



# The Flaming

# Chalice

NEWSLETTER OF STARR KING UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CHURCH APRIL 2007

## A Month of Sundays

### April Celebration Previews

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

- 1:** *The Trickster: What Kind of Foolish Faith?* (Rev. Katie Kandarian) The trickster exists in mythology, sometimes, but not always as divine. It exists in various forms from Fox to Coyote. Where is the trickster in our faith, in our life?  
*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.*

Friday 6 April • 6:30 P.M. • Starr King Seder  
 Reserve your place! *See page 5.*

- 8:** *Easter Sunday: Rolling Away the Stone* (Rev. Katie Kandarian & Jean Wilcox) Today we'll celebrate Easter with our annual flower communion and a sermon about possibilities, both for ourselves and the world. This will be an intergenerational service with special music.  
*Chalice Deadline.*

- 15:** *Signs on the Journey: Excerpts from a Diary* (Rev. Erika Orban) Erika is the Balasz Transylvanian Scholar studying at Starr King School for the Ministry; its annual invitation to study tuition free brings the gifts of a Transylvanian Unitarian minister, committed to improving the lives of fellow congregants and to sharing with North American UUs their passion and caring for their homeland and for our common faith tradition.  
*Bookstore Open.*

Saturday 21 April • 7 P.M. • *Prison Reform*  
 Presented by the Social Justice Committee • *See page 5.*

- 22:** *To Be Whole* (Rev. Katie Kandarian) As we celebrate Earth Day, we'll consider what it means to be human in the world that exists all around us. In so doing, we may just make the world more livable for all.

27 - 29 April • PCD-UUA District Assembly  
 Register to attend. *See details on page 5.*

- 29:** *And Justice for All: The Heart of Christianity* (Rev. Jeffrey Lambkin) Today we will explore how a progressive Christian theology can help to more fully inform our work of building a just society while also guiding our necessary collaboration along the way with Christian justice workers.



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# Katie's Bay View **Rev. Katie Kandarian**

Winter rains have turned the star-wheel, and as I write, springtime has begun. In the tradition of new beginnings, we Unitarian Universalists have had an abundance of media attention lately.



First, a segment that recently ran on NPR shed positive light on our OWL (Our Whole Lives) program, extolling its unique virtues in providing “a fuller picture of sex ed” than the abstinence only programs offered through the public schools. OWL has been wildly successful in Unitarian Universalist congregations, including our own, with its emphasis on the “maturity and responsibility required for sexual activity,” and it presents abstinence as the best choice for young adolescents. It gives opportunities for sharing in a safe environment, and this in itself has been a boon to our own Starr King Youth program.

Unitarian Universalists were also in the news last week as Pete Stark stated his own religious preference as a UU when asked how he practiced his nontheistic beliefs. All of this had stemmed from his honest answers to a survey from the Secular Coalition for America, designed to identify the most prominent nonbelieving politician. (By the way, Stark never identified himself as an Atheist, but the word was used to label him in a defamatory way.)

Also in the news was my colleague Vicki Weinstein, a Unitarian Universalist minister from the Boston area who writes a popular blog as her alter ego PeaceBang. Information about her blog appeared recently on the front page of the Boston Globe, and it was featured this past week on Nightline. She has received a surprising level of fame because of its amusing focus on the “de-frumpification of the American clergy.” Its title, *Beauty Tips for Ministers*, pulls in a large, diverse audience of ministers and lay folk who enjoy Vicki’s wit and humor and her intelligent writing.

It’s spring, and it’s wonderful that our faith has buds and blooms and resurrections of importance to the contemporary world in which we live. These instances of public notice provide us with opportunities for our kind of positive evangelism. We ought to be ready to express ourselves about our faith and our faith community, whenever the chance avails itself. If you don’t feel confident in so doing, I invite you to pick up a little business size card printed with our principles, or another card explaining some of the beliefs that are commonly shared among us.

There are many of us who, when first entering the door, saw some of their friends and wondered, “Why have none of these people told me where they were going on Sunday mornings?” Let’s be more generous to our friends and acquaintances. Tell them what matters to you. Tell them about Unitarian Universalism.

In faith and with love,

## April Birthdays

Best birthday wishes to . . .



- 3 Andrea Kuftin
- 6 Eric Bugosh
- 10 Katie Kandarian
- 10 Karen Carrell
- 11 Frank Satterwhite
- 14 Caroline Mazur
- 14 Jean Wilcox
- 16 Molly Hitchings
- 21 Andy Matthews
- 26 Kyle Weaver
- 28 Kay Athos

## Wheel of Life

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

- ♥ Sandra Walton finally had her stint successfully placed.
- ♥ Suzanne Hicks is home recovering from an infection.
- ♥ When planning a visit to Renate Ornea, please call ahead of time.

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



## Bill Gaylord – at 82, still a leader of youth

In what I hope is a series of interviews with the “Elders” of Starr King Church, I interviewed Bill Gaylord this past February about his early life in San Francisco, his service in the Navy through two wars, his marriage of nearly 60 years and his membership in Starr King for over 50 years.

Bill Gaylord was born December 30, 1924 in San Francisco. Bill’s parents divorced when he was young. His mother’s only chance at work was as a domestic in wealthier homes, and she had to give Bill up temporarily while she went to work. In his early years he lived with a Norwegian family in their boarding house on Haight Street across from Buena Vista Park.

Bill was about 6 years old when his mother married Oscar Hesto, a Finnish longshoreman. Bill lived with his mother and stepfather in a flat in the Mission District. In this household, “Franklin Roosevelt was God and Harry Bridges (the famous Longshoreman’s Union leader) was Jesus.” Bill was 9 years old when the San Francisco General Strike took place in support of the Longshoremen unionizing the docks. Bill remembers well this strike and a later one in 1937. He also remembers Oscar packing a cut-off baseball bat for protection from the company “goon squads” hired by the employers.

The Second World War broke out while Bill was still attending Balboa High School. Even before the war started, he had intended to join the Navy, and then with the outbreak of hostilities he was ready to quit school and enlist. His mother though wouldn’t hear of it and insisted that he graduate first.

The San Francisco School Board started granting credits for graduation to high school seniors with one semester who were joining the military or going to work in war industry jobs. Half-way through his senior year in 1942, Bill graduated and joined the Navy. In no time the 18 year old was off to boot camp.

He hoped to become a machinist in the Navy. But the Navy had other plans and sent him to Sonar School. He became what was known as a *ping jockey* that sends the sonar signal out and waits for the echo or “ping.” Instead of being shipped out to search for submarines, this Ping Jockey was sent on to “graduate studies” in maintenance of sonar equipment.

Most of Bill’s service in WW II was aboard a converted yacht escorting convoys up and down the east coast. This former yacht was outfitted with anti-aircraft guns, depth charges and submarine detecting sonar. That service may seem mild, but the need for naval escorts on our seaboard was real, as was the presence of enemy submarines. One ship in his convoy being escorted had a mechanical breakdown and had to be left behind. The next day there was no trace of the ship. Presumably it had been sunk by a submarine.



After the war Bill attended San Francisco City College and graduated from UC Berkeley with a major in psychology. While still in college he married Jean Howell in October 1947. Partly for additional income, Bill joined the Naval Reserves. With the outbreak of the Korean War, he was called back to active duty and to service in the South Pacific and off the coast of Korea. He was still in the Navy when his first of four daughters, Laura, was born in May 1951.

Bill worked as a welfare case worker in Solano, San Francisco and Contra Costa Counties before settling on his career job with the Alameda County Probation Department, where he worked for nearly 30 years. The family moved to Hayward in 1953 and eventually raised four daughters, Laura, Leslie, Wendy and Vicky. It was the daughters and their questions about life that led Bill and Jean to look for a liberal religious home. They found Starr King Fellowship in 1956, shortly after it had been founded by families from the First Unitarian Church of Oakland.

He liked that there were no set of beliefs he had to accept. In those days, the church was lay-led and met at the Hill & Valley Club on B Street. Bill soon became treasurer, served on the Board of Trustees and became involved with the church youth through LRY (Liberal Religious Youth).

Bill is still involved with youth. He has been a Sea Scout leader for nearly 50 years. The Sea Scouts, he says, attracts a lot of youth from troubled homes. He’s not one to set rules such as “You must do this and you must comply with this or you’re out!” Kids are always welcome, no matter how many times they stumble.



# Refrigerator Page



## Children's Religious Education

*Karen Kramer, Religious Education Coordinator*

Welcome to glorious Spring! And that must mean that it is almost time for the Easter Bunny; and it is.

For any parents that do not know the Easter tradition at Starr King., let me whisper in your ear. All adults that are able, please bring one dozen plastic eggs filled with coins, candy, or other goodies into the Library before the Easter Service. Then some of us (aka *The Easter Bunny*) hide the eggs around the grounds during the service.

After our beautiful Flower Communion Service is over, we humans let the children know how many eggs each child may find. So on 8 April, besides remembering to bring your fragrant flowers that day, try not to forget your filled eggs and something for your young ones to carry their new eggs home in. So Hoppy Easter, and hope to also see you and all your friends at our amazing magician's performance on 22 April.

Now for the April 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*:

- 1 April: *Social Justice: Let Them Eat Cake*  
Meet in Unitarian House
- 8 April: Intergenerational Easter Service  
and egg hunt
- 15 April: RE Curriculum  
Meet in classrooms
- 22 April: *Let Them Eat Cake*  
Meet in Unitarian House  
Followed by Norman Ng, magician
- 29 April: *Let Them Eat Cake*  
Meet in Unitarian House

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.

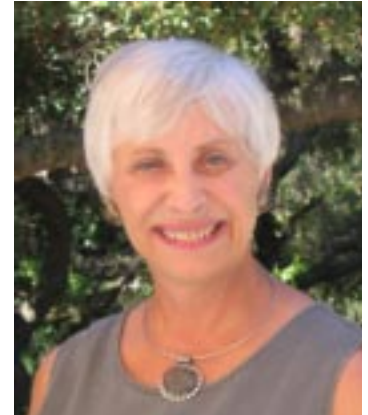
SKY (Starr King Youth) meets in Ornea Cottage with Dick Albert and Carol Henrie.

Karen Kramer, Religious Education Coordinator  
510/783.2221 or [kkramerdc@yahoo.com](mailto:kkramerdc@yahoo.com)

## DREaming

*Jean Wilcox, Director of Religious Education*

This is to invite you, your family and your friends to join us after second service on Sunday 22 April to welcome magician Norman Ng to our church to entertain us for one hour after lunch (provided by the RE Committee).



Norman is not only an outstanding magician with great credentials, but he will actually teach us how to do magic and give us a magical study guide to take home.

Why invite a magician to our church?

In our "free and responsible search for truth and meaning," we sometimes forget the responsible part. In this era of information overload, the deceit and misdirection used by politicians, marketers and charlatans to hide the truth from us often makes the responsible aspect of our search difficult.

The beauty and fun of the magic show is that we know we are being fooled. The magician is much more honest than the politician or the advertising copywriter. He says to us, "I'm going to trick you, but you won't be able to catch me." In our wonder and awe, we are reminded that things are not always as they seem. So in this sense, the magic show is very serious business. But what other kind of serious business do you know that is so much fun?

It is our good fortune to have Norman Ng, one the Bay Area's most skilled magicians, to entertain us on Sunday 22 April at 12 noon. The cost for this entire magical experience (lunch included) is \$5. Bring your friends!



*Jean*

Jean Wilcox, Director of Religious Education  
925/937.6524 or [jdwilcox@sbcglobal.net](mailto: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 (4 & 18 April). 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 (4 & 18 April). Share, sing and meditate. Contact Chris Selig for info.

✦ The **Social Justice Committee** meets on second Sundays (8 April) after second service. Join them after second service to finalize a program on the topic of prison reform.

✦ The **Book Group** will meet Thursday 12 April at 7 P.M. at the home of Evelyn Cormier (471.0475) to discuss *Arthur and George* by Julian Barnes. The book for May will be *Self Made Man* by Norah Vincent. All welcome! Please ring to let the host know you will be coming.



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

✦ **The Committee of the Interior** meets in the Library on fourth Sundays (22 April) following the service. This committee works to maintain and improve the appearance of our meeting house. All are welcome.

✦ The **Film Group** will gather on Saturday 28 April at 7 P.M. to see *Benny and Joon* starring Johnny Depp, a warmhearted comedy-drama from 1993. All welcome! Let host Stuart Fink (510/537.4421) know you are coming; bring a movie snack to share.

## EVENTS

### *Don't Miss the Annual STARR KING SEDER*

Friday 6 April 2007

Gather at 6 P.M. • Ceremony begins at 6:30 P.M.

*Share the ritual meal of Passover with Rev. Katie Kandarian*

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, reachus@pacbell.net)

✦ **April Theatre Fundraiser.** Tickets are still available for *Private Lives* at CCT on Thursday 19 April at 8 P.M. All proceeds will be donated to Starr King. Tickets are \$15 each or two for \$25. Don't miss out on the fun! An overwhelming critical and commercial success when it was first produced in 1930, *Private Lives* remains a standard for theatre companies everywhere. An intimate comedy in three acts, the play was written in only four days in 1930, while Noel Coward was convalescing from influenza in Shanghai.

✦ The Social Justice Committee presents a **discussion on prison reform** Saturday 21 April at 7 P.M. at Starr King Church. Laura Magnani, Assistant Regional Director of the American Friends Service Committee, will speak about reforming our criminal justice system. She advocates a 12 point plan for immediate change, in addition to systemic reforms. Discussion and questions will follow. All Welcome. Admission Free. Call 510/581.5169



Join 400 Vibrant & Vital UUs for a weekend of laughing, learning, networking and worship.

Planned events include:

- Banner Parade & Opening Celebration
  - Revs. Julia Older & Vail Weller leading Friday Night Worship
  - Keynote Breakfast with Rev. Peter Morales
  - YRUU Worship & Childrens Camp for Kids
  - Workshops for everyone
  - PCD Annual Meeting
  - Banquet Dinner with Saturday Evening Speaker Holly Near, Musician, Writer and Social Activist
  - Sunday's SPIRITED WORSHIP with the Rev. Elizabeth O'Shaughnessy Banks and the UU Church of Davis Worship Team
  - Singing in the All District Choir
  - PCD Bookstore
  - Old friendships, new faces, engaging conversations, discoveries and more!
- Please register ASAP (<http://www.pcd-uua.org>). Child and Youth registration deadline 13 April. Adult registration with meals 20 April. Walk-in registration (no childcare, no meals) accepted.

### *Save the Date!*

✦ **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 (20 April) 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.



✦ **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](http://www.clfuu.org)). Click on *Prison Ministry* to learn more about CLF's Prison Programs and apply for the Letter Writing Ministry.

# UU Legislative Ministry

Regina Fassano is working on the issue of marriage equality through the UU Legislative Ministry Committee.

In April, the California State legislature will start hearing Assemblymember Mark Leno's Religious Freedom and Civil Marriage Protection Act (AB43). This bill, if passed and signed by the Governor, would end marriage discrimination against same-sex couples in California.

Members of SKUUC are urged to log onto [www.eqca.org](http://www.eqca.org) to encourage Governor Schwarzenegger to support

AB43. From the home page please select the link "Urge the Governor to Support Every Californian's Freedom to Marry." From there you can establish an account; then you can either send the Governor an email or print out a letter to mail via the postal service.

This needs to be done by 10 April, so please log on and let your voices be heard!

If you have any questions, please contact Regina Fassano (510/794.9187 or [ironwomyn42@att.net](mailto:ironwomyn42@att.net)) Thank you for your support in this important matter.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

✦ **Missing Keys!** Somebody borrowed a set of church keys from Susan Blanc about 6 weeks ago while she was working in the kitchen. The keys were never returned, and Susan only remembers it was a Male Person. Please check the pockets of your church clothes and see if it might have been you! Thanks!

✦ Our Sanctuary serves the church as an all-purpose room; things get moved several times each week to accommodate various meetings and activities. **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.

✦ 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](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 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.

✦ 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.

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# Welcome New Members



Brian Johnson is a tax accountant and his birthday is March 28th.



Valerie Souza is a 47-year resident of San Lorenzo. Her family consists of a 21-year-old son and two dogs. She currently works in the corporate world, while taking classes to become a marriage and family therapist. She attended eight years of Catholic school but never felt that denomination was a fit. Valerie has long been interested in social justice issues but has always put the matter “on the back burner.” She is now ready for action and feels that Starr King is a good venue for getting involved. She very much enjoys the diversity and the unity of our congregation.

## 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, in the tradition of Unitarian Universalist polity. Covenants are the way we govern ourselves, creating an agreement to commit to aspirations or to express a shared understanding.

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.

Our congregation will be voting to affirm the Covenant of Good Relations at our Annual Meeting on 20 May. If you have comments or suggestions regarding this Covenant, we urge you to present them prior to that time.

You can contact COSMIC by email ([cosmic@starrking.org](mailto:cosmic@starrking.org)) or by post c/o Starr King Church. Please feel free to speak with a member of the Committee on Shared Ministry.



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

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## Canvass 2007 Update

*Thank you* everyone who has already pledged. The pledges for 2007 - 2008 are coming in with a general trend towards increase. So far 69 pledges have been accounted, with about 33 pledges outstanding.

If you have not yet submitted your pledge card, please affirm your pledge amount as soon as possible. The budget for the coming year is in the making and depends on your pledges. Please fill out your pledge card at Sunday service. If you have questions, please contact Marian Babbidge, Canvass Chair (889.9462). *Thank you!*

# 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: **Soul**

The term *soul*, once the prerogative of established religions such as Christianity, has become increasingly popular today and is heard in all of the mass media, as well as in common discourse. Yet, although Webster's unabridged dictionary lists at least ten meanings commonly now assigned to the word, no one, including UUs, seems clear on exactly what is being referred to. Sometimes the word refers to a power within each of us, something that lies between understanding and unconsciousness and which utilizes not mind or body but imagination (Thomas More), and at other times it seems to mean a force beyond our individual selves, a higher origin for events, an alien energy, a Unity, that Over-Soul within which every (person's) particular being is contained and made one with all other (Emerson). Can one term really mean all these things? Does it really mean anything at all?

The word *soul* or its equivalent in other languages historically was seen in all cultures to refer to the immaterial aspect or essence of a human being that is conjoined with the body in life and separable at death. In its original sense, therefore, it connoted a kind of special life principal that animated the human body and survived the body after death. Animals were also believed to be animated by souls, but by souls that were vegetative and which died with the body. If asked for proof of such claims, native peoples would assert that proof is all around us, in our dreams, our imaginings, other people, our daily lives; all of these experiences, the native would say, bear testimony to the fact that those who are dead are still constantly with us, speak to us, influence us and guide us, sometimes for good and sometimes for evil.

As with the native, today's UUs use the ancient word *soul* freely without much questioning of what it really means because it seems to be validated by everyday experience. We indiscriminately refer to an individual, music, food, a nation, etc. as having *soul* or *a soul* because the word rings true to our experience if the experience is positive and life-affirming. On the other hand, we commonly say that individuals, a nation or other experiences are *without soul* or are *soul-less* if they are experienced negatively or as life-denying. In other words, our modern experience of soul is so intense and omnipresent and its lack is felt immediately. But when you ask us describe exactly what it is we are so positive about, we find ourselves at a loss for words. So as with words such as *love*, *courage*, *wonder* and *spirit*, even though we know their meaning, the meaning itself is somehow indescribable. So we will continue to use and value the word, even though our understanding remains hazy. Perhaps Emerson says it best:

The philosophy of six thousand years has not searched the chambers and magazines of the soul. In its experiments there has always remained, in the last analysis, a residuum it could not resolve. Man is a stream whose source is hidden. Our being is descending into us from we know not whence.

## 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 (14 & 28 April). Contact Carol Henrie (886.1018).

✦ **Newsletter Folding:** The *Chalice* will be folded at Church at 1 P.M. on Thursday 19 April. 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).



## OUR CHURCH BOARD IN ACTION

### March 2007

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

1. Based on feedback from the congregational information forum, the Board decided to do more study on the south-of-the-sanctuary building option for replacing Unitarian House.
2. A board committee is working on a vision statement started at the board retreat. Some concrete goals may be shared with the congregation, based on the vision statement.
3. The UUA's Bay Area Marketing Campaign will be contacting members of the congregation in the near future.
4. The treasurer reported that receipts were strong in February, bringing us ahead of budget for this time of year.
5. The new photocopier has been installed and is working well.
6. The Love Letters fundraiser brought in about \$2,650 and was a great success.

## Earth Ministry and Unitarian Universalism

by Karen Urbano

Do you know about the Green Sanctuary Program? About UU Ministry for Earth? How do you care for the Earth?

UU Ministry for Earth is a Unitarian Universalist independent affiliate. Formerly known as the Seventh Principle Project, UUMFE affirms "Respect for the interdependent web of all existence of which we are all a part."

UUMFE is responsible for the Green Sanctuary Program, under the leadership of the Rev. Katherine Jesch, Director of Environmental Ministry for UUMFE.

Program activities for Green Sanctuary certification include Worship and Celebration, Religious Education, Environmental Justice and Sustainable Living. Currently around 10 percent of UU congregations have completed the certification process or are progressing toward certification. It is not just about a few members of the congregation living green, but the whole congregation getting involved. It isn't just about having a "green" building or recycling. The process is similar to that of the Welcoming Congregation in that there must be a vote by the congregation to move forward.



UU Ministry for Earth is a membership organization that receives no direct funding from the UUA. In addition to the Green Sanctuary program, it sponsors events at General Assembly and at district gatherings across the continent and provides resources for activities and inspiration, as well as a superb website with links to many other organizations.

You can access the website at <[uuministryforearth.org](http://uuministryforearth.org)>. A highlight last year was involvement in the passage of the Statement of Conscience on Global Warming at General Assembly. You can access the statement on the UUMFE website, as well as many resources on global warming.

If you care for our Earth, you will want to learn more UU Ministry for Earth and how members of Starr King UU Church can learn more about Earth care. See the UUMFE website, and contact me (510/632.7625 or [karenjean@earthlink.net](mailto:karenjean@earthlink.net)). I hope to be a regular contributor to the *Chalice* on things environmental. Next time I will offer some practical ideas that everyone can carry out.

*Karen Urbano, a new member of Starr King Church, is a longtime UU. One of her passions is caring for our one and only Earth. She serves on the Board of Directors of the UU Ministry for Earth.*

## Grounds and Landscape Enhancement

### Your Help is Needed!

*All-Church Grounds  
Work Day: 14 April*

Rain or shine, around the seasons your small and hard-working Grounds and Landscape Enhancement Committee works on our property to ensure that our church appears to best advantage, that our love for this site is evident.

We have the additional mission of eliminating invasive plants from our riparian (creekside) property and of restoring habitat for beneficial insects and plants through planting native plants and other plants suitable for our Mediterranean climate. Especially in spring and summer, every helpful hand is needed and welcome!

This is the month of Earth Day. This is the season of weeds. If we pull them now, we will take a giant step towards our goal of eliminating invasive and non-native plants from our grounds. If the weeds get ahead of us, they will soon set seed. Why are they so successful? They are brilliantly adapted to grow and reproduce more quickly and more abundantly than other plants. One burr clover plant can generate a thousand more! And given just a few warm weeks, our burr clover are already bursting with seed pods.

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Please join us for  
the Saturday Assault on Invasive &  
Non-Native Plants (*also known as weeds*)  
Saturday 14 April  
from 9 A.M. into the afternoon

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We can provide long-handle tools such as hoes and loppers. Bring your gloves, water bottle and hat. Many hands make light work! One day of collective effort will have a year-round effect on our church landscape.

If you are looking for an ongoing commitment to our church, the Grounds Committee offers volunteers plentiful tasks and measurable results for all levels of physical activity. You are invited to join work days on second and fourth Saturdays or to choose the adopt-a-spot option. See Carol Henrie (886.1018 or [reachus@pacbell.net](mailto:reachus@pacbell.net)) or Walt Korus (510/487.8362 or [psycodigger@earthlink.net](mailto:psycodigger@earthlink.net)) for information.

Projects underway for spring and summer include installation of a healing garden to border the upper parking lot, habitat restoration on the southern slopes, clearing a Perimeter Walk, and planting bird-and-butterfly pockets.

## Committee Highlights

# Friends of FESCO (Family Emergency Shelter Coalition)

*Diane Meyerson*

*A Slice of Life* written by K. Keiko Okahashi, FESCO Program Director

A few months back, I gave a verbal report of a mother with three children residing at Banyan House. I spoke about the challenges with basic transportation she faced on a daily basis (she did not drive, nor own a car). Back then, we learned how hard it was for her to take one child to the baby sitter, another to day care, and to ensure the eldest one made it to high school. Just the logistics alone were enough to boggle the mind, and that was just the morning commute in good weather. But transportation was not the only challenge she and her family faced. Rewinding back a couple of years ago, this mom entered a residential treatment facility for drug/alcohol addiction with her two youngest children. At that program, she confronted her own personal demons; she began to understand her reasons for using and how her use impacted her children.

One part of residential drug/alcohol treatment is to help former addicts transition into another site that will provide enough support to help the person succeed and not resort back to use. As she graduated that program, she applied for and was accepted into Banyan, where her eldest child joined them.

At Banyan House, she was able to enroll in Chabot College and more recently take advantage of the work-study program. Not previously understanding what the work-study program was, she worked with her case manager to learn how that particular program would allow her to gain the much needed experience to enter the job market (along with earning a living). Of course, working was in addition to attending school full time, and both work and school had to take second place to her being a mother first.

While living at Banyan she threw two birthday parties for her youngest children. The youngest, her daughter (who has lived her life in residential programs) and her son both considered Banyan their home. It became quite clear while celebrating their birthdays that Mom did not want to leave because she would have to “keep it together.” It had been a long time since she was out on her own, and while she wanted this independence, it was a very scary step.

This past weekend, mom moved from Banyan House into her own apartment with the safety net of our Linkages program (the third and final step in our program offerings). She now has her own apartment with her three children and is also continuing to receive case management services in her home along with a partial rent subsidy. The safety net of Linkages will allow intervention should mom need it. It will also allow another sounding board to share ideas and ways to manage the ongoing competing priorities of life.

We are very heartened that this mom and her children have graduated Banyan House. We know and see the skills she has acquired at Banyan; we see the determination in her to succeed and make a better life for her family; and there is a certain sense of pride by the staff that she has made it. Keep this family in your thoughts as they move to the next level of independence. There are still many challenges facing this family but for today, they have met a huge milestone.



### Upcoming Events for FESCO

FESCO's administrative office will be moving on Saturday 31 March. Help is needed. If you can lift & carry boxes or disassemble & assemble furniture, we would love your help. Contact Lora Porter (886.5473) for more information.

Saturday 12 May, FESCO is celebrating the 10th anniversary of the Shelter Shuffle Walk-a-Thon. Collect pledges for a good cause then put your tennis shoes on, grab your favorite four legged creature and join us for a stroll around the San Leandro Marina from 8 A.M. to noon. Collect \$100 in pledges and earn an event T-shirt. Contact Diane Meyerson for a Pledge Form.

Friday 28 September — *Save the Date!*

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](mailto:office@starrking.org)

Parish Minister: Kathryn Kandarian  
[minister@starrking.org](mailto:minister@starrking.org)  
Home Telephone: 537.6565

Church President: Bob Britton  
510/888.1612  
[brittonr@sbcglobal.net](mailto:brittonr@sbcglobal.net)

Church Website: <http://www.starrking.org>  
Jim Van Scyoc, webmaster  
[webmaster@starrking.org](mailto:webmaster@starrking.org)

Chalice Editor: Carol Henrie  
510/886.1018  
[editor@starrking.org](mailto: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](mailto:editor@starrking.org)

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

## **Church Leadership**

### Board of Trustees

President — Bob Britton  
Vice President — Meg Jurich  
Secretary — Joyce Kinnear  
Treasurer — Frank Satterwhite  
At Large — Natalie Forrest  
Eric Gable  
Mary Lasack  
Diane Meyerson  
Marilyn Mosher  
Darryl Ray



### Office Manager —

Minister — Rev. Katie Kandarian

Affiliated Community Minister — Rev. Michelle Favreault

Director of Religious Education — Jean Wilcox

Music Director — Rozina Tenenbaum

### Church Committee Chairs

Association Affairs — vacant

Adult Religious Education — Andy Hansen

Bookstore — Evelyn Cormier

Buildings — Dick Albert

Chalice Newsletter — Carol Henrie, editor

Lavon Hodges, Donnie Rett

Endowment/Memorial Fund — Bill Schwab

Finance Coordinator — Kay Athos

FESCO — Diane Meyerson

Grounds — Carol Henrie & Walt Korus

Interior — Rebecca Parr & Lavon Hodges

Kitchen Manager — Sherry Thomas

Membership — Wendy Robertson

Committee on Ministry — Lee Berger, Carol Henrie

(Convenor), Keith Lewis,

Kirk Smith

Nominating — Bob Stortz

Outreach — Susan Blanc

Pastoral Care — Bob Stortz, Convenor

Pledge Secretary — Marilyn Mosher

R.E. Coordinator — Karen Kramer

Social — vacant

Social Justice — Evelyn Cormier

South Hayward Parish — Jim Forsyth

Barbara Storms

Sunday Coffee — Scott Kinnear

Sunday Service Setup — Mary Richards

Welcoming Congregation — Mary Lasack

Worship — Bob Meyerson

