

# THE FLAMING CHALICE

May 2019

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



## *Spiritual Growth in a Theologically Diverse Community*

**Church Office Hours**  
**Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday**  
**9:30am – 2:30pm**

22577 Bayview Avenue  
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510-581-2060

[www.starrking.org](http://www.starrking.org)  
[www.facebook.com/StarrKingChurch](https://www.facebook.com/StarrKingChurch)

### **Parish Minister**

Rev. María Cristina Vlassidis Burgoa  
[minister@starrking.org](mailto:minister@starrking.org)

### **Office Administrator**

Kelli Abatangelo  
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Will Fitch  
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### **Director of Religious Exploration**

Allison Prout  
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DRE Office Hours:  
Wednesday and Thursday,  
10:30am – 2:30pm

### **Newsletter**

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

**Sunday Worship, 10:30am**  
**May Theme: Curiosity**

### **May 5: Curiosity**

What role has curiosity played in your life and specifically in your spiritual journeys? How can curiosity be an agent of change in the way we communicate and connect with each other? Join us as we explore the unexpected gifts of curiosity. Rev. María Cristina Vlassidis Burgoa

### **May 12: Celebrating All Families**

Mother's Day can be an opportunity for recognizing the diversity of family structures. Inclusive celebrations can serve as an important learning experience by providing opportunities to discuss and acknowledge the many kinds of families in our communities. Rev. María Cristina Vlassidis Burgoa

### **May 19:**

#### **ANNUAL MEETING, 11:40am**

Curiosity is the yearning to understand. Join us as we explore religious and mythical narratives about curiosity that lead to more wonderful questions and mysteries! Rev. María Cristina Vlassidis Burgoa

### **May 26: Unboxing**

How can approaching life with enthusiastic curiosity help us decrease conflict, increase joy, and gain new perspective on what life has brought us? Guest: Jim Lewis

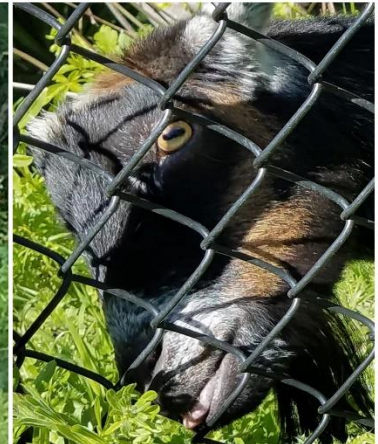
## What's Inside

Sunday Services, 1  
Green Sanctuary, 2  
South Hayward Parish, 3  
Online Hospitality, 4

From the Minister, 5-6  
Board Report, 7-8  
RE Reflections, 9  
Adult RE, 10

Announcements, 11  
Calendar & Birthdays, 12

## **April was WILD at Starr King!**



We love our beautiful Green Sanctuary, and so do our new friends!





# South Hayward Parish

May is a glorious month! Spring is exploding all around us. The days are warm, and we rejoice as the earth is reborn.

It's also a time to honor mothers and memorialize those who have died to protect us. Today in our community there are many mothers, children, and veterans who are struggling to make ends meet. It is harder and harder to make it through each month. The folks lining up at the South Hayward Parish Food Pantry are using these groceries to stretch their resources.

On a typical Tuesday, nearly 100 families will be served. Help us keep the pantry stocked!

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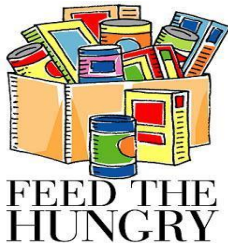
## Send a Message in May

Sunday, May 19<sup>th</sup>

Bring a Gift of Food

SKUU will be doing our quarterly collection in support of SHP on Sunday, May 19<sup>th</sup>. To help with the Food Pantry, we will be collecting the following before and after the worship service. Please bring something from this list:

- **PEANUT BUTTER**
- **PASTA**
- **RICE**
- **DRIED PINTO BEANS**



ALL PACKAGES SHOULD BE FAMILY-SIZE ONLY

Can't get to the store? *This is not a special plate*, but you can give a check or cash donation directly to Mileva Lewis, Lavon Hodges, or Terri Owen.

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## Volunteer at the Pantry

Here are some way you can [help at the South Hayward Parish pantry](http://www.southhaywardparish.org):

- Help folks check in as they arrive
- Hand out food
- Drive the van to pick up donations



# Online Hospitality

*by Communications Chair and Newsletter Co-editor, Emily Watkins*

## Why Online?

Communications Committee mission: to inform and engage our congregation **and the wider community** in a way that reflects our shared principles and passions. With your help, I think we can do better in engaging our community.

Having greeters at the door on Sunday is essential to sharing our warmth as soon as new folks approach us. The website and social media should serve the same purpose. They are most often the first point of contact for people who are checking us out.

Having a strong online presence isn't about how many people we can attract to our events and services. It goes to the heart of what kind of congregation we want to be. It's about **radical hospitality**. In our digitally connected world, it's one of the best ways to reach out to our community.

We can connect with those who need a safe space – letting them know how much we value and celebrate them. Our website affirms that we are an LGBTQ welcoming congregation, for example, to many more people than will see our flag on the street. Some people we might inspire but never meet, others could come to revitalize our congregation.

## What Can You Do?

Learning a new skill can feel intimidating, but we provide lots of training and support. If you can double-click a computer mouse, you can help with any of these tasks! Please contact me (Emily at [newsletter@starrking.org](mailto:newsletter@starrking.org)) if you can have any spare bit of time to grow our online hospitality. I'm offering one-on-one training all summer!

### Website Team

- ☺ Sharing new photos and info
- ☺ Transforming newsletter articles into website blog posts
- ☺ Assisting the webmaster in routine tasks

### Social Media Team

- ☺ Adding photos, events, and reminders to our official Facebook page
- ☺ Responding to FB messages
- ☺ Moderating the private members-only FB group
- ☺ Exploring other social media, such as Instagram

### Events Support Team

- ☺ Training event hosts to promote their events online
- ☺ Posting events on Meetup.com and elsewhere

# From the Minister

## Connecting with our Community



We were blessed to have the San Jose Rainbow Women's Chorus at our welcoming-themed worship service.

As a [UU-recognized Welcoming Congregation](#), we affirm and include people who are lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and queer at every level of congregational life.



In Oakland, sharing testimony at a Poor People's Campaign hearing on homelessness, mass incarceration, and the criminalization of poverty.



Maundy Thursday in solidarity with immigrants and refugees. As clergy, we humbled ourselves before these courageous and beautiful people and washed their hands with deep gratitude and love.



## Easter & Earth Day



A beautiful hand-washing ceremony with my colleague Jim Lewis. "Leave your burdens here...receive this Easter blessing...May the joy, strength, and hope of this Easter morning...Dwell in your heart all the days of your life..."



Our annual Earth Day Fair was so musical and fun! We exchanged plants and seeds, cooked on a solar oven, and learned about our environmental impact. Thanks to everyone who made it happen.



## Board Report

As I write this Easter Sunday is tomorrow and today we have sun, wind, and rain all thrown together in one day. This is a time for sorting out what winter storms have brought us and getting ready for the warm days of summer. This is a busy time in our church as we have much to do in these fast-paced days of spring and the early months quickly passing by.

### Ashland Shakespeare Trip

The Ashland trip is something I look forward to each year and then it is over too quickly. It was a great experience and a tribute to Terri's organizational skills. We saw some great plays, had a chance to catch up with others in the group over sightseeing, meals, cookies after the show and generally having a good time. What is always amazing is the diversity and energy of the productions; dramas, comedies, musicals, are all very good. There was not quite 20 of us this year and if any are interested it is a great way to get to know people in a beautiful town.

### Weed & Feed

There were about 15 of us at the weed and feed last week. When we first got there the task looked like something for Paul Bunyan and Hercules to tackle; the weeds were thick, prickly, and waist high. After some wake-up coffee and snacks (compliments of Leah and others) we made great progress and finished up with a barbecue thanks to Bob Simoni. Walt showed up and as we rested and reflected, we realized just how much we depend on him for all he does around here.



## Security

The security system no longer has that low-level alarm at the front door thanks to Ray organizing a repair and training session for our staff. Many of our volunteers will have a discussion and training session on what to do if we are confronted with a hostile intruder. This will take place after service on May 5th.

## Church Happenings

The church has been active in racial justice and outreach to the community. Our pastoral care committee has helped members who have been sick or recovering from surgeries. The children's RE has been working on developing a program that gives our families the kind of support they desire. The board has been working with the various committees on keeping the hospitality hour at the level we have come to expect. Lavon continues to be the mainstay of making sure things run smoothly.

## Annual Meeting

The annual meeting is coming up on May 19th with the need to vote for our church leaders and a review of our budget. The financial team has done a marvelous job matching our resources and goals in challenging times. Your friends who are up for office are volunteers who are taking on a task of love in providing time and leadership for our community. Your input and ideas are very important to the church; please get involved, find out about our challenges, our strengths and put your two cents in.

As we are coming up to the annual meeting and this time there will be a changing of the guard. I think everyone should give a big thank you to Will for his calm leadership that got a lot done in difficult financial times; he kept us all in line and that can be as difficult as herding cats. We owe another thank you to Jennifer for her energy and enthusiasm and opening us up to new things. We have had exceptional leadership over the past two years.

Thank You

Roy Dickerson, Board Member

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## WANTED: Social Media Helpers

If you spend time on Facebook, please consider donating some of that time to Starr King! We are looking for people to share photos, upcoming events, and weekly worship service reminders on our official [Facebook page](#) and help keep an eye on our private members-only [Facebook group](#).

Contact Emily at [newsletter@starrking.org](mailto:newsletter@starrking.org).





# RE Reflections

## RE Field Trip to Glide Memorial Church

We are still feeling grateful for a wonderful Palm Sunday field trip to Glide Memorial Church in San Francisco. The welcoming was warm, filled with music, trumpets, drums, an amazing choir, and lasted almost half an hour! We witnessed a beautiful baptism and listened to a moving testimony, with more music, hugs, announcements about Pride SF. An hour and half later, the Rev. Harry Louis Williams, hip-hop preacher, delivered the sermon "When the Struggle is Real." Thanks to everyone who made this field trip possible for our Starr King kiddos!



### Do you know the UU Kids' Principles?

1. We believe that each and every person is important.
2. We believe that all people should be treated fairly and kindly.
3. We believe that we should accept one another and keep on learning together.
4. We believe that each person must be free to search for what is true and right in life.
5. We believe that all persons should have a vote about the things that concern them.
6. We believe in working for a peaceful, fair, and free world.
7. We believe in caring for our planet Earth, the home we share with all living things.

# Adult Religious Exploration

Spring & Summer

## Building Your Own Theology

May 26, June 2, June 16, June 30  
Sundays at 12:15pm following worship services

The first session was a big hit! Participants shared their background, religious likes/dislikes, and current theological challenges. Do join us for the second session on May 26!

The Adult Religious Exploration Program is delighted to continue this 5-session program led by our own Rev. Maria Cristina! Drawing inspiration from many faiths and philosophies, we will help you develop your own credo or personal mission statement based on your values and beliefs.

Working from the assumption that everyone is their own theologian, Building Your Own Theology invites you to share your spiritual journey and articulate how your values inform and guide your life. Make some time to reflect on human nature, ultimate reality, history, ethics, and religious meaning. Join us in exploring, reflecting, and learning within a nurturing spiritual community!

To request childcare, please use the sign-up sheet in Fellowship Hall. For more information, please contact Rev. Maria Cristina at [minister@starrking.org](mailto:minister@starrking.org).



## Ongoing Activities

Book Goup: White Racial Literacy	Meets every 1st and 3rd Monday at 7:15pm in the sanctuary.
Choir Practice	Meets every Sunday from 9 – 10:15am in the Fellowship Hall
Church Bookstore	Open on the third Sunday of the month, after the service
Drum Circle	First Friday of the month, 7 – 9pm, in the Sanctuary. For adults and mature kids.
Evening Meditation	Every Wednesday, 7:30 – 8:45pm. Open to all.
Elderberries	Third Wednesday of the month, at noon. For self-identified elders. Bring your lunch.
Small Group Ministry	Contact <a href="mailto:sgm@starrking.org">sgm@starrking.org</a> for more information.
SKIT Improv Troupe	Second Thursday of the month, 7:30pm. Open to all.



# Announcements

## Safety Planning Meeting Sunday May 5, 12:15pm

The Safety Committee has been tasked with creating plans for a hostile intruder drill. We want to get input from the following groups: greeters, ushers, sound associates, worship associates, and RE teachers. All are welcome.

## FESCO 2019 Shelter Shuffle Saturday, May 4

FESCO Shuffle is the single best way to get the word out and raise money to end family homelessness in Alameda County. You can still register [here](#) or contact Stephanie Miller at 510-886-5473 with any questions.

## Take Me Out to the Ball Game! June 14, 6:37

Sign up now for the Oakland A's vs Seattle Mariners game. Game begins at 6:37 and finishes with a fantastic fireworks display. Tickets are \$36 each but price can go down if more than 30 people sign up. The sign-up sheet is in Fellowship Hall.

## Raise Money for Starr King Register for eScrip and Shop Locally

We get 3% of your total purchases at:

- Lucky
- Food Maxx
- Save Mart

To create an account at <http://www.escrip.com>, choose "Starr King Unitarian Church" as the non-profit to receive benefits, and enter the phone number(s) you have linked with your Lucky Rewards account.

If you don't have a Lucky Rewards account, create it here:

<https://www.luckysupermarkets.com/rewards/my-rewards#Account>.

Then anytime you use that phone number when you make your purchase at Lucky, Starr King will get credit.

# Starr King Church Calendar

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

« Prev		May 2019					Next »
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	
			1 * 7:30 pm Evening Meditation	2 * 7:00 pm Board of Trustees	3 * 7:00 pm Drumming Circle	4	
5 * 10:30 am Worship Service * 12:15 pm Safety Planning Meeting	6 * 6:30 pm Rainbow Group LGBT NA * 7:15 pm White Racial Literacy Group	7	8 * 12:00 pm SGM afternoons * 12:00 pm Staff Meeting * 3:00 pm Pastoral Care Committee * 7:30 pm Evening Meditation	9 * 7:30 pm SKIT	10	11	
12 * 9:00 am Choir Practice * 10:30 am Worship Service * 12:15 pm Peace and Justice Team	13 * 6:30 pm Rainbow Group LGBT NA	14 * 11:00 am Adult RE	15 * 7:00 pm RE Council * 7:30 pm Evening Meditation * 7:30 pm SGM Evenings	16 * 7:00 pm Worship Committee	17 * 9:00 am Safety Committee	18	
19 * 10:30 am Worship Service * 11:40 am Annual Meeting * 12:00 pm Church Bookstore Open	20 * 6:30 pm Rainbow Group LGBT NA * 7:15 pm White Racial Literacy Group	21	22 * 12:00 pm SGM afternoon * 7:30 pm Evening Meditation	23	24	25	
26 * 10:30 am Worship Service * 12:00 pm AREC	27 * 6:30 pm Rainbow Group LGBT NA	28 * 1:00 pm Executive Committee	29 * 7:30 pm Evening Meditation	30	31		

## May Birthdays

MAY 12 LAURA OTERMAT

MAY 12 TORSTEN FINK

MAY 16 LAVON HODGES

MAY 16 BECKETT WAGNER

MAY 21 KAREN KRAMER

MAY 29 MAY CAROL HENRIE

