



The Flaming Chalice

THEOLOGICALLY DIVERSE • RADICALLY INCLUSIVE • JUSTICE CENTERED

Starr King Unitarian Universalist Church | July 2022 Newsletter



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JULY 3

We Have Met the Enemy and He is Us

Longtime church members Roy and Bob explore some of our American and Unitarian Universalist history in context with today's world and whether or not the human race is capable of perfection. *Bob Meyerson, Roy Dickerson lead.*

JULY 10

Widening the Circle of Love

If love is our shared theological core, what does it look like? How do we make it visible in the world? What are the signs that someone is inside or outside our circle of love? How can we widen our individual and communal circles of love? *Ben Ogilvie leads.*

JULY 17

The Eight Incarnations of Vishnu!

The months of July and August typically celebrate the birth of Lord Shree Krishna according to the Hindu lunar calendar. Rev. Pratima Dharm will speak on the significance of Krishna who is the central deity within the Sanatan or Vedic understanding of life in India and other parts of the world. She will bring the message of love, peace and the power of justice for the disenfranchised from her understanding of the Vaishnav tradition in India on the occasion of 'Janmashtami.'

JULY 24

Summer Sing-Along

Join us for a drumming and singing service with Jenny Madrigal and Phil Didlake of Rhythmic Innovation!

JULY 31

The Book Reader's Guide to the Galaxy

Join guest speaker, Glen Jacob, as we talk about books and the joy of reading, for our annual book communion. This will be a lighthearted and fun service. We hope to share some much needed laughter, with perhaps a chuckle or two. Please bring a book for the community alter, and be prepared to bring book home with you.

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Announcements

For the Safety of All, Masks Indoors Are Required

Mileva Saulo Lewis, EdD, RN

Earlier this week, the Alameda County Dept. of Public Health reissued a mandate for masks to be worn indoors. This continues to be the policy at Starr King. The following Websites may be of interest to you.

Alameda County – When you Need to Wear a Masks

<https://covid-19.acgov.org/face-masks>

<https://covid-19.acgov.org/face-masks.page?#must-mask>

For General Information to:

- Find a walk-in clinic;
- Make an appointment;
- Find a testing site and,
- Get your digital vaccine record

See: <https://myturn.ca.gov>



Bits from Your Board

Welcome Reverend Ruth Rinehart

The Board of Trustees on 18 May 2022 approved the recommendation of the Interim Minister Search Team (Marilyn Mosher, Ben Ogilvie, Stephanie Smith, and Mileva Lewis) to ask the Rev. Ruth Rinehart to be our Interim Minister. The Interim Search Team, over the course of the month that we had to review clergy profiles, conduct interviews, and seek references, found one thing very, very, clear – This was the minister for us, especially for our church at this time in our congregational life.

Rev. Ruth will join us officially on 15 August and will lead her first Worship Service on 21 August. The Interim Search Team will work with Rev. Ruth to assist in the transition from her home in Colorado to Hayward. We are happy to report that she will be renting the apartment Rev. María Cristina and Mama Lily have been living in!



While there were many things that impressed us about her in our virtual meetings – one in particular was that she would “enter lightly” and be prepared to listen. This was confirmed at an information gathering on 17 May when we met her and her partner, David Hurlbut.

- A gentle and calm presence
- Her insightful questions to learn more about us
- Her appreciation of our sanctuary and care of our outside space.

Rev. Ruth’s own words speak eloquently and authentically about who she is and what she believes:

Spiritual Path

I was raised Unitarian Universalist, along with a mystical metaphysical Christian orientation. I learned to meditate when I was nine years old. It stood me in good stead, especially with the real challenges I experienced in my childhood and teen years. My spiritual path has included the theist and personal god of the 12 steps, pagan leanings, consistent meditation and prayer, a sustained Buddhist path, and now back to Unitarian Universalism.

I actually completed seminary as an atheist, to my great surprise. But I don’t call myself an atheist today. More a mystic humanist, and one who is comfortable talking about God and the Holy Spirit. I don’t want to argue with anyone’s beliefs (unless they are harmful). Faith that makes one a better person works for so many people.

My work as a Unitarian Universalist minister is to call us together to become better people and to help create the more beautiful multicultural world we all know is possible. I find salvation in this life, seeing the holy human connections that restore and nourish. Let us remember love in our every thought and deed. Let us be grounded in love. Let us be reminded that we are surrounded by love. Amidst brutality and cruelty, amidst the

Bits from Your Board

Welcome Reverend Ruth Rinehart (cont.)

worst that humans can do to each other. Let us not despair, but choose who we are to be in those moments. To reach out and do what we can. In community. Surrounded by love.

Leadership

Leadership often starts with Followership. I believe good leadership embodies a quality of being among, rather than always being ahead. My leadership style is collaborative, while always keeping leadership development in mind. Leadership must be earned, certainly in congregational settings.

My first Master's degree is in Transpersonal Studies, with a concentration on Leadership and Conflict Transformation. I believe strongly in the ability of people to learn leadership qualities, and I also believe strongly that growing in conflict competency is the road to maturity, to living in community and growing together within congregations.

The power of the congregation is that it is owned by its mission. The contributions of the members create the organization that has such tremendous power to bring people together in love, to affect the wider world, to address grave matters of social cruelties, to grow children and young people up into responsible citizens, to provide a place of sanctuary to feed their hearts and minds and souls. While I love being outdoors, I also love to gather with people who volunteer in the congregation, to make their community better.

Social Justice

My primary social justice energy has been directed to gender justice, reproductive justice, and racial justice. At my current Interim Ministry position, I have not focused outside the congregation on social justice, but have remained focused on the Interim work needed by the congregation, as they have continued to move towards healing and wholeness, in their successful search for their new minister.

Bits from Your Board

Transitions – a time for Reflection, Resilience and Renewal

The “Interim” Transition Team*
(Marilyn Mosher, Beth Ogilvie, and Stephanie Smith)

This time of transition, of change, for some may be an anxious time; for others, a time for reflection and renewal. The Board of Trustees chose Rev. Ruth Rinehart as our Interim Minister because we believe not only does she understand the complexity of this “in-between time” and the multiple dimensions of this process but also because she values deep listening. She values hearing about our gifts and listening to all voices, varied as they may be in this church, and in the UUA of which we are a part.



This is the first of a series of “mini-articles” as we prepare ourselves for Rev. Ruth’s arrival on 15 August. Until Rev. Ruth arrives – we offer several thoughts:

Goals of Interim Ministry

A great deal has changed within our country, our church, and in each of us over the last six years. Let’s keep the generic goals of Interim Ministry in mind and allow Rev. Ruth to set the tone and pace for how we embrace this time; consider these broad goals taken from The Janus Workbook (p. 3):

- Claim and honor the congregation’s past and work towards healing its griefs and conflicts.
- Illuminate the congregation’s unique identity, its strengths, its needs, and its challenges.
- Clarify the multiple dimensions of leadership, both ordained and lay, and navigating the shifts in leadership that accompany times of transition.
- Renew connections with available resources within and beyond the UUA.
- Enable the congregation to renew its vision, strengthen its stewardship, prepare for new professional leadership, and engage its future with anticipation and zest.

In this time of transition, let us listen deeply in love:

- Listen – to all voices – those with whom you agree and those with whom you may disagree – especially if you strongly disagree.
- Resist “side conversations” to take a particular view, and
- Listen to understand – not to judge and not to label

**Note: The Interim Minister Search Team will serve as a Transition Team until Rev. Ruth arrives.*

SoUllful Family Ministry

June Highlights

Sharing thoughts...

"Yes I can!"

When a child feels “known”, is when they can begin developing a strong sense of self. Children and adults alike use that strong sense of self to bounce back from life’s challenges. Bouncing back requires a “Yes I can!” attitude. It’s like grasping that extended helping hand to pull yourself back up again.

Like flowers in a garden, each and everyone of us are uniquely different, interacting with the world in our own way. In our classroom, I like to think our children are “known.” Some of us enjoy the ticklely feeling of bird seed, while others enjoy the feel of snapping legos together. Some of us are secure with a known routine to follow, while others seem to just float along. Some of us paint with broad colorful strokes, while others are comfortable keeping within the lines.

My hope for our classroom is to be that “helping hand” and encourage our children to embrace who they are and use that, “Yes I can!” attitude as they face challenges to come.

Happy Heart Circle Time and the weekly Family Projects have been discontinued.

Our families are now stepping out and living life. I was very happy to have had the opportunity to provide a connection for the families during the COVID lock down. The families are thriving and that is a very good thing. My main focus will be on the classroom service. Summer has arrived and I am so excited for the "Fun in the Sun"

Classroom Services

Our friends are returning. It's like we were never apart. We picked up just where we left off 2 and a half years ago!! We started off this month exploring the sounds of music by recording ourselves playing instruments. Mireya and Nayela did us proud. They co-led our pride service and did a wonderful job. The children were invited to join our last and very special service with Rev. Maria Cristina by participating in a "Garden Story".



SoUUlful Family Ministry

June Highlights (cont.)

The children continue to harvest our garden. We managed to contribute to the good-bye pot luck with our freshly picked sweet peas. Our Three Sisters, Corn, Beans and Squash continue to thrive in the peacefulness of our garden. Come and visit. All are welcomed.

Gratitude

Our SoUUlful Family Ministry is so fortunate to have the support from the volunteers in the classroom and those who work behind the scenes. A special thank you goes out to Darryl and Rene' Ray for their lumber contribution. Without that, our summer carpentry program would not be possible. Another special thank you goes out to Lavon, who had not missed a week in delivering our weekly art bags. She never hesitated in assisting with the special deliveries. "Thank you Lavon."

The classroom could not function if there was not for our volunteers, Donnie R. Lea C., Diane M., Laurie M., Kelly H., Amy P. and Mary Lou.

-Lorie Miller, SoUUlful Family Ministry Coordinator



Ongoing Activities

Starr King welcomes all church interest groups and committees to meet in-person at the church either inside or outside the facility. If your group has been meeting by Zoom, it will continue to do so, by discretion of the group. All groups meeting in-person on the Church grounds should continue to observe COVID safety protocols by:

- Wearing masks
- Practicing social distancing
- Refraining from serving and sharing refreshments

We applaud your continued participation in SKUUC activities.

Evening Meditation	Every Wednesday 7:00-8:30 pm, on Zoom. Open to all. Visitors welcome. Contact: Diane Meyerson
Small Group Ministry	Contact sgm@starrking.org for more information.
Board Meeting	First Tuesday of the month, 3:00 pm on Zoom. Open to all. Contact: Roy Dickerson
Peace and Justice Action Team	Second Sunday of the month after worship (after a 15-20 minute break) in a hybrid model via Zoom using the same link as the service.
Starr King Singers	Sundays before the service from 9:30-10:00 a.m.
Adult RE	(On hold) Second Tuesday of the Month from 11-12 noon on Zoom Contact: Mileva Saulo Lewis
Choir Practice	(On hold) Meets every Sunday from 9-10:15am in the Fellowship Hall. Contact: Lea Casini



July Birthdays

July 3
Jo Murdach

July 4
Will Fitch

July 7
Liz Nelson

July 9
Jim Otermat

July 15
Evelyn Cormier

July 19
Corina Vasaure

July 21
Jessica Ringlein-Doerr

July 27
Laurie Matthews

July 28
Natalie Forrest

July 30
Barbara Ryan