



# The Flaming Chalice

NEWSLETTER OF STARR KING UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CHURCH FEBRUARY 2009

## *A Month of Sundays* *February Celebration Previews*

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### *One Sunday Service at 10:30 A.M.*

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- 1:** *Where The Earth Is, We Are* (Rev. Katie Kandarian) We enrich the soil through understanding the ancient celebrations of the seasons. Groundhog's Day might just be a silly practice, or the long ago practice of weather forecasting known as Imbolc in the Celtic world.  
*Immediately following each service today, the minister will hold a brief informational session. If you have questions about Unitarian Universalism or are interested in membership, please join her in the Library.*
- 8:** *Presente!* (Revs. John Wichman & Katie Kandarian) Members of South Hayward Parish and this church's Jim Forsyth made the trek to Ft. Benning, Georgia to protest the activities that train foreign soldiers who return to kill in Latin America. Come hear the moving story. *Chalice Deadline.*
- 15:** *Giving Thanks for Gratitude* (Cassandra Howe) Rumi said, "Giving thanks for abundance is sweeter than the abundance itself." How do we increase our capacity to be grateful just by giving thanks? How do we, in practicing gratitude, nourish the bonds that connect us with life, with with ultimate, and with one another? Join us for a service of thanksgiving and of cherishing who we are as a faith-filled community. *Bookstore Open.*
- 22:** *People Who Submerge in the Task* (Rev. Katie Kandarian, Carol Bodeau, INTERGENERATIONAL children & youth) Join together with the entire congregation today as we welcome a guest at your table. We've moved this event a bit later in the year so that we can fully appreciate and integrate the work of the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee into our congregation's theme of Enriching Our Soil. Come see how justice work helps bring on the Beloved Community.



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Although it is still very early in the year, it's not too early at all to begin planning for some of the larger gatherings of faith community. Our annual district assembly will once again be held very close by in Fremont. Choices have recently been made for lots of interesting workshop offerings, and both of the ministers running for UUA president will be with us, Laurel Hallman and Peter Morales. The weekend is May 1-3 and it might even be worth your while to stay over in the affordably-priced Marriott hotel.



What I'm personally looking forward to is this year's General Assembly, to be held in easy to get to Salt Lake City. We will elect our new president, vote on Peacemaking as a statement of conscience, and welcome as our Ware lecturer the very appealing professor of African-American studies at Princeton Melissa Harris-Lacewell, who lately has been featured as one of my favorite commentators on MSNBC.

In this time of economic difficulties, where we need to be careful about how we spend our money and time, both District Assembly and General Assembly offer great value for the money. Our congregation from Santa Rosa is actually gathering folks together to hire a bus to take them to General Assembly. Personally, I think I'll fly, but driving is not out of the question for this GA. Registration and housing open March 2nd.

And as another reminder of the wonderful recent inaugural ceremony, how 'bout a poem from Elizabeth Alexander?

**Emancipation**

Corncob constellation,  
oyster shell, drawstring pouch, dry bones.  
Gris gris in the rafters.  
Hoodoo in the sleeping nook.  
Mojo in Linda Brent's crawlspace.  
Nineteenth century corncob cosmogram  
set on the dirt floor, beneath the slant roof,  
left intact the afternoon  
that someone came and told those slaves  
"We're free."



Have a great February!

Love,



*Wheel of Life*

*Please send information to the Pastoral Care Committee.  
Good news is welcomed, as well as your sorrows.*

-  Prayers for the family of our beloved member Sandra Walton, who we remembered at a service on 24 January.
-  Sherry Thomas is at home healing from hip replacement surgery.



*February Birthdays*

*Best birthday wishes to . . .*



- 3 Dick Albert
- 8 Ellery Medilla
- 8 Andy Hansen
- 13 Bill DeSmidt
- 16 Lee Berger
- 19 Meredith Schuler
- 19 Alison Corson
- 23 Grace Shaw-Smathers
- 24 Eric Gable

## A Valentine to Our Church Community



It starts with turning into our driveway and noticing how lovely our grounds are becoming. We have such a peaceful setting that one begins to feel a kind of serenity even before the car is parked. A few steps away, the smiling faces of our greeters who show up every Sunday in the heat and the cold make us feel welcomed and valued.

Our church building is simple in its design but so rich in what it contains, a community of people who care about each other, there to provide support and encouragement when life is difficult, and to celebrate when we have experienced a special joy. Someone has put out the hymnals; others make sure the chairs are arranged. There is a seasonal hanging behind the pulpit and a display of flowers is close by. There are signs of loving hands all around.

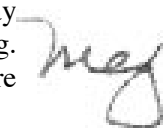
Soon we hear lovely music and the service begins. Lighting the chalice, hearing the children's story, sharing candles of joys and concerns — rituals are full of meaning, anchors in a world that often seems overwhelming. Every Sunday without fail something in the service, a reading, a hymn, a thought in

the sermon, touches a chord and inspires us to continue on the path toward a better self and more loving relationships.

The offeratory basket is passed at the end of the service. Sometimes it is an opportunity to support a local cause such as FESCO. It is pleasing to see how generous our congregation is when we are called to help support those in need. Other Sundays, we have a chance to nurture our own church's well being by being equally generous with our contributions. Ushers take our contributions up to the front of the church. Someone will count and record what we have offered. Someone else will make the deposit.

Coffee hour, the time when we catch up on one another's news, greet new visitors, snatch time to get some "church work" done. Someone has arrived early to make sure that coffee is ready, tea water hot and juice ready in pitchers. Often there are home made treats to go with. A friendly server to make sure we have what we need, while another volunteer is in the kitchen washing up the new Starr King mugs that have been donated.

It takes every one of us to make our church community. Although we meet on Sundays, I know, one way or another, our ministry goes on all week long. As president of the Board, I see love everywhere I look. Happy Valentine's Day!



### **Committee on the Interior, Lavon Hodges**

#### **Reminder Regarding Posting and Providing Fliers**

Please date any fliers you wish to share with our Starr King community. Also, please ask a member of the Interior Committee before posting or placing any fliers or posters, so that you can be directed to the appropriate display location. Your cooperation is appreciated!

### **NEW Adult RE Workshop Series**

#### *Global Warming and You!*

Want to know your eco footprint? Want to have fun while learning how you can be a better steward of the earth? Join Darryl and Renee Ray in this adult Religious Education workshop series in February and March. Four 1 1/2-hour classes will meet Sundays after church from 11:45 – 1:15 P.M. on 15 and 22 February and 1 and 8 March, to cover:

- \* Calculating your own carbon footprint
- \* Developing a carbon dioxide reduction goal and action plan to obtain that goal
- \* Learning about lifestyle practices and developing better and more earth-friendly choices
- \* Evaluating the energy and resource efficiency of your homes and look for ways to improve it
- \* And more!

A workbook (cost approximately \$10) is not required but is highly recommended. Sign up at the Community Table or call Darryl and Renee Ray at 510/538.4376.

# Children's Religious Education

Carol Bodeau, Interim Director of Religious Education



Warm weather in January—it's been nearly 70 degrees all week and the narcissus are blooming by the church parking lot—has me thinking about spring. And that has me thinking about all the great events coming up in Religious Education here at SKUUC. The kids have the next round of crops (potatoes) planted in the garden, and we're planning a Spring

Cleaning day (since February almost counts as spring in California) for the RE spaces and supply closets.

Here are some upcoming events that you can put on your calendars for the coming months. Be sure to join in these celebrations of our shared growing, learning and fellowship!

February 22: Intergenerational Worship Service to kick off this year's *Guest At Your Table* program. *Guest At Your Table* is a project sponsored by the UU Service Committee to encourage families to save coins and make donations to support the social justice and humanitarian projects of the denomination.

April 12: Intergenerational Easter Service/Flower Communion and Easter Egg Hunt. The regular Sunday morning service will be for all ages. During coffee hour we'll have earth friendly egg-hunts for children and youth out on our lovely grounds. Everyone is encouraged to bring a flower to include in our communal bouquet during worship.

April 26: Earth Day Faire. During coffee hour, the children will be helping the Green Sanctuary Committee to host a green fair to share all the ways we have been moving towards being a Green Sanctuary congregation. There will be food, displays and games.

May 17: Our last day of regular Religious Education, before the summer schedule starts.

Please make a point of putting these days on your calendar and joining as we stir the rich soil of community that we share together. There are many ways this community makes the world a better place, for us and our neighbors—human and non-human—throughout the world. This spring, we'll be doing this through worship, service to others, learning and celebration. Don't miss it. Looking forward to seeing you on Sunday mornings, and especially at these important gatherings.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Carol".

## *What's the Word?* Al Murdach

This monthly column explores today's meaning and significance of some important religious words from the Christian tradition.

### No.35: ***Flesh***

Having recently passed through the Christmas holidays (arguably the most flesh-oriented season on the Christian calendar), it might be of interest to examine a word both troubling and celebratory in Christian tradition. Modern UUism, almost alone among Protestant denominations, has little trouble with this word and scarcely pays it any notice. For the majority of Christianity, the word reoccurs as a symbol of the contest between two powerful forces: the spirit and the flesh.

Many lay the blame at the feet of St. Paul, who was preoccupied (some say obsessed) with this issue and explored these conflicts, usually to the disadvantage of the flesh. His agonies have been repeated down the centuries (for example, St. Augustine's *Confessions*) by Christian expositors and continue to cause these sentiments to boil and bubble to this day.

The Bible as a whole uses the term *flesh* with fluidity. In the Old Testament, the word refers to the wholeness of humanity in both its physical and psychical aspects. In the New Testament (possibly because of the clash and confluence among Jewish, Hellenistic and Asian cultures occurring at that time), the term came to have multiple meanings.

In the Gospel of St. John, Jesus is said to represent God's Word "made flesh and dwelt among us." Used in this way, flesh is basically good, literally embodying the Godhead. In other parts of the New Testament, *flesh* is contrasted to *spirit*, where flesh symbolizes a defective part of human nature (Jesus' remark "the spirit is willing but the flesh is weak") and at times an evil part of human behavior, like St. Paul's statements that "the mind of flesh is enmity against God."

Calvinist and Puritan divines, whose doctrines inspired the revolt of UUism, continued following the path hewed by negative commentators on fleshly pursuits. While Roman Catholic commentators tried to strike a balance, viewing the flesh as basically good but in need of help, this has had little effect in resolving conflict between the two forces in religious life. As an aside, it is interesting to note that in practice UUism has adopted the Roman Catholic view of this matter.

Why should today's UUs care about such ditherings? Perhaps because of their commitment to relativism, thus ignoring such turmoil, UUs miss essential points about religious striving, traditionally seen as a contest between the forces of darkness and light. Such battles are usually interpreted in psychological terms as representing internalized forces in our psyches. But in a return to more ancient usage, the struggle is being played out in the social and political world as symbolizing on-going war between the forces of justice and organized evil.

Viewed in this new-old way, the term *flesh* could take on new significance for UUs and serve as a representation of yearning-but-flawed humanity awaiting a fresh infusion of spiritual and positive values.

# Annual Budget Drive 2009

Cassie Howe, Budget Drive Chair

It's time for our Budget Drive (formerly known as the Canvass)! I love budget drives because they open up conversation that gets at the core of congregational life: building community. It's about listening to one another. Sharing what it is that we love about this place. Talking about money and resources openly and honestly. Creating a vision for where we hope to grow as a church.

Let's be honest: we're in a bitter economic recession. These are hard times for many of us. Starr King UU Church can help us feel less alone and less overwhelmed by the weight of economic hardship. The budget drive is not another burden to add, but an opportunity to talk about money and what's important to us.



Whether we just joined last year, or have been coming for decades, we each bring so much to this community. Let us recognize the power of our interdependence and give from that place of gratitude and commitment.

Thanks to our enthusiastic group of stewardship volunteers, we will be starting the drive off with invitations for deeper conversation. Every member will be contacted by a stewardship volunteer. The purpose of these conversations is to connect more as a congregation, share what's important to us about this community, and help members give in ways that are meaningful, generous and healthy for each person.

The stewardship volunteers will also be alerting members of Celebration Sunday, 15 March! This is an important day on which we can turn in our pledge cards to the church. We hope you all can make it!

In the next couple of weeks, you will be receiving a letter and brochure detailing more about our vision and financial goal. Briefly, we are excited about hiring a Director of Religious Education, becoming an official Green Sanctuary, preparing for a new building, expanding our religious education programs, and much more! It's an honor to be part of this beautiful congregation.

## ONGOING ACTIVITIES & FUN

♣ **SKIFFLE meets weekly!** Starr King Instrumentalists for Fun, Laughter and Entertainment gather in the Sanctuary for instrumental music every Wednesday evening from 7 to 9 P.M. All instruments, levels of musicianship welcome.

♣ **Morning Discovery** meets in the Library from 10 to 11:15 A.M. on first and third Wednesdays (4 & 18 February). All are welcome to join us to explore community and spirituality, discussion and shared silence.

♣ **Evening Discovery** meets in the Library at 7 P.M. on first and third Wednesdays (4 & 18 February) for thoughtful reflection on topics that focus on the spiritual, the religious or the personal.

♣ The **Membership Committee** meets on the second Sunday of each month (8 February) after the service from noon to 1 P.M.

♣ The **Social Justice Committee** meets on second Sundays (8 February) after the service. All welcome.

♣ The **Book Group** will meet Thursday 12 February at 7 P.M. at the home of Joyce Kinnear (885.0781) to discuss *The Great Gatsby* by F. Scott Fitzgerald. All welcome! Please ring to let the host know you will be coming. The March book will be *The God of Small Things* by Arundhati Roy.

♣ **SKIT** improv group meets in the Sanctuary on second and fourth Thursdays at 7:30 P.M. (12 & 26 February).

♣ Join the **No Room for Racism** vigils that are held in Hayward every third Friday (20 February) from 4 to 5 P.M. at the intersection of Jackson-Mission-Foothill. An opportunity to stand for your values! Sponsored by South Hayward Parish.

♣ The **Film Group** will gather on Saturday 21 February at 7 P.M. to view *The Trouble With Harry*, a rare comedy mystery from Alfred Hitchcock; film debut of Shirley MacLaine. Let host Stuart Fink (510/537.4421) know you are coming and please bring a movie snack to share.



## Green Sanctuary

### BABA'S GREEN TIPS

#### Greening Yellow Pages

These massive paper directories are rapidly becoming antiquated; but instead of printing less, more are being distributed each year.

It's a huge industry and one that has a negative impact on the environment.

Learn more about the issues, how to opt-out of the paper Yellow Pages and how to recycle the books, and get tips for reuse.

Check this link for more information:

<http://www.greenlivingtips.com/articles/290/1/Greening-Yellow-Pages.html>



#### Be Aware of Energy-Sucking Appliances

**Q.** I recently heard that my HDTV never really turns off. It continues drawing electricity, even after I hit the power button. Is this true? How is this affecting my monthly power bill? My budget is getting tighter all the time.

**A.** For more information and an answer to this question, Google this:

[Be aware of energy-sucking appliances komando](#)

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### An Invitation

Alison Cary Corson turns 80 on February 19th! Come help her celebrate 8 decades and all the people who have touched her life! Festivities begin at 2:30 P.M. on Sunday, February 15th here at Starr King Church. No presents, please, although a homemade card, plant from your garden or a picture of you would be very welcome! You can reach Alison by emailing her ([accorson@gmail.com](mailto:accorson@gmail.com)) or by calling (510/881.1802).

#### 🌸 Help make our website brilliant!

Please submit your contributions of photos of church events and/or activities for the website (<http://starrking.org>) to [webmaster@starrking.org](mailto:webmaster@starrking.org).

🌸 **To schedule an event**, visit the online calendar at our church website ([http://www.starrking.org/skuu\\_committee\\_meetings.htm](http://www.starrking.org/skuu_committee_meetings.htm)) to check availability, then call the office and we will add your event. View the website calendar for all church events.

🌸 Please submit written announcements for the Sunday bulletin to Nancy by 1 P.M. on Tuesday ([office@starrking.org](mailto:office@starrking.org) or 510/581.2060).

🌸 To preserve a sense of worship on Sunday mornings, please remember to **switch off cell phones** and other devices before entering the Sanctuary.



🌸 **Committee chairs/events coordinators:** To avoid schedule conflicts, notify the Church Office Administrator of dates and times of ALL meetings and events (even if ongoing or off-site).

🌸 Donate interesting books in excellent condition to our **Church Bookstore** for resale. Shop in our bookstore on third Sundays. See Evelyn Cormier.

🌸 Our **SKUUC Food Donation Basket** for South Hayward Parish Food Pantry is located just inside the eastern entry door in our Sanctuary. Please be generous every week and donate healthful nonperishable food items.

🌸 Stuart Fink has placed a Lions' Club collection box on the Community Table. **Eyeglasses you no longer use** will go to Latin American countries, along with eye doctors who will fit people in need.

🌸 The Religious Education Committee would like to remind parents with small children that **the service can be heard in the library** should you need to leave the sanctuary due to crying or antsy children. The volume adjustments are near the speakers in the library.

🌸 The **Outreach Committee** suggests recirculating the *UU World*. Leave old copies in waiting rooms, or put them in the Outreach Committee box in the church office for use at public events.

🌸 **A Gentle Reminder** from the Worship Committee: Candles of joy, sorrow and concern should be brief and pointed, or the service may run too long.

🌸 **If you would like to participate in worship** by lighting the chalice and/or reading from the pulpit, just tell any Worship Associate, who will add your name to the list of interested participants. *Please note* that you must be at church 15 minutes prior to the start of the service in order to be asked.

🌸 *PLEASE* if you use the sanctuary for an event or meeting, **leave the Sanctuary in the worship configuration**. Put the chairs back *each time* they are moved.

🌸 **Do you know our Church history?** *An Ordinary Miracle* and *The Miracle Continues* are available in the church office, \$15 each or two for \$25.

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# Friends of FESCO (Family Emergency Shelter Coalition)

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**FESCO News**, Nancy Harrison, Starr King Representative to FESCO

One of the big goals for 2009 of the Family Emergency Shelter Coalition is to reach out to more congregations and invite them to join the coalition. FESCO needs the support of congregations of all faiths to serve the needs of families in Alameda county south of Oakland and north of Fremont. If you know someone at a congregation that is not yet a part of FESCO, ask if congregation members and leadership would be interested in learning more about FESCO. Cate Steane would be happy to meet with them to get to know them and discuss how support of FESCO could become a part of their ministry. (Of course, business supporters are also very welcome.)

Another way to help FESCO is to volunteer to help FESCO from home. Here are two possibilities:

1. Improve FESCO's e-Scrip program. eScrip is a fundraising program that uses a registration system to funnel a percentage of supporters' everyday purchases to their chosen charity. FESCO is registered with eScrip and some of supporters use the system, but there is much untapped potential. FESCO needs a volunteer to serve as eScrip coordinator. This person will learn all the eScrip tools and promotions and then encourage FESCO's supporters to participate. Responsibilities



include writing short promotional articles telling people how to participate, getting information on current promotions to our webmaster, and managing a contact list of supporters to ensure they keep their enrollments current and know about special promotions. This can be done on your schedule from your home computer. (To contribute to FESCO yourself without cost to you, order an eScrip Visa card ([www.escrip.com](http://www.escrip.com)) and make FESCO the beneficiary.)

2. Develop a list of employers that match charitable gifts. Many employers do so, and FESCO already profits from them, but, again, there is untapped potential.. FESCO will provide a volunteer with a list of large employers. That person will check the website of contact their human resources or public affairs department of each employer to learn whether or not they have charitable matching gift programs. This will help FESCO promote utilization of matching gift programs. (If your employer has such a program, please make use of it when contributing to FESCO.)

Finally, remember to reserve Saturday, May 16 for the Shelter Shuffle. It's a fun event, and is one of FESCO's main fundraisers of the year. Mark your calendar now!

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## Attention ALL HUMANS!

**J**oin our Unitarian Universalist Service Committee (UUSC) to celebrate the 60th anniversary of the most fabulous Universal Declaration of Human Rights!

Keynote Speaker William F. Schulz, UUSC Board of Trustees chair will give an address on "The Legacy of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights: Where Do We Go from Here?" FYI, Bill Schulz was formerly both UUA President and subsequently Executive Director of Amnesty International; he's quite a guy!

He will be joined by César Cárdenas Ramírez of El Movimiento Mi Cometa, UUSC's Environmental Justice program partner. Ramírez leads a grassroots network of neighborhood watch groups holding Bechtel subsidiary InterAgua to

account for their mismanagement of a water and sanitation services concession in Guayaquil, Ecuador.



The event is happening Friday 6 February 2009 at 7:30 P.M. in the Social Hall of the Unitarian Universalist Church of Berkeley (UUCB), 1 Lawson Road, Kensington CA 94707-1015 ([www.uucb.org](http://www.uucb.org)).

The Berkeley Forum is co-sponsoring this event, which is FREE and open to the public (donations are welcome). Space is limited, so be sure to RSVP directly to [rsvp@uusc.org](mailto:rsvp@uusc.org). If you are interested in carpooling, email Andy Hansen at [AVH1958@Comcast.net](mailto:AVH1958@Comcast.net) and he will be glad to help you coordinate with others so inclined.

# How to Reach Us

## **Starr King Unitarian Universalist Church**

22577 Bayview Avenue  
Hayward CA 94541

Church Office: 510/581.2060  
office@starrking.org

Parish Minister: Kathryn Kandarian  
minister@starrking.org  
Home Telephone: 537.6565

Church President: Meg Jurich  
510/886.3080  
margaretjurich@yahoo.com

Church Website: <http://www.starrking.org>  
Crystal Carroll, webmaster  
webmaster@starrking.org

Chalice Editor: Carol Henrie  
510/886.1018  
editor@starrking.org

### **Church Administrative Hours:**

Tuesday - Wednesday - Thursday  
9 A.M. – 1 P.M.

### **Minister's Office Hours:**

Tuesday - Wednesday - Thursday  
9 A.M. – 1 P.M.

*Note:* Please observe the minister's  
*uninterrupted* reading & writing  
time each Monday.

### **How to Reach Your Chalice Editor**

Deadline is the second Sunday of each month. Please put  
your contribution in writing.

Post to: Carol Henrie  
24929 Minnie Court  
Hayward CA 94541

Email to: editor@starrking.org

Leave in: The box marked *Newsletter Editor*  
in the Church office

## **Church Leadership**

### Board of Trustees

President — Meg Jurich  
Vice President — Darryl Ray  
Secretary — Donnie Rett  
Treasurer — Frank Satterwhite  
At Large — Crystal Carroll  
Natalie Forrest  
Andy Hansen  
Mary Lasack  
Marilyn Mosher

Office Manager — Nancy Novicio

Minister — Rev. Katie Kandarian

Interim Director of Religious Education — Carol Bodeau

### Church Committee Chairs

Association Affairs — Doug Sprague  
Adult Religious Education —  
Bookstore — Evelyn Cormier  
Buildings — Dick Albert  
*Chalice* Newsletter — Carol Henrie, editor  
Endowment/Memorial Fund — Bill Schwab  
Finance —  
FESCO — Nancy Harrison  
Grounds — Carol Henrie & Walt Korus  
Interior — Lavon Hodges  
Kitchen Manager — Sherry Thomas  
Membership — Diane Meyerson  
Committee on Ministry — Doris Haskell, Keith Lewis,  
Kirk Smith (Convenor), Karen Yearout  
Nominating — Bob Stortz  
Outreach — Susan Blanc  
Pastoral Care — Karen Cook, Convenor  
Pledge Secretary — Marilyn Mosher  
R.E. Chair —  
Social — Robin Fink  
Social Justice — Evelyn Cormier  
South Hayward Parish —  
Jim Forsyth & Barbara Storms  
Sunday Coffee — Lavon Hodges  
Volunteer Coordinator — Karen Cook  
Worship — Betsy Dye

