



# The Flaming Chalice

NEWSLETTER OF STARR KING UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CHURCH NOVEMBER 2008

## *A Month of Sundays*

### *November Celebration Previews*

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

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- 2: DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME ENDS: SET YOUR CLOCK BACK!**  
*Breaths: Dia de los Muertos* (Rev. Katie Kandarian, Carol Bodeau and Youth) Please bring pictures or mementos of loved ones who have gone before us as we remember them at today's service. This traditional Mexican holiday has become part of our liturgical year, letting us remember, with joy, the special affections and the love of these folks.

*Immediately following each service today, the minister will hold a brief informational session. If you have questions about Unitarian Universalism or are interested in membership, please join her in the Library.*

- 9: A New Administration** (Rev. Katie Kandarian) The election is behind us. How will these new leaders and propositions change our future? Where is our hope and promise? Where is the good, and what do we still have to work on? *Chalice Deadline.*
- 16: Our Last Lecture** (Rev. Katie Kandarian) UU Randy Pausch wrote the very successful best-seller *The Last Lecture*. What might we learn from his positive message of overcoming obstacles, seizing the moment? What is our last lecture? *Bookstore Open.*
- 23: Gratitude and Grace** (Rev. Katie Kandarian) As it says in the hymn, "we are justice seeking people." So where is the place in our lives for grace? Does the idea of grace always put forward bad theology for justice-seeking Unitarian Universalists or might there be a healthy way to accept gifts freely given?
- 30: Thanksgiving Leftovers** (Worship Committee) Sometimes the best meals are the leftovers. Join members of the Worship Committee as they consider things like why it is we come to church, mid-week spirituality, and those yummy yams.



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# Katie's Bay View **Rev. Katie Kandarian**

My absentee ballot sits waiting for my attention on the kitchen counter. I think I'm ready to fill it out tonight, even though as I write this it's only half way through the month of October.



I have felt ready to vote for all of the candidates on my list—that seems like a no-brainer, in fact, for the presidential race, I'm actually excited to cast my vote. Ballot initiatives can take more work to understand, since many are written with intentionally misleading language. Hopefully, all of our folks are aware that we've been working hard on NO on Prop 8, that it would eliminate fundamental rights. Our Unitarian Universalist Legislative Ministry, and members of our own congregation, led by Regina Fassano, are working to make phone calls to undecided voters. You might speak to people you know through work or family members to make sure they vote no, regardless of how they feel personally about the issue—it would eliminate the rights of others.



I am a member of the Clergy Advisory Board of Planned Parenthood of the Golden Gate, and they are working hard to defeat Prop 4. We have already defeated this initiative in years past in Prop 73 and Prop 85. Planned Parenthood is

committed to helping all Californians access safe healthcare. Proponents of this measure care only about one thing, chipping away at choice.

Proposition 2 provides humane treatment for animals—it is direct relationship to our own seventh principle.

To help me decide on the rest of the initiatives, I also use a copy of the Unitarian Universalist Legislative Ministry Voter Guide, which contained voter guides of all the reliable resources such as the League of Women Voters, Church Impact, the ACLU and the UULM. It gives recommendations on all the ballot proposals. You can download this easy-to-read form at [http://www.uulmca.org/documents/legislation/prop\\_2008\\_3.pdf.pdf](http://www.uulmca.org/documents/legislation/prop_2008_3.pdf.pdf).

Even though I plan to fill out my absentee ballot tonight, I'm not going to delude myself in thinking that the election is over. It is up to all of us to work on these issues where we feel we best have some influence, whether that is through phone banking, letter writing, or talking to those you come into contact with on a daily basis. I have to admit I hate bumper stickers, but I just might plaster a couple on the back of my car for these last couple weeks if it can remind some people to vote, and remind them that good people are voting NO on some of these harmful measures.

Blessings to you all who have put in volunteer hours in any of these efforts. Here's hoping we have much to celebrate come November 3rd.

Yours In faith,

## Wheel of Life

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

- ☪ Condolences to Ruth DeSmidt on the passing of her mother Joanne.
- ☪ Bon voyage to Ramón and Karen Urbano on their move to Woodland.
- ☪ Our prayers are with Caroline Mazur as she lives with cancer.
- ☪ Congrats to our members who are in *Fiddler on the Roof*: Andrea Kuftin, Mary Lasack and Stuart Fink.
- ☪ Healing thoughts to Robin Fink, who has hurt her leg
- ☪ Marion Babbidge broke her leg—healing prayers! To her nurse Terry too!
- ☪ Carol Henrie's niche *Vortex* is included in the Columbarium installation at the Oakland Museum's Day of the Dead exhibition, *Evolution of a Sacred Space*.

## 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

## Progress Report On Our Building Plan



It has been an amazing journey during the past ten months toward getting the required permits to move ahead with construction of our church addition. Shortly after the congregation met in January to hear a presentation by our architect, Dave Byrens and his associate, Dong Kim, we learned (as an after thought by the

County) that there was a construction moratorium on new building along creeks. Since we are right on the San Lorenzo Creek, we were thus delayed in pursuing a conditional use permit until after May 4, 2008 when the moratorium was set to expire.

Meanwhile Garald Mosher was negotiating with the assistant fire marshal regarding the required "water flow" to the church. Fortunately, Garald was aware of a second fire hydrant nearby, which combined with the one closest to us, produced ample water to handle a fire. We breathed a sigh of relief, as the other option was installation of overhead sprinklers at a cost of more than \$30,000.

At the end of May we were finally granted the conditional use permit, but were required to get a watercourse permit in order to rule out the possibility that our proposed addition lay within the riparian zone (wetlands) of our creek. We held our breaths, as such a finding could have been a deal breaker. A plant ecologist hired to evaluate the site and our building plan concluded that our plan lay outside the riparian zone.

The next step was to secure a report from a geotechnical/soils engineer to determine the types of building foundations our addition would need to meet county code requirements.

There was a delay as we went through the process of securing three bids in order to get the most reasonable price. Once selected, the soils engineer visited our property, and took a number of core soil samples within the area where we intend to build. His assessment is that we have some choice in the foundations to be used

Currently, we are working with a structural engineer (again selected after three bids) who will make a final recommen-

dation as to the most appropriate foundations. Following completion of his report, our architect will do the final design of our building plan. Garald Mosher, technical advisor to the Board's subcommittee for the new addition, has tirelessly monitored each of these steps.

We had hoped to break ground this year during the usual construction season of mid May to mid October. However, this has not been possible due to the delay caused by the building moratorium which held us up until late May before we could get our conditional use permit, and the subsequent requirement that we get a watercourse permit. We still have additional steps before we can apply for a building permit, and seek bids for construction. Doubtless, we all have questions as to how the current state of the economy will affect our building plans. As we head into the end of the year, this concern will be carefully considered by the Building subcommittee and the board.



### OUR CHURCH BOARD IN ACTION

#### October 2008

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

1. Voted unanimously to remove five trees from our property. Includes two redwoods whose roots will be endangered by the construction of our addition, a live oak, a scrub oak and a pepper tree that are encroaching on neighboring property. Trees will be replaced with more environmentally appropriate species.
2. Keith Lewis and Carol Henrie presented the newly written Minister's Letter of Agreement. Letter was discussed item-by-item. Board members will bring questions and suggestions to next meeting. Input will also be solicited from the personnel committee.
3. Marilyn Mosher reported the following recent months' special offerings:

UU Service Committee	\$382
Knoxville Relief Fund	\$690
Ministry for Earth	\$806
Ebase	\$340
UU Legislative Ministry	\$485

# Children's Religious Education

Carol Bodeau, Interim Director of Religious Education



Dear friends,

As I write this newsletter article, I am sitting in my parent's home in Michigan. The fall colors are glorious—yellows, reds, purples, and an array of shades of green and brown. As a child, the changing of the seasons was, for me, heralded by dramatic and powerful reminders that nature was much larger than we humans.

In California, I know that the shifting seasons are much more subtle. All the more reason, then, for us to actually slow down to appreciate the way the year is moving from summer to fall.

Our learning theme this year invites us all, children and adults alike, to consider the ways we are interconnected with, and responsible to, our natural world. But this isn't just a matter of reading the right books, buying the right products, or recycling. It's also a matter of noticing. It is about following the lead of the season to slow down and experience the world of nature, rather than being driven by the human-made world of things-to-do and places-to-go.

I invite you this month to simply stop and stare at the sky for a while, to smell the cooling air, and to notice how the sounds of the earth have changed for the season. And I hope in so doing, you will find yourself sustained and enlightened.

In Peace,

## FESCO Families Need

- Gift cards for shoes, *e.g.*, Payless
- Playpens (2)
- Gift cards for underclothes, *e.g.*, Target, Mervyn's
- Beanbag chairs
- Computer for kids to use at shelter
- Kids' books on science, storybooks
- Books for adults, especially self-help and self-esteem
- Copy paper

## Sacred Circle Dance

to be held on Saturday 1 November

7:30 P.M. to 9:30 P.M.

Our Congregation has been through many changes over the past months. This gathering and the dances will be dedicated to all of us and what we have personally experienced.

An offering of \$5 to \$10 is thankfully appreciated.

All are welcome. Those who do not wish to dance but want to witness are encouraged to come. Sometimes witnessing can be as powerful as moving.

The dance will be led by Maureen Atkins. Please call her if there are any questions (510/317.9219).



## HOLIDAY BAZAAR COMING

30 November & 7 December

This year's Holiday Bazaar is designed to make your holiday shopping a truly enjoyable experience.

Why fight the mobs at the malls? At Starr King's Bazaar you can purchase much superior, one-of-a-kind, hand-made gifts in a relaxed, friendly atmosphere?

So, save the dates and join us for a fun and rewarding holiday gift buying event.

### HOLIDAY BAZAAR HELP NEEDED

The Starr King holiday bazaar still needs volunteers!

We still need donations of **hand-made** items. If you knit, sew, quilt, embroider, bake, can, make preserves or have any other special talent, we would love to have your items for sale at the bazaar.

We can also use help with the bazaar itself. Please send a note to Georgia Gruver (gpgruver@comcast.net) or sign up using one or both of the forms on the Community Table. The forms can be put in the box labeled *HOLIDAY BAZAAR*. Forms are due by Sunday 12 November.

Thank you for any help you can give.

# 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.32: **Love**

No single word more securely binds UUism with its parental source, Christianity, than does the word “love”. UUism, as does Christianity, speaks religiously about it constantly. In fact Christianity has sometimes been called the “religion of love” and even defines its God as “love”. Given this, it is somewhat puzzling that so little effort has been taken in either Christianity or UUism to explicate this term.

Perhaps a principal authority on this subject is the Jesuit author, Martin C. D’Arcy, whose landmark work, though apparently little read today, is *The Mind and Heart of Love*, first published in 1947. D’Arcy examines the many types of love, such as courtly love, sacrificial love, passionate love, self-centered love, unselfish love, and the love found in friendship. The ancients, says D’Arcy, ranked types of love according to the degree of self-interest present in each type, with the least self-interested types coming out on top. Christianity added to this list the category of divine love, in which it is said not humans, but God first loved the world and thereby made humans and the world loveable by sharing God’s love with all. This quality of love religious writers from St. Paul to Karen Armstrong (to name one recent proponent) have come to call “agape”. In the Christian tradition this type of love is now deemed the “purest” type of all, and realizable through God’s grace and assistance. However, the rabbis and Jesus tried to humanize this type of love somewhat by saying that real love should also emphasize both “love of neighbor” and “love of self”.

What type of love do UU writers refer to when they address the topic? Aside from the usual obligatory references to service and justice, such writers remain unclear on the topic and generally confine their discussion to variations on the theme on how wonderful a generic type of human “love” is with no further exploration of the topic. Early writers, such as Channing and Emerson, spoke of love in semi-Christian though universal terms as an implacable “force” that seeks to embrace all humanity and the world but were unclear about the nature and source of such a phenomenon. Is it genuine love or is it only fate or destiny? Is its source God, nature, Jesus, a Hegelian “spirit”, humanity, an all embracing “moral universe”? Such questions are never vigorously addressed or answered in UU thought, either in the past or today.

But are such questions even important? Is it essential that the nature of love be thoroughly understood in order to be experienced and appreciated? Many would deny that it is. Indeed, the medieval spiritual writer Thomas a Kempis once famously stated that he “would rather feel compunction (i.e., love and humility) than know how to define it.” Nevertheless, it may behoove UU thinkers to try in some way to come to grips with the questions raised here. For only when an idea

or concept can be understood can it be effectively taught and practiced—and surely this is an important goal for UUism to aspire to, especially in our world today, so marked as it is by hate, violence, and lack of love.

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## *Committee Highlights*

### **Association Affairs: Diversity**

*Ramón Urbano*

Under the leadership of the Rev. Bill Sinkford, the first African American UUA President, there has been a special focus on diversity and antiracism in our denomination. Its given us an opportunity to meet and wrestle with this issue, granted with varying levels of success.

There have been various programs and workshops in past years to present from the Journey to Wholeness, Jubilee’s I and II to the latest “Building the World We Dream About”. These have helped us on our journey, but I feel there are some critical questions we need to answer in order to move forward: Why do we want to do this work? Are our mostly white, suburban, highly educated congregations really motivated to meet this challenge?

Is the real underlying problem one of “classism”? What would success look like?

I sense that there is a renewed interest in facing this issue, starting with process at the UUA Board meetings, a antiracism committee being formed at the Pacific Central District Board, focus on this at the Starr King School for the Ministry and our initial steps here at SKUUC, under “SKARF” (Starr King Against Racism Forever). This is where you can become involved and join us on the SKARF committee. There are interesting and meaningful plans on the agenda.

All these are important moves and reflective of our present time, with the pending national presidential election (at this writing) where race could be a definitive factor, minorities growing in number in the USA, our special racial mix in California and our upcoming election of UUA President, with a woman and hispanic candidate. While this is exciting there are racial changes to face.

I am confident that as people of faith and with our hearts in the right place we will eventually succeed in fighting racism and expanding diversity in our congregation.

Gracias.

## 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 levels of musicianship welcome.

♣ **Morning Discovery** meets in the Library from 10 to 11:15 A.M. on first and third Wednesdays (5 & 19 November). 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 (5 & 19 November) for thoughtful reflection on different topics that focus on the spiritual, the religious or the personal.

♣ The **Social Justice Committee** meets on second Sundays (9 November) after the service. All welcome.

♣ The **Book Group** will meet Thursday 13 November at 7 P.M. at the Schwab home to discuss *Lies My Teacher Told Me* by James Loewen. All welcome! Please ring to let the host know you will be coming.

♣ **SKIT** improv group meets in the Sanctuary on second and fourth Thursdays at 7:30 P.M. Due to Thanksgiving, there will be only one meeting on 13 November.

♣ Join the **No Room for Racism** vigils that are held in Hayward every third Friday (21 November) 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 22 November at 7 P.M. We will be viewing *Time After Time*, a sci-fi thriller as H. G. Wells pursues Jack the Ripper to modern day San Francisco. Adventurous and fun. Let host Stuart Fink (510/537.4421) know you are coming, and please bring a movie snack to share.

## 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!



## 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).

## An Evening of Celtic Music

with Margaret & Kristoph

Renaissance, Baroque, Medieval and original music

Saturday 8 November 7 P.M. • \$10 (tickets sold in advance or at the door)



Opening band will be *Gravity*, Bill and Ruth DeSmidt



Show begins promptly at 7:30 P.M. with one 10-minute intermission



Snacks will be provided and beverages will be sold.

# 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**

### 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

Interim Director of Religious Education — Carol Bodeau

### Church Committee Chairs

Association Affairs —  
Adult Religious Education —  
Bookstore — Evelyn Cormier  
Buildings — Dick Albert  
*Chalice* Newsletter — Carol Henrie, editor  
Endowment/Memorial Fund — Bill Schwab  
Finance —  
FESCO — Nancy Harrison  
Grounds — Carol Henrie & Walt Korus  
Interior — Lavon Hodges  
Kitchen Manager — Sherry Thomas  
Membership — Diane Meyerson  
Committee on Ministry — Doris Haskell, Keith Lewis,  
Kirk Smith (Convenor), Karen Yearout  
Nominating — Bob Stortz  
Outreach — Susan Blanc  
Pastoral Care — Karen Cook, Convenor

Pledge Secretary — Marilyn Mosher  
R.E. Chair —  
Social — Robin Fink  
Social Justice — Evelyn Cormier  
South Hayward Parish —  
Jim Forsyth & Barbara Storms  
Sunday Coffee — Terry Babbidge  
Volunteer Coordinator — Karen Cook  
Worship — Betsy Dye

