



The Flaming

Chalice

NEWSLETTER OF STARR KING UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CHURCH

AUGUST 2006

A Month of Sundays

August Celebration Previews

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

6: *Love is for Sissies* (Doug Sprague) “Words are shells; we fill them with our own meanings and what a freight of meaning some words will bear!” One of our central ethical guideposts, love, is certainly a word with much freight. Which love are we talking about? Compassion? Lust? Empathy? Kindness? Chocolate truffles? Help me sort this out. You may love this sermon.

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.

13: *A Thousand Broken Vows* (Rev. Erika Hewitt) Are Unitarian Universalists brave enough to talk about our shortcomings and the habits that hold us back from wholeness? Is there any value in what used to be called a “prayer of confession”? In this sermon, Rev. Erika Hewitt will explore some creative possibilities and the implications — for our personal relationships and our creation of beloved community — of daring to name our growing edges, and asking forgiveness.

Chalice Deadline.

20: *Radical Hospitality: Love Embodied* (Re. Katie Kandarian) What is radical hospitality? Is it just a way of welcoming visitors to our congregation, or is it really a more spiritually fit way of living? How radical do we want to be?

Bookstore Open.

27: *I'm Mad As Hell and I'm Not Going to Take It Anymore: Coping with Political Outrage* (Psychologist Gary Hartz, with special music by Larry Lynch) Many of us feel angry about political decisions and policies we feel powerless to change. How can we cope constructively with this anger, so that we have the strength to continue to assert our views? Gary describes four psychological, spiritual and action-oriented ways of coping. A forum will be held during coffee hour to discuss the sermon (part of a lay pulpit exchange with the Sunnyvale congregation).



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Katie's Bay View Rev. Katie Kandarian

A Happy Summer to you all! This month I'm sharing a column I wrote and never published here. At the time I wrote it, it would have been too incriminating to my children to place in their church's newsletter. Now they are old enough that it doesn't matter. It ran in the continental UU Ministers Association newsletter, it was published in our Pacific Central District's Newsletter, and many of my colleagues ran it in their church's newsletters. As I re-read it now, I still feel strongly about the power of regular attendance in not only religious education, but at the Sunday services.

I hope I see you soon!

Love and Blessings,



A Minister Mother Muses About Sunday School

I always wonder about the appropriateness of bugging my own children to come to church on Sunday morning. After all, I'm the minister there and I suppose it looks good to have my own children attending if I expect others to do the same. Then again, I suppose that's self-serving — it shouldn't be about my job, should it?

Well, besides being a parish minister with the concerns of my professional persona, I am also a mother. I am a mother who cares deeply for her children, as I know do most UU parents of UU children. In that role, I take seriously my children's religious and spiritual development, just as seriously, in fact, as I take their academic and social development.

My kids seem to be the typical American kids, teens at this point. I have a boy who is a senior this year, another who is a freshman, and a daughter in middle-school. They are all happy and active. Many times on Sunday mornings they wake up and as I struggle to get us dressed appropriately and all out the door, they complain and tell me they don't want to go. "I'm too tired mom; I was out late last night," or, "I'll just stay here today and clean up the kitchen and do my homework,"

or, "church is dumb, those boys drive me crazy." Sympathetic mother that I am, I nod understandingly (and hopefully, when I imagine coming home to a clean kitchen) and remember that I had liberal UU parents who listened to me when I said I didn't want to go to church that morning. What ended up happening in my youth is that the whole family stopped going to church altogether.

I missed the experience of being a UU youth, of 15 years of Unitarian Universalism, since I didn't really go back until I had my own children. My mother went back too.

Wouldn't it be a shame if I were that open-minded about my children's attendance in public school or participation at the dinner table or household responsibilities? Yes, I said above I believe in their academic, social and athletic development, and their spiritual and religious development. I am their parent — I make them come to church. When they are 18, they can decide for themselves what they want to do about school, about religion. I hope they choose to continue in both, but if I give them a good start, there's a good chance that they will.



Wheel of Life

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

- 🌸 Congratulations to Sarah Gonzales as she retires from a successful career in educational leadership finishing on the faculty at Cal State East Bay.
- 🌸 Our condolences to Susan Clark and her family on the death of her father-in-law.
- 🌸 Hooray! Evelyn Cormier is 75! Happy Birthday!
- 🌸 Send your prayers to Mary Swain whose father-in-law is very ill.
- 🌸 Our thoughts are with Joaquin Dominguez and family on the sudden death of his uncle, Jorge.
- 🌸 Bob Meyerson will be recovering from neck surgery after 17 July.
- 🌸 Jean Wilcox is scheduled for hip and pelvis reconstruction on 17 August. Please, no hospital visits. Cards are welcome.
- 🌸 Bill Gaylord is recovering nicely after placement of a stint.

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



The Threat of Global Warming Statement of Conscience

As I sit at my computer, it is 110 degrees outside at 4 P.M. It's 88 degrees in our living room. My wife Terri tells me, "Get over it, Bob. It's summertime." But today's newspaper calls the current long-term heatwave unprecedented. I wanted to write a column about a social justice issue, and for the past six years my own social justice concerns tend

towards horror over the erosion of our civil liberties. Today, I can't seem to get global warming off my mind.

Our Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA) is often ahead of the curve on social issues. The first of many resolutions on a woman's reproductive right of choice was passed by the UUA back in 1963. This year, Al Gore's powerful film on global warming, *An Inconvenient Truth*, has brought to the forefront the concern that humanity's activities may be leading us to a tipping point where global warming becomes unstoppable and accelerates exponentially.

There is a consensus among scientists that the whole world's climate is under enormous change due to global warming caused by our use of oil, coal and natural gas. This use releases carbon dioxide into the atmosphere, which traps it with more heat from the sun. World temperatures are reaching record levels, melting polar ice and glaciers and causing sea levels to rise.

Starting in 2004, UU activists were bringing this crisis forward with a proposed Study/Action Issue. The UUA takes positions on matters of social justice by adopting resolutions called Statements of Conscience (SOC). The SOC goes through a two-year process and is put before three UUA General Assemblies before it is finally adopted. When first introduced at the UUA annual convention, known as General Assembly (GA), they are known as Study/Action Issues (SAI).

In 2004 the UUA adopted the Study/Action Issue *The Threat of Global Warming*. The issue was posed as a question:

What can Unitarian Universalists do to promote individual and collective changes in the way we live and work in order to slow and ultimately reverse global warming?

The question frames the issue, and after three years of congregations reflecting upon, studying and acting upon it, a Statement of Conscience is adopted. In 2004 the Study/Action Issue for the global warming topic listed several possible questions for study including:

Do we know enough to be confident that the earth's climate is in fact changing in ways that are likely to severely impact life if it continues? Where is the point at which global warming becomes irreversible?

Why is there so little public concern about what is going on? Is it psychological denial, or failure to communicate the problem in terms that will bring the issue home to ordinary people — or both? What are other faith traditions doing nationally and/or locally to take action on this issue? Are there opportunities for joining forces with them?

The two-year process includes not just questioning and reflecting, but also urging congregations to take actions. In 2004 some of the actions suggested included:

- Lead our communities by individual example, making wise environmental choices even at significant personal cost.
- Adopt socially responsible investing practices that consider environmental impacts.
- Engage other faith communities, environmental groups and community organizations to advocate for government programs and policies that reduce reliance upon fossil fuels.

Following the GA in which the SAI is adopted, a study guide is issued on the topic. At the 2005 GA, a workshop was held. As with all SAIs, amendments are proposed, vetted in committee and voted on. On June 24 this year at GA in St. Louis, the delegates passed a final Statement of Conscience on global warming. The statement sets a number of Advocacy Goals, including:

- Full compliance with the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, with the understanding that because human activity is affecting global climate change, it follows that the great our population the great the impact;
- Ratification of and compliance with the Kyoto Protocol;
- Policies and practices that reduce greenhouse gas emissions and increase forestation and other forms of carbon dioxide sequestration; and
- Provide information on legislative advocacy opportunities to members of the congregation.

The statement concludes by stating why action is so imperative:

Given our human capacity to reflect and act upon our own lives as well as the condition of the world, we accept with humility and determination our responsibility to remedy and mitigate global warming/climate change through innovation, cooperation, and self-discipline. We undertake this work for the preservation of life on Earth.

The full final Statement of Conscience on global warming can be found on the UUA website at http://www.uua.org/csw/SOC_Final06_GW.pdf

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Bob".



REFrigerator Page

Children's Religious Education

Karen Kramer, Religious Education Coordinator

Hope everyone had a safe and sane Fourth of July, and welcome to August.

The summer RE format will continue through 2 September, and we would be happy to have a few more adult leaders for August RE or 2 September. So if you are interested, please sign up on the Summer RE calendar posted in the back of the Sanctuary.

When we begin the new school-year RE program on 16 September (9 September being Intergenerational), we have another new curriculum that I did not write about in July. It is called *Around The Church, Around The Year*, and it will be for both the preschool and the 1st-3rd grade groups. We may be in need of assistant teachers, so if you are interested, please speak with myself or Jean Wilcox.

Also beginning on 9 September we will once again be providing babysitting for all the wonderful new babies we are enjoying, and for any toddlers also.

More details to come in the September *Chalice* about the school-year programs. Enjoy until then.

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

- 6 August: Summer Program. K-8 together. Meet in library.
- 13 August: Summer Program. K-8 together. Meet in library.
- 20 August: Summer Program. K-8 together. Meet in library.
- 27 August: Summer Program. K-8 together. Meet in library.

Children from grades Kindergarten through 8 will meet together throughout the summer to join in activities to be led by various members of the congregation.

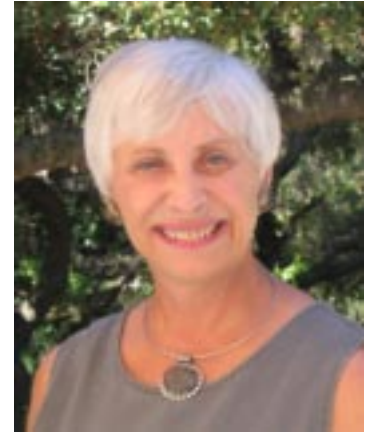
SKY (Starr King Youth) will meet in Ornea Cottage throughout the summer. Dick Albert and Carol Henrie are advisors.

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

DREaming

Jean Wilcox, Director of Religious Education

In the middle of a heatwave and as I prepare for a vacation before I prepare for a non-vacation known as surgery, I want to thank the congregation of SKUUC from the bottom of my heart for their love and support in the face of this unexpected (although far from life threatening) surgery. I have received cards, emails and calls from many of you (as well as a promise from Dick Albert to build a ramp into the office), offers of help while I'm away and support once I get back.



So all of this adds up to an RE program for next year which is beginning to take very good shape:

- A re-formed toddler/baby sitting program with Amy Kinnear and Tobi Stevens;
- A Pre-Kindergarten class with Karen Kramer (assistant anyone?);
- A First - Third class with Laura McMichael Cady and Mary Lasack;
- A Middle School class with Lea Casini and John Weaver;
- A continuation of the SKY program with Carol Henrie and Dick Albert;
- John Weaver will head up Social Justice, and the Children's Worship Committee will continue its work with our monthly worships.

All of this gladdens my heart, lightens my load and makes me realize how very, very lucky I am for the opportunity to spend one more year with you.

Jean

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

Our Church Here . . .

ANNOUNCEMENTS

✦ Our Sanctuary serves as the church all-purpose room; things get moved several times each week to accommodate various meetings, events and activities. But it is still a church; it is important to put the chairs back in the worship configuration *each time* they are moved. *PLEASE* if you use the sanctuary for an event or meeting, **leave the Sanctuary in the worship configuration.**

✦ 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.

✦ 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).



✦ **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).

✦ To preserve a sense of worship on Sunday mornings, please remember to **switch off cell phones** and other devices before entering the Sanctuary.

✦ 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.

✦ Donate interesting books in excellent condition to our **Church Bookstore** for resale. See Evelyn Cormier for details.

✦ 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 in your donations of healthful nonperishable food items. This is a meaningful way to practice Social Justice close to home.

ONGOING ACTIVITIES

✦ **Morning Discovery** meets at Church from 10 to 11:15 A.M. on first and third Wednesdays (2 & 16 August). Explore areas of personal interaction and spiritual experiences in the context of our common liberal religion and individual life experiences.

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

✦ **Evening Discovery** will be on hiatus through August. In September, the focus of discussions will be the book *No God but God: The Origins, Evolution and Future of Islam* by Reza Aslan. Interested in joining and obtaining a copy of the book? Contact Chris Selig.

✦ The **SKIT** improv group meets in the Sanctuary; second and fourth Thursdays (10 & 24 August) at 7:30 P.M.

✦ The **Book Group** will meet Thursday 10 August at 7 P.M. at the Kinnear home (885.0781) to discuss *What's Bred in the Bones* by Robertson Davies. All welcome. Please ring the hosts, who appreciate knowing you plan to attend.

✦ **The Committee of the Interior** meets in the Library on fourth Sundays (27 August) following the service. This committee works to maintain and improve the appearance of our meeting house. All are welcome.



✦ The **Membership Committee** meets on fourth Wednesdays (23 August) at 7 P.M. at the Gaylord home (537.6722).

✦ **Women's Spiritual Explorations** is on hiatus during the convalescence of Renata Ornea.

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

✦ Join our **Grounds & Landscape Enhancement** activities at Church from 9 A.M. to noon on second and fourth Saturdays (12 & 26 August). Contact Carol Henrie (886.1018).

✦ **Newsletter Folding:** The *Chalice* will be folded at Church at 1 P.M. on Thursday 24 August. It takes two hours; more folders welcome!



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

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

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

✦ **Serving Sunday Morning Coffee** is a great way to meet members and spread happiness! Please let Scott Kinnear (885.0781) know if you can fill this important slot on an occasional Sunday.

Help Raise \$\$\$ for Starr King at NO COST to you. Sign up with eScrip Online. Local merchants such as Safeway and PW contribute a percentage of your shopping to our church.

It's quick and easy!

1. Go to www.escrip.com
2. Click on *sign-up*
3. Follow the instructions

Information you need:

Group Name:
Starr King Unitarian Church

Group ID: 137107322

Questions? Call Meg Jurich (886.3070)

OUR CHURCH BOARD IN ACTION

July 2006

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

1. The UUA Regional Marketing group is putting together a Bay Area-wide marketing campaign and would like to know if our church is interested in participating. No churches are being approached for money, but congregations who participate will be asked to sign on to certain hospitality for newcomers and other issues. This will be discussed more at the August board meeting.
2. In a thorough presentation of the needs at Unitarian House, Garald Mosher said he believes that the best option may be to move ahead with replacing the current building with a new office on the same site. Garald has researched at the county and with other organizations on required permitting from a variety of organizations. This issue will be discussed further in August.
3. During a review of the budget for the just completed year, Frank Satterwhite pointed out that several members paid their pledges in June, and the budget is in balance. However, we need to work on replacing the \$11,000 that has been taken out of savings over the past few years. Several options for keeping members up to date on the budget and pledging were discussed. Frank will work on developing options with Marilyn Mosher, pledge secretary.
4. A church member is willing to complete an informal audit of our financial procedures. The Finance Committee will review with him and the church Treasurer the areas to be examined.
5. Eric Gable agreed to be the board liaison to the Membership Committee. Darryl Ray will continue to serve as liaison to the Finance Committee.
6. COSMIC submitted a list of potential members to fill three vacancies. The Board authorized COSMIC to contact those individuals and to submit three names for approval at the next meeting.
7. The Board approved Lavon Hodges to serve as co-chair of the Interior Committee with Rebecca Parr.
8. A committee is still looking into options for the minister's health insurance. The UUA option is too expensive in California.
9. Eric Gable is looking for anyone interested in attending Leadership School 22 - 28 July. More sign-ups are needed in order to ensure that the conference does occur.
10. FESCO had a shortfall of \$25,000 in its shelter shuffle fundraising event. This shortfall will affect staffing and services. More fundraisers will have to be held.

August Birthdays

Best birthday wishes to . . .

- | | |
|----|-----------------------|
| 2 | Joyce Kinnear |
| 2 | Bob Stortz |
| 13 | Al Murdach |
| 16 | Tasha Casini |
| 20 | Sandra Walton |
| 25 | Garald Mosher |
| 26 | Julie Wellings Kuftin |
| 31 | Renata Ornea |



EVENTS

- ✦ Join the **No Room for Racism** silent vigils that are held in Hayward every third Friday (19 August) from 4:30 to 5:30 P.M. at the five corners (intersection of Jackson-Mission-Foothill). This is an opportunity to stand for your values. Sponsored by South Hayward Parish.
- ✦ The Pagan Gathering Circle will be meeting in individual homes over the summer. For further information, please contact Bill and Ruth DeSmidt.

Committee Highlights

Friends of FESCO (Family Emergency Shelter Coalition)

A Slice of Life (from the Archives) written by Dave McKeown, FESCO Program Manager

Life is a dance and we are the dancers. How glorious it is when our steps match the music . . .

The dance for James and his family changed suddenly when his wife suffered a stroke. She faced months of rehabilitation in an extended care facility. James had just started a new job. Their two daughters were in school. Much of his time was consumed at the hospital. Everything piled up. Their already tight budget exploded with the added medical expenses.

Unable to pay the rent, James was evicted. James called the shelter and soon moved in with the girls.

A single male parent is unusual in the shelter, but James acclimated quickly. A typical day began with an early rise and quick breakfast, then off to school and work. James picked up the girls after school and went to the hospital to visit his wife. Then it was back to the shelter to settle the girls for sleep, do his shelter chores, make lunches, and try to get some sleep himself. As his wife progressed, weekends included taking her out to the park for a picnic, looking for housing, and the usual evening routine.

So life went for a month. James was a model resident, always helping others, living within the structure, being a positive role model, but having absolutely no success finding housing. The eviction, coupled with his low income and depleted savings, was too much for most landlords. His wife's release from the hospital was nearing, and he didn't know what to do.

Ah yes, it's time to dance. His wife was released and moved into the shelter. It was tough going at first, as she was physically challenged to climb the stairs. They insisted, though, that it was great therapy, and the climb grew easier every day. Well into their second month at the shelter, the chance of an opening at transitional housing next door surfaced.

They applied for Linkages and were approved! After some minor delays and deep breaths, our transitional housing resident signed a rental agreement for an apartment (congratulations to her!), and the opening next door was for real. It was truly an emotional experience as James and his wife signed their rental agreement, to become our new neighbors!

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

In the midst of all the excitement, we realized that they had no furniture, as all their belongings had been lost in the eviction. Our dear Sherry would certainly come to their rescue but on that very same day, two individuals called the office. One had a dining table and chairs, the other had a long couch, and both wondered if we even took such large items.

We made arrangements to pick up the items, as James had only a small car, and you can imagine the rest of the story.

Life is truly amazing, and there is nothing better than being at the dance! Until next time, be well.



Coffee Service News

Want to Support Fair Trade at Home?

Several church members have expressed interest in some type of a group purchase for the fair trade coffee, chocolate and/or tea. Scott Kinnear has offered to put together a form for interested members — look for it by the entry doors — and to place a joint order in the fall.

The Value and Cost of Fair Trade

If you appreciate the better-tasting, better-for-the-farmer coffee we are now drinking, please add some money to the coffee fund by the coffee pot on Sunday.

Ensuring the values of social justice and environmental stewardship comes at a price. While they benefit our Interdependent Web, Fair Trade items are expensive.

Using Fair Trade coffee and other items is one way we practice our UU values, helping to extend the benefits of Fair Trade to 28 farmer cooperatives in 14 countries. Stable Fair Trade minimum prices and accessible credit help farmer cooperatives provide for their families and plan for the future, investing in education, health care and environmentally sustainable farming.

How to Reach Us

Starr King Unitarian Universalist Church

22577 Bayview Avenue
Hayward CA 94541

Church Office: 510/581.2060
office@starrking.org

Parish Minister: Kathryn Kandarian
minister@starrking.org
Home Telephone: 537.6565

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brittonr@sbcglobal.net

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

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

Church Administrative Hours:

Tuesday - Wednesday - Thursday
9 A.M. – 2 P.M.

Minister's Office Hours:

Tuesday - Wednesday - Thursday
9 A.M. – 2 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

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



Office Manager — Caroline Mazur

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

Bookstore — Evelyn Cormier

Buildings — Dick Albert

Chalice Newsletter — Carol Henrie, editor

Margarita Jacob, photographer

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 — Carol Henrie, Convenor

Keith Lewis

Vicki Thompson

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

