



The Flaming Chalice

NEWSLETTER OF STARR KING UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CHURCH NOVEMBER 2007

A Month of Sundays

November Celebration Previews

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

4: Healing Places ~ Rev. Katie Kandarian

Our congregations can be places of spiritual growth, healing and wholeness, especially when we examine some of the more difficult dimensions of life. So many families are affected by addictions, both to substances and behaviors. How can this congregation become a healing place?

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.

11: Heros Among Us ~ Intern Minister ~ Carol Bodeau

As we recognize Veteran's Day, we consider all acts of courage and heroism in the service of a greater cause. In what ways are each of us called to be heroic in defense of our values?

Chalice Deadline

18: Gratitude is the Best Attitude ~ Rev. Katie Kandarian

During this month of thanksgiving, let us recognize one of the best spiritual tools of recovery from any sort of addiction that may plague us. Cultivating the practice of a living with a grateful heart takes action every day, but can bring benefits that last a lifetime or longer.

Book Store Open

25: Kids Give Thanks ~ Intern Minister ~ Carol Bodeau What is most meaningful to the children of this congregation, particularly with respect to being part of this community? The 5th through 8th graders will lead us in remembering how to appreciate the simple joys of childhood, and in considering what we have to be grateful for as a community.

Dinner Theatre FUNdraiser

at Starr King Church

Mark your calendars right now!



Election: 2084



Saturday 3 November • 6:30 P.M.

Sunday 4 November • 2:30 P.M.



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Scattering Joy

This year's board of trustees has unanimously adopted a plan to give away our Sunday worship offering once each month. We're taking the lead from other Unitarian Universalist congregations who have already taken on this practice and have found that not only does it increase generosity, somewhat amazingly, it doesn't at all hurt the church budget, but instead, improves it.



Congregations that practice this kind of giving outside the church are finding the profile of their church rises in the community, as they become known as the altruistic church. It's a way of making our values lived out in the world. And our gift can make a big difference in the budget of a small non-profit organization. This past Labor Day we gave away our offering to East Bay Alliance for a Sustainable Economy (EBASE) and the gift on that one summer holiday weekend totaled over \$700!

It feels good to be a part of justice-making in our area. Not only does it change the groups to which we give, our giving changes us. We become joyful givers, realizing our importance in the world.

In our sharing we'll be including our beloved local organizations such as FESCO and South Hayward Parish, and our stalwart Unitarian Universalist concerns such as the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee, the California UU Legislative Ministry and the west coast Unitarian Universalist seminary, Starr King School for the Ministry, which spoils us by its proximity.



Wheel of Life

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

🌻 Congratulations to Bill & Jean Gaylord who are celebrating 60 years of marriage.

🌻 Happy Birthday to Suzanne Hicks as she celebrates the milestone of 60!

We will also have opportunities for sharing to bodies outside those to whom we give annually, as we did in October for the special Association Sunday that is designed to help grow awareness of our Unitarian Universalist faith and add to its diversity and health.

We will leave room in the year for unexpected needs, such as the unfortunate times when we are faced with disasters like Katrina, or when another church, temple or mosque has had an unfortunate loss.

Our great Unitarian forebear Ralph Waldo Emerson wrote, "There is no beautifier of complexion, or form, or behavior, like the wish to scatter joy and not pain around us". And what a great way to fulfill that wish by actually living out that joy.

Let us express our gratitude for the values of this faith that encourage us to promote justice, equity and compassion in human relations. And let us be glad that we can do so.

Katie

November Birthdays

Best birthday wishes to . . .



- 2 Lesley Hitchings
- 2 Bob Meyerson
- 11 Jordan Baker-Blanc
- 17 Kevin Babbidge
- 19 Vicki Thompson
- 20 Bobby Robinson
- 21 Alyssa Baker-Blanc
- 26 Suzanne Hicks
- 30 Terry Babbidge
- 30 Susan Blanc

Have we overlooked your birthday?

To be included in these birthday greetings, send an email with your name and the month and day of your Annual Celebration to editor@starrking.org.

The Board Bulletin

Meg Jurich, President, Board of Trustees

OUR CHURCH BOARD IN ACTION

September 2007

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

1. The Board voted to establish an Audio-Visual task force, which will research the needs of the church and establish a set of priorities, which they will bring back to the Board.
2. Unitarian House – the architect is preparing an in-depth costing estimate, which the Board anticipates to review at November Board Meeting.
3. Selections were made for the Special Plate Sundays for the rest of the year: Association Sunday in October, which will support the work of the UUA; South Hayward Parish in November; and FESCO in December.
4. RE Liaison report: long term planning for RE will be guided by our intern, Carol Bodeau, former Director of Religious Education (DRE) at the San Mateo Church. A DRE job description to present to the Board, in preparation for the search for a permanent DRE. Meanwhile, the committee requests that a part time clerical assistance be hired for RE support.
5. Membership Liaison report: we welcomed new members Hope Burla, Karen and Ramon Urbano, and Dirk and Colleen Dino at the New Member luncheon. New members John and Georgia Gruver were not able to come. Thanks to Regina Fassano for conducting the moving and informative Cottage Conversation presentation.
6. Finance Liaison report: the Finance Committee Chair role needs to be established in view of the work delegated to fundraising, canvass, and budget subcommittees. The Board asked Karen Cook, Meg Jurich, and Darryl Ray to review options available to assist the Finance Committee.
7. Board approved appointment of Robin Fink as Chair of the Social Committee.
8. President's report: "safe congregations" policy was discussed. The RE liaison is to report on safety procedures currently in place with RE. A "Disruptive Member" policy was referred to our Committee on Ministry. Research on area churches' rental policies is on going.
9. Vice president's report: Committee Fair held in September was well done and well attended. The next Committee Council meeting will be on November 14th, 7:00pm at church. A training meeting for new committee chairs is in the planning stage.
10. Treasurer's report: raised concern that pledge payments have fallen behind compared to previous years.



Board Appoints Robin Fink to Social Chair Position

No doubt you have attended a few, if not many, social events at Starr King. Have you ever wondered how they are planned and carried out? How does an idea, maybe yours, get put into action?

At the end of the summer, the committee chairs gather for the first of three Committee Council Meetings. It is at this meeting, that the chairs "rough out" the church's annual activity calendar. It is critical that the committees communicate their plans with each other so as not to step on each other's toes. Following this meeting, our vice-president (who convenes the Committee Council) presents the draft calendar to the Board to insure that dates proposed by the committee chairs do not conflict with the minister's plans for Sunday Services. If all goes as intended, we start out in the Fall with everybody aware of how committee events and social events fit in with each other. And we've avoided, for example, having a fundraiser on a date when many folks will be away for a holiday.

Ideally, the Social Committee, led by its Chair looks at the Church calendar <http://calendar.yahoo.com/starrkingoffice> before the Committee Council meeting, and is ready to propose dates for such annual events as the "Back to Church" BBQ, the mystery dinner, the Seder Dinner, holiday parties and circle suppers. The Social Committee acts as a steering committee to insure the smooth organization of Starr King's community life.

Participating on the Social Committee is a fun way to get more involved with church. Robin is super experienced at putting on great group events. With the holidays just around the corner, I know she'd love to have you on-board.



A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Meg". The ink is dark and the signature is fluid and personal.



Refrigerator Page

Children's Religious Education

Carey Sanchez Para, *Religious Education Chair*

Day of the Dead Celebration

The Day of the Dead intergenerational service, also known as Dia de los Muertos, was lead by our fantastic Starr King Youth (SKY) group. SK volunteers beautifully decorated the ofrenda (altar) with assistance from Carol Bodeau, Chris Selig and Karen Yearout. All of our young men and women did a fantastic job with the readings, stories, history, and benediction. This year, we honored and remembered friends, family, pets and members of the SKUU congregation who have passed on. Thank you to everyone involved with this very memorable celebration.

The Thanksgiving intergenerational service will also be youth lead, this time by our middle school youth group. We look forward to another fabulous celebration from the children in our congregation. As Jimmy Buffett sings in "An Attitude of Gratitude":

An Attitude of Gratitude; When stuff has got you down; Can get sastisfiatude and; Turn yourself around.

An Attitude of Gratitude; Hooray for what's OK; Say thank you with infactatude; It's a brand new day.

As we begin this holiday season, we extend our gratitude to everyone who has helped with the children's religious education activities. A special thanks to our Fall R.E. teachers: Laura McMichael-Cady, Rythe DeSmidt, Jim Forsyth, Carol Henrie, Dick Albert and Chris Selig.

We will again participate in the annual "Guest at Your Table" program sponsored through the UU Service Committee. Kickoff happens on the Sunday before Thanksgiving and runs through early January. Funds raised through this program will ensure the human right to safe, clean and affordable water for people around the world. Thanking you in advance for your generous participation in this program.

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

Adult Religious Education

Carol Bodeau, *Intern Minister*

Neo-Paganism for UUs

As Unitarian Universalists, we affirm in our six sources of inspiration the importance of earth-centered spiritual traditions. Two workshops will be held to explore how paganism intersects with UUism in particular.

*Sunday, November 11, 1-3pm: **What is a Pagan?** Will explore the many different types of neo-paganism practiced in the United States today.*

*Sunday, November 25, 1-3pm: **Pagans in Practice.** Theologies and cosmologies will explore in more depth some of the beliefs and ritual practices of neo-pagans.*

For more information, contact Carol Bodeau at intern@skuu.org or by calling the church office.

*Sunday, December 2, 1-3pm: **Unplug the Christmas Machine Workshop.** Join our minister, Rev. Katie Kandarian, and our intern minister, Carol Bodeau, in this playful exploration of ways to simplify our holiday celebrations.*

Brown Bag Documentaries!

Bring your own lunch and join us in the library after the 2nd service to watch a great documentary!

Sunday, November 18, 2007, 12:45 pm: "The Ground Truth" the excellent, "ferociously honest" stories of Iraq War veterans.

Sunday, January 20, 2008, 12:45 pm: "Curitiba Urban Solutions from a Developing City" about a rapidly growing Brazilian city that "transformed its conditions from another slum east of Sao Paulo to a beacon of livability...almost beyond belief."

ANNOUNCEMENTS

¶ 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.

¶ **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.

¶ **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. Can you provide this valuable service on a regular or occasional basis? Please contact Karen Kramer (783.2221).

¶ 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.

¶ 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).

¶ **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.

¶ 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 .

¶ 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.

¶ 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.

¶ **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.

¶ 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.

¶ Donate interesting books in excellent condition to our **Church Bookstore** for resale. Shop in our bookstore on third Sundays. See Evelyn Cormier.

¶ **To schedule an event**, visit the online calendar at our church website (http://www.starrking.org/skuu_committee_meetings.htm) to check availability, then call the office and we will add your event. You can view the website calendar for all church events.

¶ 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.

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

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



♣ Join our **Grounds & Landscape Enhancement** activities at Church. Lately we have been keeping our weekends free and are working on Fridays from 9:30 A.M. into the afternoon, as well as one other weekday TBA. We're flexible and can find a way to include you. 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) or Walt Korus (487.8362).

♣ 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).

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

EVENTS

Save the Date!

♣ **Election 2004: Dinner Theatre at Starr King Church**

Vote for Fun and Fantastic Fare!

Saturday 3 November • 6:30 P.M.

Sunday 4 November • 2:30 P.M.

Our annual homegrown play is always engaging with some humor, some thought-provoking ideas and some audience participation. For your dining pleasure, we will offer a fabulous feast comprised of favorite foods of U.S. presidents. A Starr King *FUN*draiser. Two performances: Saturday 3 November at 6:30 P.M. and Sunday 4 November at 2:30 P.M. Tickets are \$25; please purchase in advance. Contact Renee Ray (538.4376 or choidle@aol.com).

♣ **2007 Holiday Bazaar 9 & 16 December**

DONATIONS! DONATIONS! DONATIONS!

We need your wonderful home grown or handmade donations for the Holiday Bazaar! This year we want to offer a bazaar that features the talents of our membership. What do you create, cook or grow that would make a unique gift? Please plan to donate your talents! Any questions or info contact: Ruth DeSmidt (510/582.7297).



♣ **Annual Trek to the Oregon Shakespeare Festival in Ashland, Oregon 15 & 16 March 2008**

A great weekend getaway — fun, educational, relaxing.

The Starr King Plan includes:

- Two nights lodging (with breakfast) at the Plaza Inn two blocks from the theater.
- Tickets to three plays
- A pre-trip overview of the plays
- A talk by one of the actors (for our group only) on Sunday morning.

Plays to be seen are:

A Midsummer Night's Dream, Shakespearean comedy

The Clay Cart, a world classic from India

Fences by August Wilson

Cost for this weekend is \$205 per person, double occupancy (\$95 deposit). Make checks payable to *Starr King UU Church*; deliver at church or mail to Doug Sprague or Donnie Rett.

Benefit for SKUUC

Music by Kristoph and Margaret

Enjoy an evening of Celtic, Baroque, Renaissance and Medieval music. Snacks will be provided. Beverage tickets will be available for purchase.

Saturday, November 17, 2007 at 7:30 pm

at Starr King UU Church

Intern Reflections

Carol Bodeau



I've been so enjoying my time in our Starr King community—sharing worship, learning about the organization,

and getting to know you all. In addition to my time here on site at SKUU, I've also spent some time working with the leaders of South Hayward Parish, the interfaith social justice organization of which we are a part.

South Hayward Parish runs a Day Labor Center and numerous food programs; hosts the first-Friday Vigils of Caring; and advocates for social justice causes within the community. During the first board meeting I attended, we heard from Gabriel Hernandez, the director of the Day Labor Center. Gabriel spoke about his success with organizing the workers, and their decision—initiated by the workers—to require volunteer time in the community as part of their agreed cooperation. He also described the success of the new—and expanding English classes, and the spontaneous meals that volunteers have begun preparing. These programs are successful because individuals give their love, their commitment, and their enthusiasm to make it work—and they are truly making a difference in the lives of people in the community.

I am deeply inspired by the ways that South Hayward Parish is acting in the community, and by the way members of this congregation are a part of that work.

Our special collection during the month of November will benefit South Hayward Parish, and I invite you to be generous. In all these ways, we have the opportunity to support the work of this amazing organization.

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 (7 & 21 November). 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 (7 & 21 November).

🔥 **SKIT** improv group meets in the Sanctuary on second and fourth Thursdays (8 & 22 November) at 7:30 P.M.



🔥 **The Book Group** will meet at 7 PM, Thursday, 8 November at the home of Joyce Kinnear to discuss the book *You Can't be Neutral on a Moving Train* by Howard Zim. The December book will be *Water for Elephants* by Sara Gruen. All are welcome.

🔥 **The Film Group** will meet on 10 November at 7:00 P.M. to watch "Theater of Blood" starring Vincent Price. It was a well reviewed 1973 mystery, horror comedy about a Shakespearean actor seeking revenge. Let host Stuart Fink (510/537.4421) know you are coming; bring a movie snack to share. All welcome!

🔥 **The Social Justice Committee** meets on second Sundays (11 November) after second service. Discussion will focus issues we plan to address in the coming year. All welcome!

... Our Church There

🔥 Join the **No Room for Racism** vigils that are held in Hayward every third Friday (16 November) from 4 to 5 P.M. at the intersection of Jackson-Mission-Foothill. Sponsored by South Hayward Parish.

🔥 **Vigils of Caring.** South Hayward Parish holds vigils of caring the first Friday of each month to remember those who have died as a result of violence. All are welcome to attend.

🔥 **The Pagan Interest Group** will celebrate the workshops offered on: *Sunday, November 11, 1-3pm: What is a Pagan?* and *Sunday, November 25, 1-3pm: Pagans in Practice.*

For more information, contact Carol Bodeau at intern@skuu.org.

🔥 **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>.

🔥 **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.

Committee Highlights

Association Affairs

Ramon Urbano

UUSC? This organization is a victim of UU acronyms! We hear about it and sometimes forget how many U's it has let alone what it does other than promote the "Guest At Your Table" program. It stands for the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee.

It's concept started in 1933 when Hitler took power and started persecuting the Jews in Germany. In response, the American Unitarian Association (AUA) passed resolutions deploring this violation of human rights. With the annexation by Germany of the Sudetenland in 1938 and the denomination's close ties to Czech Unitarians and the National Czechoslovak Church, the AUA decided to form the Department of Social Relations with a service mission to Czechoslovakia.

In February of that year the Reverend Waitstill Sharp, a Unitarian minister, and his wife Martha, went to Prague and shortly saw the Nazis march into the country. They started a rescue and relief operation at that time.

The Unitarian Service Committee (USC) was established in May 1940. In collaboration with other agencies, they rescued an incalculable number of people.

Today the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee (UUSC) focuses on four programs based on human rights and social justice in collaboration with local organizations in the United States and abroad. They are:

- ◆ *Advancing Economic Justice* - works to defend workers' rights and a living wage
- ◆ *Defending Civil Liberties and Access to Democratic Processes* - partners with civil liberties organizations and groups working to defend freedom and individual rights
- ◆ *Promoting Environmental Justice* - focuses on promoting and defending the right to water

- ◆ *Protecting Rights in Humanitarian Crisis* - responds to disasters, especially when they affect marginalized and oppressed peoples

In our everyday world, the UUSC works to protect citizens from abuse from our government in our post September 11 world in the name of "national security" and the Global War on Terror. Does due process of law, freedom from torture and wire-tapping ring a bell? The UUSC also provided physical work in post Katrina New Orleans and participated in public witness in support of Darfur victims.

Some of the other programs include:

- ◆ "JustWorks" camps where people join other UU's on learning projects to examine the causes and damaging effects of injustice, and
- ◆ "JustJourneys" a program of educational travel focusing on human rights and social justice issues.

As you see, UUSC, is more than just another acronym in our family of letters!



Green Notes

Stop the Junk Mail Monster. According to the Worldwatch Institute . . . the U.S. spent \$56 billion in 2005 on the production and distribution of 41.5 billion pieces of mail advertisements. The non-profit organization, eco-cycle.org, states that each year the junk mail industry destroys about **100 million trees** to cart its promos, pleas and promises to and from incinerators, garbage dumps and recycling centers.

Learn how to stop receiving junk mail. Go to www.ecocycle.org and take a look at the steps they recommend.

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. 21: **Revelation**

UU's tend to pride themselves on their practical good sense, down-to-earth religion, and anything that smacks of revelation is automatically suspect to them. In this respect, they are in good company with the secularizing tendencies of the modern age. The might indeed also heartily agree with the eighteenth century philosopher David Hume, a famous foe of revelation, who said the "the greatest crimes have been found, in many instances, compatible with a superstitious piety and devotion...even though (individuals) believe them(selves) sincere."

All the great and traditional religions of the world rest upon beliefs they hold to be revealed by some higher power (God, Allah, Brahman, etc.). In fact, the root Latin word for revelation is *revelare*, or "to unveil", which implies that revelation reveals a reality beyond the surface of experience known to ordinary mortals. Over the years this view of revelation has been broadened to include revelation from natural as well as supernatural sources, hence the modern distinction between natural and supernatural revelation.

It is somewhat surprising to find that belief in both forms of revelation still remain amazingly strong today, even in our secular age. One could surmise that ideas about supernatural revelation might still have a hold on people's minds because such ideas are staunchly backed by religion in order to justify its existence. But beliefs in natural revelation also persist, although no longer touted by official religion

The famous (or now possibly infamous) Argument from Design, for example, which supposed that one could infer a Creator by examining the forms of creation, although demolished famously by Hume two hundred years ago, has now resurfaced strongly in the writings of highly popular, so-called creationist scientists. That this once discredited belief should be revived so energetically today, and not just by fundamentalists, serves as an example of the persistence of belief in revelation even outside of the provenance of official religion.

And if our famous opponent of revelation, David Hume, should return today and visit a UU church, he would be surprised to see evidences of "revelation thinking" alive and well even in the midst of UU rationalism and common sense. If he were to pick up there a book by one of the founders of American UUism, William E. Channing, he

would find inside a chapter entitled "The Evidences of Revealed Religion" in which Channing, the supposed doubter and rationalist, defends the legitimacy of biblical miracles. Since Hume many years earlier had written a famous essay exposing multiple fallacies in the reasoning establishing miracles, he would be surprised to see these same ideas still espoused by a founder of enlightened religion such as Channing.

If Hume were to then take a seat in the church and observe a current UU service, he would be further amazed to observe that such things as prayers, incantations, blessings, and fervent appeals made to variously named higher powers are still very much a part of UU worship. If, during coffee hour following the service, he were to ask a church member exactly to "what" or to "whom" he or she were addressing their prayers and appeals he might receive such answers as "I was praying to love" or "to the great spirit" or "to the divine". If he pressed our church member to give him credible evidence about the actual existence of such a being or force, he would probably be answered by our church member that their certainty about the existence of the object of their prayers derived from personal experience.

Hume would then answer that personal experience, though historically the most frequently used justification for belief in revealed truths, does not in itself contain protection against illusion or error, and therefore cannot solely be a valid ground for belief in anything, revealed or not. At this point our church member would probably ask to be excused so they could attend to business elsewhere, like getting additional coffee or using the restroom. Emerging into the church parking lot sometime later, Hume doubtless would shake his head and observe to himself that the idea of revelation, which he once thought disproved and dead, was indeed still alive and well even in the most surprising places.



Committee Highlights

Friends of FESCO (Family Emergency Shelter Coalition)

A Slice of Life by Martha Trigueros, FESCO Program Director

“If you have no confidence in self, you are twice defeated in the race of life. With confidence, you have won even before you have started.”

—**Marcus Garvey**

This is a report comes from speaking to Pallavi Trikutam the high school tutor and reader for Banyan Shelter. This story is about one of our children from Banyan, she is a six-year old girl named L.

When Pallavi first brought the children’s books to FESCO, she and her friend were faced with bitter opposition from the children. No child in his or her right mind would want to spend their free time outside of school doing more reading.

But through a combination of bribery and threats they managed to get the children into the seats and reading. L at first had a lot of difficulty reading the books. She would grow frustrated with one book and want to switch to a simpler one, and would choose which books to read based off of which had the least number of words. When reading, she had the distressing tendency to make up the endings of words. She would read the first three or four letters, and then make up the rest of the ending. (Person became Perfect etc.)

However, after several months of working on her reading skills, she would no longer turn red-faced and try to give up when faced with the more difficult words. Instead, she was able to sound most of them out. Also, the sight of Pallavi’s bag of books no longer sent her running in the opposite direction. In fact, she grew to love many of the books.

Near the end of her stay at Banyan House, she came bouncing into the play room one day and announced that not only had she gotten the highest grade on her reading test, but she had also gotten extra credit. She was glowing, and Pallavi and her friend were too.

Pallavi thought of all the time she spent at the shelter that was their one big success. As for other stories, she can only think of the little things (that mean so much).

She will always remember the proud face of a five-year old girl as she completed her first alphabet puzzle, all by herself. Her face, when she is praised for coloring a picture, however imperfect.

She will always remember the glow of pride that follows the completion of any craft.

The grin she received when she attempted making graham cracker gingerbread houses with the children. The whole craft ended up being a sticky mess of frosting everywhere (especially when one kid decided that his fingers were better for spreading frosting than the knife), and the ‘gingerbread’ houses collapsed into a pitiful overburdened teepees, buried under mountains of M&Ms and Dots.

Pallavi said;
“We aren’t there long enough to change the course of their lives, but we do hope that we can help alter it for the better. The little things have helped the children at the shelter build up their confidence and remind them that they have the talent and ability to go far in life”.



DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME REMINDER
SUNDAY November 4, 2007
SET YOUR CLOCK BACK 1 HOUR

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

How to Reach Us

Starr King Unitarian Universalist Church

22577 Bayview Avenue
Hayward CA 94541

Church Office: 510/581.2060
office@starrking.org

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:

Tuesday, Wednesday & Thursday
9 A.M. – 1 P.M.

Minister's Office Hours:

Tuesday, Wednesday & Thursday
9 A.M. – 1 P.M.

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

How to Reach Your Chalice Editor

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

Post to: Carol Henrie
24929 Minnie Court
Hayward CA 94541

Email to: editor@starrking.org

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

Church Leadership

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Committee on Ministry — Lee Berger (Convenor),
Doris Haskell, Carol Henrie, Keith Lewis,
Kirk Smith, Karen Yearout

Nominating — Bob Stortz

Outreach — Susan Blanc

Pastoral Care — Bob Stortz, Convenor

Pledge Secretary — Marilyn Mosher

R.E. Chair — Carey Sanchez Para

Social Justice — Evelyn Cormier

South Hayward Parish —

Jim Forsyth & Barbara Storms

Sunday Coffee — Terry Babbidge

Sunday Service Setup — Mary Richards

Volunteer Coordinator — Karen Cook

Welcoming Congregation — Mary Lasack

Worship — Betsy Dye

