



The Flaming Chalice

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



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August 6

Book Communion

Join us for our annual book communion. Bring a book to church to put on our alter, and bring a wonderful new reading experience home with you. Led by Glen Jacob, with words from two of our recently published authors, Nathan Heigert and Bethanie Salway, come to share in the joy of books.

Glen Jacob leads.

August 13

Liminal Spaces

Interim ministry is a unique opportunity to lean into liminal space--the space between. This congregation has already experienced a year of interim ministry, so the concept is not new to you, but now you will have a new interim minister. Come meet Rev. Sollie and reacquaint yourself with the work of this unique time. Rev. Sollie will share her own map of the journey we can expect to travel together.

Rev. Elizabeth Sollie leads.

August 20

TBD

August 27

TBD

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July Highlights



From the Minister

Interim Minister Rev. Elizabeth Sollie has Arrived

As of August 1st Rev. Sollie is officially our Interim Minister. Again, if you want to visit her website to learn more about her, it's at <https://elizabethsollie.com/>



Hello good people!

My name is Elizabeth Sollie and beginning August 1st, I will be your next interim minister. I am from Colorado though I have not been home for quite a while now. It is merely coincidence that Rev. Rinehart and I are from the same state. Truly, other states produce interim ministers as well.

Starr King will be my third interim ministry. At each transition, I get questions about when I might be eligible to become a “real” minister—meaning a settled minister. Interim ministry, however, is my calling and I look forward to many more years of serving our denomination in this way.

I have two grown sons, a daughter-in-law and one grandchild. I am also blessed to have one of those energizer bunny UU mothers who is still busy saving the world.

I very much look forward to the work we will do together and to the fun we will have. I feel like you are a gift waiting to be unwrapped and look forward to the time when I know your names and your stories and we can't imagine we were ever strangers to one another.

Bits from Your Board

Welcome to a new church year. I will use this column to update you on Board actions and activities as well as to provide “food for thought” as we welcome the Rev. Elizabeth Sollie as our Interim Minister on 1 August.

Board Highlights

The Board of Trustees meeting on Tuesday, 11 July 2023

Transition Ministry – Our mutual expectations. The Board of Directors, on your behalf entered into an [Agreement with the Rev. Elizabeth Sollie](#) as our Interim Minister. This is a journey, a partnership of shared ministry. Embedded in the Interim Minister Agreement are the following mutual expectations:

1.2.2 The Congregation looks to the Minister to provide:

- Spiritual leadership,
- Historical and theological perspective,
- Assistance with setting and implementing the congregation's mission,
- Guidance in navigating through the work of the interim period,
- Oversight of the Congregation's programs,
- Leadership of the staff team, and
- Administration of the Congregation's business operations in collaborative partnership with lay leaders and staff.

1.2.3 The Minister looks to members of the Congregation to:

- Live out the Congregation's mission and vision,
- Demonstrate effective leadership,
- Enthusiastically engage in the work of the interim period,
- Be open to change,
- Broaden the meaning of community, and
- Communicate issues or concerns in a forthright and respectful manner through established communication channels.

Please reflect on these mutual expectations. What role that can you play in making them more than words on a page?

Bits from Your Board

(cont.)

Actions Taken:

- Appointed Rebecca Parr to the Human Resources Committee.
- Agreed to continue our lease for Auctria software (\$350) so that all data from previous Service Auctions can be retained and the software can be used for “mini” fund raisers during the year.
- Diane and Mileva will update the church bylaws to reflect the changes approved by the congregation in May.
- Diane and Mileva will investigate policies/practices for revising the Church Directory.
- The Human Resources Committee will review the Office Administrator job description and post the position.
- The Family Council will continue the search for a Religious Education Professional .

Please do not hesitate to tell me your joys and concerns for our beloved community. You can reach me at President@starring.org

—Mileva Saulo Lewis, *President of the Board of Trustees*

“I am only one, but still I am one. I cannot do everything, but still I can do something; and because I cannot do everything, I will not refuse to do something that I can do.”

—The Rev. Edward Everett Hale, *Unitarian Minister*



Tyrants Fear the Poet

Amanda Gorman

Labor Day Sunday, September 3

Most of the world celebrates Labor Day on May 1st to commemorate an American nation-wide strike on May 1st 1886 calling for an 8-hour workday. At that time workers labored 12 hours a day, Monday through Friday, and usually another eight hours on Saturday. Sunday was their only day of rest.

It was a long struggle but it was largely successful. Leading up to May 1st, over 150,000 workers were granted an 8-hour workday by employers hoping to avoid a strike. On that May 1st over 340,000 workers from San Francisco to New York went on strike.



Our first Labor Day Sunday here at Starr King was 20 years ago. In 2003 we talked about this history and why our September Labor Day is more about picnics and the last day of summer than it is about organizing for a living wage and safe working conditions.

In 2003 we reported the average CEO salary in 1980 was 42 times greater than the average worker's wage. By the year 2010 it had grown to 531 times the average worker's pay. More important is the wealth gap. As reported by Bernie Sanders and confirmed by PolitiFact the three wealthiest families in America are now richer than the entire poorest half of our country. The total wealth of these three families - \$249 billion is higher than the total wealth of the bottom half of the country, 160 million Americans, at \$245 billion. [[PolitiFact](#)]

We see the results of that concentration of wealth on our streets today. In 2003 there was homelessness but not the widespread, pervasive devastation of Americans living on the street today. The federal government reports that there are now 582,000 homeless people in America. One third of those live in California where wealth is most concentrated. Where wealth is concentrated so is homelessness.

In 2003 our service featured facts like these but also poetry such as, *I Dreamed I Saw Joe Hill ... and Bread and Roses* that is the basis for our hymn #109 – *As We Come Marching, Marching*. For the past several years, we have not presented a homily on the history of the Labor Movement or the current struggles for freedom and equality. I've come to believe that poetry and song can inspire us more than facts to organize for our rights.

Join us on Sunday September 3rd for a truly inspirational morning of poetry and song. Come and be inspired!

–Bob Britton

Soulful Family Ministry

August Highlights

Sharing a Thought...

"Freezing Time"

As you all may know, I take tons of photos of our children, so what happens in a matter of minutes, I can freeze. There was an re-enactment of becoming a butterfly, (the photos are posted in our Starr King Member FB page). Ramona and Joseph, using monarch wings, antennas, and a large scarf experienced the process, laying the egg, turning into a chrysalis, becoming a butterfly and migrating. I was stunned when viewing the photos. I got a great sense of "transition" and "loving support" from those photos. Play is more than just playing. If you haven't already, join our Starr King Church Member Face Book group and enjoy our Sunday postings.

Classroom

We continue our exploration of the arts with the introduction of a sewing machine. They designed their own concepts and created a cat shirt, a sweet dream pillow, a purse, a dog cape and a pet collar. The children explored the art of pressed flowers under the guidance of Donnie Rett. The children did not hesitate performing in our outdoor theater which included backstage props, make-up, tickets and popcorn.

There is a lot you can do with a hot glue gun and a pile of drift wood. Their sculptures were amazing. And to finish off the month, the children began their fundraising for the local animal shelter, food for the hungry and helping kids in the hospital. Please note these causes came from the children themselves. Thank you for your support!

Events/Updates

- Save the date: Sunday August 13th. 1:00-3:00 – Jeffrey Melcher has invited us to "the first Bay Area tri-congregation picnic of the decade"; Oakland, Live Oak and Starr King Hayward. The picnic is at the Dimond Park neat Fruitvale Ave. More Information will be forthcoming when the date nears. For those who are interested, we can car pool(?) I am planning to attend.
- Cookie sale next Sunday, 30th. The cost (donation) of the cookies is what you can afford.
- The family Ministry Council is continuing to search for a DRE. This process has proven to be challenging. We are looking for a progressive, visionary person who can grow our family ministry to its fullest potential.

Gratitude

I continue to feel the love from everybody. The children are amazing and the folks who volunteer in the classroom are amazing too!! Thank you, Donnie, for sharing your art and pressed flowers, and thank you all!!!!

–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: Mileva Saulo Lewis
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
Small Group Ministry	Contact: Terry Hunt (hunt.terence@gmail.com) or Mileva Saulo Lewis (milevalewis@comcast.net)
Adult RE	(On hold) Contact: Mileva Saulo Lewis at milevalewis@comcast.net

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.



August Birthdays



August 13

Al Murdach
John Gruver

August 20

Marge Schwab

August 24

Cole Wengermarsh

August 21

Regina Fassano

August 27

Jennifer Koney