



# The Flaming Chalice

NEWSLETTER OF STARR KING UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CHURCH MAY 2007

## A Month of Sundays

### May Celebration Previews

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

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- 6:** *Neighborhood and UU* (Rev. Katie Kandarian) How do we, as liberal religionists, live in a world where many folks are much more conservative religiously than we? These are not only the folks in the Midwest or the South, but our neighbors, our relatives, our friends.

*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.*

- 13:** *What Do Mothers Need?* (Rev. Katie Kandarian) It seems to be increasingly difficult to parent in this day and age. Have mothers always felt this way, or have our times put ever-difficult demands upon parenting? *Chalice Deadline.*

Saturday 19 May • BINGO NIGHT  
6 to 9 P.M. Family Friendly Fun • *Details on Page 5*

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#### Summer Schedule Begins May 20: One Sunday Service at 10 A.M.

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- 20:** *Recognition of Giving* (Rev. Katie Kandarian) What are the rewards for giving? Do we only receive a personal sense of satisfaction, or does giving have a deeper more theologically significant reward? *Bookstore Open.*

Sunday 20 May • following Second Service  
Our Congregation's Annual Meeting  
Members, please attend to elect Board members  
and vote on issues of congregational importance.

- 27:** *Common Language or Tower of Babel?* (Bob Meyerson) We speak English, but do our words mean the same thing to all of us? Misunderstandings cross all areas of human endeavors, from religion to politics. Come hear a 'serio-comic' perspective on why words can be misunderstood and can be dangerous.



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# Katie's Bay View

Rev. Katie Kandarian

## A Few Really Great Websites

Granted, I've got a new laptop and I've been spending a lot more time on my computer lately, but considering you might also be updating your technology sometime soon, or simply might want to have a better place to spend time online than *ebay* or *myspace*, I thought I'd pass along some of my favorite places for web-browsing.



First of all, I hope you are aware that Starr King UU Church has a new website. It has information for newcomers, and for those of us who have been around awhile, our upcoming activities. Do you have ideas for its improvement? Send them along to the office, and we'll forward them to the Webmaster. Same address: <[www.starrking.org](http://www.starrking.org)>.

Next, the Unitarian Universalist Association has a new website. It just debuted 2 April, so some of my favorite places haven't yet been moved, but it should prove to be a much more useful and friendly place to visit. Check it out! <[www.uua.org](http://www.uua.org)>

Do you know about CLF? Church of the Larger Fellowship is a *virtual* church, a religious community for Unitarian Universalism for folks who are away from home, who live away from a local congregation, or who for any number of reasons want to be part of a religious community that includes members from around the world. They have a wonderful website, including contributions from their Minister of Lifespan Learning, Lynn Ungar, who used to be on our staff here at Starr King Church. <[www.clf.uua.org](http://www.clf.uua.org)>

Especially of interest to me is the wonderful new CYF, the Church of the Younger Fellowship. What a great website for those 18-35 who have a tendency to skip church altogether, especially when they are away at college. You can buy a membership for someone you love. <<http://uucyf.org>>

Finally, check out some of the really terrific UU blogs. There are a number of them out there. I'll let you search for your favorites. I'd love to hear if you've got one or are planning on starting one.

Happy searching, and Happy May Day!

Love,

## May Birthdays

Best birthday wishes to . . .



- 2 Kevin Smathers
- 16 Lavon Hodges
- 21 Karen Kramer
- 23 Joaquin Dominguez
- 25 Renae Dominguez
- 25 Ralph Waldo Emerson
- 29 Carol Henrie

## Wheel of Life

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

- ☺ Bob Stortz is recovering from his second hip replacement surgery.
- ☺ Pat Kellner is recovering after a brief hospitalization.
- ☺ High school senior Alyssa Baker-Blanc is planning on attending UC Santa Cruz. Congrats!
- ☺ Jean Wilcox will be rehabilitating after hip surgery. She'll be working from home for the time being.

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



**Happiness is a butterfly,  
which when pursued  
is just beyond your grasp,  
but if you will sit down quietly,  
may light upon you.**

— NATHANIEL HAWTHORNE

## Church Governance Matters: Annual Meeting this Year on 20 May

What topic could be drier than *church governance*? You're ready to stop reading right now! The trouble is it is just as necessary as it may be boring to some people. We need your participation to keep Starr King Church vital. Please get involved in the sound running of Starr King to ensure that it is always here for us.



On Sunday 20 May we will be holding our Annual Meeting. That's right, the once-a-year event that doesn't have built in spirituality, nor music, nor singing, nor uplifting readings.

If you are new to Starr King, here is what you can expect: You will hear reports from the Board of Trustees president, the treasurer and our minister, as well as our liaisons to South Hayward Parish, the Family Emergency Shelter Coalition and the Pacific Central District of our UUA. A proposed budget for the coming Church year, 1 July 2007 to 30 June 2008, will be presented for your approval, and the Nominating Committee will put forth submissions for new officers.

The Board of Trustees is comprised of a President, Vice President/President Elect, Secretary, Treasurer and six Members-at-Large. Three of the six Members-at-Large can be designated by the Board to serve as liaisons to the Membership, Finance and Religious Education Committees. The Vice-President serves as President Elect and becomes President of the Board after serving two years as Vice-President.

The terms of each Board office are two years, and members may serve a second consecutive two-year term in the same office. The President, Vice President and three of the Members-at-large are elected in odd numbered years (this year). The Secretary, Treasurer and three other Members-at-large are elected in even numbered years.

The Board of Trustees is the executive body of the church. It has charge of church property, conducts the business affairs of the church and reviews the performance of employees. The Board oversees the activities and appoints the chairpersons of all of the standing committees of the church, which include the Nominating, Finance, Religious Education, Membership and the Committee on Shared Ministry Including Conciliation (COSMIC). The Board is responsible for establishing additional committees as necessary and passes on applications for new organizations and oversees their work.

At the Annual Meeting, the Nominating Committee will put forth nominations for all elective positions. These nominations will be included in the notice of the Annual Meeting mailed to all members prior to the meeting date.

Our bylaws give complete freedom of the pulpit to our minister. She/he has the right to express their opinions also outside of the pulpit. The minister is an ex-officio member of the Board of Trustees and all committees except the Nominating and Search Committees.

My term as President of the Board of Trustees will be expiring at the end of June. Though I have been a member of Starr King for not quite six years, I have served more than five years on the Board. I first served as the Membership Coordinator and then two years as Vice President and now two years as President. I am honored that I was asked to serve my church in this manner. Without church governance, we cannot exist. It has been my pleasure to help.

Please consider being involved in your church through its committees, activities and even church governance. If you are asked to lead a committee, or even fill a church office, please have faith in yourself and do what you can.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Bob Britton', written in a cursive style.

### OUR CHURCH BOARD IN ACTION

**April 2007**

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

1. Budget Committee. Keith Lewis reviewed the proposed budget for the next fiscal year, with increases in fundraising revenue and for expenditures in minister's salary, office secretary and pianist. Discussion was tabled until May when further information on pledges will be available.
2. Carol Bodeau introduced herself as next year's intern. She is a fourth year student of Starr King School for the Ministry and has been serving the San Mateo congregation for over four years as an RE director.
3. Current cost estimates for a new building will be as much as \$400,000. A search is underway for an architect to do a concept design with estimates on three sites (current Unitarian house site, where the patio is, and connected to the church on the south side). At the Annual Meeting, the subcommittee will make a progress report; another congregational meeting will have to be scheduled.
4. Sara Gonzales has been appointed to fill the remaining Member-at-Large term of 14 months, beginning in May.
5. The Board endorsed the Step It Up campaign to collect signatures in support of rolling back greenhouse gases.
6. The congregational Annual Meeting is scheduled for May 20.
7. FESCO has moved its offices to Eden Church of Christ, where there is more space. May 12 is the Shelter Shuffle.



# REFrigerator Page

## Children's Religious Education

*Karen Kramer, Religious Education Coordinator*

It is almost the end of the school year, and the Religious Education department is going through a lot of changes. Most unfortunate is the severe health challenge of Jean Wilcox that will most likely not allow her to be back at Starr King. She has been FANTASTIC to work with, and I will miss her.

Also, due to continuing health challenges, I feel I must resign as RE Coordinator at the end of this year. I hope to stay on the committee but will have to see, come September.

As I have announced many times, we are losing our two wonderful babysitters. So Religious Education is in need of some new support. The good news is that we have a new Director of Religious Education for next year, but we will need some other members to step up and help. Please do.

I want to express many thanks to all of you who have helped over the last two years that I have been RE Coordinator.

Now for the May 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*:

6 May: *Social Justice*  
Meet in Unitarian House

13 May: RE Curriculum  
Meet in classrooms

20 May: RE Curriculum  
Meet in classrooms

27 May: *Children's Worship*  
Meet in Library

Babies & Toddlers meets in Fahs Cottage.

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*

My thoughts were very much with you on Easter Sunday as I lay in a Kaiser hospital bed facing an uncertain future. As many of you may know, I have suffered a lot of hip pain over the last couple of weeks (since Ashland), and my doctor decided an early surgery (April 3) was in order.



However, when he got in there he discovered that there was a massive infection (puzzlingly undetected by preliminary blood and urine analyses), and he could not proceed with the planned procedure. He removed the old hip prosthesis, sewed me up and put me on a six-week course of IV antibiotics in order to heal the socket so a new hip can be inserted in another procedure later on.

The administration of these antibiotics is a complicated business, so I have elected to enter a skilled nursing facility, with full nursing and physical therapy care. It is a pleasant and cheerful place with lots going on, but it's not my own home nor is it SKUUC, my *other* home. I can't wait to get back to both. If you feel like calling me, my number is 925/360.2329.

In her usual cheerful and supportive manner, Rev. Katie has recommended that I work from home (nursing home) with a laptop computer while I learn to walk without a right hip. Please rest assured that you are in my thoughts the whole time, and I will get back to seeing you as soon as this ordeal is over.

Love as always,



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 (2 & 16 May). 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 (2 & 16 May). Share, sing and meditate. Contact Chris Selig for info.

✦ The **Book Group** will meet Thursday 10 May at 7 P.M. at the home of Kay Athos (886.4717) to discuss *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 (10 & 24 May) at 7:30 P.M.

✦ The **Social Justice Committee** meets on second Sundays (13 May) after second service. Join in to plan future activities. All welcome.



✦ **The Committee of the Interior** meets in the Library on fourth Sundays (27 May) 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 Sunday 27 May at 7 P.M. to see a W.W. II spy spoof from the creators of *Airplane* called *Top Secret*, starring Val Kilmer in his first film. All welcome! Let host Stuart Fink (510/537.4421) know you are coming; bring a movie snack to share.

## EVENTS

✦ **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. Contact Joyce Kinnear (885.0781).



## Family Bingo and Pizza Night!

*Bingo and Raffle Prizes!*

**Saturday 19 May • 6 - 9 P.M.**

Admission \$5 includes one bingo card

More cards can be purchased

*Guaranteed raffle prize for every child attending!*

You don't want to miss this! We will be selling fresh homemade pizza, hotdogs, fruit and cheese platters, dessert and more!  
Come hungry and stay for the Bingo!

Many Bingo and raffle prizes for adults and children!

Some prizes available include: Family night basket, wine basket, Senseo coffee maker with coffee, pottery, quilt, toys, and much more!

## *Save the Date!*

Saturday 9 June. *The Other Guise*, a Rock Concert House Concert at Starr King Church. Doors open at 7 p.m. and the show begins at 7:30. Gravity (Bill and Ruth DeSmidt) will open the show. The Other guise will play from 8 to 10. Bring your dancing shoes! And Earplugs for the hearing sensitive. Beer, wine and drinks to be sold, with snacks provided. Tickets are available for sale now at \$10.

## *Gate Key Exchange*

We will be changing the gate lock after our Annual Meeting on Sunday 20 May.

If you currently have a key to the front gate lock, please exchange that key for a new one on 20 May after the Annual Meeting.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

✦ 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 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).

✦ Sunday Service Announcements: Bring **Church-related announcements** to the office by Tuesday noon for inclusion with the Sunday bulletin, or mail or email (office@starrking.org).

✦ 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.

✦ **How are the chalice lighters and readers for services chosen?** The Worship Associate for the service asks someone to do it. If you would like to participate in worship by lighting the chalice and/or doing a 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 to perform either of these duties.

✦ **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.

## 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 (12 & 26 May). Contact Carol Henrie (886.1018).

✦ 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

Karen Urbano: I have been a UU for over 30 years, most recently in Orange County, CA but also in New Jersey. I am originally from the Bay Area. We recently returned after my husband retired. We have three grown sons and are expecting our first grandchild any day now. I am passionate about environmental issues and am on the board of the Unitarian Universalist Ministry for Earth, an independent UUA affiliate that sponsors the Green Sanctuary program for UU congregations. We live in the Oakland Hills.



Ramon Urbano: We have been UUs for a long time and members of other congregations; add Chicago, Miami and Tampa. I have been involved in various areas and served in leadership roles. Presently I am on the Board of the Unitarian Universalist Legislative Ministry California. My passions are growth of UUism (I was part of the marketing campaign in Southern California) and promoting our UU values in the public square. Coming back to our roots in California and the Bay Area is going to be fun, and certainly being part of SKUU is key for us.

# Marriage Equality

by Regina Fassano

I had the opportunity to attend a training workshop hosted by the Unitarian Universalist Legislative Ministry (UU LM) about hosting a cottage conversation. A Cottage Conversation is a tool devised by the UULM to help educate people who are undecided about supporting same sex marriage. A group of about 10-15 people, half of them straight, met at the First Unitarian Church in Oakland.

We watched a 25-minute version of the film *Tying the Knot*, at times a very moving depiction of how same sex couples are affected by not having the same rights as straight couples. Did you know that 1,138 federal rights are denied same sex couples because our relationships are not legally recognized? Among those are child custody for non-biological parents after a divorce, automatic next of kin status for emergency medical decisions and hospital visitation, and ability to collect pension benefits after the death of a spouse.

It is likely that in 2008 voters will be faced with some kind of legislation relating to same sex unions. That is why it is so important that we get as many people "on our side" before the 2008 election. It is my intention to host a cottage conversation at Starr King and then maybe host some other cottage conversations in people's homes.

It isn't necessary to attend the training in order to host a cottage conversation. However, there will be another training at UU Oakland in the month of May; if you're interested in attending, please contact Dick Bailey (UU Oakland) [bythebay2@comcast.net](mailto:bythebay2@comcast.net) or 510/428.1894. I would sure love some help on this project.

The following letter was written by Rev. Greg Stewart, senior minister at UU San Francisco. He is in a long term

relationship with another man and together they have raised five sons.



Dear Assemblyman Leno,

*As a clergy person serving in your district I support AB43, The Religious Freedom and Civil Marriage Protection Act. As a Unitarian Universalist minister I am reminded that our branch of the Church has been blessing same-sex unions for over thirty years and that I can serve my church as an openly gay person. Equal treatment under the law has both personal and professional ramifications for me and so many others too. Moreover, it is at the heart of the religious impulse.*

*Of course, not all my colleagues in the wider religious world share my perspective and I respect their right to disagree; in fact, I encourage honest debate about the ethical, moral, and political issues of our time. However, I expect neither the state nor my colleagues to dictate how I, as a religious professional, respond to loving couples. At present I have no choice but to discriminate which, to me, is a sin, one ratified by the state and sanctified by some ecclesiastical communities.*

*My same-sex partner of almost twenty-seven years and our wonderful five sons stand with you on the side of love. We can do no other.*

Sincerely,

Gregory L. Stewart  
Senior Minister



## ... Our Church There

Join the **No Room for Racism** vigils that are held in Hayward every third Friday (18 May) 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.

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.

Please welcome our new Office Manager, Nancy Novicio.

Nancy is a mother of three school-aged children, is married and lives in Castro Valley. She speaks fluent Spanish.

Nancy will be working in our church office on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday from 9 to 1, and during the summer for eight hours per week.

# Welcome New Members



Mary Kiesling joined Starr King in January 2007. She had a Catholic upbringing. While Mary appreciated the sense of community and comfort offered in a church setting, she couldn't support many of the doctrines, especially eternal damnation, and she was not at ease keeping her (liberal) core beliefs to herself. Mary wants her daughter to be free of the need to repress her beliefs. Through the suggestion of a friend, she found her way to Starr King Church. She immediately responded to the UU affirmation that all are worthy.

The Finance Committee reports that the play in San Leandro at the California Conservatory Theatre (CCT) on 19 April was a great fund-raising success for Starr King Church. The brilliant performance of Noel Coward's *Private Lives* was a sold-out event.

Several attendees commented on the lovely playhouse which they were visiting for the first time. The evening benefited the theater by introducing a new audience to their venue, and Starr King benefited by raising almost \$1,000 for our ongoing needs.

## PROPOSED *Covenant of Good Relations*

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.

At our Annual Meeting on Sunday 20 May, members of Starr King Church will have the opportunity to vote to affirm the Covenant of Good Relations we have been developing over the past two years.

Covenants have historically been the way Unitarian Universalists govern ourselves, creating an agreement to commit to aspirations or to express a shared understanding.

In the tradition of Unitarian Universalist polity, our Board of Trustees asked the Committee on Shared Ministry (COSMIC) to facilitate the process of working with the congregation to develop a covenant to express our values about worshipping and working together as a community that honors diversity.

We want to thank all the members who participated in our initial brainstorming sessions and all of you who have helped to shape this covenant with your concerns and your suggestions in response to each draft. We want the congregation know that all of the suggestions of members to the various drafts have been incorporated into the covenant which your vote will affirm.

Creating a Covenant of Good Relations has engaged us all in a meaningful conversation about the intentional actions through which we create our community of diversity and respect. It has helped us articulate a perspective on healthy conflict resolution as a restoration of mutual good relations.

The process has affirmed the benefits that come from each of us sharing our gifts, our wisdom and our unique perspective.

Once we vote to affirm our Covenant of Good Relations, it will not be carved in stone. By its very nature, a covenant is intended to be revisited and refreshed. But for the present we submit this proposed Covenant of Good Relations as an expression of shared aspirations.

In loving service,

Committee on Shared Ministry  
Including Conciliation

*Lee Berger*

*Carol Henrie*

*Keith Lewis*

*Kirk Smith*

## 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.15: **Holiness**

Today's word tends to set UU teeth on edge, either because of its current connotation of self-righteousness or its identification with holier-than-thou attitudes. This usage, however, is relatively new since the word has a long history in religious thought and has been used for centuries in different forms to describe that which is divine and pertains to God. Classically, there was no opposition between holy and human, only between holy and profane, or that which is subject to decay, sorrow and death. In this light, religious thinkers have defined holiness as pertaining to sanctity, consecration and union with God. Applied to humans, holiness was traditionally viewed as a concept related to wholeness or the quality that enabled humans to become one with themselves, with one another and with God.

But today in the United States, with our strong notions of equality and identification with the common man (to use the old expression), the whole notion of holiness, or a quality of being separated from the profane world for divine election or use, has been emptied of its traditional meaning. A holy object is no longer seen as a talisman having special powers. Instead it is seen as something imminently useful and significant. A holy person also is no longer seen as someone set apart, like a monk or nun, but as someone who is truly healthy, well adjusted and loving. It is these qualities that now are seen as making a person right with God, with society and with the world.

Does it make sense to continue using the word? If what it now refers to is something that is truly useful or someone who is completely human, why not just say that? Possibly the word stays around because we instinctively feel it applies somehow to another dimension of experience, a dimension we cannot grasp with our more ordinary words. We are unsure of just what this dimension is but it beckons to us, sometimes when we least expect it. One is reminded of Wordsworth, as he reflected on everyday common experience:

For this, for everything, we are out of tune;  
It moves us not. Great God! I'd rather be  
A pagan suckled in a creed outworn;  
So might I, standing on this peasant lea,  
Have glimpses that would make me less forlorn;  
Have sight of Proteus rising from the sea;  
Or hear old Triton blow his wreathed horn.

## UU Ministry for Earth and the Green Sanctuary Program

by *Karen Urbano*

On Earth Day at Starr King, you were given the opportunity to sign a petition sponsored by the UU Legislative Ministry. Stepitup2007 urges Congress to step it up and support two bills designed to reduce Global Warming by 80 percent by 2050, in the Senate the "Global Warming Pollution Reduction Act" S309 and in the House the "Safe Climate Act 2007" HR 1590. This was an example of an action that was urged by the 2006 UU Statement of Conscience called "Threat of Global Warming/Climate Change."

Did you know that the UU Ministry for Earth, along with a coalition of other UU organizations, successfully negotiated passage of the 2006 Statement? The statement calls UUs to action in several areas, from personal practices such as reducing personal energy usage to congregations creating environmentally responsible practices as spiritual discipline, for example by seeking certification through the Green Sanctuary Program, by denominational leaders providing education and sustainable investing, and in advocacy to urge compliance with the United Nations Framework on Climate Change. These are but a sampling of the actions in the statement voted on by the delegates in St. Louis. I urge you to read the entire statement on the UUA website under [uua.org/socialjustice/statements/](http://uua.org/socialjustice/statements/).

One of the ways that congregations can get most directly involved in implementing the statement is by going through the process of becoming a Green Sanctuary. The goals of the program are:

- To build awareness of societal environmental issues among UUs.
- To generate commitment for personal lifestyle changes.
- To motivate UUs to community action on environmental issues.
- To build a connection between spiritual practice and environmental consciousness.
- To build awareness of and rectify environmental injustices.

The steps of the program are to

- 1) Establish a Green Sanctuary Committee;
- 2) Conduct an Environmental Audit for a baseline;
- 3) Create an Action Plan;
- 4) Apply for Green Sanctuary Candidacy and complete all activities; and
- 5) Apply for Green Sanctuary Accreditation.

While the committee is usually the guiding force, the entire congregation must vote whether or not to pursue certification. It is hoped that the majority of the congregation takes part in many of the activities. Is Starr King UU Church up to the task?

## Committee Highlights

# Friends of FESCO (Family Emergency Shelter Coalition)

*Diane Meyerson*

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

Oftentimes the focus and effort of the FESCO staff is spent working with the parents of families who struggle with addictions and mental illness. Addiction and mental health issues are very difficult obstacles for a family to overcome and in the end hamper the success of a family trying to move toward stable housing. Even more difficult are the times when the child has the addiction issue. This month's focus is on one of our shelter families struggling with this situation.

Mom fell in love and, in order to pursue her dream of a better life, moved herself and four children to California.

Unfortunately, this dream unraveled quickly;

the man she fell in love with was not the man

he turned out to be in real life. She found

herself isolated, unable to provide for

her family and afraid. She sought shelter

at FESCO's Les Marquis House.

Mom was someone who could make it,

given a little help. She was smart, articulate

and professional. With so much going for her,

there were other issues.

The complexity of working with families

lies in meeting the needs of parents,

children and teenagers; each has needs

which contribute to the family dynamics.

In this case, the teenage daughter, angry at mom for moving her to California, was befriended by a young man. He seemed like a friend who cared. Being new to the area, she had no friends, and adjusting to California was quite hard. This man gave her something to make her feel better, to make the pain of leaving her friends back home go away. Shelter staff noticed unusual behavior with this teenager. She seemed to walk by the front desk at the strangest times — and appearing out of character. Program Manager Mary London had a heart to heart talk with mom and daughter one day. The daughter admitted she was using drugs and said she would continue to use and that no one could stop her. Unfortunately, her statements put mom, her siblings and the shelter into an unusual predicament. What should we do with a teen-ager who refuses to stop using drugs? How can we get through to her and help her understand? Mom needed to get her daughter into rehabilitation, but trying would be a huge challenge.

Very early the next morning, somewhere between the hours of 3 and 5 A.M., this young girl ran away. Mom, with the help of police, shelter staff and helpful residents, canvassed the neighborhood. The daughter was found close to the shelter in the young man's vehicle, high on drugs. The police arrested

the man and took the daughter to juvenile detention; shelter staff worked with the mom to find solutions to this problem.

Teenage years are always difficult, even for youth with many resources (functioning parents, a stable environment, consistency in schools and friends). Teenagers want independence, yet they haven't acquired the maturity to manage the complexities of life. Sometimes they are strong-willed and sometimes very angry. Add to that mix the emotional toll of being homeless, having no private place to put your things or just having "space." We all know that so many youth have difficulty in keeping up at school because it is truly hard to concentrate; it is hard to fit in when the stigma of homelessness is part of who you are.

The path of this family is going to be challenging as they balance the needs of this teenage daughter, the needs of two toddlers, the needs of an older daughter and of a parent who needs to find work and acquire the resources to survive. While the family has moved out of the shelter, FESCO staff continues to provide the mom case management and

other support.

In recognition of the needs of our youth, FESCO's counseling department will be starting a teen group. This group will compliment the ongoing work of wonderful volunteers who help with tutoring, craft activities, gardening for our youth at both FESCO's Les Marquis House and Banyan House.

Please keep this family, and more importantly, this teenager in your thoughts as they walk this difficult path.

*Come join FESCO — The Family Shelter — for the **FESCO Shelter Shuffle** Walk-a-thon*

Saturday 12 May 2007 from 8 A.M. to 12 noon  
at the San Leandro Marina

Collect \$100 or over in pledges  
and earn an event T-shirt. Dogs welcome.

Come to walk or just to enjoy music, food, door prizes, goodie bags & a beautiful view of the bay. Your pledges collected will provide food & shelter for homeless families.

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  
Crystal Carroll, 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

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Darryl Ray



Office Manager — Nancy Novicio

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 (Convenor),  
Carol Henrie, 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

