



The Flaming Chalice

THEOLOGICALLY DIVERSE • RADICALLY INCLUSIVE • JUSTICE CENTERED

Starr King Unitarian Universalist Church | October 2022 Newsletter



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OCTOBER 2

Return Again

Join us this Sunday as we contemplate what it means to return.

Reverend Ruth Rinehart leads.

OCTOBER 9

Native Lands

We live on unceded land, and most of us have settler/colonial ancestry. Land acknowledgments have been controversial in this congregation. Join Rev Ruth and Ben Ogilvie as they reflect on our relationship with this land, and what our role is past, present and future.

Reverend Ruth Rinehart leads.

OCTOBER 16

Who Do We Choose To Be?

If we choose to see the past – and the present – with clear eyes and an open heart we can act in ways that align with our values, and make a difference in the world. Let's talk about obstacles to this and the potential rewards of doing it faithfully.

Ben Ogilvie leads.

OCTOBER 23

UN Sunday

"The United Nations was not created to take humankind to heaven, but to save humanity from hell." –Dag Hammarskjöld. Join Claudia McDonagh and others for UU UN Sunday, focusing especially on climate crisis.

Claudia McDonagh leads.

OCTOBER 30

FUNdraiser kickoff

The spirituality of stewardship combines with love and connection and fun! Join Rev Ruth and Diane Meyerson as we kick off the auction, and reflect on the spirit of abundance

Reverend Ruth Rinehart leads.

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September Highlights



From the Minister

Rev. Ruth Rinehart

Hello beautiful Starr King community. I am inviting you into our Common Read this year: [What Happened to You? Conversations on Trauma, Resilience, and Healing](#). We'll be covering the front matter, introduction and Chapter 1 in October. The Board will be reading this; I am encouraging the staff to read this, and you are invited to a monthly zoom call to discuss it. Here is a note the authors (Bruce D. Perry, MD, PhD, and Oprah Winfrey):



“This book is for anyone with a mother, father, partner, or child who may have experienced trauma. And, if you’ve ever had labels like “people pleaser,” “self-sabotager,” “disruptive,” “argumentative,” “checked out,” “can’t hold a job,” or “bad at relationships” to describe you or your loved ones, this book is for you. Or if you simply want to better understand yourself and others, this book is for you, too.”

This book is conversation, with accessible brain science throughout, and asks us to shift from the question “What is wrong with you?” to “What happened to you?”

In October, our Zoom drop-in discussion will be Saturday morning, October 22nd, from 10 to 11:30am. [Here is the zoom link for that call](#). It will also be included in that Friday’s weekly announcements. I will soon provide a schedule for the coming year; we will be finished with the book in July.

Holiday Services

I am looking ahead to December and New Year’s Day.

- I plan to offer a Blue Holiday Service on the evening of December 13th, from 7 to 8pm. This will be contemplative and reflective, for those in the community who are still suffering losses, who suffer from seasonal sadness, or simply don’t get into the holiday “cheer” and could do with less glitter all around.
- I am interested to hear from those who want a Solstice service. Let me know if you plan to attend, or if you want to help with the service itself.
- Christmas Eve is on Saturday evening and we will enjoy coming together for a family service.
- Christmas Day falls on a Sunday every 6-8 years, and this is the year. I’m interested to hear from you if you plan to attend, and if you can help in one of the many roles it takes to put on a Sunday service.

Training and Planning

All Things Worship: Saturday, October 29th, 1–4pm. Whether you enjoy being an usher, working in the sound booth, tech support, music, worship associate, or even leading worship yourself, you will want to join us for at least part of this afternoon. We will be looking at creating meaningful and transformative worship: all the elements of the

From the Minister

Rev. Ruth Rinehart (cont.)

service, what makes it all come together, introducing the themes for the coming year, and learning how we will work together. Please let me know if you want to attend.

Finally, dear ones, remember to breathe deeply. Breathe in the beauty around you. Breathe in the love that surrounds you. Rest in gratitude for being a part of this beloved community.

–Rev. Ruth

minister@starrking.org

720.290.5715

You may schedule appointments with me by clicking [this link](#).

Announcements

Support in a Medical Crisis

Have you ever given us your [Life Crisis Form](#)? Or updated it in the last couple years? It's a document that will help Rev. Ruth and the Pastoral Care Team provide assistance in a medical crisis or in case of death. Here are some reasons it's a good idea:

We'll know how to help & who to contact if you have a medical emergency

End of life planning gives you and your loved ones peace of mind

We won't sing your least favorite hymn at your funeral!

Please send a copy of the form to Rev. Ruth at minister@starrking.org, and keep a copy for yourself too.

Life Crisis Form
Starr King Unitarian Universalist Church of Hayward

If you would like to have life crisis information on file at the church, please return one copy of this to the office. Keep one for your personal file. All information is confidential. Extra copies of the form are available on request.

Name: _____

Name of spouse/significant other/next of kin: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____ Birthdate: _____

Names of children living at home:	Birthdates:
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

Names & phone numbers of close friends or caregivers who can help in a crisis:

_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

Doctor, phone, preferred hospital: _____

Blood Type: _____ Special Medical Notes: _____

Lawyer's name, address & phone number: _____

Life Crisis File 9/2014



Online Auction: October 31–November 5
Live Auction: Saturday, November 5

This congregation knows how to have FUN at any given SKUUC Fundraiser. Soon you will have the opportunity to exercise your fun-loving spirit at the upcoming Starr-light Service Auction which promises a Magical Fundraiser Under the Stars.

In the late 80's, master fundraiser and longtime church member, Karen Cook, brought the idea of a service auction to SKUUC from her prior UU Church in Massachusetts. The SKUUC service auction, which happens every two years, has been a tradition ever since. This year, we will mix a little stardust and use a little magic to make the 2022 Starr-light Service Auction an event to remember.

The mission of our service auction is to raise funds to sustain and support all the good works that we do. While fundraising is key, a certain magic happens when everyone comes together for this special event. The magic surrounds us like star dust and stays with us throughout the year.

The auction is possible because members of our congregation donate wonderful goods and services. We then turn around and auction off those delightful gifts back to you. Combine good food, great auction items, and the company of generous people and you have a winning formula for a successful Service Auction.

We give and buy gifts, make money for the Church, take joy in the process, and have a lot of fun along the way.

This year an on-line auction will open Monday October 31. You will have a week to bid on donated items. On the following Saturday, November 5 we will have a LIVE event to auction off some special gifts, also donated by you.

We have not made a final decision on the format of the LIVE auction scheduled for November 5, just yet, but will let you know as soon as we do.

We graciously request that you donate goods and services for the auction. We have a list of suggestions if you need ideas about what to donate.

We also have a [Google donation form](#) for you to use. Hard copy forms are available. They are also available [online here](#). Terri Owen will be happy to accept your completed forms. We are available for any questions you may have.

SAMPLE FORM



DONATION FORM

Online Auction Oct 31 to Nov 5. Live event Nov 5. Please submit your offering now!

Directions:	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. You need a separate form for each donation 2. Create a "Title" for the donation for the catalog. 3. Describe your donation/service in detail. Try to anticipate questions bidders will have about your offering. 4. Number of offers: Example: you offer 1 apple pie. You can enter 3 offers for 3 pies. Three people will win a pie. Dinner/event: number of seats/places offered. 5. Value of donation: estimate the value of your offering so the bidding will be fair. Add a suggested opening bid. 6. Email us a photo of your donation, or a graphic of your choice. If you wish, we will supply a graphic. 7. Enter your contact information.
Title:	
Description: (Tell us about your donation. What makes it special or unique?)	
Number of offers	
Value of donation: \$	
Opening bid \$	
Name of Donor:	
E-mail address:	
Phone number:	
Address:	

Please email your completed form to: auction@starrking.org
 Send by snail mail: Terri Owen, 5240 Crane Ave, Castro Valley, Ca. 94546
 QUESTIONS?? Email us at auction@starrking.org

[Click here for the PDF to print or email](#)

[Click here to fill out the Google form](#)

[For a PDF with more information click here](#)

Peace and Justice Action Team

Meeting Agenda: September 11, 2022 (Selected Notes)

In attendance: Ethel-May Shaw, Rene and Rene' Castle, Ben Ogilvie, Mileva Lewis, Ann Chappel, Danielis Kuchins, Diane Meyerson, Claudia McDonagh, Nathan Heigert, Darryl Ray, Terri Owens.

Rainbow flag discussion. Danielis volunteered to look into a new flag and send info to Darryl.

South Hayward Parish status and our relationship. Terri Owens: First Presbyterian Church runs it now. If it wasn't for them stepping in SHP would have had to close down. We are an ally now but we don't have any board representation. We still should have a Thanksgiving Service special plate for SHP. We discussed the issue of homelessness. Also it would be good if we had periodic feedback or update on SHP. Darryl volunteered to contact First Pres to see if we can establish better communications. Also we need to assess what gaps need to be filled.

What is happening with FESCO? Starr King UU is still listed as a "Friend of FESCO" and Katheryn LaMar is still listed as our contact person. Mileva will contact Katheryn to get update.

Ben Ogilvie reminded us that PJAT needs to make sure we don't get overloaded. Need to make sure we have the resources and energy to make a difference. **"Rule of 3"** = "Don't start a new project unless there are 3 people committed to working on it, who actually have the time to do it."

Bob Britton discussed rules regarding what is and is not **appropriate political actions**. Avoid taking sides for candidates, but can and should support getting out the vote, and backing UU values and issues. One really good way is to check out **UU the Vote**.

Bob also reported on **ICJJ Interfaith Coalition for Justice in Our Jails and Faith in Action East Bay**.

Ben Ogilvie: Special plates for the rest of the year:

- October Amah Mutsun Landtrust
- November South Hayward Parish
- December Minister's discretionary fund
- January: DRUUMM (note that we have already sent them \$100 that we promised to get to them in 2022.)

The PJAT voted unanimously to approve the above special plates.

After the meeting Ben updated Rev Ruth about the special plates and added them to the Worship Schedule spreadsheet.

Protect Juristac: Next week several members of PJAT volunteered to bring laptops to church so that we can help SKUU members fill out and submit letters opposing the gravel mine proposal before the SC County Planning Commission.

Peace and Justice Action Team

(cont.)

Reproductive Justice. Mileva and Diane attended a 3 part webinar. Discussed various actions.

Proposition 1, “Constitutional Right to Reproductive Freedom”. Need to get this proposition in announcements, Facebook, Instagram and other social media.

Next PJAT meeting after church on October 2nd (because the election is coming up soon, we are having it a week early.)

Any mistakes or omissions are mine.

–Darryl Ray, PJAT facilitator

Zoom Inclusion Group

Serving the Whole Congregation

As hybrid services continue, you may have noticed some of the changes Zoom Inclusion Group (ZIG) has implemented during services. From the physical sanctuary's perspective, the tech team has continued using gallery view to project the friendly faces of our Zoom congregants, and from their perspective the new front camera set-up lets them see the friendly (though masked) faces of in-person congregants.



Our virtual space has also been brightened with the addition of the virtual chalice, pioneered by Stephanie Smith, Maria Clay-Emerson, and Larry Emerson, extending the warmth of community and the fire of commitment from one space across all others.

Our zoom greeters have also made welcoming all who call in as much as a priority as those who enter the physical building of our church.

Consider being a part of this mission of inclusion, even if you usually attend services in person, by volunteering to act as a zoom greeter or virtual chalice lighter on occasion.

Email Nathan at zig@starrking.org if interested. We also have a home on the church website [here](#) and [here](#).

–Nathan Heigert, ZIG coordinator

SoUllful Family Ministry

September Highlights

Sharing thoughts...

One of my favorite things to do is to watch children create using any kind of medium, blocks, paint, clay, markers, etc. Reason being is that you are invited into their sacred space of discovering who they are, how they are feeling and their perception of the world. I am honored and humbled.

“Love”

Ramona and Olly were painting the word love cut from a block of wood. Olly was painting his red and Ramona decided to paint a pattern, painting with two different colors, one letter one color and the other letter the another color. I sat there quietly observing until Ramona commented, “Olly is painting his word all red and I am painting mine in a pattern.” I directed my comment to Olly, “You are painting yours all red.” He replied, “Yes, red is the color of love.” As he was saying that, Ramona stopped painting, put down her paint brush and began to “feel” the colors, mixing them together. While finger painting her word, she said, “I am making new colors.”

“Love can be many colors.” At that moment, Olly, Ramona and myself paused. It was a moment we all shared, realizing that love can be red and other colors too. I believe a seed was just planted, growing... “The inherent worth and dignity of every person.”

Blessed It Be

Circle Time

The children continue to share their circle time with the congregation. Following Valerie's example, we created a poem using words from our hearts. To understand pastoral care, we began with answering the question, "How can we help?" by providing water to a thirsty dog, a band aide to a friend with a scraped knee, and food to a hungry person. How can we get to know our friends better? We ask questions. Did you know that over half of the congregation's favorite food is ice cream, just like Olly's? And finally when we hear music, our bodies tells us to move.



SoUUlful Family Ministry

September Highlights (cont.)

Classroom

We honored Corn Mother, who represents nurturing a community with her harvest. We made corn husks people and enjoyed her corn for snack. We had fun cooling off with dinosaur mud baths, water play and eating Sunday sundaes! Celebrating friendships, we discovered how we look when we eat our snack with friends in front of a mirror.

Winter Garden

We have said our good-byes to our wonderful generous summer garden. Now the soil is prepared with seeds and plants, carrots, beets and broccoli. I am looking forward to our sweet pea tee pee. If all goes according to plan, the children will be able to sit inside and explore the sweet peas from the inside out.

Gratitude

Thank you all!!!! The volunteers, parents, the tech team, the congregation and Rev. Ruth. Because of all your support, Family Ministry is feeling the love.

-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 Starr King 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, 3:30–5:00 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

We would love to celebrate your Birthday in The Chalice. If your special day is not already listed, please let us know the day and month of your Birthday. Send information to ddmeyerson@gmail.com.



October Birthdays

October 1
Carl Fink

October 3
David Longfellow

October 16
Kelly Heigert
Sheila McClellan