



STARR KING
UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CHURCH

The Flaming Chalice September 2024 Newsletter

[View
Upcoming
Services](#)

September Worship Services:

Please see our website for an up-to-date listing of upcoming worship services.

August Highlights





From the Minister

Rev. Elizabeth Sollie

We had a meeting not so long ago where a congregant reported out to us things he had learned at a gathering about saving Democracy—the conclusion I heard was that we needed a movement. My read on the room at that point was despair. How could SKUUC help create a movement with only months to go before the election? Hearts were heavy. But life can turn on a dime and here we are! I believe a movement has begun. Despair is not the feeling in the room any more. We are shifting to hope.

To be clear, I am not endorsing any candidate. I will vote my conscious and so will you. Non-profits do not lobby for individuals. I believe, however, that it is likely that many of us have some shared experiences of late, and I want to acknowledge them. Some of us listened to a lot of speeches in the past few weeks. There was a lot going on in that space to unpack. First, I loved the tenor of the change. One person did not have to be made small or be vilified for another to shine. We can embrace change with gratitude. Amazing. It is something to think about as you search for your next minister. Can we embrace change with a sense of gratitude?

I loved watching as the camera panned the audience—especially as it focused on young people and people of color. This is the future and we seem so much more ready to embrace it now than we have in the past. Can we bring that same energy to our congregation? Can we unclench our hands and turn over power to the future in a spirit of excited anticipation rather than fear?

I loved the reminder that all our children need to be okay for our own children to be okay. All of our children. ALL of our children.

I also loved that some people have stopped soft pedaling their values. They began to name them explicitly—loud and proud. Maybe it's time we stopped hiding our light under a bush in our community as well. What values can this congregation claim in a strong voice for all our community to hear?

There is a feeling of possibility now beginning to thrum through our country. May it be contagious for our faith community as well. May we enter our church year full of a sense of possibility, optimism and hope. Yes we can!

PS—how is your summer homework coming along?



Notes from the Board

Mileva Saulo Lewis, President

The Board as Learners

Fall and Winter Quarter Read

This Fall/Winter quarter the Board will read: *Let's Talk About Race (and Other Hard Things)* by Nancy A. Dome, EdD. Published in 2022, Dr. Dome chronicles her own experiences as a black woman college student driving home from a party with three white men and how differently they were treated when arrested for what the accuser knew was a prank. The disparity: yes, she was strip searched and they were not and her bail was higher than theirs. She goes on to address how she came to write the book and more importantly, to open us to a new way to

talk about difficult things. It's a post January 6th read and offers us much on how to LISTEN to the OTHER and how not to demonize the other.

Dr. Eddie Fergus in the Foreword, writes:

Rather than trying to label someone as wrong, shame them, or prove your point, the goals (of Compassionate Dialogue™ is to understand one another and then come to a resolution together.

Dr. Fergus ends the forward with these words:

We want to do our part to repair a complicated history of oppression and its ripple effects and we see dialogue as the best tools for the job.

I started to read the book before the Democratic National Convention and now am struck by how prescient was our decision to read this book now. I have to confess that there are times when I'm impatient with a murder mystery or a combined mystery/romance novel and go to the final pages to read the end. So, I did it again – the final chapter is titled: *Why should we move forward with urgency?*

She writes:

- *We can't go back!*
- *We're at an inflection point!*
- *We can't languish in the status quo!*
- *Division takes a toll on humans- making us unhappier, lonelier and less secure*

Her notion of interrupting with compassion and ultimately, the repairing of what's broken is an invitation – an invitation to learn a new way to have that “difficult conversation” without guilt, blame or shame. Imagine that? Dr. Dome walks us through “difficult conversations” using Compassionate Dialogue and the RIP Protocol™ which has three components:

- Recognize It – Notice/Identify the feeling, stop reacting, start responding
- Interrupt It – Share a response – Ask an open-ended question
- Repair It – What happens next – what will be done to heal, in a day, in a week, or a month

Imagine having a new way, the RIP Protocol to respond to statements like these?

- *I never would have guessed you were gay.*

- *Women shouldn't be leaders. They're too emotional.*
- *She's so unprofessional. She must be a millennial.*
- *Those immigrants are taking our jobs.*
- *It was a joke! Don't be so uptight.*
- *You're too pretty to be a lesbian.*
- *Your name is too hard to pronounce. Can I just call you _____?*
- *I'm not a racist. I have Latino friends.*

Source: *Conversation Starters™ EPOCH Education: Changing the world, one conversation at a time.*

In the spring, Adult RE will sponsor Healthy Conflict, Part IV, using the RIP Protocol.

You may wish to read this book on your own. Book's full title: Dome, N.A. (2022). *Let's Talk About Race (and Other Hard Things)*. Salt Lake City, UT, Lioncrest Publishers. Available in paperback (\$15.25) or Kindle (\$7.99).

Each chapter has questions for your reflection.....

Chap.1: Where does Compassionate Dialogue come from and why do we need it now?

Chap 2: What are the different communication styles, and how do we use them?

Chap 3: What is the RIP Protocol and how do we use it?

Chap 4: How do we use Compassionate Dialogue Intrapersonally?

Chap 5: How do we use Compassionate Dialogue Interpersonally?

Chap 6: How do we use Compassionate Dialogue in an Organization or system?

Chap 7: Why should we move forward with urgency?

Around the Starr King Hearth

Tanya Webster, DRE

Welcome to the new church year! I hope you all experienced much rest and relaxation this summer. This fall, our families and youth will be working with Soul Matters curricula, which offers a shared theme each month. Below is some of Soul Matter's overview and related information for September's theme, The Practice of Invitation.

September Soul Matters: The Practice of Invitation

(excerpted from the Soul Matters materials):

This year's Soul Matters overarching theme is The Practices of Our Faith, with each month highlighting a practice that helps keep us centered in our new core UU Value of Liberating Love. We're using this frame to focus on how Unitarian Universalism is a lived faith that inspires us to act, live, and love our values out in the world. Or to put it another way, we're diving into our long-loved commitment to "deeds not creeds." Our overarching question as we journey together this year is: What practices guide us as we explore what it means to be Unitarian Universalist and part of the wider world we live within?

With this in mind, September explores the practice of Invitation, lifting up different ways that invitation shows up in our religious lives: Inviting Reconnection (Ingathering), Inviting Renewal & Difference (Water Communion), Welcoming Change, Recovenanting, and Sharing our Faith.

A few September Days of Interest:

Sept. 15: Mawlid al-Nabi - the birthday of the Prophet Muhammad

Sept. 21: International Day of Peace

Sept. 22: Mabon/Autumn Equinox - (Pagan/Wiccan)


Sept. 22-28: Banned Books week

Sept. 30: Rumi's birthday (year 1207)

Sept. 30: Universalism Day - John Murray's 1st sermon in the US (1770)

September 2024

Starr King UUC Families

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
1 RE 10:30a	2	3	4	5	6	7 Movie Night 6-8:30p
8 Water Communion Service		10 Families Cmte 4:30-5:45p (Zoom)	11 Youth 7-8p	12	13	14
15 RE 10:30a (w/TFAA)	16	17	18 Youth 7-8p	19 Parent Group 6:00-7:15p (Zoom)	20 	21 California Coastal Cleanup & Lunch 10a-12p
22 RE 10:30a	23	24	25 Youth 7-8p	26	27	28
29 RE 10:30a (w/TFAA)  Elem OWL Parents Orientation (Required) 12-1p Tarantula Trek, 6:30-8:30p (optional), Sunol	30	1	2	3	4	5

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The Practice of Invitation

Announcements



SKUUC Service Auction 2024 Update

Auction Kick Off, Sun Oct 13
Online Auction Bidding: Oct 14 – Oct 19
“Zoom Finale Party Event” Oct 19.

What is the Service Auction?

This is our bi-annual fundraiser. Members or our community donate/offer hospitality, services and gifts for auction. Members come up with very creative donations for every auction. This is where we share our abundance and creativity. The more donations the better !

Members then bid on each other's items and all the money goes to the church. The actual bidding will take place using AUCTRIA, an on-line auction site. Detailed instructions and support will be provided as we get closer.

For those who prefer, a paper catalog and support will be provided. We will end the Auction with a Zoom party. At this party we will auction off some of the most desirable items with all the bidders on Zoom. The event will be lively and a festive ending to our Auction.

How do I make an donation?

First, think of the most creative things that you can offer! If you can donate several items/services, that would be wonderful! (see list of possible items/services at the end of this article).

Gift items etc, will be exchanged at the end of the auction period. For events, hospitality and experiences, you will have two years (until the next auction) to fulfill your fun event.

Detailed instructions on how to register your donation will be coming soon. Watch for emails and announcements.

What is the catalog?

When all the wonderful donation are received, they will be assembled into a colorful and informative catalog. This will be available on the AUCTRIA website. The catalog will provide all the information you will need to bid on an item.

How do I bid?

Bidding on the AUCTRIA site will run from our **Monday Oct 14, until our Zoom finale on Oct 19th**. Detailed instructions on registering for AUCTRIA and how to bid will be coming soon. If you are out-bid you will be notified and can go in and bid again. Save some of your bidding funds for the items that will be offered at the Finale !

You will be receiving updates and information between now and our Kick Off on Oct 13th. Watch for email and announcements. Start now to think up your best donations!!

Here are some possibilities to consider:

Experiences

- Dinners, themed meals, picnic, food delivery
- Guided tours, vacation room/home
- Home cooked meals, desserts
- Handywork repairs, yard services, chores
- Childcare, tutoring
- House-sitting, dog walking, pet care
- Classes, advice, tech support
- Themed party

Handmade items

- Art and Photography
- Jewelry
- Afghan, quilt, sweater, etc

- Clothing
- Flower arrangement
- Themed gift baskets

Gift Items

- Something lovely that deserves a new home
- You would gift it to someone you love
- New or very gently used

Questions: auction@starrking.org

Ongoing Activities

Children & Youth

Children meet every Sunday from 10:30-11:30am in person. Youth meet Wednesdays 7:00-8:00pm on Zoom. Contact: [Tanya Webster](#)

Evening Meditation

On vacation for August. Starting on September 4th: every Wednesday 7-8:30 pm, on Zoom. Open to all. Visitors welcome. Contact: [Diane Meyerson](#)

Board Meeting

First Tuesday of the month, 4:00–5:30 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 7:15-8:15 pm. Contact: [Linli Wang](#)

Small Group Ministry

Contact: [Terry Hunt](#) or [Mileva Saulo Lewis](#)

Adult RE

Check our website for upcoming opportunities:

<https://starrking.org/adult-programs>

Visit Church Center

View Our Calendar

Notice anything new? Yes - the monthly newsletter! Please let our office administrator Emily know if you have any accessibility challenges with the new format.

office@starrking.org

Contact Us!

Forward Email

Leave us a Review



Starr King Unitarian Universalist Church is a member congregation of the Unitarian Universalist Association and a certified Welcoming Congregation. We welcome every part of your identity, background, and experiences.

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