



# The Flaming Chalice

THEOLOGICALLY DIVERSE • RADICALLY INCLUSIVE • JUSTICE CENTERED

Starr King Unitarian Universalist Church | March 2023 Newsletter



## Interim Minister

Rev. Ruth Rinehart  
(720)290-5715

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

## Board President

Roy Dickerson

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

## Office Administrator

Maya Alexander

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

## Newsletter

Kelly and Nathan Heigert

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

22577 Bayview Avenue

Hayward, CA 94541

(510)581-2060

[starrking.org](http://starrking.org)

[facebook.com/StarrKingChurch](https://facebook.com/StarrKingChurch)

[instagram.com/starrkinguuc](https://instagram.com/starrkinguuc)

## MARCH 5

### Vulnerability of Family

Our birth families, and our chosen ones. Families can be containers of trauma, or foundations of love and encouragement. Reflect with us on family – yours – ours. *Rev. Ruth and Lorie Miller lead.*

## MARCH 12

### Vulnerability of Finances

While money is a story -- an illusion, really -- it is an agreement our culture has made. Its values are so often completely out of alignment with our highest selves. Explore with us the vulnerability of money. *Reverend Ruth Rinehart leads.*

## MARCH 19

### The Blessing of Stewardship

What are the gifts of Stewardship in your life?  
*Mileva Lewis leads.*

## MARCH 26

### Commitment Sunday

Join us as we wrap up our Season of Stewardship. Let us know our value in community, and let us break bread together  
*Reverend Ruth Rinehart leads.*

## WHAT'S INSIDE

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# February Highlights



*We bid farewell to our office administrator Emily Watkins this month. Included above are some photos from her time at Starr King, including pre-COVID.*

# Announcements

## Stewardship Season Begins

Stewardship – the protection of something considered worth caring for and preserving. Something precious.

Have you noticed a new energy in our church? I have. You can see it in budding flowers and budding bushes, cottage meetings, congregational conversation sessions, laughing out of doors, singing without masks, and laughing at jokes from the pulpit, to name only a few. Spring is almost here; this season of new beginnings, the awakening of the land and our spirits from the dreariness of winter.



On Sunday, 19 February, the congregation expressed its enthusiastic support to hire a religious professional to guide the next chapter of SoUUful Family Ministry. Each of us is essential to bringing this vision to life. The Stewardship Team recognizes that this is a time for dreaming big and acting with intention to provide the money for this dream.

*Fundraising is precisely the opposite of begging. When we seek to raise funds we are not saying, "Please could you help us out because lately it's been hard." Rather, we are declaring, "We have a vision that is amazing and exciting. We are inviting you to invest yourself through your resources – your energy, your prayers, and your money – in this work to which we are called. (Nouwen and Ball, 2019).*

**During Stewardship Season, 26 February through 26 March, you can expect:**

An opportunity to talk with a Visiting Steward about Starr King, its meaning to you, your hopes for the future and a conversation about your pledge for the coming year.

On Sunday, 26 March we will celebrate Commitment Sunday with a festive pot-luck lunch and weather permitting it will be out of doors. We will celebrate the creation of a space where we invest in our own spiritual growth and explore our beliefs, our connections with others and find the inspiration and strength to face the challenges of our lives.

–Your Stewardship Team: Roy Dickerson, Ben Ogilvie, Terri Owen, Keith and Mileva Lewis

## Welcoming Maya Alexander

Please welcome our new office administrator, Maya Alexander. She will be working onsite on Sundays, Wednesdays and Thursdays. Email at [office@starrking.org](mailto:office@starrking.org).

## From the Minister

In lieu of the monthly "From the Minister" article in the newsletter look for a message from Rev. Ruth in a forthcoming email.



# Announcements

(cont.)

## Peace and Justice Action Team

At the February 12th meeting we discussed the annual schedule for special plates.

We heard an update from Bob Brittan on Interfaith Coalition for Justice in our Jails (ICJJ). The County Board of Supervisors has neglected to fund Care First Jails Last even though they approved it in May 2021.

Our next Peace and Justice Action Team (PJAT) meeting will be at noon after our Sunday church service on March 12th.

If you would like to receive PJAT Action Alerts or updates via e-mail let you can contact Darryl or Ben through PJAT's email: [dalbertray@yahoo.com](mailto:dalbertray@yahoo.com) or [beth@bethos.us](mailto:beth@bethos.us)

## Celebration of Women's History Month

Women's History Month is a celebration of women's contributions to history, culture and society and has been observed annually in the month of March in the United States since 1987. Women's History Month 2023 will take place from Wednesday, March 1– Friday, March 31, 2023.

According to History.com, the actual celebration of Women's History Month grew out of a weeklong celebration of women's contributions to culture, history and society organized by the school district of Sonoma, California, in 1978. Presentations were given at dozens of schools, hundreds of students participated in a "Real Woman" essay contest and a parade was held in downtown Santa Rosa.

In celebration of Women's History Month, Starr King, in collaboration with Thorn Productions, will present a One Person Show featuring J Emily Peabody, creator, writer, and performer on **Tuesday, March 14, 2023, at 7:00 pm.**

Ms. Peabody will demonstrate the courageous persistence of Jeannette Rankin who was the first woman to be elected to the US Congress. Ms. Rankin was an American politician and activist who worked to expand voting rights for women, to ensure better working conditions for laborers across America, and to improve healthcare for women and infants.

Ms. Rankin was elected to the U.S. House of Representatives as a Republican from Montana in 1916. She served one term until she was elected again in 1940.

Join us on **Tuesday, March 14, 2023, at 7:00 PM in person at Starr King Unitarian Universalist Church or on Zoom** for this remarkable presentation.



# SoUllful Family Ministry

## February Highlights

### Sharing a thought...

#### “Trust in the Play”

One thing I have learned from working with children is that your ego needs to be placed aside. I love Jeffrey Melcher’s term “Sacred play.” It encompasses the play process as a spiritual journey.

On paper, I had planned a perfect activity. I was sure the children would leave church that day, a changed person (my ego talking).

I had planned for the children to create a community Heart, using bits torn from their paper Hearts. But the teachers that day, Diane M. And Laurie M., allowed the children to give their own meaning to this activity. Instead of tearing their Hearts, the children chose to decorate their individual Hearts and place them on a “community” board. Diane and Laurie were able to “let go,” allowing the children to own their own spiritual journey. Great job, you two!

#### Circle Time

The children experienced art through their sense of touch, smell, and sight. While painting with shaving cream, Otto said, “This feels very satisfying.” I had to try and he was right, it was very satisfying! If the congregation sensed some silence in church, it was because the families planned a field trip to Coyote Hills to understand our land acknowledgment first hand. They enjoyed the blue skies, hiking the hill sides and especially, the park’s on going program, connecting visitors to the Ohlone People’s traditions, art and culture. The children finished off the month with connecting their decorated paper Hearts to a larger community.

#### Events coming up

**March 5th: Our Multi-generation service.**

We will be acknowledging the Heigert Family, a baby blessing for Isobe Salway, and a story for All Ages, “My Heart” by Corinna Luyken, read by our youths, Mireya and Nayela.



# SoUllful Family Ministry

## February Highlights (cont.)

### Gratitude

The love keeps on coming! Thank you all!, Laurie M, Lea C, Terri O, Mary Lou, Diane M and our youth, Mireya and Nayela. Your presence is most appreciated.

*-Lorie Miller, Volunteer*



# Ongoing Activities

COVID restrictions have been lifted

- Masks are optional.
- Eating & drinking are permitted in the Fellowship Hall
- Singing without masks is permitted
- Encourage gathering in all indoor and outdoor settings.

We will continue to provide:

- Virtual worship as an option as well as for meetings
- KN95 mask for your use

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<b>Evening Meditation</b>	Every Wednesday 7:00-8:30 pm, on Zoom. Open to all. Visitors welcome. Contact: Diane Meyerson
<b>Board Meeting</b>	First Tuesday of the month, 3:30–5:00 pm on Zoom. Open to all. Contact: Roy Dickerson
<b>Peace and Justice Action Team</b>	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.
<b>Starr King Singers</b>	Sundays before the service from 9:30-10:00 a.m.
<b>Starr King Choir</b>	Every Monday 7:00-8:00 pm. Contact: Linli Wang at <a href="mailto:music@starrking.org">music@starrking.org</a>
<b>Adult RE</b>	(On hold) Contact: Mileva Saulo Lewis at <a href="mailto:milevalewis@comcast.net">milevalewis@comcast.net</a>

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**Small Group Ministry** Contact [minister@starrking.org](mailto:minister@starrking.org) for more information.

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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](mailto:ddmeyerson@gmail.com).



## March Birthdays

**March 1** Liana Klausmeyer

**March 2** Joey Murdach

**March 4** Collin Carrell

**March 7** Katrina Homerick

**March 9** Nathan Heigert

**March 10** Audrey LePell

**March 11** Ray Oducayen

**March 12** Rebecca Parr

**March 12** Darryl Ray

**March 13** Margarita Jacob

**March 14** Sara Raymond

**March 16** Renee Ray

**March 22** Karen Cook

**March 24** Susan Dawkins  
Clark

**March 24** Jamie Prout

**March 26** Sherry Thomas