

## Unitarian Universalists of West Hawaii – April 2015 Newsletter (page 1 of 2)

A free and responsible search for truth and meaning

2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Sundays @ 4 p.m. Sadie Seymour Gardens (Outdoor Circle), 76-6280 Kuakini Highway  
www.uuwesthawaii.org P.O. Box 3433, Kailua-Kona 96745 Editor: Linda Olsen



**A BIG MAHALO** for the professional ministry offered to us by Rev. Jonipher Kwong and Rev. Catherine Ishida during the past 3 years. Jonipher's resignation as called minister of the First Unitarian Church of Honolulu, effective June 30, means we will be bereft of his generous services beyond May (his last service with us). We are blessed that Catherine (aka "Cat") will be continuing to help us along with the other UU groups on the East side of the Big Island. Jonipher's letter to UUWH members is included at the end of this newsletter.

### UPCOMING SERVICES

(Note: there will be no service on Easter Sunday... as per usual, our schedule is the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Sundays)

Sunday, **April 12, 4 p.m.** – **"Spring: A Time of Rebirth and Resilience,"** by member Jamie Pardau. She will share how her recent trip to Chuuk Lagoon gave her a new understanding of the meaning of rebirth. [If you wish, bring flowers for the altar table to celebrate the season and our connections to each other.](#)

Sunday, **April 26, 4 p.m.** – **"Freedom & Responsibility,"** by Rev. Catherine Ishida. As the Rev. Scott Alexander said, "...Unitarian Universalism does not give you freedom *from* religion; it gives you freedom *for* religion. Here is the great paradox of our faith: Being a UU does not give you freedom 'to believe anything you want;' it gives you rather the freedom to search for and find those beliefs from which your heart and soul cannot escape!

"Being a UU means *searching* for your own defining religious principles and then allowing yourself to be *captured* by them. Actively practicing our free religion has an *inescapable* quality about it. The only *choice* involved is whether or not to take your emerging personal truths and principles seriously enough to actually *live* them on a daily basis."

Sunday, **May 10, 4 p.m.** – **"What is a Religious Experience,"** by Rev. Jonipher Kwong.

### MARK YOUR CALENDARS

Tuesday, March 31, 12:30 p.m. – Board Meeting, at Maiden's home. New and retiring Board members, and everyone else is welcome too!

Tuesday, March 31, 4:00 p.m. – Continuing the Brainstorm re "Aloha Spirit Week-end." At Rod & Sandee Crisp's home.

Friday, April 3, 6:00 p.m. – Sunday Service Committee meeting at Mary Garris's home. Bring pot-luck pupus to share as we join with Rev. Cat to do this essential work of the congregation.

*If you are proud of this church* by Rev. Michael Schuler:

If you are proud of this UU church, become its advocate. If you are concerned for its future, share its message. If its values resonate deep within you, give it a measure of your devotion. This church cannot survive without your faith, your confidence, your enthusiasm. Its destiny, the larger hope, rests in your hands.

### CONGRATULATIONS TO NEW BOARD MEMBERS

At the Annual Congregational Meeting on March 22, a new Board of Trustees was elected. This upcoming year (2015-16) promises to offer inspiration, continued growth, and fun as we plan an "Aloha Spirit Weekend." The Board leaders are Trustees-at-Large Maiden Temple and Karen Gold, Treasurer Gail Dawrs, Secretary Jamie Pardau, and Vice President Linda Olsen. The office of President will be filled by appointment or special election according to the by-laws. Thanks to everyone for being willing to serve!

Next year's nominating committee was also elected – Marjorie Erway and Jamie Pardau; in January the Board will appoint a third member of this committee. Also the annual budget was approved and we discussed ideas for more service and outreach including a "UU Aloha Spirit Weekend" next February (more info to come).



Karen, Gail, Jamie, Linda, Maiden in front.

Aloha e UUWH:

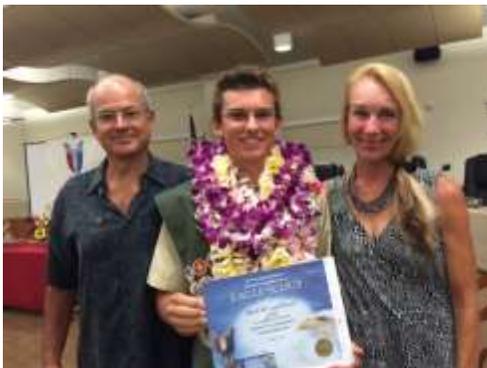
The past three years have been incredible--to witness your growth from an email list to an active membership of 26. Mahalo to Linda and Grady for the foresight and perseverance in building this group! What an honor to be a part of our UU 'ohana beginning with the UUs of Hawai'i Nei and then to become your consulting minister as part of the PCD grant. I can't even tell you how much I have looked forward to hopping on that airplane to come be with you all during one Sunday a month. It actually makes for an energizing day instead of a tiring one. You all make me proud to be UU!

After much discernment and introspection, I have decided to tender my resignation as the Minister of the First Unitarian Church of Honolulu by June 30, 2015. My family life calls me. My husband and I would like to start a family and our major support system is in CA. My heart is here and we both enjoy Hawai'i, but going back and forth has been difficult. I'm sure our kids will appreciate having both parents in one place. In case you are wondering, I do not yet have a job lined up at this point.

It has truly been a pleasure being on this journey with you. I know you will continue to grow in leaps and bounds, especially in your aloha to one another. Aloha oi--until we meet again.

Aloha no, J

### **RIPPLES OF JOY & CONCERN**



- BIG Joy for Mitchell Dixon, son of Gini & Mark, who was recently honored for his distinguished achievement of Eagle Scout rank. Mitchell attended the UU youth program in WA before the family moved to Kona.
- We continue to carry the Fitches in our hearts and minds as we wish Rosemary the best.
- It's bittersweet "aloha" for now as Grady and I return to our family and business in CA. We love our time here with you all and the Big Island. And we love our CA home too. What a dilemma! But we are each only a computer click or cell phone call away from you – you'll hardly know we aren't here. -- Linda

### **MEET OUR NEWEST MEMBER: Karen Gold**

We welcome Karen to UUWH! She comes to us from Bellevue, Washington, where she was a member of East Shore Unitarian Church.

Karen grew up in Tallahassee, Florida, received a BA from Eckerd College and an MA in Russian Literature at University of Pittsburgh before moving to Seattle, WA. Karen has three children and one step-son. She and her husband Bob moved to Kona in July of 2014 to enjoy their empty-nest years after Karen's youngest child graduated from high school.

Karen has been active in PFLAG (Parents, Family and Friends of Lesbians and Gays) for the past nine years working for equal rights for LGBTQ people.

Not one to sit back, Karen is already active with UUWH's Sunday Services Committee and was recently elected to a 2-year term as a Board Trustee-at-Large.



### **THE BOARD REPORT**

Our March 10 meeting accomplished the following:

- Heard Grady's report on the Budget and the Stewardship campaign (moving right along, thanks everyone!).
- Adult RE sessions under the guidance of Rev. Catherine have used TED Talks for their focused discussion.
- A special meeting on March 15 was scheduled to discuss/brainstorm the "Aloha Spirit Weekend."
- NOTE: Since the March 31 board meeting includes both new and retiring board members and we plan to establish plans for the upcoming year, there will be a separate email sent about that meeting... to keep you all in the loop!

### **MISCELLANEOUS & IMPORTANT:**

1. Thanks to everyone who helps set up and take down the chairs, pre- and post-service. This should NOT be the job of the Sunday Service Committee – Cory will be helping with this too.
2. The banner at the top of the driveway is quite essential for newcomers finding us. This gender-neutral activity is available as an inconvenient thing to do pre- and post-service. Volunteer now and beat the rush! linda-o@audioeditions.com
3. Order of Service announcements should be sent to Mary at [marygarris1234@yahoo.com](mailto:marygarris1234@yahoo.com) by the Wednesday before each service.
4. Our usual pot-luck goodies are most appreciated after services – this is DIY and there's no Master Organizer of it.
5. An updated member directory will be sent to you within the next week.