



The Flaming Chalice

THEOLOGICALLY DIVERSE • RADICALLY INCLUSIVE • JUSTICE CENTERED
Starr King Unitarian Universalist Church | May 2023 Newsletter



Interim Minister

Rev. Ruth Rinehart

minister@starrking.org

Board President

Roy Dickerson

president@starrking.org

Office Administrator

Maya Alexander

office@starrking.org

Newsletter

Kelly and Nathan Heigert

newsletter@starrking.org

22577 Bayview Avenue

Hayward, CA 94541

(510) 581-2060

starrking.org

facebook.com/StarrKingChurch

instagram.com/starrkinguuc

May 7

Are You Up to the Challenge?

When we are faced with difficulties in our lives, we sometimes allow them to stop us in our tracks. However, using our imagination and creativity, we have the power within us to transform difficulties into opportunities that might even be better than what we would have otherwise conceived.

Rev. Carlton Smith leads.

May 14

Our Parents Ourselves

Join us on this day, in which we repudiate Hallmark holidays, but look deeply at love in our lives, and how our relationships change with the ones who love and care for us, as we love and care for others. We will be joined by Parvin Seaver, with the Alameda Co Be A Mentor program.

Rev. Ruth Rinehart leads.

May 21

The Transient and the Permanent in Unitarian Universalism

Ours is a living faith. Since the Unitarians and Universalists consolidated in 1961, we have grown with the times. We are different now than we were then. We are working to remain relevant, a faith that meets this moment. Join us as we look to the past, present and future, including the proposed changes to Article II of the Unitarian Universalist Association.

Rev. Ruth Rinehart leads.

May 28

Belum

Most of us know change rather reluctantly. We consider it necessary, but prefer it in small doses, only when convenient and mostly for other people. But that rarely works out. We are living in a world – and living in bodies – that literally never stop changing. In this service we will consider the change we're experiencing and see how UUism was built for changing lives, changing communities and a changing world.

Rev. Greg Ward leads (pulpit exchange with Mission Peak UU Church)

WHAT'S INSIDE

3 From the Minister

5 SoUUlful Family
Ministries

6 Ongoing Activities
and Birthdays

May Highlights



From the Minister

Rev. Ruth Rinehart

Dearest Starr King community, how beautiful you are. I hope you feel the love, which has been exquisite this past month, especially with the family event at Sunnyslope Farm and the Earth Day celebration! In April, you came together to resoundingly support the wider UUA faith, and the direction our faith is taking with its social justice work. Through the Cottage Meetings and Congregational Conversation, you specifically supported the anti-racism work that UUA Fellowshiped ministers are trained in, as we work towards a more diverse and inclusive faith. Blessings upon everyone who participated in these beautiful and connecting events.



Your Interim Search Team is hard at work to bring in a good match for you, for the next two years. Starr King UU Church is a jewel! Your recently reaffirmed commitment to children, youth and families is part of why I do not worry about you and your future. Your Family Ministry Committee (Lorie Miller, Allison Prout, Joanna Zinsli, Laurie Matthews and Lea Casini) and the Human Resources Committee (Diane Meyerson and Marilyn Mosher) are in the process of finding the half-time Director of Religious Education (DRE) that will support that commitment, and help rebuild Starr King to its former intergenerational strength. Thank you, all of you! Lorie, Allison, Joanna, Laurie, Lea, Diane, and Marilyn!

The other reason why I do not worry about Starr King and its future is because of the tremendous work done by the Finance Committee (Keith Lewis, Marilyn Mosher and Terri Owen). They are offering three opportunities for you to learn about the budget the Board has approved, as well as explaining the whole financial picture at Starr King, and why you are on solid ground for staffing for growth (full time minister, half time DRE, and half-time admin). Thank you, Keith, Marilyn and Terri!

Check your calendar and decide which of these days/times you can attend, if you have been concerned about the financial health of Starr King. You will be voting on the budget at the May 28th Annual Congregational Meeting. Get your questions answered before then!

- Tuesday, May 9th, 6:30pm at the church
- Thursday, May 11th, 1:30pm at the church
- Saturday, May 13th, 11am on zoom

Most of us know that there are some serious differences in world view, perspective on social justice work, what's going on at the national level with the Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA), and the newly formed North American Unitarian Association (NAUA). The President of your board, Roy Dickerson, has founded the NAUA Hayward Fellowship, and has talked with some of you about it. I am grateful that the NAUA exists. Some UUs have seen the UUA and UUA congregations move away from them; they are increasingly uncomfortable with the way the UUA does justice work. I am grateful that they can join an NAUA congregation, and find like-minded people there.

From the Minister

Rev. Ruth Rinehart (cont.)

I'd like to point you to some resources:

- [Here is a good sermon from last fall that lays out the national issues well.](#) The worship leader is Emily Garrick, former president of the board at the UU Congregation Jamestown NY, preaching at the UU Amherst congregation. (her sermon starts about 19 minutes into the video)
 - [Here is a transcript of Emily's sermon.](#)
- [Here is an article, "Building Resilient Organizations,"](#) which it would be good for everyone to read. Based on good community organizing principles, it highlights where some of us on the left can fall into bad habits – the kind of habits that have created a lot of criticism that we see today. Let me know your thoughts once you have read it! I like the principles explained here, even while it is written for non-profits, rather than specifically congregations.

Part of what has been happening, dear ones, is that you are exercising the muscle of difficult conversations – being able to speak with love and respect amidst difference. We all need this skill in these times, with the recognition that we practice it more skillfully at some times than at others. Let our thoughts, words and deeds be grounded in the love that is so abundant at Starr King.

Blessings,

–Rev. Ruth (she/her/hers)

minister@starrking.org

(720) 290-5715

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

Souful Family Ministry

May Highlights

Sharing Thoughts

Thank you to Allison Prout who provided a Seder service to include our children. In that service I witnessed a "never will I forget" experience. There was a game, finding a hidden envelope, resulting in two children and one prize. After playing the game, with both finding the hidden envelope, there was a short discussion on who gets the prize. They both decided to keep the prize in the classroom for all the children to enjoy! It was a bubble machine that I am sure both would have loved to take home, but instead of thinking of one being the best, and one being a loser, they chose, on their own, to be neither. The gift of sharing was the prize!

Circle Time

Earth Day provided an excellent opportunity to get our hands dirty. Our children participated in Isobe Salway's baby blessing and honoring big brother, Soren Salway. Through Zoom, Olly continues to join us all the way from Denmark.

Our Family Ministry Community Garden

It's that time of the year; our seeds are being planted, plants tucked into fresh soil and because of an additional raised garden bed we can now grow even more food to share among ourselves and South Hayward Parish food bank.

Sunnyslope Farm Experience

What fun that was! Thank you Darryl and Renee Ray for hosting and sharing your home with us. We fed goats, climbed trees, visited a neighbor, saw for the first time special bred cows to be small and miniature rams. So cute! I saved the best for last: we enjoyed each other's company, sitting under trees together feasting on a picnic lunch and just being in the moment with one another. You could feel the joy!!

Up and coming events

TBA, a Saturday work day in May to clean and reorganize the classroom and storage cottage. This is a great opportunity to discover hidden treasures. There will be snacks to motivate you to work, work, work, but in a fun way!!!

-Lorie Miller



Ongoing Activities

- 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

Evening Meditation

Every Wednesday 7:00-8:30 pm, on Zoom. Open to all. Visitors welcome. Contact: Diane Meyerson

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.

Starr King Choir

Every Monday 7:00-8:00 pm.
Contact: Linli Wang at music@starrking.org

Adult RE

(On hold) Contact: Mileva Saulo Lewis at milevalewis@comcast.net

Small Group Ministry

Contact minister@starrking.org for more information.

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.



May Birthdays



May 12

Laura Otermat
Torsten Fink

May 16

Lavon Hodges
Beckett Wagner

May 21

Karen Kramer

May 29

Carol Henrie