



# The Flaming Chalice

NEWSLETTER OF STARR KING UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CHURCH AUGUST 2008

## *A Month of Sundays*

### *August Celebration Previews*

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

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- 3:** *Can't Unitarians Disagree?* (Terry Hunt) Unitarians pride themselves on questioning authority and entertaining independent opinions, but can they always disagree? Or are there some rock bottom values Unitarians are unqualifiedly committed to?
- 10:** *For the Love of Children* (Cate Steane) FESCO's new Executive Director Cate Steane is passionate about finding ways of moving people out of poverty into stable and secure places to live. It is essential to children to feel safe and secure, for as Frederick Douglass has written, "It's easier to build strong children than repair broken men." *Chalice Deadline.*
- 17:** *Lessons from al Andalus* (Terra Collier-Young) From 711 to 1492 CE, the Iberian Peninsula of southern Spain saw an unprecedented renaissance of religious tolerance and relative societal harmony between the three Abrahamic religions of Judaism, Christianity and Islam. This morning we will explore this significant time in history and what it offers us in the 21st Century. *Bookstore Open.*
- 24:** *Common Threads* (Rev. Katie Kandarian, Karen & Ramón Urbano) This year's General Assembly, where members of Unitarian Universalist congregations from across the country and the world gather, was held in Ft. Lauderdale. Ramon & Karen Urbano were our delegates. What did the rest of us miss? What might draw us to attend next year?
- 31:** *Kids on Strike!* (Bob Britton) Join us for a special Labor Day service with the joyous music of solidarity! Most are familiar with the disgraceful exploitation of child labor at the turn of the 20<sup>th</sup> Century. Union Organizer, Bob Britton will share with us tales of historic strikes actually led by the children.



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**Caring, Pastorally**

I believe most have heard talk about the pastoral role of the church. *Pastoral*, rather than being a sheep herder, refers to spiritual guidance or caring. This is the work we all do when we light candles for joys and sorrows in worship, when we send cards, ask about each other's health, drop off a casserole, or offer a ride to the hospital. The minister (or pastor) does this in the same way, albeit with some training as part of her preparation for ministry, and the minister does it more frequently, but a caring community — what we sometimes call “building the beloved community” — has a sense of the pastoral at its core, its very center.



Folks have remarked to me lately that it feels hard, we've got so much medical bad news going on, so much loss. It *is* hard, but it's not really that unusual; it's just that in a small, close knit community like ours, we notice it and we hear about it all. I feel grateful to be here with you with so many strong prayers extended for our people. What a blessing!

But while we're on the subject of all things pastoral, this is probably a good time to consider how we are with another person when we make a visit to them when they are ill, or have just undergone surgery, or have a life-changing diagnosis. First of all, before making a visit, make sure your visit is welcome. As much as you have good intentions, illness or surgery is exhausting, and sometimes your friend may not be up for the visit. Having a visitor means entertaining to some degree, even if we're not serving dinner but are only lying in

a hospital bed; it still means we have to focus, put on our best face and try to set aside our pain. Secondly, try to remember that one of the differences between a social visit and a pastoral visit is that the visit should focus on the person and his needs. Let him direct the conversation, rather than talking about your own needs. Sometimes we think that a visit is needed to cheer someone up, and that isn't necessarily the case unless they have a long-term illness that isolates them from receiving much company. It is often the case that the person you are visiting is quite ill, especially if you go to the hospital. Tightened insurance has made obsolete the days when time was spent in the hospital simply for resting. Those patients are long ago sent home.

I'm not trying to discourage you from visiting, rather to simply to help us all be more aware and conscious of the needs of our friend. Call first. Wait a day, or send a card, then call. I've never heard anyone who doesn't appreciate those old-fashioned greeting cards, especially when they haven't been feeling well. Usually, those cards get saved! And most visits *are* appreciated, especially when they are short.

Our Starr King Pastoral Care Committee's members would be happy to talk with you about needs our members may have. They meet once a month and have as members: Karen Cook, Al Murdach, Jens Dill, Jean Falkowski (and myself ex officio). If *you* have a need of a visit, or a phone call, or a card, please, let one of us know and we will be most happy to oblige. After all, this is a caring, pastoral community.

Love, *Katie*

P.S. I'll be on vacation until 21 August—see you then!

*Wheel of Life*

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

- ☺ Please keep Sarah Forsyth, daughter of Jim Forsyth, in your prayers. Sarah is in Kaiser Hayward ICU with pneumonia. Cards are welcome.
- ☺ We send prayers to member Caroline Mazur, who is learning of a difficult diagnosis and possibly treatment. Please send your kind thoughts and cards.
- ☺ Dick Albert is home healing nicely after abdominal surgery.

*August Birthdays*

*Best birthday wishes to . . .*



- 2 Joyce Kinnear
- 2 Bob Stortz
- 5 Julie Bayless
- 13 Al Murdach
- 16 Tasha Casini
- 20 Sandra Walton
- 21 Regina Fassano
- 23 Kate Jordahl
- 25 Garald Mosher
- 26 Julie Wellings Kuftin



## On Evangelism



*I feel inclined to put this addendum to my article at the beginning. I looked up evangelism after I finished writing – just for confirmation, you know. Most of the definitions have to do with Christianity and the bible; however, definition four in my Webster’s is a neutral “Marked by ardent or zealous enthusiasm.” That’s the one I’m talking about !*

I am new to Unitarian Universalism, although I’ve attended church (fairly) regularly for sixty years. I was never much of an evangelist. As a matter of fact, I was and still am leery of such folk. I steer clear if I feel a “you must be saved” spiel coming on. However, to some degree, I *do* now evangelize. I’m practically shouting from the rooftops! Here’s why:

At the **New Members’ Luncheon** last month, I got to know some members better and learned about their faith journeys. Some were new to established religion; some came from mainline Christian backgrounds and some from other faiths. Most said that they had searched (their hearts and the external world) for a spiritual niche where their own thoughts and feelings would be at peace. They found Unitarian Universalism after much experimentation and searching.

The Sunday service presented by the **Building Your Own Theology Class** was a revelation. The members of the class (some new, some longtime UUs) also spoke of their search. They shared their views of religion and their thinking on deep philosophical and spiritual questions. The very idea of building one’s own theology was an enlightenment for me.

The Sunday we held a **ceremony to bridge high school youth into adulthood** was another eye-opener. The youth related (clearly and eloquently) experiences from UU activities and told how Starr King Church had influenced their thinking. It seems they had primarily been taught to think for themselves — to search on their own for life’s truths.

It is empowering to know that not only is it OK to find and follow your own spiritual path, it is strongly encouraged. I can evangelize to friends (maybe even relatives) about my church, knowing that whatever their beliefs or their background, there is nothing in Unitarian Universalism that would make them feel less than whole.

It’s invigorating to know that you’re among people who sought out their church; that they are not in our midst because

of what their ancestors, their spouse or their community led them to believe. I feel *saved* from the need to follow a spiritual path set down by someone else. Being among freethinking people helps keep my own thought processes in good working order. I feel that one’s theology, like one’s body, is bound to change as it matures. It’s not a problem to think differently, worship differently, pray differently than I did a decade ago.

I am energized by people at Starr King who *listen*. They zero in on talents and put you to work. In my not-quite-three years as a member of Starr King, I have been pleased to have been part of a New Members’ class, the Worship Committee, coffee service, Ashland Shakespeare trip, summer Sunday School teaching, Wednesday *Evensong* discussion group, Book Group, the Religious Education Task Force, and most recently Secretary of the Board of Trustees.

I can participate **ardently and zealously** in all this church does. I’m delighted. I plan to continue to participate fully. I urge you (especially you young people) to do so, too. Truly, it is empowering invigorating, energizing !

### OUR CHURCH BOARD IN ACTION

July 2008

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

1. Minutes of May 18 Annual Congregational Meeting were approved as submitted. Minutes will be posted now; then again shortly before 2009 meeting.
2. Motion passed to send a letter as soon as possible reminding members of resolution to encourage payment of UUA and PCD dues over and above pledge.
3. Treasurer’s report indicates that we are behind approximately \$9,000 in pledges for the fiscal year just past. Reminders are being sent. We are about \$6,700 ahead of what was budgeted for fundraising.
4. The five-year plan developed in 2007 was reviewed. Some dates have been missed, but most items are at least underway. Board decided that goals re: Unitarian House, membership growth and religious education should remain in place.
5. Discussed special plate offerings, deciding that one each month is reasonable. This year July and August offerings will go to agencies assisting California fire victims and Midwest flood victims.
6. Board will not meet in August.

# Committee Highlights

## Children's Religious Education

*Carey Sanchez Para, Religious Education Chair*

There have been many developments in Religious Education recently. The RE Task Force met with the kids and youth to talk about their vision for future RE programming. There was a lot of valuable feedback from our awesome young congregants. The RE Task Force also had discussions with the RE teachers, as well as the parents of children in the RE programs. A compilation of all of the rich and important comments will be made available to the entire church community in the near future. Thanks to the RE Task Force of Donnie Rett, Meg Jurich, Karen Cook, Carol Bodeau, Katie Kandarian and Suzanne Quijano for all of their work. We also welcome back Carol Bodeau as the interim Director of Religious Education for the coming 2008-09 year as we embark on a search for a permanent DRE.

Our Bridging Ceremony took place on 8 June. Our bridging youth included Kevin Babbidge, Natasha Bugosh, Jay Durant, Ben Matthews, Andrew Lasack Chappell, Nathan Ray, and Jessica Schuler. All of these fine young people have been participants in our church for many years. We welcome them to come back to our community when they are able. Congratulations to these fantastic young people.

Our Summer RE Fun-shops continue! Our summer program will run from Memorial Day through Labor Day. There are spaces available to share what you know with our kids during the month of August. Please sign-up (two adults per class) on the Fun-shops poster at the front door entryway to the church. Summer RE classes meet at 10 A.M. on Sundays.

Registration information was sent to several families with middle school age children regarding the upcoming OWL (Our Whole Lives) program. Thank you to the families who have already completed the registration forms and signed up for OWL. Carol Henrie and Dick Albert will be leading our OWL group starting in September. If you have any questions or need a registration form, please let me know.

Thank you very much to our dedicated RE teachers this past year: Laura McMichael-Cady, Carol Henrie, Dick Albert, Jim Forsyth, Bill and Ruth DeSmidt and Chris Selig. We appreciate all that you do for our children and youth. You truly are the glue that holds our RE programming together!

Remember to collect some water during your summer travels for our annual Water Communion ceremony in September.



## Committee on the Interior, *Lavon Hodges*

### Reminder Regarding Posting and Providing Fliers

Please date any fliers you wish to share with our Starr King community. Also, please ask a member of the Interior Committee before posting or placing any fliers or posters, so that you can be directed to the appropriate display location. Your cooperation is appreciated!

## Social Justice, *Evelyn Cormier*

The Social Justice Committee is searching for an evening meeting date that will accommodate busy peoples' schedules. Please submit times available to Evelyn Cormier (471.0475 or [evcormier@sbcglobal.net](mailto:evcormier@sbcglobal.net)) to see if we can find a suitable date. Meetings can be held at the church or possibly in someone's home, if that works better.



## Grounds and Landscape Enhancement

*Carol Henrie & Walt Korus*

*PLEASE JOIN US* for All-Church Grounds Work Days in August on Saturday 9 August and Saturday 23 August.

We'll work on both days from 9 A.M. into the afternoon, but we will be grateful for ANY time you can contribute.

We will be tackling those lovely weeds and invasive plants, using Green Sanctuary methods to preserve habitat and to create enjoyable social space. ALL are welcome; we will be able to find meaningful work for you, whatever your physical stamina. Bring your gloves.

To confirm work dates, please ring Walt Korus (487.8362).

# Committee Highlights

## Association Affairs: GA, Ramón Urbano

Regardless of distance, lower attendance, heat and humidity in Fort Lauderdale, Florida, General Assembly was a highlight of the year. It's always energizing to be with fellow UUs from across the US, especially seeing old friends from years past. While security at the convention center was an issue for some, it was not a big problem. By the end of the convention, I saw UUs waving good bye to their security friends!

Workshops were varied and informative. I was pleased to be part of our District's presentation on our efforts as marketing gUuerillas in the Bay Area, which was well received. California was in the spotlight with the recent Supreme Court win on gay marriage, which many states are struggling with.

There was special emphasis at GA on Immigrant Justice with various workshops and events. Along with BGLT, Immigrant Families was the theme of the annual General Assembly Public Witness rally titled *Unitarian Universalists Valuing ALL Families*. What a sight to see over 650 UUs brave the heat in front of Fort Lauderdale's City Hall.

The Plenary ratified six Actions of Immediate Witness:

- End Present-day Slavery in the Fields
- Extend the Tax Credit for Wind and Solar Power
- Oppose a U.S. Attack on Iran
- Oppose the Florida and California "Marriage Protection" Initiatives
- Raise the Federal Minimum Wage to \$10 in 2010
- Single Payer Health Care

Ethical Eating was selected as the new Study Action Issue.

Worship was phenomenal. I will not forget the inspirational Sunday service, open to the public, led by the Reverend Martin Lavanhar from the huge congregation in Tulsa, Oklahoma. The hit of the convention was the Ware Lecture given by Van Jones, co-founder of the Ella Baker Center for Human Rights in Oakland. Many consider it the best Ware Lecture ever. I recommend hearing it; I have the CD.

The candidates for President of the UUA, Reverend Dr. Laurel Hallman and Reverend Peter Morales, presented their campaigns to attendees. I have a copy of the forum. It is important to start thinking about it, since the election will take place at next year's GA in Salt Lake City, Utah.

Karen and I will be sharing our impressions on General Assembly at the 24 August Sunday service, and we will be happy to answer questions you may have.

Please don't miss next year's General Assembly 24-28 June in our own back yard — Salt Lake City, Utah!



## Family Emergency Shelter, Diane Meyerson

*A Slice of Life* by Martha Alicia Trigueros, Program Director

Susan became part of FESCO in February 2008 when she came to our Banyan's transitional housing through a referral from Tri-City Homeless Coalition. A single mother with a daughter age 5 and a son 8 months old, Susan found herself struggling to care for her two children with no support from her partner. After losing her apartment, she lived with friends and relatives before finding herself at Tri-City.

Susan fit right in at Banyan and it was not long before she began to flourish. She has focused on working the program at Banyan and has vowed to become independent. Susan is a full-time student maintaining a 4.0 average. She is enrolled in phlebotomy classes at Chabot and takes online courses at Ohlone College. In one more month Susan will graduate with a phlebotomy certificate from Chabot. She will begin her search for employment soon after she graduates. In addition to caring for her children and focusing on school, she has become a mentor for one of the newest members at Banyan. Supporting the residents are all together to support other.



Susan is on CalWORKs and, although not working, she has managed to save close to \$1,200 in less than four months. She has enough money saved to begin looking for an apartment. However, Susan appreciates the support at FESCO and acknowledges that she still can save more money by staying the full 10 months and securing employment. Susan has proven to herself that she has the drive and intelligence to make it on her own. She has shown not only to FESCO but to herself that she has the ability and strength to persevere.

FESCO FACT:

At Les Marquis House

we go through 28-30 gallons of milk a week.

## ONGOING ACTIVITIES & FUN

♣ **SKIFFLE meets weekly!** Starr King Instrumentalists for Fun, Laughter and Entertainment gather in the Sanctuary for instrumental music every Wednesday evening from 7 to 9 P.M. All instruments and all levels of musicianship are welcome.

♣ **Morning Discovery** meets in the Library from 10 to 11:15 A.M. on first and third Wednesdays (6 & 20 August). All are welcome to join us to explore community and spirituality, discussion and shared silence.



♣ **Evening Discovery** meets in the Library at 7 P.M. on first and third Wednesdays (6 & 20 August) for thoughtful reflection on different topics that focus on the spiritual, the religious or the personal.

♣ The **Social Justice Committee** meets on second Sundays (10 August) after the service. All welcome.

♣ The **Book Group** will meet Thursday 14 August at 7 P.M. at the Babbidge home (510/889.9462) to discuss *Without Reservation* by Alice Steinbach. All welcome! Please ring to let the host know you will be coming. September book will be *Three Cups of Tea* by Greg Mortenson and David Oliver Relin.



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

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

♣ The **Film Group** will gather on Saturday 23 August at 7 P.M. We will be viewing *Zathura: A Space Adventure*, a 2005 family fantasy from the author of *Jumanji* and starring Tim Robbins. Let host Stuart Fink (510/537.4421) know you are coming, and please bring a movie snack to share.

♣ **Circle Suppers** are wonderful occasions for getting to know Starr King friends. Next Circle Supper will be held Saturday 20 September. Please sign up to attend (and to bring a dish to share) at the Community Table before 7 September. Questions? Contact Joyce Kinnear (885.0781 or joycekinnear@hotmail.com).

## VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

♣ **Serving Sunday morning coffee** is a great way to meet members and spread happiness! *Your help is needed* in the set-up position. This person would arrive at church about 35 minutes before the service, start the coffee and set everything up, then remain and serve coffee after the service. Please let Terry Babbidge (889.9462) know if you can fill this important slot on Sunday.

♣ Please see Bill DeSmidt 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).

♣ **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).

## WANTED



*Chalice* editor for the September issue.

Materials will come in to you the week of 10 August and the *Chalice* should be ready to mail and post by 21 August.



Please contact Carol Henrie (510/886.1018 or reachus@pacbell.net).

# 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

Church President: Meg Jurich  
510/886.3080  
margaretjurich@yahoo.com

Church Website: <http://www.starrking.org>  
Crystal Carroll, webmaster  
webmaster@starrking.org

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

### **Church Administrative Hours:**

#### *Summer Schedule*

### **Church Administrative Hours:**

Tuesday & Wednesday  
8 A.M. – 12 P.M.

### **Minister's Office Hours:**

Tuesday & Wednesday  
8 A.M. – 12 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 — Meg Jurich  
Vice President — Darryl Ray  
Secretary — Donnie Rett  
Treasurer — Frank Satterwhite  
At Large — Crystal Carroll  
Natalie Forrest  
Sarah Gonzales  
Andy Hansen  
Mary Lasack  
Marilyn Mosher

Office Manager — Nancy Novicio

Minister — Rev. Katie Kandarian

### Church Committee Chairs

Association Affairs — Ramón Urbano  
Adult Religious Education —  
Bookstore — Evelyn Cormier  
Buildings — Dick Albert  
*Chalice* Newsletter — Carol Henrie, editor  
Endowment/Memorial Fund — Bill Schwab  
Finance —  
FESCO — Diane Meyerson  
Grounds — Carol Henrie & Walt Korus  
Interior — Lavon Hodges  
Intern — Bob Meyerson  
Kitchen Manager — Sherry Thomas  
Membership — Wendy Robertson  
Committee on Ministry — Lee Berger, Doris Haskell,  
Carol Henrie, Keith Lewis, Kirk Smith  
(Convenor), Karen Yearout  
Nominating — Bob Stortz  
Outreach — Susan Blanc  
Pastoral Care — Bob Stortz, Convenor  
Pledge Secretary — Marilyn Mosher  
R.E. Chair — Carey Sanchez Para  
Social — Robin Fink  
Social Justice — Evelyn Cormier  
South Hayward Parish —  
Jim Forsyth & Barbara Storms  
Sunday Coffee — Terry Babbidge  
Volunteer Coordinator — Karen Cook  
Welcoming Congregation — Mary Lasack  
Worship — Betsy Dye

