



The Flaming Chalice

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

September 3

Tyrants Fear the Poet

A tradition since 2003. Don't miss Labor Day Sunday, a celebration of live music and poetry readings centered on social justice and hope.

There is always light. If only we're brave enough to see it. If only we're brave enough to be it. –Amanda Gorman

Come and be inspired! Special plate: The offertory this Sunday will be donated to Faith in Action East Bay.

Bob Britton leads.

September 10

Water Communion and Ingathering

Ingathering and the Water Communion are amongst the few rituals specific to Unitarian Universalism. Ingathering marks the beginning of a new church year as people return from their summer adventures or rest. Water communion is a way to lift up our interconnectedness. Whether you plan to attend on Zoom or in person, please bring a small container of water to share and be ready to share its spiritual significance.

Rev. Elizabeth Sollie leads.

September 17

Forgiveness and Atonement

The Jewish High Holy Days are upon us. This time of year we reflect on forgiveness and atonement.

Rev. Elizabeth Sollie leads.

September 24

Complex Subjectivity

Rev. Elizabeth Sollie leads.



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WHAT'S INSIDE

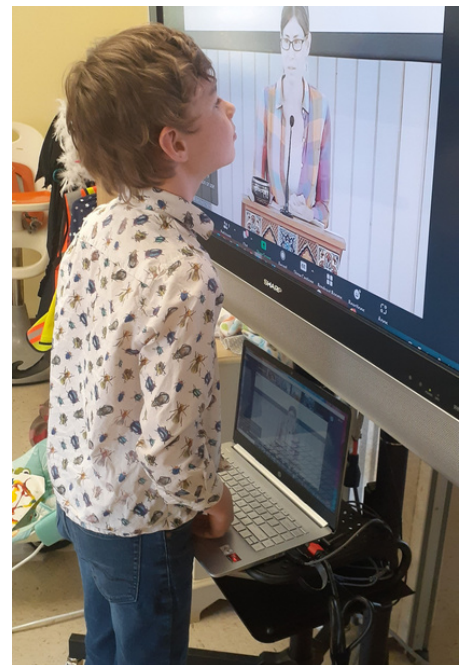
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August Highlights



From the Minister

Rev. Elizabeth Sollie

I have been with you for about three weeks now. That time has included meeting with several committees, learning the ways you do multi-platform worship, a few individual visits, lots of orienting to the ways Starr King does things and working with teams to hire for two staff positions. In other words, I have been drinking from the firehose for three weeks.

My first impressions are that you have a lot of things organized and running well and that you are aware of your gaps. I am amazed at the organizational and tech expertise you have amongst you.

I think most congregations harbor the unconscious belief that the way they do things is the way things are done everywhere, but I can assure you that is not so. It takes about six months to really begin to know a congregation, so I appreciate your patience and your insights as I come up to speed.

I hope we will assemble our Transition team or teams together soon and get our work together underway. Some of the skills we will need will be good listeners and synthesizers, big picture and systems thinkers and people who have big dreams and a lot of imagination. Do you have any of those skills?

I would love to have a meeting with each of you to get to know you and hear your story. We can sit and chat, take a walk, get a cup of coffee, look at birds or meet in any other way that makes you feel comfortable. Please reach out to set up some time: revsollie@starrking.org



A selection from Rev. Sollie's camera roll

Announcements

Planning and Singing Sessions

You are invited!

Starr King UU Church's Peace and Justice Action Team is joining with 1000 Grandmothers for Future Generations (1000grandmothers.com) and Th!rdAct.org (Th!rdact.org) in Planning and Singing Sessions.

Our goal is to prepare to sing, demonstrate and initiate climate conversations outside Big Banks & Fossil Fuel company headquarters.

Come to our planning meetings on:
Friday, September 8th 3:00-5:00
Monday, September 11th 3:00-5:00
At Claudia McDonagh's house in Castro Valley.
5057 August Ct.
Castro Valley, CA 94546

Call or text to RSVP
510-266-2789

Save these dates for actions:
Friday, September 15th 3:00-5:00
Monday, September 18th 3:00-5:00

Yes, we can make a difference for future generations!



Announcements

Adult Religious Exploration

Thursday, September 28th at 6:00 pm.

Rev. Sollie has lots of plans for adult religious education this year. She is consulting with stakeholders before sharing more, but meanwhile, we will get underway with a discussion of the 2023 Berry Street Lecture, “My Little Pony Was Right: Reflections of Fascisms Without and Within” delivered by the Rev. Cecilia Kingman. We will do this first session on Zoom to maximize inclusion and see how that feels. Participants should watch the lecture and the two responses before attending and we will spend our time together in discussion.

<https://uuma.org/berry-street-essay/2023-berry-street-essay-the-reverend-cecilia-kingman/>

For those of you who have never heard of the Berry Street lecture, the UUA website provides a little background. “The Rev. William Ellery Channing, Minister of the Federal Street Church of Boston, invited all Massachusetts ministers known to be liberal to meet in the vestry of his church (whose entrance was on Berry Street) on May 30, 1820. At the meeting Channing delivered a prepared address. He urged upon his colleagues a “bond of union” among liberal Christian ministers, within which they might meet to exchange practical ideas for strengthening their ministries.

Meeting again on the evening of May 31, 1820, the ministers adopted a few simple rules for ensuring free and broad discussion at an annual conference, and also the means of each year asking one or two of their number to come with prepared remarks – or an essay. Thus was initiated the Berry Street Conference which has convened every year save one (during WWII) since 1820, and thus is the Berry Street Essay the oldest lecture series on the North American continent. As from its beginning, its purpose is to contribute to the practical strength of liberal ministries. The convening of the Berry Street Conference, for the delivery and hearing of the Berry Street Essay, has for many years now been the last event of the annual meeting and conference of the Unitarian Universalist Ministers Association.

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89173410818?pwd=YnNSMW50VUd2WE9BT3NvQXVmR1dpQT09>

Meeting ID: 891 7341 0818

Passcode: 102597

One tap mobile

+16694449171,,89173410818# US

Announcements

A lovely musical evening with Linli and Alec

Our own pianist Linli Wang and her husband Alec Sloane performed for family, friends and Starr King music lovers on Aug 4th. Linli was on the piano and Alec on the mandolin for the recital.

It was a very interesting combination of instruments. Background on each piece was given, so we could learn about the composer. The performances were exquisite and highlighted the very special qualities of each instrument. We are so grateful that Linli and Alec shared their wonderful mastery with us.

The sanctuary was full and the audience was very appreciative. A reception was held after the concert in Fellowship Hall. We certainly hope that they will consider making this a recurring event.



Soulful Family Ministry

August Highlights

Sharing Thoughts

These are amazing times. I have spent all these past months sharing thoughts about our incredible children. I have heard conversations about how love can be many different colors, a desire to change the world from racism, boys can play with girls toys and girls can play with boy toys. I have seen problems solved peacefully, 3 moms raising a family, taking turns is a solution, individuality is accepted, feelings from the heart are real, nurturing a young plant and the list goes on.

This is where our UU principles are living in real time! These children are the real thing. When I get discouraged with the world I will think of these times.

Classroom

Our summer camp is over. One by one the children are returning to school. Looking back we all had a great time together. This month we finished off our fund raising with a car wash, cooled off with home made ice cream, created drift wood sculptures, performed at our out door summer theater, explored fashion using a real sewing machine and shared books at our book communion.

Gratitude

I am so sincere when thanking you all for supporting Family Ministry. Not only in the classroom, but also in the sanctuary, church events, parties and financially. A special shout out to those, Lea, Laurie, Amy, Grace, Terry, Diane and Mary Lou who committed time in the classroom and for this month, thank you Zelma for supporting our children's animal shelter fundraiser!

—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



September Birthdays



Publishing of birthdays is on hold pending a decision by the board on how to honor birthdays each month.