



The Flaming

Chalice

NEWSLETTER OF STARR KING UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CHURCH JUNE 2007

A Month of Sundays

June Celebration Previews

Summer Schedule: One Sunday Service at 10 A.M.

3: *To Walk Together* (Rev. Katie Kandarian) Our religious tradition has been a covenantal one for hundreds of years. And now we've just adopted a covenant. What is our history, and how does it still function in our congregation today?

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

10: *Stuff Happens* (Jean Wilcox & Rev. Katie Kandarian) John Lennon once said, "Life is what happens when you're making other plans." Jean Wilcox, herself no stranger to the turbulences of life, will share with the congregation her experiences of the last four years at SKUUC and the memories she will take with her. On this day we will also honor our teachers and celebrate the Rite of Passage of one of our youth.

Intergenerational Service. Chalice Deadline.

Sunday 10 June • ALL CHURCH PICNIC
Following worship today, we will share good food
and fellowship on our Church grounds.

Details on Page 5

17: *Father Figures* (Rev. Katie Kandarian) Freud said we all have the childhood need for a father's protection, and Alice Walker says she's got lots of them to look toward. How do we find our father figures, and are they healthy choices? *Bookstore Open.*

24: *Summer Solstice* (Ruth & Bill DeSmidt) In honor of the Summer Solstice (Litha), otherwise known as Midsummer's Eve, today we celebrate the longest day of the year in song, word and spiritual dance. This service will explore Midsummer's Eve as the festival of growth and glory.

Gate Key Exchange

It was necessary to change the lock for the front gate. If you need to exchange your key, please inquire at the church office.



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Thanks & Farewells

*I can no other answer make
but, thanks, and thanks.*

— William Shakespeare

I must admit, I am a bit relieved when this time of year comes around. It's been a pretty good year, a good vintage, with many joys and some sorrows, but all in all, we've got a vibrant, growing community, and I love it.



But as the church year comes to a close, there will be some changes. Jean Wilcox, our beloved Director of Religious Education, will be leaving us mid-June. In seminary, we were taught the importance of a good good-bye, and yet, it still doesn't come easy for me. It always seems easier to imagine things continuing on the same as always, even when we know they won't. Change is the constant of our lives, yet we still struggle with it. I can say this: There will be a profound hole in our congregation where Jean has been, and yet we're so much better off for her having been with us that I can't be sorry. We have been enriched by her relationships with our children, their parents, and all the rest of us. We have been blessed by her wonderful ability to tell stories with art and authority. The staff (myself, Caroline Mazur, Julie New-

ray) has been grateful for her wisdom, inspiration and willingness to share. I sincerely hope you'll attend worship on 10 June to listen again to Jean, and to say a proper good-bye.

We are blessed to have so many dedicated individuals as a part of this community. Please make it a point to congratulate the recipients of this year's minister's award, who are Bill Schwab and Walt Korus. Bill has build up a grand endowment fund for Starr King Church, as well as ministered to some of our elderly members, helping them manage their finances. Walt has dedicated himself to this congregation's grounds, joining Carol Henrie as co-chair of the Grounds Committee, and giving himself fully to model joyful service with never a complaint.

A real, true thank you to our outgoing board president, Bob Britton, whose experience as a union negotiator kept our church business moving along. His commitment to social justice and church hospitality will continue to remain central in this congregation. And, as tempting as it may feel to ask Bob to join your committee, remember that he may want a few weeks just to breathe and take a moment for meditation.

Blessings for the summer.

Love,

Katie



Wheel of Life

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

- ☺ Our sympathy to Regina Fassano on the loss of her dog.
- ☺ Evelyn Cormier also is suffering the loss of her dear kitty.
- ☺ Edna Shipley-Conner is home on hospice care.
- ☺ Renate Ornea continues on invalid care at home.
- ☺ Congrats to Castro Valley High School graduate Alyssa Baker-Blanc, who will attend UC Santa Cruz.
- ☺ Dick Albert is recovering from minor surgery.
- ☺ Bob Stortz has recovered from TWO hip surgeries!

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

June Birthdays

Best birthday wishes to . . .

- 9 Amy Kinnear
- 14 Chris Jacob
- 16 Doug Vacoeh
- 18 Diane Meyerson
- 25 Renae Dominguez
- 24 David Baker
- 24 Keith Lewis



Our Future

This is my final column as your president. On 20 May we had our Annual Meeting and available at that meeting was a packet of reports from each of the officers of the Board of Trustees and most committees. There may be some extras left for you to pick up if you missed that meeting. I wanted to offer here a different kind of assessment of Starr King than I offered in my President's report at the Annual Meeting.



As a congregation, we have great strengths and many challenges. Everyone says we're a very friendly congregation. I think that's because we don't put on any airs. We may not be very racially diverse, but our congregation includes retired professionals, the unemployed, working poor and underemployed. We are elderly and new families, middle aged and youth. We are highly educated, working class, blue collar, hip and straight, gay, queer. We are recovering Catholics, devout Catholics, Buddhists, Pagans, Evangelical and Pentecostal refugees. We are journalists, teachers, psychologists, welders, musicians, accountants and master gardeners.

We go to great lengths to not just meet and greet visitors but to find out who they are, what they do and a little about their dreams and struggles. I have been enriched by every single new member who has become involved at Starr King. I have had more than one Starr King member tell me that they now feel they had always been Unitarian Universalist, but just did not realize it until they discovered our church. Many more people like that in our community have not yet walked through our doors. We need them to complete our community.

I know some who worry that we might become like the super sized church on the hill with three crosses. I don't think we're any more likely in the near future to become a mega-size church than we are to erect three crosses out front. I do so hope that we continue to be a beacon of liberal religious freedom, reason and community for progressive minded people in southern Alameda County for decades to come.

My wife, Terri, grew up attending a Congregational (United Church of Christ) church in New Jersey. Before she moved to California, her congregation had literally died off. There were not enough pledging congregants left to continue services. The church property was sold to another denomination.

At this point in our history we are wrestling with how we can replace the deteriorating office building, known as Unitarian

House. Will we be able to integrate the replacement plan for Unitarian House with our long stalled dreams of a larger meeting house, and religious education space? There are differing opinions on whether we can integrate our immediate needs with our longer term dreams. Mostly, the issue turns on economics.

Our spiritual and material needs turn on the same issue. Will we continue to be a vibrant self-sustaining, welcoming beacon of liberal religious freedom?

I am very optimistic for our future. We are growing. Many of our new members are choosing to become involved with the fabric of our community. Our Board of Trustees has adopted a five-year vision statement and wants to approach implementation of our vision as a strategic plan, taking up one-by-one each piece of our vision and working towards its implementation.



Five Year Vision

Starr King Unitarian Universalist Church
(adopted March 2007)

A vibrant, dynamic community where meaningful transformative spiritual practice flourishes in an intergenerational environment.

A congregation that:

- ❖ Celebrates our unity in common worship and nurtures each individual's search for truth.
- ❖ Provides adults and children with a rich array of opportunities for personal and spiritual growth and service to others.
- ❖ Embraces visitors and welcomes them into our spiritual community.
- ❖ Actively addresses critical social justice issues, making a real difference in people's lives through moral, spiritual and material support.
- ❖ Cultivates an aesthetically pleasing environment that enriches our community and spiritual life.

See more Board of Trustees information on Page 8.



REFrigerator Page

Children's Religious Education

Karen Kramer, Religious Education Coordinator

First let me say how much I appreciate all the help at our Magician magic in April. Fun was had by all. Special thanks go to Carol Henrie and Robin Fink for the good food.

Second, it has been so great to see Jean Wilcox's smiling face amongst us again. I am sure we all wish her a speedy return to being ambulatory.

Finally, our Summer Religious Education program will begin on 17 June. In summer, all Kindergarten through sixth grade children are together, and we ask two adults per Sunday to volunteer to lead these children in some activity. One adult usually prepares the lesson, and the other adult is an assistant. A sign-up poster in the back of the church will offer some sample ideas. So please sign up to share some creativity with the children. For any further questions you may speak to me, Laurie Matthews or Lea Cassini. Thank you for contributing to our children's learning.

Looking ahead, we welcome Carey Sanchez Para as our new children's religious education coordinator. Carey has helped with special projects for religious education and is currently helping with the story for all ages during Sunday worship. She'll work with Rev. Katie and next year's intern, Carol Bodeau, on committee re-visioning.

Now for the June class schedule. On 3 June, children meet in the Sanctuary with their parents and process to their classrooms or activity after the *Story for All Ages*:

- 3 June: *Social Justice*
Composting with Julie Fraccia
- 10 June: Intergenerational Service
Meet in Sanctuary
- 17 June: Summer RE begins
Grades K-6 meet together
- 24 June: Summer RE (SKY Carnival)
Grades K-6 meet together

Baby & Toddler Care provided in Fahs Cottage.

SKY (Starr King Youth) will continue to meet during the summer 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

Since this will be the last column I write for you (this time with a very full heart), all I can say is *thanks, thanks and still more thanks.*



I didn't expect my last few weeks with you to be spent from home, with occasional visits on Sundays as David is able to drive me. I had all

kinds of plans about how I would wind down and how much energy I would be expending, but alas it is not to be.

I have received SO MANY cards, emails and phone calls from the SKUUC congregation (and even a box from Rev. Katie to put them all in) that I am overwhelmed.

When I speak to you for the last time on 10 June, I trust I will be able to express my thanks much more articulately, not just for the well wishes for recovery but for the marvelous congregation you have been for the past four years. I know I have learned a lot, and I trust we have learned together.

I am leaving knowing you will be well served next year, and I hope you don't forget me. I know it will be impossible for me to forget you.



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

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

EVENTS

👉 **Dance as a Moving Meditation** will be offered by Maureen Atkins on Saturday 2 June from 7 to 9 P.M. in the Sanctuary. Experience dance/movement as a way of finding inner peace. Come and learn about another way to de-stress, experience joy and be in community. All dances taught first. Beginners welcome, no partners needed. A \$5-\$10 donation or whatever is affordable is appreciated, but no one will be turned away. All proceeds go to the church.

👉 **The Other Guise, a House Rock Concert at Starr King Church.** Saturday 9 June. 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.

👉 **All-Church Picnic.** Get into the Swim of Summer Fun! *Grab and dab your sunscreen, add your favorite sun hat and head on over for the annual Patio Party Picnic!!!!* Sunday 10 June is the day and immediately following church is the time. We'll be throwing the tube steaks (turkey dogs) on the barbeque (or into the pot) and making the iced tea and lemonade flow like the ocean. Bring yourselves and the family, as well as a potluck salad, dessert or side dish (if you so desire).

We'll have the oven on warm and the fridge on cool—
So bring 'em on down when you head off to Sunday school.
What? You want to go, and you're startin' to drool —
Can't make a dish—So? Add to a pool
(Make a donation toward a food item) and we'll get it for you!
We're about at the end—any questions? just send...
Quick as a wink to Stuart and/or Robin the Finks 510/537.4421
Our poetry's ended—your ear we have bended—
I think we'll cool off in the sink....



Let Them Eat Cake: Maya, Lily, Kayla and Kelsi are the Fancy Ladies

ONGOING ACTIVITIES

👉 **SKIFFLE Nights Have Changed!** Starr King Instrumentalists for Fun, Laughter and Entertainment gather in the Sanctuary for instrumental music every Monday evening from 7 to 9 P.M. All instruments and levels invited.

👉 **Morning Discovery** meets at Church from 10 to 11:15 A.M. on first and third Wednesdays (6 & 20 June). All are welcome to join us to explore community and spirituality, discussion and shared silence.

👉 **Evening Discovery** meets at Church at 7 P.M. on first and third Wednesdays (6 & 20 June). Share, sing and meditate. Contact Chris Selig for info.

👉 **The Social Justice Committee** meets on second Sundays (10 June) after second service. Join in to plan future activities. All welcome. Discussion will focus on the upcoming General Assembly and the concept of "Cottage Conversations" on marriage equality among other topics.

👉 **The Book Group** will meet Thursday 14 June at 7 P.M. at the home of Jo Murdach (581.6794) to discuss *The Master Butcher's Singing Club* by Louise Erdrich. All welcome! Please ring to let the host know you will be coming. The book for July will be *Montana 1948* by Larry Watson.

👉 **SKIT** improv group meets in the Sanctuary on second and fourth Thursdays (14 & 28 June) at 7:30 P.M.

👉 **The Committee of the Interior** meets in the Library on fourth Sundays (24 June) 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 30 June at 7 P.M. to see *The Candidate* starring Robert Redford. It is a satirical drama about the selling of a political candidate, from 1972 and still very relevant. All welcome! Let host Stuart Fink (510/537.4421) know you are coming; bring a movie snack to share.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

🦋 **Summer Office Hours.** Starting the week of 19 June, our church office hours will be limited to Tuesday and Thursday from 9 A.M. to 1 P.M.

🦋 **Help make our website brilliant!** Please submit your contributions of photos of church events and/or activities for the website (<http://starrking.org>) to webmaster@starrking.org.

🦋 **Babysitters Needed.** The Religious Education Committee is in need of babysitters during Sunday services. Please contact Karen Kramer (783.2221).

🦋 **To schedule an event,** visit our online calendar (<http://calendar.yahoo.com/starrkingoffice>) to check availability, then call the office and we will add your event. Go online to view the calendar for all church events.

🦋 Please submit written announcements for the Sunday bulletin to Nancy 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 Religious Education Committee would like to remind parents with small children that **the service can be heard in the library** should you need to leave the sanctuary due to crying or antsy children. The volume adjustments are near the speakers in the library.



🦋 **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.

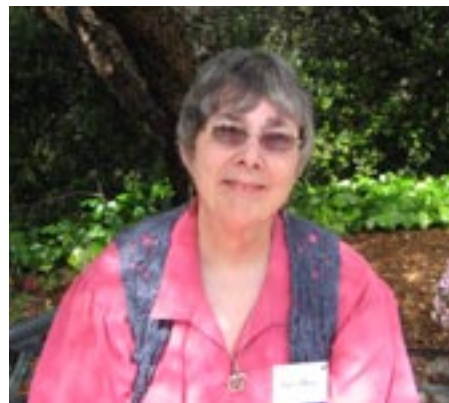
🦋 The **Outreach Committee** suggests recirculating the *UU World*. Leave old copies in waiting rooms, or put them in the Outreach Committee box in the church office for use at public events.

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

🦋 **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.

🦋 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.

Welcome New Members



As a birthday gift to herself, HOPE BURLA signed the Membership Book in March, after nearly a year of participating at Starr King. She continues to enjoy Morning Discovery and appreciates being part of the Social Justice Committee. Hope is married to Dave; they will celebrate their 31st wedding anniversary this year. They have one adult daughter, Shannon, and Mika dog,

a deaf Aussie Shepherd mix; she and Hope go on daily walking and training adventures together. For many years now as a solitary practitioner, Hope has combined Wicca with wisdom and spiritual practices from the many different traditions she has experienced, including Zen, Christianity and Native American spirituality. She participates in a small Pagan Circle as well. As she approached being a Crone, Hope felt the need for community but was at a loss to find a spiritual home that would be open and accepting of her own beliefs. She says the Goddess's hand guided her to a Unitarian Universalist church through Internet discussions with other UU Pagans around the U.S. She is happy to connect with a diversity of people with many beliefs and perspectives, and with a focus of working for the benefit of others and the planet.

UULM Legislative Ministry

Marriage Equality

by Regina Fassano

On May 6, Ramon Urbano and Andy Hansen attended the second of two Cottage Conversation trainings held at the First Unitarian Church of Oakland.

Both Ramon and Andy addressed the Social Justice Committee on 13 May. Our presentation was favorably received, and the Committee has decided to support us in hosting Cottage Conversations at the church and in the neighboring community.



On a broader level, "UULM is part of an historic and broad civil right and GLBT supportive coalition sponsoring a public education campaign (launching in June), to generate millions of conversations about marriage equality, and identify 500,000 marriage equality supporters in California."

Additionally, UULM is participating in *7 Straight Nights for Equal Rights*, where straight allies show their support for GLBT equality with all-night vigils across the nation the week of 7-13 October 2007.

On April 10, AB-43 (Religious Freedom and Civil Marriage Protection Act) passed the Assembly Judiciary Committee by a 7-3 vote!

For further information please visit the websites listed below:

<http://www.uulmca.org>

<http://www.uulmcaAction.org>

<http://www.eqca.org>.

Thanks for your support!

... Our Church There

Join the welcoming crew at the annual **Gay Prom '07** to be held at Centennial Hall in Hayward Saturday 9 June from 6:30 to 8:30 P.M. Want to volunteer? For more information: 510/247.8200 or www.gayprom.org.

Our Oakland congregation invites you to attend a special presentation by Paul Valva (trained by Al Gore) on Sunday 10 June at 11 A.M. Paul will speak on the science, politics, morality and controversy surrounding the issue of global warming. For information, contact Carol Thornton (510/540.6402).

The **Transforming Racism Workshop** Saturday 9 June (9 A.M. to 4 P.M.), UU Church of Berkeley, will investigate social justice work as Spiritual Practice, why UU congregations remain predominantly white and how we liberate ourselves from bondages of social conditioning. Info/to register: 925/256.4334 or Susan@LankfordDesign.com.

Join the **No Room for Racism** vigils that are held in Hayward every third Friday (15 June) 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.

Prices are rising for Fair Trade Coffee due to new guarantees to coffee farmer cooperatives. Please keep this in mind as you make your coffee donation on Sunday morning. Benefits of Fair Trade affect 28 farmer cooperatives in 14 countries. For background about how Fair Trade puts our principles into action: <http://r.vresp.com/?EqualExchange/da95ca45fb/950275/d0f9d32d6b/40328cb>.

Eleventh Annual UU Men's Retreat will be held 19-21 October 2007 at Westminster Retreat Center in Alamo CA. for more information contact Ed Massey (408/297.9478 or massey1281@yahoo.com) or Steve Kurtagh (408/294.0498 or skurtagh@hotmail.com).

UUSC announces **2007 Freedom Summer, a Civil Rights Journey**, a Just Works camp that will take you to the most significant sites of the civil rights movement. For info or to request an application, contact JustWorks staff (800/388.3920; Shayla Reid, ext. 227; Nguyen Weeks, ext. 201; Kim McDonald, ext. 217; justworks@uusc.org). Visit the website often for updates, camp information and a review.



Glen, Laurie and Scott play Midlife Crisis at Game Night.

May 2007

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

1. Renee Ray attended the board meeting and made a presentation regarding fundraising. No Board action was taken, but Natalie Forrest, Diane Meyerson and Mary Lasack agreed to help Renee work on some policies.
2. The Board discussed the proposed budget. Several minor changes were made, and the amended budget was approved.
3. The Board discussed the Responsive Resolution on Racism and Classism adopted at General Assembly last year. No additional action taken.
4. The UU House Subcommittee reported on its progress.
5. The Vision Subcommittee presented some of its recent work on the Board's Vision Statement. The focus of this presentation was making Starr King a "congregation that embraces visitors and welcomes them into our spiritual community."



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.

Welcome New Members

John and Georgia Gruver have been married for 16 years. Georgia was born and raised in Oakland and graduated from Cal State Hayward. She taught elementary school in Gilroy for 24 years before retiring to start a career as a mechanical drafter.



John was born in Kansas, moved to Arizona when he was two and to Monterey when he was 12. He attended college in Washington, where he started his career as a mechanical engineer. Together they have four sons, three from John's previous marriages and one adopted son from Vietnam.

"We love living in Hayward with our three dogs and two cats, who are a major part of our lives. They bring us great joy and happiness. We are very happy to have found the Starr King community where we immediately perceived an atmosphere of openness, warmth and acceptance of all. We find this to be a truly refreshing change from other churches we have attended, and as such are grateful to have discovered this wonderful group."

Summary of Annual Meeting

Held 20 May 2007

At our Annual Meeting, Starr King members

1. Reviewed reports from all committees, Board officers and the minister.
2. Approved the proposed budget for 2006-2007, with a note to review the RE babysitting budget.
3. Approved membership of the Board of Trustees: President, Meg Jurich; Vice President, Darryl Ray; Members-at-Large, Mary Lasack, Andy Hansen, Donnie Rett and Sara Gonzales (with Joyce Kinnear, Frank Satterwhite, Natalie Forrest and Marilyn Mosher continuing in unexpired terms).
4. Elected for the Nominating Committee : Chair, Bob Stortz; members Doug Sprague and Diane Meyerson [with Marian Babbidge, Mike Kanninen and Lea Casini (alternate) continuing in unexpired terms].
5. Approved a Covenant of Good Relations.

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.16: **Miracles**

The term *miracle* has been used for thousands of years in Christianity and other world religions to describe events in which individuals have experienced God's direct intervention in human history. UUs do not typically use the word today, except in the sense of occurrences which indicate unexpected good fortune. Beyond that, we secular moderns remain skeptical about claims of the miraculous. Show us irrefutable evidence a miracle has occurred, we say, yet even if such evidence is shown, we hesitate. I can't explain it now, we then say, but I believe someday science will reveal the answer.

Other cultures, past and present, are not as hesitant as we Westerners. Native peoples or members of less secular cultures readily admire the miraculous because they believe in an order of existence not apparent to ordinary eyes and experience. We tend to chuckle that such credulity represents gullibility, superstition, lack of understanding or reasonability. To other peoples, however, our lack of regard for the miraculous indicates shallowness, spiritual blindness and infatuation with the material and superficial aspects of reality.

UUs might be interested to know that two founders of Unitarianism in this country, William Ellery Channing and Ralph Waldo Emerson, believed strongly in miracles. Channing, for example, in a spirited defense of the Christian religion against the skepticism of the Scottish philosopher David Hume, stated that the disposition to discredit miracles was itself irrational. He explained that if a belief in supernatural works has occurred under circumstances most unfavorable to the operation of credulity (*e.g.*, as in our modern secular, scientific culture) we all must look for other causes, and if none can be found but the actual existence of the miracles, then true philosophy binds us to believe in them. For his part, Emerson saw miracles everywhere in life, especially in nature and in art. His words are a fitting tribute to the everyday power of the miraculous and a caution against any hasty rejection of all non-scientific and otherworldly explanations of strange events:

There is truly but one miracle, the perpetual fact of Being and Becoming, the Ceaseless saliency, the transit from the Vast to the particular, which miracle, one and the same, has for its most universal name the word *God*. Take one or two or three steps where you will, from any fact in Nature or Art, and you come out full on this fact; as you may penetrate the forest in any direction and go straight on, you will come to the sea.



Kelsi (above) and Sierra (below) sample Presto Pesto Pasta Salad and Magic Wands at the theme-based luncheon that preceded the Magic Show on Sunday 22 April, arranged by the Religious Education Committee. The menu included Slight-of-Hand Skewers, Vanishing Vees, Magic Potion Punch and Top Hat cupcakes festooned with white rabbits.



Committee Highlights

Worship Committee

Bob Meyerson has completed four years as chair of the Worship Committee. He shares these thoughts about his tenure.

It's hard for me to realize that I am ending four years as chair of the Starr King Worship Committee. Wow! There were times when I thought the months were moving so slowly; yet now time seems to have sped by in no time. I guess all of life's a lot like that.

In looking back, I honestly tell you that chairing this committee has been one of the most rewarding activities I have ever undertaken. The people I've met and worked with through this period are among those I will treasure for all my days. The role of the committee is to maintain a balance between consistent Sunday services, and yet to bring innovation and change. Change can be a good thing, but change for change's sake is not. And of course, the encouragement of our minister is a vital element to the success of the committee.

I guess what I will remember most is the time Rev. Katie was on sabbatical — trying to maintain a high quality of Sunday services by finding speakers who were willing and able to not just 'fill in' for Katie, but rather who brought something new to the pulpit. Doing this with limited financial resources became a challenge, but with a great deal of help from the members of the committee, I think we did it! A mixture of ordained ministers (UU and otherwise!), students from Starr King School, and lay speakers from our own and nearby UU churches — and what a wonderful feeling to get to know all these people, and even to be invited to speak at their churches. If I gain nothing else from this, I know that there is a 'welcome table' at every UU church or fellowship I've visited.

I've always been of the opinion that an essential element to being a good leader is the ability to be a good follower. While it sometimes may be hard to let go, I'm hoping to stay on as a member of the Worship Committee, to lend ideas when appropriate and keep quiet when appropriate. Maybe the latter is the hardest thing of all!

Betsy Dye has been on the Worship Committee for longer than I've been a member of this church. Her long association with Starr King will undoubtedly help put her own stamp upon the committee. She inherits an amazing and diverse group of committee members with separate strengths and talents. I know she will use them well.

Thanks to all in this church for the support and encouragement over the past four years. That, of course, is what ties us together. And especially, the opportunity to serve and have fun at the same time.



Magician Norman Ng (assisted above by Maya) mesmerized his Starr King audience on the afternoon of Sunday 22 April.



Our Easter altar brimmed with the abundance of spring before the ritual of Flower Communion.

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

🦋 **Babysitters needed!** The Religious Education Committee is in need of babysitters during our Sunday services. Volunteer to offer your services on a regular basis or on occasion. Please contact Karen Kramer (783.2221).

🦋 **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 (9 & 23 June). Our project is to create a beautiful, water-wise environment of native plants and Mediterranean-adapted plants that affords inspiring beauty and spiritual solace while providing a habitat for beneficial native insects and animals. Work to be done ranges from light weeding and cultivation to irrigation maintenance to vigorous weed-clearing and mulching. We always have fun! 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

RANDY AND MAGGIE NEMETH celebrated their fifth wedding anniversary in May. Their first child, Lucy, was born 19 January 2007. Randy is finishing up his third year as a teacher of fourth graders. Maggie was in accounting at a private school in San Francisco, but she has decided to follow her dream of being a stay-at-home mom for the next few years. The Nemeths' beautiful singing voices have graced several of our services this year. They say, "We spend all our time these days raising our beautiful daughter. Life is grand."



ATTENTION YOUTH

Have Fun Spreading the Word

There are some fun links on the web that promote UUism.

Among these are Jon Carroll's essay "Unitarian Jihad" (<http://sfgate.com/cgi-bin/article.cgi?file=/chronicle/archive/2005/04/08/DDG27BCFLG1.DTL>) and the YouTube video of the Space Alien instructing Earthlings on how to live in peace — by following seven very familiar principles (<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gJcF4VgnkBk>).

Our PCD Regional gUUerilla Marketing Group would like to encourage more of that kind of thing, so they are announcing a fun summer contest for UU youth:

Produce a video that promotes UUism, and post it on YouTube.

Entries submitted by 1 August will be eligible for a \$250 prize for the video "most likely to go viral" (translation: most likely to be passed along friend to friend by email because it is so clever or otherwise worth watching).

Enter just by sending an email to cilla@pcd-uaa.org with the link to where the video can be seen.

This will be fun! Please help us spread the word.

Committee Highlights

Friends of FESCO (Family Emergency Shelter Coalition)

Diane Meyerson

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

This month I want to talk about our staff. You may already know that FESCO employs over 20 staff who provide direct client support at Les Marquis Shelter, Banyan House Transitional, 3rd Street Transitional, Linkages and the Counseling center. We have staff from all walks of life, some who have just started on their path in social services to those who are veterans, having worked in the shelter for many years. All our staff are challenged every day with the life situations our residents present. While on a shift, they are tasked not only with monitoring the families (some who have undiagnosed mental illness and substance addictions) but also with maintaining the safety of the residents, the children and the staff.

They balance needs of preparing meals for residents while engaging the residents in discussions on goals and plans. They offer hope, a smile or emergency respite to children, and they offer care when no one else is around. They even offer direct challenges to help prod residents along their path to sustainability.

What makes FESCO a unique place to work is the sincere dedication of our staff. They *want* to help others. They want to make a difference. I am humbled by the dedication and the longevity of staff at FESCO. We have staff members who have been on site since the early days, almost 20 years ago. We have a wide range of folks who fall in between the beginning of FESCO and today, and each of one of them brings a style and grace to their work. When I think about it, it is this certain level of grace that sets FESCO apart.

I ask you to remember this when we talk about goals and program objectives for next year. We have very basic goals. It's not glamorous stuff. But survival in modern day America is about the harsher side — about having a basic roof over your head and not going to bed hungry. It's about trying to make it in America where some 36-plus million people live in poverty. This means all those families earning less than \$14,680 per year, or \$1,200 per month, are considered living in poverty. There are 36-plus *million* who fall in that range. In the days of billions, let's not forget that a million is a lot.

So when we think about our work together, think about those on the front lines, too. Next month we will have our service

awards luncheon acknowledging staff milestones of working at least five, even ten years with FESCO. I hope you can join us in honoring those behind-the-scenes members who do the day-to-day work to help the families you are supporting.

2007 Shelter Shuffle a Success

The Tenth Annual FESCO Shelter Shuffle attracted 340 participants and raised over \$50,000. Starr King was represented by Lavon Hodges, Jo Murdach, Evelyn Cormier and Coquette, Natalie Forrest, Mary Kiesling (along with her daughter and mother, Emily Flynn), Georgia Gruver, Stuart Fink, Zelma Nuñez-Borja and Patcho, Meredith Schuler, Diane Meyerson and Bob Meyerson. The group was entertained by the Arroyo High School Jazz Band, where Jessica Schuler played saxophone.

Coming Events

All Saints Catholic Church is sponsoring a *FESCO Niles Canyon Vintage Train Ride* on Sunday 24 June at 3 P.M. Tickets are \$25/adults, \$10/children under 12, free/children 3 & under. For reservations call Lora at FESCO (510/886. 5473).

Save the Date. Swingin' with the Stars, FESCO's Annual Dinner & Auction, is scheduled for Friday 28 September 2007.



Bob, Emily, Lena, Mary and Zelma walk for FESCO.

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

How to Reach Us

Starr King Unitarian Universalist Church

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Hayward CA 94541

Church Office: 510/581.2060
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minister@starrking.org
Home Telephone: 537.6565

Church President: Bob Britton
510/888.1612
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Church Website: <http://www.starrking.org>
Jim Van Scyoc, webmaster
Crystal Carroll, webmaster
webmaster@starrking.org

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

Summer Church Administrative Hours:

Tuesday & 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

Church Leadership

Board of Trustees

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Music Director —

Church Committee Chairs

Association Affairs — Ramon Urbano

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

