

Inauguration of

Rev Rosemary Bray McNatt

7th President of
Starr King School for the Ministry



First Unitarian Church of Oakland
March 21, 2015

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

OPENING RECEPTION

**FRIDAY, MARCH 20, 6:30 – 8:30PM
FIRST UNITARIAN CHURCH OF OAKLAND
OAKLAND, CA**

INAUGURATION AND INSTALLATION CEREMONY

**SATURDAY, MARCH 21, 11AM – 12:30PM
FIRST UNITARIAN CHURCH OF OAKLAND
OAKLAND, CA**

BANQUET CELEBRATION

**SATURDAY, MARCH 21, 4 – 7PM
THE CLAREMONT HOTEL CLUB & SPA
BERKELEY, CA**

Inauguration of

THE REV. ROSEMARY BRAY MCNATT

7th President of

Starr King School for the Ministry

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The Rev. Rosemary Bray McNatt became President of Starr King School for the Ministry in Berkeley, CA, on July 1, 2014. For 13 years, she was senior minister of The Fourth Universalist Society in the City of New York, a 176-year old Unitarian Universalist congregation on the Upper West Side of Manhattan. Born and raised in Chicago, Illinois, she is a graduate of Yale University and Drew Theological Seminary.

An editor and widely anthologized writer for more than 20 years before answering the call to ordained ministry, Rev. Bray McNatt is a former editor at the New York Times Book Review; the author of three books, including her memoir, *Unafraid of the Dark*; a former contributing columnist for Beliefnet.com, a former commentator on MSNBC; a contributing editor to UU World, the

magazine of the Unitarian Universalist Association, and a cultural critic whose work appears regularly in *The Huffington Post*, *The New York Times Book Review*, *Essence*, and other print and online publications. Her current projects include serving as a co-editor for a planned anthology of Unitarian Universalist historical writings, as well as continuing research into the multiracial liberal religious coalitions of early 20th century Chicago.

Her years of service to the UUA have included work as a member of the Committee on Urban Concerns and Ministry; the Task Force for Strategic Options for Beacon Press; chair of the Board of Trustees of Starr King School for the Ministry, the UUA Panel on Theological Education, and the UUA Board of Trustees. She has taught Unitarian Universalist history and polity since 2005 at Union Theological Seminary in New York City and Yale Divinity School in New Haven, CT. She also served as a faculty member of the 2008 International Council of Unitarian Universalists Leadership Training Conference in Nairobi, Kenya—the first ever such gathering on the African Continent.

Her social justice work most recently included service as the convener of OccupyFaithNYC, a multi-faith economic justice organization founded in the spirit of Occupy Wall Street, and a co-convener of Moral Monday NYC, a multi-faith social justice group inspired by the Rev. Dr. William Barber. In 2002, she helped to found the Unitarian Universalist Trauma Response Ministry, created to provide culturally sensitive liberal religious responses to mass disaster and other significant trauma; and was the Chair of Disaster Chaplaincy Services of New York, the multi-faith disaster spiritual care service for the metropolitan New York area.

Since 1984, she has been married to Robert McNatt, a second-generation Unitarian Universalist who introduced her to the faith while they were both in college. They are the happy parents of two UU young adults: Allen, a writer and guitarist studying in Asheville, NC, and Daniel, a budding filmmaker who began his studies this fall in Syracuse, NY.



The Rev. Dr. Traci C. West is the James W. Pearsall Professor of Christian Ethics and African American Studies at Drew University Theological School. Her teaching, academic research, and social activism focus on the construction of liberative Christian social ethics in church and society.

She received her BA from Yale University, her MDiv. from Pacific School of Religion, and her PhD from Union Theological Seminary. She is the author of *Disruptive Christian Ethics: When Racism and Women's Lives Matter*, *Wounds of the Spirit: Black Women, Violence, and Resistance Ethics*, and the editor of *Our Family Values: Same-sex Marriage and Religion*. She has also published many essays on issues related to violence against women, racism, clergy ethics, sexuality, and other justice issues in church and society. She is co-editor (with Judith Plaskow) of *the Journal of Feminist Studies in Religion*. A current focus of her work on gender violence concerns intercultural, transnational teaching and research in Africa as well as teaching in New Jersey state prisons.

Rev. Dr. West has been an ordained minister in the United Methodist Church for over thirty years. She was born and raised in Stamford, Connecticut and now resides in New Jersey.

Order of the Academic Procession

Marshal
Presidents of the Graduate Theological Union and Member Schools
Delegates from other Colleges, Universities, and Theological Schools
Unitarian Universalist Ministers
Starr King School for the Ministry Staff
Starr King School for the Ministry Faculty
Starr King School for the Ministry Board of Trustees
Inauguration Service Participants
Starr King School for the Ministry President

*The Rev. Rosemary Bray McNatt
President of Starr King School for the Ministry*

*Inauguration Order of Service
March 21, 2015 | 11:00 am*

Prelude Music: *Breathe*, Gina Breedlove, Julie Wolf

Processional Hymn: #358 *Rank by Rank Again We Stand*

Rank by rank again we stand,
from the four winds gathered hither.
Loud the hallowed walls demand
whence we come and how, and whither.
From their stillness breaking clear,
echoes wake to warn or cheer;
higher truth from saint and seer
call us to assembled here.

Ours the years' memorial store,
honored days and names we reckon,
days of comrades gone before,
lives that speak and deeds that beckon.
From the dreaming of the night
to the labors of the day,
shines their everlasting light,
guiding us upon our way.

Never from that summons swerve;
hark the prophets' living chorus,
truth and freedom still to serve
show the present way before us.
As we hope, so shall we dare--
hands to labor, hearts to prayer;
clouds of witness call us on,
that a nobler age may dawn.

Through the path be hard and long,
Still we strive in expectation;
join we now their ageless song,
one with them in aspiration.
One in name, in honor one;
guard we well the crown they one;
what they dreamed be ours to do,
hope their hopes, and seal them true.

Words of Welcome: The Rev. Jacqueline Duhart

Call to Worship: Representing the many religious traditions of Starr King, offered by members of the Starr King community

Chalice Lighting: Jessica Clay

Somewhere in Berkeley and in Boston and in Bujumbura,
someone lights a chalice, and its light shines on freedom;
Somewhere in Kansas City and in Koloszvar and in Kampala,
Someone lights a chalice, and its light illumines truth;
Somewhere in Tierra del Fuego, and in Tulsa, and in Honolulu and in Havana,
and in Nashville and in Nantucket and in Nairobi,
Someone lights a chalice, and love is made visible.
Today, we light this chalice and hold in memory,
the many chalices whose steady flames hold us.

Written by Rev. Rosemary Bray McNatt

Greetings:

Unitarian Universalist Association: Rev. Peter Morales
Graduate Theological Union: Rev. Dr. Riess Potterveld
Unitarian Universalist Ministers Association: Rev. Don Southworth
The Chaplaincy Institute: Rev. Sharon Mooney
Broader World of Ministry: Rev. Dr. Donna Schaper

Hymn: #1000 *Morning Has Come*

Morning has come,
arise and greet the day!
Dance with joy and sing a song of
gladness!
The light of hope here shines
upon each face.
May it bring faith to guide our journey home.

A new day dawns,
Once more the gift is giv'n.
Wonder fills this moment shared
together.
The light of peace here shines
upon each face.
May it bring faith to guide our journey home.

Open our eyes,
to see that life abounds;
open hearts to welcome it
among us.
The light of love here shines
upon each face.
May it bring faith to guide our journey home.

Reading: The Book of Acts 2: 1-13 (NRSV) – Kimberly Hampton

Acts 2: 1 -13 The Coming of the Holy Spirit

When the day of Pentecost had come, they were all together in one place. And suddenly from heaven there came a sound like the rush of a violent wind, and it filled the entire house where they were sitting. Divided tongues, as of fire, appeared among them, and a tongue rested on each of them. All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other languages, as the Spirit gave them ability.

Now there were devout Jews from every nation under heaven living in Jerusalem. And at this sound the crowd gathered and was bewildered, because each one heard them speaking in the native language of each. Amazed and astonished, they asked, ‘Are not all these who are speaking Galileans? And how is it that we hear, each of us, in our own native language? Parthians, Medes, Elamites, and residents of Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya belonging to Cyrene, and visitors from Rome, both Jews and proselytes, Cretans and Arabs—in our own languages we hear them speaking about God’s deeds of power.’ All were amazed and perplexed, saying to one another, ‘What does this mean?’ But others sneered and said, ‘They are filled with new wine.’

Reading: Surah 30. Ar-Rum, Ayah 22 in the Holy Qur’an – The Rev. Jeremiah Kalendae

لِلْعَالَمِينَ لآيَاتٍ ذَلِكَ فِي إِنَّ ۖ وَالْوَالِدَاتُ وَالرِّجَالُ وَالنِّسَاءُ وَالْحَيَوَانُ وَالْأَرْضُ مَا وَاتَّ اللَّهُ خَلْقُ آيَاتِهِ وَمِنْ

And among Allah's wonders is the creation of the heavens and the earth, and the diversity of your tongues and colours: for in this, behold, there are Signs indeed for all who are knowledgeable!

Reading: Ibn Arabi – Robert J. McNatt

O Marvel! a garden amidst the flames.
My heart has become capable of every form:
it is a pasture for gazelles and a monastery for Christian contemplatives,
and a temple for statues and images and the pilgrim's Ka'aba,
and the scrolls of the Torah and the book of the Qur'an.
I follow the religion of Love: whatever way Love's camels take,
that is my religion; that is my faith.

Choral Mediation: *The Voice of God*, Words by John Haynes Holmes; Arranged by Ralph Vaughan Williams – Sung by Starr King Ensemble

Inaugural Address: “*Fearful and Fearless Religious Leadership Needed Now*” – Rev. Dr. Traci West

Musical Offering: *The Healers*, Gina Breedlove, Julie Wolf

Act of Investiture

Board Chair: An inauguration service for a Unitarian Universalist seminary president is similar to an installation service for a Unitarian Universalist minister. It is both a serious and celebratory event. We have gathered here from many places to recognize a new leader for one of our Unitarian Universalist theological schools. For many of us, Starr King School for the Ministry is a sacred place, the religious and academic center where, since 1904, generations have prepared for the learned ministry and to be agents of social change. It is also the institution whose continuity nurtures new generations of progressive religious leaders in our society.

In keeping with our Unitarian Universalist tradition, this Act of Investiture is a visible sign of the election of the Rev. Rosemary Bray McNatt as President of Starr King School for the Ministry.

Would the members of the Board of Trustees please rise and join me in this Act of Investiture?

Starr King School for the Ministry Board Members: As Members of the Board of Starr King School for the Ministry, we take this moment to reaffirm our election of the Rev. Rosemary Bray McNatt and commit ourselves, as the governing body of the school, to working collegially with her, the faculty and staff. We hereby invest you, Rosemary Bray McNatt, as President of Starr King School for the Ministry. In so doing, we pledge our leadership and service in order to prepare a faithful and educated ministry, fully able to embrace multireligious life and sacred activism, helping to heal the world.

Board Chair: This Act of Investiture is also a sign of the covenant that exists between the President and the larger community. It is through our common bond that the envisioned future will unfold. Would the gathered congregation, representing that larger community, please rise in body or spirit to join in this Act of Investiture?

Congregation: As faculty, staff, students, partners, and colleagues of Starr King School and its ministries, as well as friends and family of the Rev. Rosemary Bray McNatt, we joyfully lift our voices on this occasion. We pledge to demonstrate our devotion to Starr King School for the Ministry by supporting the presidency of Rosemary Bray McNatt. In so doing, we commit ourselves, or time, and our energies to this progressive ministry. May it be a ministry filled with lofty spirit and exalted aspiration.

The Rev. Rosemary Bray McNatt: With a deep sense of humility, gratitude, and commitment, I embrace the joys and challenges of leadership as I take up the work of the Presidency of Starr King School for the Ministry. With humility, because I understand that the work is not mine alone to do; with gratitude, because of the working of God in my life, the endless love of my family and my friends, and the steadfast support of my colleagues; and with commitment, because of my deep belief in Unitarian Universalism and in a progressive, multi-religious future. It is my honor and my privilege to take up this ministry to which you have called me.

Presentation of Gift from the Board of Trustees: Mr. Barb Greve

Anointing and Prayer: The Rev. Charles Blustein Ortman

Song of Anointing: *Sanctuary*, by John Thompson and Randy Scruggs ©1982, Full Armor Music and Whole Armor Music

Lord, prepare me to be a sanctuary
pure and holy, tried and true;
with thanksgiving, I'll be a living
sanctuary for You.

During the Anointing, the Student Body is invited to the front of the sanctuary to surround and offer a blessing to New President Rosemary Bray McNatt.

Invitation to Offering: The Rev. Abbey Tennis

Offertory: *Total Praise*, by Richard Smallwood – Sung by Starr King Ensemble

Benediction: The Rev. Rosemary Bray McNatt

Recessional Hymn: #140 *Hail the Glorious Golden City*

Hail the glorious and golden city,
pictured by the seers of old:
everlasting light shines o'er it,
wondrous things of it are told.
Wise and righteous men and women dwell within its gleaming wall;
wrong is banished from its borders
Justice reigns supreme o'er all.

We are builders of that city.
All our joys and all our groans
help to rear its shining ramparts;
all our lives are building stones.
Whether humble or exalted, all are called to task divine;
all must aid alike to carry
forward one sublime design.

And the work that we have builded,
oft with bleeding hands and tears,
oft in error, oft in anguish
will not perish with the years:
it will live and shine transfigured in the final reign of right:
it will pass into the splendors
of the city of the light.

Participants

Gina Breedlove is an internationally-known actress, singer, songwriter and sound healer who makes her home in the Bay Area. **Julie Wolf** serves as Gina Breedlove's musical director.

The Rev. Jacqueline Duhart is Minister of Faith in Action at the First Unitarian Church of Oakland, CA (SKSM, 2008).

Jessica Clay is President of the Student Body at Starr King School for the Ministry.

The Rev. Peter Morales is President of the Unitarian Universalist Association (SKSM, 1999).

The Rev. Dr. Riess Potterveld is President of the Graduate Theological Union.

The Rev. Don Southworth is Executive Director of the Unitarian Universalist Ministers Association (SKSM, 2000).

The Rev. Sharon Mooney is on the Board of Trustees at The Chaplaincy Institute and works as an Interfaith Minister and Chaplain.

The Rev. Dr. Donna Schaper is Senior Minister of Judson Memorial Church in New York City and one of my closest partners in NY social justice ministry, including work with Occupy Faith and Moral Monday NY.

Kimberly Hampton is a long-time friend and candidate for Unitarian Universalist ministry.

The Rev. Jeremiah Kalendae is Admissions and Recruitment Director at Starr King School for the Ministry (SKSM, 2009)

Robert J. McNatt, a second-generation UU, is my beloved husband of 31 years and the person who started me on this path.

The Rev. Dr. Traci West, my ethics professor in seminary, is the James W. Pearsall Professor of Christian Ethics and African American Studies at Drew Theological School.

Mr. Barb Greve is Acting Chair of the Board at Starr King School for the Ministry (SKSM, 2007).

The Rev. Charles Blustein Ortman is Senior Minister at the Unitarian Universalist Congregation at Montclair, NJ. Charlie was my internship supervisor from 1995-1997, and remains a cherished friend and mentor.

The Rev. Abbey Tennis serves as Interim Advancement Director at Starr King School (SKSM, 2014).

Dedication

I dedicate this joyous occasion to my large and wonderful family, including my husband, Bob and our sons, Allen and Daniel McNatt, who are here with me today. Most of our respective families could not be in California for this occasion, but they are watching, thanks to the miracle of livestreaming: to my mother, Mary Bray, my sister, Linda Broadnax and my brother and sister in law, Terry and Christine Bray, in Chicago; my brother and sister-in law, Hiawatha and Dimonika Bray, in Boston; my mother-in-law, Gladys McNatt, in Madison, NC; and my brother and sister in law, Glenn McNatt and Marian Holmes in Washington, DC. Thanks to all of you for your patience and your love!

Thank you to all my friends—old and new—who traveled great distances to be a part of this great celebration. Most of all, thank you to all of you who support Starr King and our vision of progressive ministry. We ask for your continued prayers as we begin a new chapter in our story!

Presidential Search Committee



(Top row) Rev. Jay Leach, Rev. Glenn C. Farley, Rev. Gary Smith;
(Second row) Jenny Weil, Rev. Sofia Betancourt, Rev. Abbey Tennis;
(Front row) Dr. Jo Sanzgiri, Dr. Dan McKanan, Jiwon Chung

Past Presidents of Starr King School for the Ministry:

Rev. Dr. Earl Morse Wilbur	1904-1931
Dr. William S Morgan	1931-1941
Dr. Josiah Bartlett	1949-1968
Dr. Bob Kimball	1968-1983
Rev. Gordon McKeeman	1983-198
Rev. Dr. Rebecca Parker	1990-2014
Rev. Rosemary Bray McNatt	2014- Present



The Past and Present of Starr King School for the Ministry

What we now know as Starr King School for the Ministry came into existence in 1904 to educate people as liberal ministers more suited to the context of the West Coast. Rev. Earl Morse Wilbur, then a minister in Meadville, Pennsylvania, accepted the call to serve as president of the Pacific Unitarian School for the Ministry. The first classes were held at the Oakland Unitarian Church and eventually moved to a building on Bancroft Way to be closer to the University of California, Berkeley.

From its beginning, the school approached theological education in a fresh way. According to Wilbur, the principles were:

First, complete mental freedom in religion, rather than bondage to creeds or confessions; second, the unrestricted use of reason in religion rather than reliance upon external authority or past tradition; third, generous tolerance of differing religious views and usages rather than insistence upon uniformity in doctrine, worship, or polity.

Rev. Wilbur led the school from 1904 to 1931 with an average of 25 students a year. During this time, the 10-room house on Bancroft became inadequate and the Unitarian Campaign donated \$45,000 for a new 3-story structure to be built on the University of California campus; the Pacific Unitarian School for the Ministry's new home was completed in 1922. Dr. William S. Morgan began his leadership in 1931.

In 1941, the school was able to purchase a vacant lot on LeConte Avenue (its current location) and opened in April 1942. Shortly after, the name was changed to Starr King School for the Ministry (SKSM), in honor of Thomas Starr King, a prominent Unitarian and Universalist minister acknowledged for his tireless travel throughout California advocating that the state stay in the union during the Civil War, and that it remain slave-free.

Also at this time, Starr King School for the Ministry developed a bold re-conceptualization of its approach to theological education, which included rigorous selectivity of students admitted into ministerial education, "field work"

as the center of the curriculum, study programs that were individually tailor-made, and the treatment of students as self-directing and mature, and for whom the school served as a guide, resource, minister, and community.

In 1949, the SKSM Board of Trustees appointed Josiah Bartlett as president and he served until 1968. It was during his leadership that the practice of individually constructed programs of study, with the guidance and supervision of the dean and faculty, took hold.

In July 1964, Starr King accepted an invitation to join the Graduate Theological Union (GTU), a consortium of seminaries. In 1968, Dr. Robert Kimball became president and with his leadership, we entered a highly creative period that advanced every front of our school's life. During this time, Starr King accomplished accreditation through the Association of Theological Schools (ATS). Religious leadership in the community became a focus of Starr King education along with the traditional training for ministers.

In due time, women were an increased presence as students, as faculty, and eventually the presidency. One notable woman of our heritage is Dr. Aurelia Henry Reinhardt, the former president of Mills College in Berkeley from the 1940's into the 1950s. She was a passionate and tireless advocate of women's advanced education and served as a Moderator of the American Unitarian Association (AUA) and was on the Board of SKSM. She advocated and raised money to support women's professorship, and a scholarship is dedicated to her for this work: the Aurelia Henry Reinhardt Professorship (AHR). The first AHR Professor was Dr. Clare Benedicks Fischer who joined Starr King in September 1981. Shortly after, Rev. Til Evans joined the faculty full-time.

In 1990, Starr King School for the Ministry welcomed Rev. Dr. Rebecca Parker to serve as president; she served until June 2014. During her presidency, through Education to Counter Oppression (ECO) and Creation of Just and Sustainable Communities (CJS), racial and ethnic diversity became a high priority as a mission focus for the school, opening doors and making significant inroads in the recruitment of both faculty and students of color.

In May 1995, Dr. Ibrahim Farajajé, a tenured professor of the History of Religions from Howard University, who had been a mentor for UU students and an advocate of many social justice issues, joined SKSM as the Dean of

Faculty and currently serves as the school's Provost and Professor of Cultural Studies and Islamic Studies.

Entering the new millennium, Starr King School for the Ministry continued to change and adapt. Portfolio conferences came into existence, wherein students were invited into engaged discussion of their work with their teachers and advisor. In spring 2000, Starr King started offering online courses. Using modern technology, students can attend classes "real-time" through Skype or Fuze, and thanks to the advocacy of Dr. Farajajé, these classes now count as "high-residency."

At this turn of the century, the school introduced the Eight Thresholds. "Our program's overall goal is to prepare each person holistically for religious leadership and multi-religious engagement through competency in eight threshold areas." (SKSM Student Handbook) The Thresholds are: Life in Religious and Interfaith Community; Prophetic Witness and Work; Sacred Text and Interpretation; History of Dissenting Traditions and Thea/ological Quest; Spiritual Practice and the Care of the Soul; Thea/ology in Culture and Context; Educating for Wholeness and Liberation; and Embodied Wisdom and Beauty. These are the criteria of areas in which students must now achieve competency in order to receive the Master of Divinity degree at SKSM.

In 2002, the Master of Arts in Religious Leadership for Social Change (MASC) came into being. This new program is designed for religious leadership in society through engagement in the secular world by working for justice, equity, compassion, and peace through businesses, institutions, and organizations.

Starr King School for the Ministry has come a long way since it emerged as a spark in the imaginations of a handful of visionary people 111 years ago. Graduates are found in pulpits all over the country, working in community ministries, chaplaincy, leaders of spiritual retreats, advocating for social justice issues that occupy the world, including the noteworthy Faithful Fools Street Ministry in San Francisco, CA. SKSM students and faculty are also featured in a photo holding a "Standing on the Side of Love" banner in the UU World. To quote former SKSM president, Rev. Dr. Rebecca Parker:

Our vocation, at Starr King School, is to be with people in such a way that their capacity to witness to the presence of the holy in all of life is enhanced. Religious leadership knows the abiding presence of a sustaining and transforming love at the heart of life. It testifies that this love is beyond all names, undergirds joy, asks for justice, disturbs the status quo, and is freedom.

We are focused on our core mission: preparing people for Unitarian Universalist ministry and religious leadership in society and deepening our commitment to education that counters oppressions and creates just community.

This vision of practical ministry, informed by scholarship, is dedicated to improving the world around us. We have created this school for the liberal ministry and leads us towards the educating new generations of ministers in the years to come.



Board of Trustees

Rev. Sofia Betancourt
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Mr. Barb Greve
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Rev. James (Jay) Leach
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Shay MacKay





Rev. Rosemary Bray McNatt

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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SPECIAL THANKS TO THOSE INDIVIDUALS WHO GAVE GIFTS IN HONOR OF OUR NEW PRESIDENT (THROUGH MARCH 18, 2015)

**JOAN CUDHEA
PATRICIA MALARKEY
VARTAIN LAW GROUP
JENNY WEIL**

**SINCEREST THANKS AND GRATITUDE TO ALL WHO HELPED MAKE THIS CELEBRATION
A WONDERFUL STARR KING EVENT; AND TO ANYONE I MAY HAVE FORGOTTEN HERE —
KNOW YOU ARE VALUED AND APPRECIATED. I AM GRATEFUL TO ALL OF YOU.**

