



The Flaming

Chalice

NEWSLETTER OF STARR KING UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CHURCH

MARCH 2007

A Month of Sundays

March Celebration Previews

Two Sunday Services at 9:30 A.M. & 11 A.M.

- 4:** *Not Ready to Make Nice* (Rev. Katie Kandarian) Do we set out in this world to be prophets? Or do we simply say what it is we believe and then follow through? The models we look to may be as consequential as Jesus or as unlikely as The Dixie Chicks. How do we respond when challenged?

Immediately following each service, the minister will hold a brief informational session in the Library for those with questions about Unitarian Universalism or interested in membership.

Daylight Savings Begins 11 March: Set Your Clock FORWARD

- 11:** *What We Enjoy* (Rev. Katie Kandarian) Please make a special point to join us today for Celebration Sunday. Today we take recognition of the importance of this congregation in our lives. Please come ready to make your pledge, as well as to partake in the spiritual gifts of a loving community and a tasty and festive reception. *Chalice Deadline.*

March 11 is Celebration Sunday.
Please come prepared to sign your Pledge Card
for 2006-2007. See page 5.

One Service (Today Only) • 18 March at 11 A.M.

- 18:** *Seeking Hope in a Time of War* (Rev. Lydia Ferrante-Roseberry) On the fourth anniversary of the War in Iraq, with an anticipated troop 'surge' and a new Congress calling for a new direction, the focus of the world is on our government's politicking. But what are the spiritual implications of an ongoing war on the soul of the nation? How do we as individuals keep connected to global issues in ways that don't deaden our own spirits? Join us for a service of realistic hope-mongering. *Bookstore Open.*
- 25:** *Reflections on Islam.* Members of the Evening Discovery will share personal insights about our study of Islam and discussions on *No God but God* by Reza Aslan.



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Katie's Bay View

Rev. Katie Kandarian

Once again the star wheel turns and we reach the Christian season of Lent. Over the years, my progressive Christian clergy friends and associates in South Hayward Parish have been a positive influence. They have modeled ways to make the liturgical calendar meaningful in our lives and community. When I came to Hayward, a practice already existed to recognize and remember people who died in the area as a result of violence.



Back in 1995, there was a rash of murders in the Hayward area. As waves of violence continued to wash over the town, there was a sense of helplessness and grief among people and leadership. South Hayward Parish clergy members wondered aloud together how to address such a massive and randomly occurring problem. We decided that the best way to witness was to go directly to the places where the deaths had happened. Someone remembered that this was already being done in Oakland when the same kind of violence was arising.

And so we began. Pastors and ministers of the congregations, other board members of South Hayward Parish and interested members of our churches met together on street corners, in front of 7-Elevens, near a freeway overpass or in the middle of a residential street. Many times, the dead were people we knew—friends of our members, or family members. Sometimes we knew no one, but when we arrived, someone came by who could tell us the details of the violent event itself or who had known one or more of the people involved.

We still hold these vigils of caring. Every year. And every time we hold one, we learn something new. We learn something about life, about desperation, about beauty, about forgiveness. We learn that even though it's been said there is no community in Hayward, we have found otherwise. We have seen it, at times more than others. We have learned more about people than we could by reading the papers. We have become increasingly committed to building community.

If you would like to join our group to witness to the caring and compassion of community, you are welcome. The Sunday announcement page will list the location of upcoming Friday noontime vigils, which last about fifteen to twenty minutes. If your schedule doesn't allow your direct participation, your good thoughts are welcome.

In faith we continue to work to bring on the Beloved Community,

March Birthdays

Best birthday wishes to . . .

- 1 Alison Shaw
- 1 Marian Babbidge
- 2 Darryl Ray
- 3 Jennifer James
- 4 Collin Carrell
- 8 Bill Hitchings
- 10 Audrey LePell
- 10 Sierra Gray
- 12 Rebecca Parr
- 13 Margarita Jacob
- 16 Renee Ray
- 17 Ruth Kuftin
- 18 Jean Gaylord
- 19 Greg Kuftin
- 22 Karen Cook
- 22 Kelsi Kramer Stone
- 26 Sherry Thomas
- 26 Maya Para
- 28 Bryne Golec
- 28 Susan Clark



Wheel of Life

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

- ☺ Renate Ornea, living at home under twenty-four hour care, welcomes your visits.
- ☺ Sincere condolences go to Carol Henrie and Dick Albert whose special Saluki, Aubrey, died after a long illness.
- ☺ Please keep Sandra Walton in your thoughts after her surgery to have a stint implanted.
- ☺ Kirk Smith and Sherry Thomas both have had shoulder surgery and are recuperating nicely.
- ☺ Good news for Sarah Gonzalez, whose recent lab results were healthy.

We hold all these people in our good thoughts and prayers.



Building a Vision of Our Future

Last month in this column I wrote about a wonderful growth workshop I attended with several other Starr King members. Instead of focusing on simply welcoming visitors and growing our congregation, Larry Peers, workshop leader, former Unitarian Universalist minister and Alban Institute consultant, talked about “growing the soul” of the congregation. Working in groups by congregations, we



focused on *changing the way we do church*. Each group considered the best accomplishments of their congregation and on the strengths that contributed to those successes. We were asked to consider how by building on our strengths we could go further and accomplish our visions for the future.

Coincidentally, we were planning our annual Board of Trustees retreat at this time. Each year your Board holds an all day retreat to learn how we can work better together and develop a theme. This year our retreat was at the Unitarian Church of Livermore. The Board had discussed three items they wished to see addressed in our upcoming retreat: ministry of hospitality, communication and a five-year plan. Those ideas seemed to fit right in with the idea of working from our strengths to communicate and build a group vision for the future of Starr King Church.

Leading Change and Connecting for Our Community

This year our retreat was led by Vanessa Wilcox, daughter of our Religious Education Director, Jean Wilcox. The theme became *Leading Change and Connecting for Our Community*. Vanessa began the retreat by discussing an article from the Harvard Business School entitled *Leadership for Change: Enduring Skills for Change Masters*. The article discusses various skills needed to affect change, including:

SENSING NEEDS AND OPPORTUNITIES: Idea scouting, identifying gaps between what is and what could be.

KALEIDOSCOPE THINKING: Stimulating breakthrough ideas; shaking up assumptions and reinforcing a spirit of creativity.

COMMUNICATING INSPIRING VISIONS: Shaping raw ideas into a theme that makes them come alive; creating a vision that supports the value and direction of the change.

MASTERING THE DIFFICULT MIDDLES: This includes persistence and perseverance; ensuring plans are not rigid and can be redirected if needed, but revisiting and reminding everyone of the vision and mission.

CELEBRATING ACCOMPLISHMENTS: Recognizing, rewarding and celebrating accomplishments, even if just for energy and effort.

We brainstormed our top needs and opportunities, including a financially and spiritually sustaining congregation; Religious Education parent support and connection; social justice and the larger community; attracting and retaining visitors; volunteer development; space. From there we moved to developing our vision of Starr King Church in five years.

An Unfinished Vision

Our vision remains purposely unfinished because we want your input. We want the vision for Starr King to reflect the dreams and strengths of the entire congregation. Though we got bogged down a bit over semantics, grammar and philosophy in our DRAFT Vision, it included:

A vibrant, dynamic, connected community where meaningful, transformational spiritual practice can arise in an intergenerational environment.

A financially secure, abundantly generous congregation. Addressing critical social justice issues and needs.

An array of opportunities for personal and spiritual growth and service.

Connectedness — inter, intra, “god connection.”

Over the next few months your Board of Trustees will be deciding how to roll out our visioning process to you so that it will become your vision for a future that can happen. Please join us.



OUR CHURCH BOARD IN ACTION

February 2007

The following is a summary of the Board’s business meeting. Feel free to discuss any of these items with Board members.

1. Stuart Fink’s review of cash transactions will be forwarded to the Finance Committee for action.
2. The board approved the minister’s proposal to engage an intern for 2007-2008 whose ministerial duties will include RE transitions.
3. There will be an informational forum on February 25 to discuss options for replacing Unitarian House.
4. The Board will continue to work on the vision statement drafted at its retreat in January.
5. The church picnic will be held on the church grounds on 10 June. Stuart and Robin Fink will coordinate it.
6. Keith Lewis will head the Budget Committee for 2007-2008.
7. Ten new members will be welcomed at a luncheon set for 11 February.
8. The board approved the purchase of a new copy machine.



REFrigerator Page

Children's Religious Education

Karen Kramer, Religious Education Coordinator

Spring is almost here, and isn't it wonderful to see all the new babies and new members among us! I hope you will all come and bring a relative or a few friends to see our highly acclaimed magician, and have some lunch with us on 22 April. Please save the date.

The Religious Education Committee is also beginning to plan for Jr. High OWL(Our Whole Lives) to begin in fall of 2008. Our fantastic and experienced Dick Albert and Carol Henrie have agreed to teach this informative series; but we are a few students short of the desired number to achieve the best group dynamic. If you know of any friends or relatives, from grades seven through ninth, who you think would benefit, and their parents would agree to this series, please let me or Jean Wilcox know. I have been told that this is one of the best programs Unitarian Universalism offer its youth. So we are working hard to make sure it happens for them.

Now for the March class schedule. Except as noted, children meet in the Sanctuary with their parents and process to their classrooms or activity after the *Story for All Ages*:

- 4 March: *Social Justice*: South Hayward Parish
Meet in library
- 11 March: RE Curriculum
Meet in classrooms
- 18 March: RE Curriculum
Meet in classrooms
- 25 March: Children's Worship
Meet in library

Babies & Toddlers meets in Fahs Cottage with Amy Kinnear and Tobi Stevens.

Pre-K / Kindergarten meets in the Kinder Hut with Karen Kramer and Karen Carrell.

Grades 1-3 meets in Reinhart Cottage with Laura McMichael-Cady and Mary Lasack.

Grades 4-6 meets in Unitarian House with Lea Cassini, John Weaver and Julie Wellings-Kuftin.

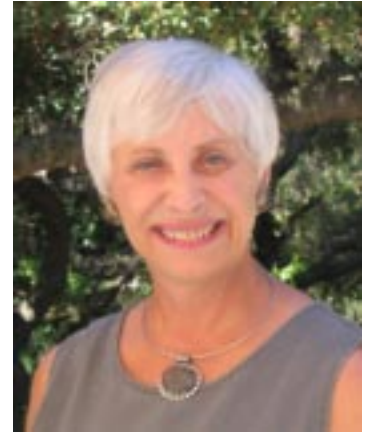
SKY (Starr King Youth) meets in Ornea Cottage with Dick Albert and Carol Henrie.

Karen Kramer, Religious Education Coordinator
510/783.2221 or kkramerdc@yahoo.com

DREaming

Jean Wilcox, Director of Religious Education

As most of you know, we devote the first Sunday of each month to Social Justice, and we try to come up with different plans to encourage our children to be aware of the world around them and the need for stewardship.



On the February Social Justice Sunday we began a new practice which will be a part of all Sundays from now on, to focus on the needs of South Hayward Parish, of which we at SKUUC are a part. South Hayward Parish is a collection of religious organizations who, although they might not agree in all areas, certainly agree that it is the responsibility of all people of faith to provide for those in need.

The February Social Justice Sunday happened to fall on Super Bowl day, and we contrasted the cost of the Super Bowl commercials at \$2.6 million for 30 seconds with the needs of South Hayward Parish, which is trying to come up with \$15,000 to make up a deficit in funding in order to provide food to those in our community who need it. This theme, along with some video activity, worked very well for our children, and we will continue this theme for the Social Justice Sundays during the remainder of the year.

We welcome any ideas and everyone willing to help us. And if you're handy with a video camera and have some clever ideas for a commercial calling attention to the plight of South Hayward Parish, please let me know.



Jean

Jean Wilcox, Director of Religious Education
925/937.6524 or jdwilcox@sbcglobal.net

Our Church Here . . . All are welcome to participate!

ONGOING ACTIVITIES

✦ **Morning Discovery** meets at Church from 10 to 11:15 A.M. on first and third Wednesdays (7 & 21 March). All are welcome to join us to explore community and spirituality, discussion and shared silence.

✦ **SKIFFLE** gathers in the Sanctuary for instrumental music every Wednesday evening from 7 to 9 P.M. All levels of musicianship invited.

✦ **Evening Discovery** meets at Church at 7 P.M. on first and third Wednesdays (7 & 21 March). Share, sing and meditate. Contact Chris Selig for info.

✦ The **Book Group** will meet Thursday 8 March at 7 P.M. at the Schwab home (538.3226) to discuss *The Sea* by John Danville. *All welcome*. Please ring to let the host know you will attend. The April book will be *Arthur and George* by Julian Barnes.

✦ **SKIT** improv group meets in the Sanctuary on second and fourth Thursdays (8 & 22 March) at 7:30 P.M.

✦ The **Social Justice Committee** meets on second Sundays (11 March) after second service.



✦ The **Film Group** will gather on Saturday 31 March at 7 P.M. to see *Marilyn Hotchkiss Ballroom Dancing & Charm School*, a 2005 comedy drama with John Goodman, Marisa Tomei, Robert Carlyle and Mary Steenburgen. All welcome! Let host Stuart Fink (510/537.4421) know you are coming; bring a movie snack to share.

✦ **The Committee of the Interior** meets in the Library on fourth Sundays (25 March) following the service. This committee works to maintain and improve the appearance of our meeting house. All are welcome.

Our Annual Canvass

Early Harvest

ON CELEBRATION SUNDAY

✦ 11 MARCH ✦

Please Come to Church

Prepared to Sign and Turn In Your Pledge Card
for the 2007 - 2008 Fiscal Year



Please Plan to Stay After the Service for Refreshments
to Celebrate Our Accomplishments & Our Goals!

Save the Date!

✦ **Starr King Seder Friday 6 April in the Sanctuary; ceremony at 6:30 P.M.** The Passover story will be relived with ritual narrative and food, followed by an *almost* traditional meal prepared for you by Starr King chefs. \$10 per person. Sign up at the Community Table or contact Carol Henrie (510/886.1018 or reachus@pacbell.net).

✦ **April Theatre Fundraiser**
Private Lives, a play by Noel Coward
Thursday 19 April • 8 P.M.
\$15 single ticket or two for \$25

Our goal is to fill the theatre; we have 67 tickets to this wonderful play, which will be staged in San Leandro. Carpooling will be available. Please contact Joyce Kinnear, Natalie Forrest or Kay Athos for more information.

✦ **Game Night** is planned for Saturday 5 May starting at 7 P.M. Fun for all ages! There will be a variety of board and card games for everyone and a snack potluck.

. . . Our Church There

✦ Join the **No Room for Racism** vigils that are held in Hayward every third Friday (16 March) 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.

✦ **Balázs Transylvanian Tea: Trading Places – Journeys of Transformation.** Saturday 7 April at 3:30 P.M. at Starr King School for the Ministry. Donation \$25. Features Transylvanian Unitarian minister Rev. Erika Orbán and fourth year Starr King student James Field. For information and reservations contact Arliss Ungar (arliss@ungar.us, 925./283.3288).

✦ During 2006, thousands of faith communities served and sold 460 tons of fairly traded coffee, tea, cocoa, sugar and chocolate, helping to extend the benefits of Fair Trade to 28 farmer cooperatives in 14 countries. This year, the Interfaith Program will launch new products like fairly traded snacks from U.S. family farmers.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Pension Protection Act of 2006, signed by President Bush on 17 August 2006, included several provisions affecting the deduction of charitable contributions. Here are a couple of prominent provisions:

1. Beginning in 2007, in the case of cash contributions, no matter the amount, written records are required to substantiate the tax deduction or the contribution will be disallowed. For example, the small amounts of cash deposited in the church collection basket will not be deductible unless paid by check or acknowledged in writing by the charity.

2. For contributions made on or after 17 August 17 2006 you cannot take a charitable contribution deduction for donations of clothing or household items unless the item is in "good used condition or better." The law does not define "good condition" so you may want to photograph the item donated or be more discriminating in donating items. If the amount claimed is more than \$500 a qualified appraisal will be required.

NOTE: California has not yet conformed to the above rules for state income tax purposes.

🌱 **Our storage closets have been cleaned out**, inventoried, reorganized and labeled. *Please return items to their appropriate places.* Contact Sherry Thomas before purchasing or donating items. Coffee servers: check carefully in the coffee/kitchen supply closet. If supplies are low, leave a note for Sherry.

🌱 New church office hours have been established: 9 A.M. until 1 P.M. Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday. Please get written announcements to Julie by 1 P.M. on Tuesday. Office contact info: 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 eventually go to Latin American countries, along with eye doctors who will be fitting people in need.

🌱 The Worship Committee reminds us that the **musical postlude** at the end of the service is a part of worship; please remain seated to maintain a reverential quiet until the last note.

🌱 **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.

Welcome New Members



Regina Fassano grew up Catholic and was active in the church through high school. As she grew into adulthood, she realized that the Catholic Church wasn't meeting her spiritual needs. "The principles of Unitarian Universalism really address my needs as a spiritual being. Since coming to Starr King, I have been overwhelmed by the life affirming messages addressed to the gay and lesbian community. Not only at the local level, but at the national level, as well. You have no idea how healing it is for me to be part of such a welcoming community."



. . . Our Church There

🌱 **Ministries to Incarcerated UUs.** The Church of the Larger Fellowship, a cyber-space congregation providing Unitarian Universalism to isolated religious liberals, offers a spiritual lifeline to incarcerated UUs. Over 300 prisoners across the US have joined the UU Church of the Larger Fellowship. With no access to the web or UU Sunday services, their only way of learning more about UUism is through written publications and letters exchanged with other UUs. Members of any UU congregation who might like to write to a CLF prisoner-member are invited to visit the CLF website (www.clfuu.org). Click on *Prison Ministry* to learn more about CLF's Prison Programs and apply for the Letter Writing Ministry.

Welcome New Members



My name is **Tobi Stevens**. I was born in Palo Alto. My family moved to Iowa when I was three. I grew up in a small town in a community of people who all practice the Transcendental Meditation technique. My parents are both teachers of the technique. I started practicing when I was four and I continue to practice twice daily.

From pre-school through college, I attended private schools where all the students practiced TM. I majored in Fine Arts, then decided to study home birth midwifery.

I have been studying midwifery at the Ancient Art Midwifery Institute via distance education. Last spring I reconnected with one of the midwives who attended my mom when I was born; I have started apprenticing with her. So that's my life story in three paragraphs!

OUR PROPOSED *Covenant of Good Relations*



D R A F T



In the covenantal tradition of Unitarian Universalism, we strive to build our religious community on a foundation of kindness, understanding and tolerance and to be guided by our principles in all our actions and interactions. We covenant to welcome one another as unique individuals and to celebrate our diverse beliefs as we walk our chosen paths together. We promise to share our gifts and to encourage and appreciate the contributions of others. To foster a community of respect, we will speak kindly of one another and to one another and, should difficulties arise between or among us, we will speak directly to those concerned with the goal of reconciliation. We will not engage in harmful gossip, and we will urge others to resolve difficulties *directly with the person/s concerned*. Should we need assistance to restore good relations, we will call upon the process and resources provided by Starr King Church. We will participate in the democratic process by which our religious community governs itself, and we will respect the outcomes of the collective wisdom. For the health and wellbeing of our beloved community, we make this pledge together.

The Committee on Shared Ministry (COSMIC) has been facilitating the process of developing a Covenant of Good Relations.

Please take a moment to read the DRAFT covenant printed in the box above. It has been reviewed by our Board of Trustees, and the further responses, suggestions or questions of our members continue to be incorporated into the process of developing a Covenant of Good Relations that is meaningful for Starr King Church. (The most recent change is indicated by italics, above.)

Our congregation will be voting to affirm the Covenant of Good Relations at our Annual Meeting in May. Your comments and suggestions are welcome.

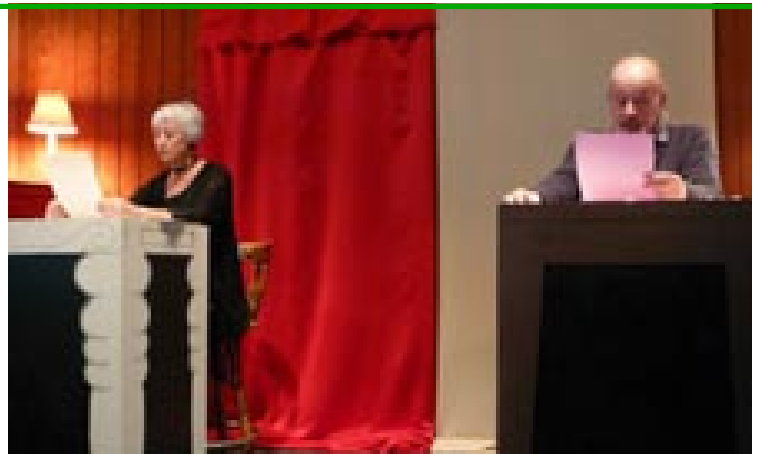
You can contact COSMIC by email (cosmic@starrking.org) or by post c/o Starr King Church. If you prefer, you are welcome to speak with a member of the Committee on Shared Ministry.

*Lee Berger
Carol Henrie
Keith Lewis
Kirk Smith
Vicki Thompson*



Love Letters

A generous Valentine! With champagne, truffles and the professional performances of Shellie award winning actors Jean Wilcox and Fred Williams, *Love Letters* was a huge success. The play was warmly received and the ending so moving that several people were seen wiping away tears. Pianist Tim Belk mesmerized with music before the play, as well as at intermission. Over 130 people attended, grossing \$2,650. Many thanks to the dedicated volunteers who made this event happen!



Jean Wilcox & Fred Williams perform on 10 and 11 February.

What's the Word? Al Murdach

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

No.13: **Angels**

The belief in angels, or guardian spirits, has lately come back into fashion, even apparently for some Unitarian Universalists. According to a recent Gallop Poll, as many as sixty-eight percent of individuals surveyed who expressed some attraction to spiritual concepts said they believed in the existence of angels. In addition, such polls have also found that such believers are generally young and well educated. Further evidence of the current growth of such beliefs are a growing popular literature on angels (one recent book has a bibliography of twenty-five titles) and the increasing presence of angels in movies and on the stage (for example, Tony Kushner's epic, *Angels in America*).

What can account for the growth of such a belief in this so-called secular age? Angels, after all, have always been viewed as God's representatives or messengers. If God — or belief in a supreme being — is dead or tenuous, how can individuals then rationalize a belief in spiritual beings who supposedly emanate from the divine? Could it be that even secular individuals still long for a divine presence in their lives and that angels, who are perceived as friendly, helpful and attractive, thus exert a strong appeal?

Whatever the reasons for the current upsurge in the popularity of angels, it doesn't completely square with the track record of angels in the past. Historically, although angels have always been prominent in the religions of ancient Egypt, Judaism, Christianity and Islam, they have typically been presented as both good and evil (for instance, Jesus and his angels vs. the Devil and his angels), friendly and terrifying (the Angel Gabriel vs. the Angel of Death), as both supportive and destructive (guardian angels vs. the warrior angels of the apocalypse).

In our current fascination with the cult of angels, however, the evil or destructive side of angels has been almost totally suppressed, and they are usually viewed as harmless, nurturing and supportive beings who wish nothing but good for humankind. Could this change in perspective represent the emergence of an intense desire on our part to view the workings of the divine in our lives as always beneficial and never threatening or vengeful? If so, the ancient God of Wrath has been completely white-washed, and we are left helpless in explaining life's disasters, threats and the slings and arrows of outrageous fortune (to quote Shakespeare) that daily assail us.

What then is a UU to make of angels today? A superstition? A wish fulfillment? A childish survival of our infantile past? Or are they instead intimations of immortality, as the poet Wordsworth noted long ago, that creep into our daily crises and peep and tug at us from behind the shutters of our minds? No final judgment is possible yet, of course, but the puzzling question remains.

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

♣ **Serving Sunday Morning Coffee** is a great way to meet members and spread happiness! *Your help is needed* in the set up position. This person would arrive at church about 35 minutes before first service, start the coffee and set everything up, then remain and serve coffee after first service. Please let Scott Kinnear (885.0781) know if you can fill this important slot on Sunday.

♣ Join our **Grounds & Landscape Enhancement** activities at Church from 9 A.M. to noon on second and fourth Saturdays (10 & 24 March). Contact Carol Henrie (886.1018).

♣ **Newsletter Folding:** The *Chalice* will be folded at Church at 1 P.M. on Thursday 22 March. It takes two hours; more folders welcome!

♣ Please see Betsy Dye if you would be interested in operating the **sound system** one or two Sundays a month.

♣ Sign up at the Community Table to bring **flowers or plants for the altar**. Let us know if you are honoring a loved one or celebrating a special occasion.

♣ **Volunteer pianists:** Share your talents when our regular accompanist is off. Contact Joyce Kinnear (885.0781).

Welcome New Members



Doug Vakoch:

“I enjoy good conversation and a strong cup of coffee.”

Julie Bayless:

“I love art, theater and a good laugh.”

Committee Highlights

Friends of FESCO (Family Emergency Shelter Coalition)

Diane Meyerson

A Slice of Life written by Dave McKeown, FESCO Program Manager

When Toni came in to the shelter with her two daughters, we didn't know what had hit us! Such a roar coming from such a small person, "Here I am, and I need help!" Help indeed. Toni was barely nineteen years old and at times seemed as young as her two-year-old. The baby was seven months old and a real handful. Toni's childhood was troubling —parental and family abuse. She left home at sixteen and had been on her own ever since. Her search for a stable relationship took several bad turns. Her welfare income was insufficient to sustain her and the girls. She received no support from the children's fathers. She was not working. Although she was still in pure survival mode, Toni made it clear that she wanted a better life for her girls and hoped we could help.

It didn't take long for Toni to settle in. She mixed well with most of the residents. She seemed to enjoy the responsibility of having a chore to do. She had no problem sharing every detail of her comings and goings with staff and often asked for advice. The shelter rules provided much-needed boundaries for Toni. She began to look for work and started saving her money. There was a problem, however. With no role model or positive example of parenting in her life, Toni had great difficulty understanding and addressing the needs of her daughters.

After a few weeks, the shelter had become a place of respite for Toni. As other residents fussed over the girls and played with them, Toni was able to escape the unending responsibility of being a mom. Other times, Toni would make the two-year-old watch the baby while she ironed or made lunches. The baby demanded constant attention, and the older daughter began to resent having to take care of her sister. As staff came to terms with the issue, it became clear that Toni herself was in need of a mom to hug and comfort her, just as her girls needed that love from Toni.

Toni faced the issue of her parenting skills and registered for classes. She also found a job. She applied for and received a housing subsidy. She recently moved from a shared housing situation into her own apartment. She continues to meet regularly with her parenting support group. The girls are doing

fine and thriving in a more stable family environment. Toni frequently calls in to update staff on the latest details. There is much ahead in life for these three young people.

Another great example of the power of love and the strength of family.

Special Thanks to Nubia Giles for the outstanding job she has done as FESCO's Event and Volunteer Coordinator over the last 12 years. Nubia was the primary organizer of the Shelter Shuffle, Dinner & Auction, Back-to-School Backpack Event, Adopt-A-Family Holiday Event and all the other small and large events that take place at FESCO during the course of each year.

She was widely respected by clients, donors, co-workers and FESCO Board members. Nubia resigned from FESCO to return to school and finish her special education teaching credential. February 1, 2007 was her last day.

Nubia will be greatly missed. We wish her well in her new endeavor.



Upcoming Events for FESCO

Spring 2007

FESCO office will be moving.
Phone and Fax will remain the same.



Saturday 12 May

10th Annual Shelter Shuffle



Friday 28 September

Dinner & Auction
at the San Leandro Community Center

Diane Meyerson represents Starr King UU Church on the FESCO board.

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: Bob Britton
510/888.1612
brittonr@sbcglobal.net

Church Website: <http://www.starrking.org>
Jim Van Scyoc, 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 on 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

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