



The Flaming

Chalice

NEWSLETTER OF STARR KING UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CHURCH JULY 2007

A Month of Sundays

July Celebration Previews

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

1: *Different, Not Deficient* (Rev. Katie Kandarian) The presenter at ministry days in Portland is Jeremiah Wright, who is the pastor to Senator Barak Obama and whose sermon, *The Audacity of Hope*, inspired Obama's book of the same name. How does his faith perspective compare to our own?

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.

8: *Choices that Matter* (Rev. Katie Kandarian) Attendees from General Assembly that just took place in Portland, Oregon will share their good news, discoveries and other inspirations from this wonderful annual gathering of congregations.

Chalice Deadline.

15: *A Natural History of the Spirit* (Janis Hall-Fuller) The spirit is a camera-shy creature. Where does it live, what does it feed on, how does it multiply? A dedicated observer shares some notes on the habits and behaviors of the spirit. Janis Hall-Fuller is a recent graduate of Starr King School for the Ministry.

Bookstore Open.

22: *To Live Until We Die* (Rev. Jade "JD" Benson) Our culture doesn't want us to prepare for it, but eventually we will all die; many will anticipate death with a life-limiting diagnosis: Cancer, AIDS, End-Stage Dementia, diseases yet to be named. What do we do when the word comes? How do we live until we die? JD Benson serves as a hospice chaplain to people of all, any and no faith traditions.

29: *Taking It to the Enemy* (Rev. Lee Williamson) Following Jesus' insistent call to love enemies, to pray for them, to do them good and not harm, we will explore such questions as: Is there a way to take peace to an enemy, instead of war? How might we, as a nation, cooperate in building a global neighborhood, instead of pursuing a competitive quest for goods and power?



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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.

Katie's Bay View

Rev. Katie Kandarian

Summer Reading

I like to have a reading list for the summer. It doesn't mean it's all gonna get read, but for me it's an annual plan for summer reading where my books don't have to have anything to do with what I'm preaching. This year I'm a bit behind on creating my stack, but here's what I'm thinking right now.



I've got Al Gore's new book *The Assault on Reason*, a discussion of the political environment which is a bit of a change from Gore's past book about the earth's environment. It may end up influencing my fall preaching nevertheless.

Then I'll have to lighten up, so I'll probably read Paula Deen's book *It Ain't All About the Cooking*. She's a great southern home cook whose show on the Food Network makes you want to eat her food *and* sit at her counter. In the book she writes about her life and her cooking.

Since this year's list is short, I think I'll go back and re-read something that my daughter read for school. The favorite on her list this past year was *Catcher in the Rye*. It was a long time ago when I read it the first time; it seems only fair to re-read, remember what it was like to be a teen in all of its painful alienation, and then have a lemonade and a chat with my daughter.

I'd love to hear what it is that you are planning on reading this summer, or what you've just read — please share. And when you do, I'll publish it in the August *Flaming Chalice*.

I'll be taking my annual vacation at the usual time, 13 July through 13 August. During my absence, if you have a pastoral emergency, please call Meg Jurich, our incoming president; she'll have numbers where I can be reached, as well as local pastoral help. Other than my vacation time, I will be in the pulpit, in the office, and working from home, so please contact me if you need me.

Happy Summer!

Love,

Wheel of Life

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

- ★ Sincere condolences to the family and friends of our long time member Edna Shipley-Conner, who died 10 June. Edna's memorial service will be held Saturday 30 June at Eden United Church of Christ.
- ★ Our long time member Jim Van Scyoc died 18 June following a stroke. Our thoughts and prayers are with Joyce Van Scyoc and family. Further information will be forthcoming regarding a memorial service to be held in August.
- ★ Jean Wilcox had succesful surgery to prepare her to receive a new hip in another month.
- ★ Jean Gaylord is home from the hospital after undergoing a series of tests.
- ★ Al & Jo Murdach are celebrating 40 years of marriage.
- ★ Pat Kellner is celebrating her 85th birthday.
- ★ Jim Forsyth is celebrating his 80th birthday.
- ★ Amy Kinnear graduated from Cal State East Bay.
- ★ Maureen Atkins graduated from Cal State East Bay.
- ★ Darryl & Renee Ray's daughter, Elizabeth Culbertson, graduated from Cal Poly Pomona.

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

July Birthdays

Best birthday wishes to . . .

- | | |
|----|-----------------|
| 1 | Daniel Casini |
| 3 | Jo Murdach |
| 15 | Evelyn Cormier |
| 17 | Jack Martin |
| 24 | Doug Sprague |
| 26 | Lillian Carrell |
| 27 | Laurie Matthews |
| 28 | Natalie Forrest |
| 30 | Dave Berman |
| 30 | Nathan Ray |



The Board Bulletin

Meg Jurich, President, Board of Trustees



Can you imagine what it is like to be surrounded by 5,500 UUs? The atmosphere was electric at the 2007 General Assembly in Portland, Oregon. No one imagined such a turnout. This was the second largest GA ever, the first having been held in Boston. There were problems to overcome, such as arriving at a meeting room only to find it overflow-

ing, or getting the scooter etiquette right as we encountered new drivers and large numbers of folks trying to thread their way through the crowds. Wisely, the GA planners included a team of volunteers to handle right relations issues. This team helped to keep us sensitive to each other and our surroundings. It was awesome to experience such a large crowd treating each other with friendship and respect.

Your delegates witnessed a lively debate over the Statement of Conscience (SOC) "Moral Values for a Pluralistic Society," up for vote after beginning as a Study/Action Issue at the 2005 GA. Some delegates thought it was too wordy, a bit defensive in tone, and needlessly contrasting ourselves with the religious right in articulating our moral stance; they were for referring the statement back to the Commission on Social Witness (CSW) for further work. Other delegates felt that, with amendments, it reflected our core UU values and we should not delay, as we need the statement now for our advocacy work and the coming elections. A number of amendments were approved, and eventually the SOC passed. Now it goes to the legal department for review. It should be posted on the UUA website in its final form in a few weeks. When it is available, our congregation will have an opportunity to learn more about the SOC and how we might act on it.

The six proposed Actions of Immediate Witness (AIW) were all adopted. AIWs are actions deemed to require more rapid approval than a Statement of Conscience, which requires a four-year process to enact. The six AIWs are to support UN convention on elimination of all forms of discrimination against women; support immigrant families; support comprehensive sexuality education; stop US sponsored torture, repeal Don't Ask, Don't Tell; pass the Employment Non Discrimination Act with Transgender Inclusion and Protection.

Believe or not, this is a really a brief summary of what your delegates encountered at this year's General Assembly. Doubtless, they all have their own observations as to what went on. Why don't you ask them? They are: Bob Meyerson, Karen Urbano and Meg Jurich.

OUR CHURCH BOARD IN ACTION

June 2007

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

1. Regina Fassano discussed Marriage Equality and a plan to have Cottage Conversations about this with a DVD presentation. Several people have volunteered their homes for these conversations. Regina and Sarah discussed some of the issues facing same sex couples and the importance of these informational meetings. Regina suggested that there might be one Cottage Conversation per quarter on this issue. The board suggested that she work with the Social Justice Committee to schedule the meetings.
2. Meg Jurich, Karen Urbano, and Bob Meyerson were appointed delegates to GA in Portland.
3. The intern will be hired as staff for tax purposes. An Intern Committee is being formed.
4. Karen Yearout and Doris Haskell were appointed to COSMIC (Committee on Shared Ministry Including Conciliation).
5. Ramon Urbano was appointed Denominational Affairs Representative.
6. The Board established a subcommittee to review provisions for the minister to attend GA in future.
7. Vice President Meg Jurich reported on the Hospitality Workshop; Wendy Robertson will be Tracking Captain of all guests and report to the PCD.
8. The Board approved the recommendation of the Unitarian House Subcommittee to hire Dave Byrens as the architect for the replacement of Unitarian House.
9. The Treasurer reported that through 31 May pledges are still on schedule.
10. Rev. Katie will meet with Karen Kramer and Carey Sanchez Para (new RE Coordinator) to discuss program transition for Religious Education next year.
11. Membership Report: Still need a Board liaison.
12. Finance Report: Bingo night netted about \$400 with 40 people in attendance. It was a fun time, but not a large fundraiser. Discussion of next spring's service auction needs to begin.
13. The Outreach Committee will have a booth at Hayward Street Parties on 21 June, 19 July, 16 August, 20 September.





REfrigerator Page

Children's Religious Education

Carey Sanchez Para, *Religious Education Coordinator*

We had an excellent intergenerational celebration on 10 June where we thanked all of our religious education teachers, our 4-year Director of Religious Education, Jean Wilcox, and our 2-year Religious Education Coordinator, Karen Kramer. We said goodbye to Jean Wilcox, her majesty the "Queen of RE," who has retired. We held a special bridging ceremony for Alyssa Baker-Blanc who graduated this month from Castro Valley High School and will attend UC Santa Cruz in the fall. Best wishes to both Jean and Alyssa on the next part of their respective journeys.

Our Summer Religious Education program has begun! We still have room for two-person volunteer teams. Sign up to share your talents with our children through the beginning of September. Fun, creative and simple activities are welcome. Please sign up on the poster in the back of the Sanctuary. Baby and toddler care will continue to be provided in the Fahs Cottage. SKY (Starr King Youth) will continue to meet in Ornea Cottage with Carol Henrie and Dick Albert.

The Board of Trustees recently adopted a Five Year Vision for the church. One part of this vision includes the following: "Provides adults and children with a rich array of opportunities for personal and spiritual growth and service to others." Religious education is one such avenue to provide personal and spiritual growth. The Our Whole Lives (OWL) program will be offered this year to our 7-9 graders. We are revamping the Religious Education Committee and welcome new members, as well as those who've previously served. The committee will be redefining our religious education needs and programs, as well as determining our congregation's need for a Director of Religious Education in the future. Please contact the office or me if you'd like to join this important and exciting endeavor. I'm looking forward to working with all of you!

During July, children will meet in the Sanctuary with their parents and process to the day's activity after the *Story for All Ages*.

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.

Carey Sanchez Para, Religious Education Coordinator
510/502.4098 or careysanchezpara@comcast.net



Karen Kramer presents a parting gift to Jean Wilcox on behalf of the congregation.

Jean Wilcox wrote on 11 June:

As I prepare myself for yet another surgery later today, I feel I can't leave without expressing to the congregation my delight at being with you yesterday, being able to honor our teachers as well as Alyssa Baker Blanc, and to be able to share my thoughts and reminiscences with you.

You really are a remarkable group of people. The love that you expressed to me after the service, as well as the fun we had, will stay with me not only through these next few trying days but I'm sure for the rest of my life.

If I singled out people for thanks I couldn't get all the names in, but I do in particular want to thank Karen Kramer who has been not only a fine RE Chair but a great source of support to me these last few months, being no stranger herself to the vicissitudes of health problems. She has always been there for me, ready to listen and let me vent. She is an outstanding person.

I hope to be back to see you one day. In no way will I ever forget you.

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

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 (14 & 28 July). Our project is to create a beautiful, water-wise environment of native and Mediterranean-adapted plants that affords inspiring beauty and spiritual solace, while providing habitat. Work 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.

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.

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; however due to the Fourth holiday, the group will meet only 18 July. All are welcome to join us to explore community and spirituality, discussion and shared silence.

★ **Evening Discovery** is on summer hiatus and will return the first Wednesday in September.

★ The **Social Justice Committee** meets on second Sundays (8 July) after second service. Join in to plan future activities. All welcome. Discussion will focus on General Assembly and the concept of Cottage Conversations.

★ The **Book Group** will meet Thursday 12 July at 7 P.M. at the home of Terry Hunt (582.4603) to discuss *Montana 1948* by Larry Watson. All welcome! Please ring to let the host know you will be coming. August's book will be *Paris to the Moon* by Alan Glopnik.

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

★ **The Committee of the Interior** meets in the Library on fourth Sundays (22 July) 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 21 July at 7 P.M. to see *Murder By Death*. It is a 1976 murder mystery spoof with an all star cast and a script by Neil Simon. Famous literary detective characters are invited to a mysterious mansion and wind up having to figure out "whodunit." All welcome! Let host Stuart Fink (510/537.4421) know you are coming; bring a movie snack to share.



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.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

★ **Estival Office Hours.** During the summer months, 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 go to Latin American countries, along with eye doctors who will fit people in need.

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

★ **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 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 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.

★ 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.

... Our Church There

★ Join the **No Room for Racism** vigils that are held in Hayward every third Friday (20 July) 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**. This Just Works camp 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@uus.org).

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

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.17: **Communion**

This word has undergone significant changes in Christian usage. UUs, however, use the word *communion* in much the same way it was originally used in the New Testament of the Christian Bible, which is to signify sharing one's life, belief, hopes with others in order to participate fully in joint activities in order to build fellowship and a common experience. The well-known UU flower communion is an example of the way modern UUs attempt to symbolize this activity by incorporating it into a type of religious rite. Christian churches also originally used the word in this sense, but over the years it became narrowed to signify being in or taking communion with a particular sect or denomination. In other words, the concept developed into a test of membership or belief instead of a simple acknowledgement of commonality.

The original concept of communion was hardened into a religious test by Christian churches because of its association over the years with doctrinal struggles over the meaning and significance of what came to be known as the Lord's Supper, or the religious reenactment of the final meal Jesus had with his disciples. In fact, as time went on the notions of communion and the sacred meal became synonymous in Christian churches. In this way communion became not a simple act of sharing but a rigidly prescribed rite that allowed no deviation. Emerson's final break with traditional Christianity occurred because of his disapproval of the ways in which the concept of communion had, in his view, become debased by conservative Christian doctrine. It is interesting to note that because the efforts of Emerson and others in UU history have helped to preserve the original essence of communion, Christian churches are now trying to restore this quality to their church lives as they seek to broaden their appeal and their genuine understanding of their own traditions.

It is intriguing to note that despite Emerson's disapproval, UUs may have something to learn from the more traditional Christian notions of communion mentioned above. As we have seen, for better or worse in traditional Christianity communion has become all about eating. It's true that the word is used in such settings to describe supper at the Lord's table, but the Christian idea of eating with the Lord is much richer than this description might indicate. Although the actual religious reenactment of the Lord's Supper can appear plain and somber, the actual Christian ideal of eating at the Lord's table is joyous and implies happiness, complete satisfaction, and, above all, feasting. Therefore, the notion of communion as eating with (and feeding) one another also functions as a wonderful metaphor for a way to grow and enrich human intimacy and relationships. It is a Christian metaphor that UUs, with their love of culinary delights, could easily adopt to fill out their own current concepts of communion.

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.



During the Bridging Ceremony, Alyssa addresses the congregation while youth advisors Dick and Carol look on.

Committee Highlights

UU Global Warming Actions Around the Country *by Karen Ubano*

Global warming has been a hot topic lately. Many UU congregations across the country have been reporting their activities addressing global warming and solutions to the UU Ministry for Earth. They have been contributing to a CD that will be available at General Assembly and on the UUMFE website with ideas and instructions for carting out a great variety of activities to help in the fight against global warming/climate change. Some of these activities may be good for Starr King UU Church to carry out. Here are a few examples.

Many, many congregations have shown *An Inconvenient Truth* and held discussion groups about the film. Many participated in the Stepitup2007 effort spearheaded by Bill Mc Kibben. On Earth Day at Starr King we collected signatures for petitions to Congress asking that the U.S. reduce carbon emissions by 80 percent by 2050; this was an effort organized by the UU Legislative Ministry of California.

In New Hampshire, the Green Sanctuary Committee of USNH in Hamden organized a Wake Up the Sleeping Giant to Climate Change event at a beloved state park of the same name. Some congregations have encouraged their cities to become Cool Cities or go on a Low Carbon Diet. In Brevard, North Carolina the congregation viewed *The Great Warming* and *Crude Impact* as part of a week long Kick the Carbon Habit! series of events for StepItUp2007.

Members of the Wildflower UU Church of South Austin, Texas met with state legislators' staff to talk about what Texas can do to improve global warming. Also in Austin, five members of Wildflower UU demonstrated at a rally to oppose the building of 19 new coal fired power plants.

In August 2006 at the UU Congregation of Saratoga Springs, New York, Bill McKibben gave a sermon entitled "How Big Should We Be?" In connection with this, the organizing committee invited 30 area artists to produce works on global warming that were hung at a local Gallery where Bill McKibben spoke and had a conversation with them about global warming and related issues. The show, *Our Warming World*, was in response to an essay of McKibben's entitled 'What the Warming World Needs Now is Art, Sweet Art.'

The UU Church of Boulder, Colorado's Ecoweb group is helping their congregation collaborate with Boulder's Zero Waste program, a model program to create NO garbage and to recycle or reuse everything possible.

Many congregations have sponsored the new Northwest Earth Institute course called "Global Warming – Changing

CO₂urse" and are urging members to gauge their own Carbon Footprints and work toward reducing them.

First UU Church of Portland, Oregon has created beautiful Prayer Flags for the Planet as a Community Art Event for Healing the Earth. Photos and complete instructions to hold such an event will be available on the completed Global Warming Action Kit, Vol.2 CD.

The UU Church in Eugene, Oregon has joined up with Ecumenical Ministries in Oregon to participate in a lobby day to mandate that 25 percent of new energy development in Oregon be renewable.

The UU Church of Davis, California presented a draft resolution to their city council that designates April 14 to May 20 to be Climate Action Season and declaring May 21 to be Clear Air Sunday, urging all to walk or roll to church.

If one or some of these activities light your fire, please think about joining in the fight against global warming. I will have the Global Warming Action Kit, V. 2 after General Assembly and will be glad to share its contents.



Association Affairs *by Ramon Ubano*

What an opportunity this is to have General Assembly on the West Coast this year!

It's our annual conference where we gather from all over the country to focus on what our movement is about, taking workshops to sharpen our skills, increase our UU knowledge and just have fun getting together with fellow UUs.

We have 13 excited members from SKUUC attending GA this year. Upon our return we will present what we saw and learned, especially the Statement of Conscience and Actions of Immediate Witness the UUA is moving forward in. But most important, let's discuss and agree on what we can do at SKUUC to further these efforts.

Please ask your delegates and our attendees about GA 2007

There are a lot more exciting happenings in our UU movement locally (like our upcoming UU Marketing Campaign, *Now Is the Time*), STAY TUNED.

Committee Highlights

Friends of FESCO (Family Emergency Shelter Coalition)

Diane Meyerson

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

*We make a living by what we get,
but we make a life by what we give.*

—WINSTON CHURCHILL

This month, I was able to experience a wonderful community gift. HomeAid, along with General Electric, Frazee Paint and Kelley Moore brought together volunteers that painted the dining and living rooms of Banyan House. This group of lively volunteers, many having never done this type of event, created a new atmosphere for the residents of Banyan House. What struck me was how excited this group was to be giving their time, effort and company resources for people they had never met.

As I met with the group early Saturday morning, I shared the stories of Banyan and glimpses of the lives of people who could be their sisters, their brothers, their cousins, friends or co-workers, their children, their fellow churchgoers, their community. Many of the volunteers had not understood the many reasons one becomes homeless. I explained how causes could be as innocent as losing one's money order for the rent to one's struggle with being unemployed to how some people fall on hard times. And unfortunately, how some repeat patterns of poor decisions.

I went on to tell this group the story of the tool box. Everyone is born with a tool box. Some have a hammer and a screw when they are born. Some have just a saw. Sometimes we are not given many tools to create a better life and are given only what our parents have to offer. We go through life, hopefully obtaining other tools, but again, this also depends on the individual. As a family comes to FESCO, we offer other tools for their tool box. Ideally, the tools we give to our families help them create a better life for parents and their little ones. We can only hope for that.

As I told this story, I saw many heads nodding in agreement that it made sense. They asked a few more questions; someone said how privileged they felt to be there. As I ended my overview, they then began to get busy and do something. They worked hard that day, for families they never knew.

Later that morning, I was presented with five brand new microwaves from the GE Regional Sales Manager. He wanted to make sure we had brand new equipment for all of our sites. We did not expect such a gift and I was very happy to receive it on behalf of our residents and staff.

With all the complexities of working three different sites, assisting over 24 families on a daily basis and managing about 20-plus staff, it was a wonderful gift to receive this experience from strangers. When I left that afternoon I wondered if this is how our families felt when they leave FESCO.



Change in Date, Time and Place

FESCO Dinner & Auction

will be held

Saturday 20 October

at the Resurrection Greek Orthodox Church

(on Center Street in Castro Valley)

Save the Date!

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

How to Reach Us

Starr King Unitarian Universalist Church

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Chalice Editor: Carol Henrie
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Summer Church Administrative Hours:

Tuesday & Thursday
9 A.M. – 1 P.M.

Minister's Office Hours:

Tuesday & Thursday
9 A.M. – 1 P.M.

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

How to Reach Your Chalice Editor

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

Post to: Carol Henrie
24929 Minnie Court
Hayward CA 94541

Email to: editor@starrking.org

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

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Membership — Wendy Robertson

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Doris Haskell, Carol Henrie,

Keith Lewis, Kirk Smith

Nominating — Bob Stortz

Outreach — Susan Blanc

Pastoral Care — Bob Stortz, Convenor

Pledge Secretary — Marilyn Mosher

R.E. Coordinator — Carey Sanchez Para

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 — Betsy Dye

