the sun or the shade depending on your preference. Cost is \$28 for adults and \$20 for children (14 or under) and Seniors (60 or older). The group will leave right after service and take BART from downtown Hayward where parking is free on weekends. Carpools can be arranged.

If you are interested, please email Bob Simoni at [bobsimoni@gmail.com](mailto:bobsimoni@gmail.com). **He will purchase tickets by May 15,** so he needs a firm commitment and payment beforehand.

## Words of Joy

**By**  
**Joy Atkinson,**  
**Interim Minister**

*Ministry based on an equal relationship is like a dance; sometimes I lead and you follow, sometimes you lead and I follow. As we get to be better partners, it gets difficult to tell exactly who is leading and who is following. But by then it doesn't matter—after all, it's the dance that's important.*

*—the Rev David Phreaner*

Soon after you receive the May newsletter, this congregation will be going through the intricate dance that is candidating week, when a minister and a congregation dance intensely with one another to determine whether or not they should engage in a long-term partnership. It is an exciting time to be part of a Unitarian Universalist congregation, and an exciting and busy time for the candidating minister. You will be in my thoughts during that intensive week as you move through this phase of your life together as a congregation.

As for myself, during candidating week, the interim minister must make her/himself scarce, so the ministry focus is where it should be—on the candidate. I will be on call—available for emergencies, but otherwise off the campus and working at home during candidating week, May 7 through May 15. Also, the previous week, from Monday May 2 through Friday, May 6, I will be in San Antonio, Texas attending the annual UU Accredited Interim Minister's seminar, where we interims gather for continuing education, and where we will discover which UU congregations have applied to have interim ministers serve them this upcoming church year. I can be reached during that time through the office or via email.

I am very aware that our time together as church-in-transition and interim minister is fast running out. After a few more turns around the dance floor, we will be changing dance partners. I do not yet know where my next "interim gig" will be, or whether I will even seek a new interim position for next year, especially given that I will be undergoing foot surgery over the summer that has a long recovery time, but I will certainly keep you posted.

May you enjoy the wonderful spring weather that has fully arrived!

Many blessings

*Joy*



## *President's Report*

***By Diana Dickerson***

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

I find it interesting that my sense of time is so irregular. If I have lots to do, time seems to fly past me so fast that I can't believe that it is Sunday already. What happened to the rest of the days? On the other hand, when I am waiting for something to happen, I can't believe it is still April. It should certainly be May by now, maybe even June.

This is how I sense our time with Rev. Joy has been, especially since we have been in search committee mode. We all seemed to be working like crazy or awaiting the next deadline. One day wouldn't get out of the way and the next one flew by. I want to begin our journey with our candidate, but I don't want to have Rev. Joy leave us.

Meanwhile, we have our Annual Meeting on May 1 after the service. You should have received the reminder, the agenda, the budget, and the reports. I did attach the wrong Bylaw version, but it was caught by several vigilant people and has been resolved.

You will soon receive a similar notice for calling our new minister. That meeting is scheduled for May 15. Please try to come on that day. This is a very important decision for all of us. I hope to see a great turnout.

Before our Interim Minister, Joy, leaves us in July, we will have a special coffee hour to honor her service to our church. If you would like to bring something yummy, please let me know. There will be time for us to plan a nice farewell for Joy.

I know we will move forward together, but change can be both scary and exciting. Let us remember to be kind to one another and try to make these changes as gracefully as possible.

In Service,

Diana



I have been thinking about how to create a safe space where our middle schoolers can congregate, bond and have fun. It is already challenging to find a curriculum that keeps our older children engaged, particularly since it also has to meet the needs of kids aged 5 to 10. So, I have been having conversations around forming a youth group that will run parallel to our current program and meet the needs of those from grades 6 to 9 (11 to 15 years). I have begun to look outside our walls to ensure that we have critical mass to form such a group. I have spoken to other liberal religious organizations about their needs. Between SKUUC, Eden UCC and Congregation Shir Ami, we may have enough of a youth base to get a group off the ground. I see this as the first step in building a program to meet the needs of local liberal religious youth.

I will hold a visioning workshop to gather input on the desires and needs of youth and their parents. If it is successful, and we can get buy-in from the various stakeholders, we can proceed to the next step in the planning process. If you know any youth who might be interested in joining these discussions, please pass on the following invitation.

### **Interested in forming an interfaith youth group?**

**Date: May 22, 2016**

**Time: 5 to 7 pm**

**Place: Starr King UU Church, 22577 Bayview Drive, Hayward**

Youth from grades 6 to 9 are invited to share their vision for forming an interfaith liberal religious youth group that is fun, engaging, and supportive. Parents are welcome, but will hold a separate conversation.

Food (Pizza, Salad, & Ice Cream) will be provided!!

Contact: Allison Prout, 510-825-9512 email: [dre@starrking.org](mailto:dre@starrking.org)

Live Your Values!

Allison





## *Notes from the Search: What to Expect During Candidating Week*

From the Candidating Week Committee (Chris Appleton, Heidi Green, Lavon Hodges, Bob Meyerson, Sara Raymond)

The excitement is building as we get ready for candidating week: May 7 to 15, 2016.

**PLEASE MARK YOUR CALENDARS NOW TO COME TO THE SERVICE ON SUNDAY MAY 15 TO VOTE ON WHETHER TO CALL THE CANDIDATE!!**

Candidating week is an exciting time to be at Starr King. The goal is for everyone who is part of the Starr King family to have a chance to meet with our candidate and assess, for yourself, whether this is someone you can see helping us lead our congregation with wisdom, passion, and inspiration in the years to come.

The Search Committee had an amazing experience in meeting the candidate. They were completely unanimous in being blown away with the love, intelligence, insight, and engagement they felt from every pore of our candidate's being. Agnostics, atheists, humanists, theists, and everyone else on the Search Committee felt that finding this person was "meant to be." They hope all of us will take advantage of time with the candidate the second week in May to have our own experience.

We'll start with our candidate's arrival on Saturday, May 7. The candidate will preach on both Sundays, May 8 and May 15. After the service on Sunday, May 15, we will vote on whether to call our candidate. We want to get at least a 90% enthusiastic call, but a higher percentage is definitely welcome and encouraged!

Here's how the week in between the sermons will work: the Candidating Week Committee will be scheduling a series of events during a week that you can attend and get to know the candidate. There will be more on that the first week of May.

In addition, Sara ([seraymond@gmail.com](mailto:seraymond@gmail.com) or 510-213-9278 cell) will be setting up a calendar on which groups or committees can sign up for time with the candidate. It is first-come, first-served. Sign up early to secure the spot you want.

If your group wants to meet with the candidate, we ask that you spend your time together getting to know each other, rather than conducting business. However, that doesn't mean you couldn't talk about your collective vision for the future and see what perspective you get back. That's an excellent way to get to know the candidate!

When not in meetings, the candidate will be looking for housing in the area. As you know, things are expensive here! If you have any leads, please reach out to the Candidating Week Committee or the Search Committee and let us know details. It may seem like jumping the gun to be looking for housing before the vote, but the Search Committee is passionate about their choice and believes we all will be too.

**ON MAY 15 WE WANT EVERYONE AT CHURCH FOR THE VOTE!!!** We are hoping for a large turn-out from the membership, to make sure everyone has a chance to be a part of this decision that will affect the lives of the congregation for a very long time. We're looking forward to seeing you the second week of May!



# You Spoke; We Listened     Adult RE Committee

The Adult Religious Education (RE) Committee distributed questionnaires to the Congregation in late February and early March. We were extremely pleased to receive 37 responses, which is a little more than 30 percent of the congregation.

The survey asked several questions:

- What does adult religious education mean to you?
- What topics are of interest to you?
- Would you be willing to present a class, workshop or seminar, if so, on what topic?
- Do you know of someone who would be a good presenter?

We want to take this opportunity to thank you for the information you provided us and to summarize what you told us. Based on your feedback we've started to plan adult RE events for the next 18 months.

## **What does adult religious education mean to you?**

People responded to this question with words/phases such as: personal and spiritual growth; increasing knowledge of how people live out their spirituality; exploring areas for personal growth, looking for "faith in action" and an opportunity to use both "heart and mind" in our sessions together.

## **What topics are of interest to you?**

The largest number of responses centered around learning more about the major religions of the world, including as well as lesser known traditions. The second next highest topic centered around learning more about our own Unitarian Universalist (UU) tradition including knowing more about the Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA), famous and infamous UUs, and their personal paths. People wanted to explore the variety of ways in which spirituality is defined, how people live out their own spirituality, and how we can share our skills in the service of being a UU.

It was also clear that people want interactive sessions where they can share experiences and learn in an atmosphere of openness and trust. People would be interested in creative approaches to learning using crafts, music, foods of the culture, and a variety of art forms.

## **Would you be willing to present a class, workshop or seminar, if so, on what topic? Do you know of someone who would be a good presenter?**

We are grateful for your suggestions for people who would be good presenters and the adult RE Committee will be contacting people who said they would like to present a topic or those who have been suggested as good facilitators for a discussion group. We agreed that child-care will be provided, upon request.

## What's in the Works?

*Spring Quarter 2016:* Building Your Own Theology, will be conducted by the Rev. Joy Atkinson in from May 17 to June 21.

*Summer 2016 Quarter:* There will no offerings during the summer quarter

*The Fall/Winter Quarter 2016:* Given the interest to learn more about religions of the world, we begin using *The World's Religions*, written by Huston Smith, a religious scholar, to explore this broad topic. The UUA has a Facilitator's Guide, and we anticipate a series of 89 monthly discussions, facilitated by SKUUC members who will be briefed on how to be a session facilitator. Stay tuned for information about the book, costs, format and specific dates/time.

*Spring Quarter 2017:* We will be exploring the infinite variety of resources provided by the UUA and others to "take a deep dive" into the UU Seven Principles, as well as discussing famous and infamous UUs.

We'd like to call your attention to the adult RE Brochure, which includes all regular offerings. It will be published quarterly. Additional programs will be announced in the Sunday announcement insert and the weekly email announcements.

The group meets monthly on the second Tuesday of the month from 11 am to 12 noon at the church. Please feel free to join us as you are able. Please contact any one of the members with your ideas about programs and /or if you are interested in being a member of the committee.

Committee Members are: The Rev. Joy Atkinson, Terry Hunt, Kathryn Lamar, Reed Luce, Diane Meyerson, and Mileva Saulo Lewis.





## Special Activities

### Annual Meeting: May 1, 11:40 am

Our Annual Meeting will be held on Sunday, May 1, 2016 immediately following worship at 11:40 am. Please bring your agenda and budget with you to the meeting as printed copies will not be made available. The 2016 Annual Report will be projected onto a screen for your convenience.

### “Do the Right Thing” – Spike Lee Still Says So: May 20, 6 pm

Friday, May 20 is ARMCA movie night, and we’ve got a classic movie! It’s called *Do the Right Thing*, from producer, director, and actor Spike Lee.

In case you don’t recall it, here’s the plot: On the hottest day of the year on a street in the Bedford-Stuyvesant section of Brooklyn, everyone’s hate and bigotry smolders and builds until it explodes into violence.

Released in 1989, *Do the Right Thing* provoked a lot of conversations. In this *Rolling Stone* review at the time from Peter Travers: “When a black man sends a garbage can crashing through his white employer’s plate-glass window during the galvanizing climax of *Do the Right Thing*, all howling hell breaks loose. And maybe not just onscreen. Producer-writer-director-actor Spike Lee thinks that his movie, which culminates in a race riot, might get him wrongly accused in the white press of stirring insurrection. Before Universal put up the \$6.5 million budget, Lee says, Paramount had passed on the project for fear “that black people will come out of theaters wanting to burn shit down.”

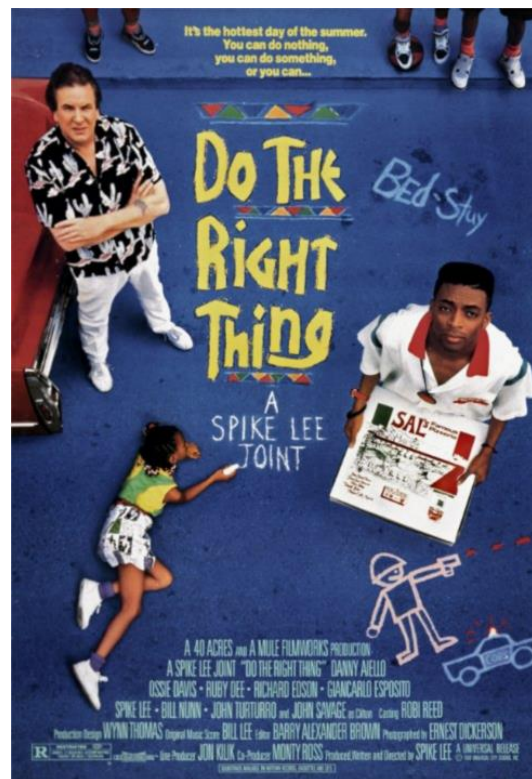
“*Do the Right Thing* seems more likely to provoke debate than destruction. The movie isn’t dangerous, though the festering racial hatred it depicts assuredly is. Lee’s two previous films -- *She’s Gotta Have It* and *School Daze* -- made some piercing stabs at social commentary. But neither prepared us for the purge of raw emotion that detonates this powder keg.”

We see a young Spike Lee starring in this movie, along with screen legends Ruby Dee, Ossie Davis, Danny Aiello, and more. We could have a contest to see how many stars you recognize!

ARMCA members will bring drinks and heavy hors d’oeuvres, and you are welcome to bring food as well as well, but the point is that you can come right from work, eat some tasty food, and enjoy a good movie and conversation with friends on a Friday night without stressing out. Dinner will be ready at 6 pm, the movie will start at 7 pm. The movie is free, though donations are gratefully accepted.

See you at the movies!

Heidi Green, Anti-Racism Multicultural Alliance member



## South Hayward Parish (SHP) Annual Meeting: Saturday, May 21, 10 am to Noon

Meeting will be at the Outreach Center at 27287 Patrick Ave, Hayward. Come to the Annual Meeting to hear how SHP is working in the community. We will be reviewing all of the last year's projects and challenges, having an election of officers and looking ahead. If you are a member of any of SHP congregations, you are a voting member.

**There will be Snacks!**

### "QUARTERS FOR CHANGE!"



Come and celebrate our new Washer and Dryer! These much needed appliances will help with handling the tremendous laundry generated by our active shower program and the Winter Shelter bedding.

No more trips to the laundromat! So with the laundry theme, we are asking for "Quarters for Change!" Bring your donation in quarters (handy checks also gladly accepted). Your quarters will now go to all the important SHP programs and not to the laundromat.

(\*No donations of detergent or bleach needed)

## Family Friendly Talent Show: May 22, 1 pm

Show is brought to you by the IMPROV/SKIT Group. Family friendly talent show Sunday, May 22 with potluck in Fellowship Hall. Sign up to be talent and to bring food. Potluck lunch to start at 1 pm with show at 2 pm.



# Church Calendar for May 2016

For details about these activities, go to [www.starrking.org/calendar](http://www.starrking.org/calendar), and hover your cursor over an event.

May 2016						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
* 10:30 am Worship Service * 11:40 am Visitor's Circle * 11:40 am <b>Annual Meeting</b>	2 * 7 pm Small Group Ministry	3 * 6 pm Small Group Ministry (SGM) Steering Committee	4 * 10 am Morning Discovery * 7 pm Evening Meditation	5 * 7 pm Board of Directors	6 * 7 pm Drumming Circle	<b>7 May 7 to 15—Candidating week; special meetings will be scheduled</b>
<b>8</b> * 10:30 am Worship Service * 11:30 am <b>Meet &amp; Greet Candidate</b> * 12 noon Peace and Justice	9	10 * 11 am Adult RE Committee * 6:30 pm SGM	11 * 12 noon SGM * 3 pm Pastoral Care Committee * 7 pm ARMCA * 7 pm Evening Meditation	12 * 7:30 pm SKIT	13 * 7:30 pm Dessert Social <b>Meet &amp; Greet Candidate</b>	<b>14</b> * 10 am Coffee Hour <b>Meet &amp; Greet Candidate</b>
<b>15</b> * 10:30 am Worship Service; <b>Congregational Meeting on Calling Minister</b> * 12 noon Church Bookstore Open * 12:30 pm <b>Lunch &amp; party</b>	16 * 7:00 pm Small Group Ministry	17 * 7:00 pm Bring Your Own Theology (BYOT)	18 * 10 am Morning Discovery * 12:00 noon Elderberries * 7 pm RE Council * 7 pm Evening Meditation	19 * 7:15 pm Worship Committee	20 * 6 pm ARMCA Movie Night!	<b>21</b> * 10 am South Hayward Parish Annual Meeting; 27287 Patrick Ave
<b>22</b> * 10:30 am Worship Service * 1 pm SKIT Talent Show * 5 pm Youth Group	23	24 * 1 pm Exec Comm Meeting * 6:30 pm SGM * 7 pm BYOT	25 * 12 noon SGM * 7 pm Committee Council * 7 pm Evening Meditation	26	27	<b>28</b>
<b>29</b> * 10:30 am Worship Service	30	31 * 7 pm BYOT				

## ***Starr King UU Church Ongoing Activities***

Activity	Event Schedule
<i><b>Church Bookstore</b></i>	Open on the third Sunday of the month, after the service.
<i><b>Drum Circle</b></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><b>Evening Meditation</b></i>	Meets every Wednesday, from 7 to 8 pm. Open to all.
<i><b>Starr King Elderberries</b></i>	Meets on the third Wednesday at noon. Bring your lunch. Open to all self-identified elders.
<i><b>Morning Discovery</b></i>	Meets on the first and third Wednesdays, from 10 to 11:15 am, in the Fellowship Hall. Open to all.
<i><b>Small Group Ministry</b></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 <a href="mailto:sgm@starrking.org">sgm@starrking.org</a> for more information.
<i><b>SKIT (Starr King Improv Troupe)</b></i>	Meets on the second Thursday of the month at 7:30 pm. Open to all.