



Newsletter

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

July 2016

**THE
FLAMING
CHALICE**

Sunday Worship: 10:30 am

July Service Preview

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

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Hayward, CA 94541

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Parish Minister (Interim): Rev. Joy Atkinson
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Church President: Diana Dickerson
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July 3

Joy's Moving Sale

Rev. Joy Atkinson

This will be our interim minister's last service. The sermon will sum up the work we have done together during this two-year transitional time, address issues regarding closure for minister and congregation, and gaze into the "crystal ball" to speculate on what the future might look like for this congregation.

July 10

Improvised Spirituality

Lay Led by Worship Committee and Glen Jacob

Join us today for a fun and unusual service. Many of the service elements will be chosen or made up on the spot, including some short improvised homilies. We did a similar service last year; everyone enjoyed it.

July 17

Now Let Us Sing

Lay Led by Worship Committee and Joyce Kinnear

A summer service filled with singing hymns and listening to readings to keep you delighting in your musical side.

July 24

Sacred Circle Dancing

Maureen Atkins will lead a service of circle dancing. Come prepared to move! Older children are welcome to participate in the dances.

July 31

Let there be peace on Earth and let it begin with ME.

Eden Area Interfaith Council and Bob Meyerson

In conjunction with the Eden Area Interfaith Council, and celebrating the 30th anniversary of the United Nations Year of Peace in 1986, we will have an interfaith service with peace readings from a dozen major religions. We have invited faith leaders from various traditions to be with us and voice the prayers. We will have a reception and discussion period following the service.

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July Birthdays

Date

Name

Date

Name

July 1

Daniel Casini

July 26

Lillian Carrell

July 2

Mary Shields

July 27

Laurie Matthews

July 3

Jo Murdach

July 28

Natalie Forrest

July 4

Will Fitch

July 30

Nathan Ray

July 13

Audrey Miyoshi

July 30

Jessica Schuler

July 15

Evelyn Cormier

July 31

Amber Gale

Have fun at coffee hour and help serve!

Signups are needed for Sunday Coffee. It's a great way to get to know the SKUU congregation as well as to try out new recipes. Have fun talking with everyone! The signup sheet is on the Community Table in the Fellowship Hall.

Interim Minister's Farewell Column
Words of Joy

By
Joy Atkinson,
Interim Minister

The time has come for me to say “goodbye” to you. I will attend the annual General Assembly of the Unitarian Universalist Association from June 20th through 26th, and then return to the office for one more week. My last Sunday among you will be July 3rd. On July 5th, I will get the surgery on my foot I have needed for years that some of you have heard about, and after my recovery time, I will begin an interim ministry with the Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Marin.

These past two interim years have been a very busy time for this congregation, and for me as your interim minister. Much has been accomplished in our time together. Just a few of the many events and accomplishments were: a celebration of 60 years as a Unitarian Universalist congregation with a special service and lunch the fall of 2014, cottage meetings that explored the congregation's strengths and challenges as well as members' preferences regarding various aspects of church life, a recent Visioning workshop in which some specific, measurable and achievable goals were identified, a renewed Adult Religious Education Committee, an every-member face-to-face-canvass with trained canvassers this year that resulted in close to 10% in increased pledge income, and a long and fruitful search for your next called, settled minister.

Looking back on it all—the services, workshops, training sessions, committee meetings, pastoral ministry, adult seminars, meals together, the look back at where this church has come from historically and ahead to its promising future—I have thoroughly enjoyed being a part of the life of this congregation.

One task of interim ministry that is always difficult, but must be undertaken as the transitional time comes to an end, is for the interim minister to say a fond “farewell” and then to leave quite completely. For 25 years before I became an interim minister 14 years ago, I was a settled minister, and though settled ministers must also at some point bid farewell to the congregations they serve, they don't usually start out knowing when the eventual “good-byes” will be uttered. We interims know from the outset that “hello” will all-too-quickly be followed by “goodbye.” But despite the fact that we are “temps,” we come to feel connected to the congregations we serve, as a minister, interim or otherwise, naturally does with a congregation. I have felt a deep connection to you during these past two years. But now, I must sever that connection and make way for your new minister, Rev. Maria Cristina, who will form that special bond with you.

Offering a fond farewell is a bittersweet, but necessary, task. Already I have been bidding farewell to various committees and groups as I begin to meet with each for the last time. My final “goodbye” to you all will be at the Sunday service on July 3rd.

Please know that I will carry you in my heart to the next congregation I serve, and that being your minister for this brief time has been very enriching for me. As I leave, I have great faith that you will thrive and grow as a congregation. May your summer be restful, and your future bright!



Warmly, and with grateful fondness, ***Joy***

President's Report

By Diana Dickerson

As usual, our church has been busy, busy, busy. There always seems to be more to do. We have so many irons in the fire it is hard to keep track of it all.

Reverend Joy is leaving us after her sermon on July 3, 2016. She has been so fabulous in helping us to find our way while looking for a new settled minister, I am amazed at her energy and commitment. We will have a special Coffee Hour after the service to thank her for spending the last two years with us and to bid her adieu. If you have plans for that holiday weekend, please take a few minutes to speak with Rev. Joy the week before.

Even as she is preparing to go, she took on the job of having a class for Building Your Own Theology. Although I took this course fairly recently, with Rev. Katie and Intern Sharon Wiley, I decided to take another look at where I am in my journey. This has been a wonderful experience. The group is terrific and Rev. Joy has been bringing some interesting material to the group and keeping us on track to write our own credos by the last week of the course.

The Worship Committee has been working like crazy to fill our worship schedule with a variety of pulpit guests for the summer months. We are very fortunate to have such a well-trained and energetic group of people to perform this task each year. I am looking forward to being there to enjoy the results of their efforts.

Rev. Dr. Maria Cristina Vlassidis Burgoa is scheduled to arrive on August 15th. Her first sermon as our newly settled ministry will be on September 4, 2016. That is the Labor Day weekend. I hope that it will be well attended to start Rev. Maria Cristina off on the right foot.

Thank you all,

Diana



RE Summer Fun Shops

By Lea Casini

Summer fun shops have begun! The schedule for the summer activities is below. Please note that more volunteers are needed. Please contact Lea Casini if you can help at (510) 537-7419.

The schedule:

July 3 Fun Stuff (Diana Dickerson and _____)

July 10 Gospels and Spirituals (Kathryn Lamar and Doris Wolf)

July 17 Scratch Coding (Roy Dickerson and Stuart Fink and Torsten Lovett)

July 24 Lemonade Stand (Colleen Dino and Sara Raymond)

July 31 Learning Community through Arts and Crafts (Lorie Miller and Jennifer Koney)

August 7 Flower Pressing (Donnie Rett and Michelle Lovett)

August 14 Music Sing Along and Bring Your Instrument from Home (Bill and Ruth DeSmidt)

August 21 Scratch Coding (Roy Dickerson and _____)

August 28 Learning Community through Arts and Crafts (Lorie Miller and Al and Jo Murdach)

September 4 Rocketry (Jon and Carolyn)



Wheel of Life



Henry and Sara Wagner celebrated their 10th anniversary.

Good thoughts and hopeful wishes to the Lunger family as they deal with their youngest son's medical problems.

Mary Lou Schuler is recovering from knee replacement surgery.

Condolences to Ruth Kuftin on the death of her daughter-in-law and former member, Julie Wellings Kuftin. Loving thoughts and deepest sympathy to Greg and Andrea, Julie's husband and daughter. A memorial will be held at the church at 3 pm on Sunday, July 3.

Getting Ready for Rev. Maria Cristina!

For those who need help in Go Now in Peace in Spanish

If your Spanish is rusty or non-existent, here are the words to "Go Now in Peace" in Spanish, with a pronunciation guide:

Go now in peace. Go now in peace. May the love of God (spirit of love) surround you everywhere, everywhere you may go.

Vayan en paz, vayan en paz Pueda el Dios* rodearlos siempre, por doquier, por doquier, que vayan.

*Replace "el Dios" with "el amor" if you prefer singing "spirit of love."

Pronunciation guide:

VIE-yawn on pahz, VIE-yawn on pahz. PWEH-dah ell Dee-OS row-deh-ARE-los see-EM-preh, poor doe-key-AIR, poor doe-key-AIR, kay VIE-yawn

South Hayward Parish News by Teri Owens



The food pantry serves 80 to 100 families a day. Several years ago, three to five people could prepare and distribute food for 15 to 30 families, but it now takes five to nine people working from 8:30 am to 1 pm to receive food and stock the shelves, and another crew of seven to nine people working from 2:30 to 5:30 pm distributing food four days a week. Community volunteers work over 1,000 hours monthly to make this all happen!

The CAN (Community Action Network), serves about six to ten new people each month. South Hayward Parish (SWP) starts working with each new client by performing an assessment and putting together a self-sufficiency plan for each one, identifying the services that person needs to gain access to.

The Family Resource Center (FRC) fields problems that don't fit neatly into categories. In the city of Hayward "it is against the law to be poor or homeless." What the rest of us think of as a safety net isn't catching people, but SHP is. One woman who received a three-day eviction notice, and her husband was not providing support. SHP was able to provide information to get her through the immediate crisis. FRC helps over 70 people per week get showers, up to 20 per day.

The winter warming shelter was open this year for 46 nights, serving 88 individuals, aged from 19 to 80. The last night there were 10 cars in the parking lot, with families sleeping in them. For next year, SHP would like to try to be open every night and try to offer access to additional services.

SHP really needs more volunteer support. With the East Bay eviction rate increasing as communities gentrify and landlords try to increase their rental revenues, we need people who can help process legal action opposing the evictions and refer victims to support programs. Also, with growing list of supporting food donors, more drivers are needed to help pick up food.

Special Activities

Fall Mystery Dinner Call for Help (October 15 and 16)

At our recent Committee Fair, Glenn Jacob volunteered to become the new chairperson on the fund raising committee. He has been involved in many of our past fund raisers and has been a Mystery Dinner writer/director, Auctioneer and a bingo caller.

The plan for fund raising for the upcoming church fiscal year is to have two "big" fund raisers during the church year; The mystery Dinner in the Fall, and the Service Auction in the Spring. I am hoping we can do maybe one or two "small" fund raisers, maybe in summer and winter. (We don't want to "nickel and dime" people to death!)

Glenn would love your suggestions for these events. One suggestion already received is for a bingo.

The event currently being planned is the new Mystery Dinner. The script is written, and Glenn is getting the cast together. It will feature some old faces, as well as some who have not been in our shows before.

The show dates will be: An evening show on Saturday, October 15 and an afternoon matinee on October 16.

The exact times are TBA. The show is called: "Lights, Camera... Murder!" and features a cast of unusual characters behind the scenes of a big Hollywood movie production. It should be a fun dinner theater event.

Help is needed! We need a volunteer to be in charge of the dinner portion of the show. This volunteer would be in charge of putting together a team for set up, cooking, serving, and clean up.

It would be a big job, but everyone always seems to have a great time! We are hoping that the movie would be themed based on what you might find on a movie set, the "Craft Service", and we might invite the audience to "Come as your favorite movie star." There is lots of room for creativity and fun!

See Glen or email him for more information at capsriff@sbcglobal.net

Here's to having a great time, and making our budget deficit disappear!



Photos of a Mystery Dinner 10 years ago-2006 with current and former members Evelyn Cormier, Glen Jacob, Amy Kinnear, Mary Lasack, Bob Stortz, Bill DeSmidt, Eric Gable, Lea Casini and Maureen Atkins

Memorial for Julie Wellings Kuftin, Sunday, July 3 at 3 pm

CV Pride on Saturday, July 9 at 12 noon

Volunteers are needed to set up and to work the two booths. If you are able to help please contact:

- Doris Wolf for the Starr King booth
- Ruth Desmidt - for the PFLAG Booth

The event is from 12 noon to 5 pm, BUT set-up starts at 10 am. Sign-up sheets will be in the Fellowship hall on the table in the back OR contact Ruth or Doris.

Family Movie "Mulan" Saturday, July 16; Potluck at 6 pm and movie at 7 pm

The July Movie Night is jointly sponsored by the Anti Racism Multicultural Alliance and the Religious Exploration Council, and features the animated Disney movie "Mulan". Rotten Tomatoes says, "Disney's cross-cultural retelling of a popular Chinese folk tale about a peasant girl who disguises herself as a man and takes her ailing father's place in the emperor's army turns the traditional fairy tale ending on its head. This time, the princess rescues the prince." Everyone is welcome.

Please come! Bring a dish to share if you can, but if you can't come anyway. Admission is free. Small donation requested to cover movie license fee.

Beth Ogilvie & David Middleton



Some of the Cast of the Youth Play at June 12, 2016 Service; Photo by Betsy Dye

Church Calendar for July 2016

For details about these activities, go to www.starrking.org/calendar, and hover your cursor over an event.

July 2016						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
3 * 10:30 am Worship Service * 3 pm Wellings Memorial	4	5	6 * 7 pm Evening Meditation	7 * 7 pm Board of Trustee's Meeting	8 * 7 pm Drumming Circle	9 * 12 noon CV Pride
10 * 10:30 am Worship Service * 12 noon Peace and Justice Meeting	11	12	13 * 3 pm Pastoral Care Committee * 7 pm ARMCA	14 * 7:30 pm SKIT	15	16 * 6 pm ARMCA Movie Night
17 * 10:30 am Worship Service * 12 noon Hospitality and Membership * 12 noon Church Bookstore Open	18	19	20	21 * 7 pm Worship Committee	22	23
24 * 10:30 am Worship Service	25	26 * 1 pm Executive Committee Meeting	27	28 * 1 pm Executive Committee Meeting	29	30
31 * 10:30 am Worship Service						

Starr King UU Church Ongoing Activities	
Activity	Event Schedule
Church Bookstore	Open on the third Sunday of the month, after the service.
Drum Circle	Meets on the first Friday of the month, from 7 to 9 pm, in the Sanctuary. Open to all adults and mature children.
Evening Meditation	Meets every Wednesday, from 7 to 8 pm. Open to all.
Starr King Elderberries	Meets on the third Wednesday at noon. Bring your lunch. Open to all self-identified elders.
Morning Discovery	Meets on the first and third Wednesdays, from 10 to 11:15 am, in the Fellowship Hall. Open to all.
Small Group Ministry	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.
SKIT (Starr King Improv Troupe)	Meets on the second Thursday of the month at 7:30 pm. Open to all.