

Starr King Does G.A.

Saturday, June 25, 2016



We're Three Days into G.A.

Are you in town for General Assembly? Stop by our booth, meet our staff, [check out our events](#), pick up some goodies, and take a selfie with the photogenic Thomas Starr King! Couldn't make it to Ohio this year? Don't worry, we've got you covered. Scroll down to see what took place on Day Three!

Wake Now Our Vision: UU Collaborative Campaign

During the first plenary session Friday the gathered assembly recognized the *Wake Now Our Vision: The Unitarian Universalist Collaborative Campaign* and its work to advance Unitarian Universalism and engage UUs in congregational life. The campaign consists of the six largest UU organizations -- the Unitarian Universalist Association, the Unitarian Universalist Ministers Association, the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee, the Church of the Larger Fellowship, Meadville Lombard Theological School, and Starr King School for the Ministry.



President's Lecture: The Transient and The Permanent in Theological Education

The Rev. Rosemary Bray McNatt, President of Starr King School for the Ministry, delivered the annual Starr King President's Lecture. Drawing upon The Rev. Theodore Parker's historic sermon "*The Transient and Permanent in Christianity*," Rev. McNatt explored what she believes is transient and permanent in Unitarian Universalism.

"I believe that our commitment to social justice is what is transient in our faith," said Rev. Rosemary Bray McNatt. "What seems permanent is our resistance to liberation."

As Rev. McNatt examined Unitarian Universalism's inconsistent history with addressing social justice issues, she explored the Unitarians' responses to the anti-slavery and the anti-lynching movement.

Rev. McNatt proceeded to identify that training religious leaders through a counter-oppressive, multi-religious theological education is how we can move our faith towards truly living what we preach. She discussed the ways, over the past twenty years, the school has made an intentional effort to model the beloved community we want to see in the world within the walls of our school. Thanks particularly to the work of our Provost, Dr. Ibrahim Farajaje (1952 - 2016), and our Dean of Faculty, Dr. Gabriella Lettini, Starr King has made significant strides in creating a theological education that trains religious leaders to create sacred social change. "We wanted to create within the school what Ibrahim Baba called organic multi-religiosity," said Rev. McNatt.

She closed her lecture with a message of hope: "[Starr King's] work of training religious leaders

through a counter-oppressive, multi-religious education has only just begun."



Unitarian Universalist Polity Intensive: Visit from The Rev. David Pettee



This General Assembly, The Rev. Dr. Meg Richardson is teaching a UU Polity Intensive for students interested in understanding our faith's congregational and organizational polity. General Assembly provides a unique opportunity for students to witness UU polity in action. Yesterday, The Rev. David Pettee, the UUA's Ministerial Credentialing Director, came to speak to the class. Rev. Pettee discussed polity, specifically in the context of the UUMA guidelines and the Ministerial Fellowship Committee (MFC). [Learn more out our UU Polity Intensive here.](#)



Starr King Grad Association Meeting and Iftar Celebration

Last night, the Starr King Grad Association and Starr King co-hosted the Grad Association's business meeting and an Iftar celebration. The business meeting was an opportunity for graduates to reconnect with one another and reaffirm their commitment to the school.

Following the business meeting, Starr King faculty, staff, students, graduates, and others from the assembly came together for an Iftar celebration, for the breaking of the fast during the Muslim celebration of Ramadan. The event included a welcome from The Rev. Rosemary Bray McNatt. "It matters to us that we offer witness and make space for the world's great faiths and for those that are less well-known but just as important to those who practice," said Rev. McNatt. "We believe that the future of faith is multi-religious, and we believe that Starr King is the very best place to learn and to grow in those traditions."

The Rev. Jeremiah Kalendae, Starr King's Admissions and Recruitment Director, also spoke to explain the celebration and significance of Ramadan. "It is a time for deep intimacy with Allah," said Rev. Kalendae. "And it is a time to honor the commitments of this community and of this school to counter oppressive, multi-

religious life and to our commitments to progressive and queer Islam."

Ranwa Hammamy, a friend of Starr King, then led the gathering through a Sohbet, or spiritual discourse, bringing a moment of spiritual grounding to the gathering. "Through hardship there is peace," said Hammamy. "There are sources of peace whether we call them God, the beloved, or community."

The Rev. Summer Albayati-Krikeche, another friend of Starr King, gave the call to prayer and those practicing were invited to pray before breaking the fast. Together we shared delicious food and conversation as we created space for Muslims and UU Muslims to practice their faith in a safe, multi-religious space.

[Click here to watch video clips of the Iftar celebration.](#)



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"Ramazan Mubarak," SKSM Admissions Director Jeremiah Kalendae greets guests at the SKSM Iftar Dinner #UUAGA



Other Highlights from GA



Starr King School
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@RevRoseSKSM at #uuaga: We want to make permanent at #SKSM what as of now has been transient in our faith.

12:33 PM - 24 Jun 2016



Starr King School
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@RevRoseSKSM at President's Lecture at #uuaga: The way we educate our ministers is our best way of transmitting our faith to others.

12:23 PM - 24 Jun 2016

