

Unitarian Universalists of West Hawaii – Dec. 2015 Newsletter (page 1 of 2)

A free and responsible search for truth and meaning

Changes in usual schedule below: Meetings of 12/13 & 12/20 at Sadie Seymour Gardens, 76-6280 Kuakini Highway

Meeting of 12/27 at members' home, 4 pm – call for directions, 530-368-0079

www.uuwesthawaii.org P.O. Box 3433, Kailua-Kona 96745 Newsletter Editor: Linda Olsen

UPCOMING PLANS:

Sunday, **Dec. 13**, 4 pm "**VASH - Sharing the Aloha Spirit**" presented by Karen Rose (a member for 20 years of the UU Durango Fellowship in Colorado). Karen is the executive director of the Visitor Aloha Society of Hawaii (VASH). The mission of VASH is to share the aloha spirit with visitors affected by adversity. Her resume includes more than 25 years of experience in human services, including program management, fundraising and social media marketing in the nonprofit sector. Throughout her career, she has spent much of her time advocating for victims of crime, people with disabilities, the elderly and at-risk youth. How can we connect with this valuable service on the Big Island?



UUWH Mission Statement

We are a welcoming, caring community committed to a free and open search for meaning, guided by the wisdom of the ages, reason, intuition, and experience. We work toward a more accepting peaceful world with respect for all existence.

NOTE TIME SHIFT: Sunday, Dec. 20, 5:30 pm
at Sadie Seymour/Outdoor Circle (usual location)
"**Community Solstice Celebration**"
facilitated by

Nancy Emery and Stone Wolfson.

Music provided by Barbara Hoist and AnneMarie Lambert. We invite you to pause, contemplate, and celebrate the Winter Solstice in community.

Everyone is welcome!

A pot luck dinner will follow. Let's honor the earth by bringing your own non-disposable plates, utensils and cups.



facilitated by Rev. Catherine Ishida

What do Unitarian Universalists believe?

Mark your calendars, read an optional book, start your thinking motors now!

Dates? Thursdays, 6:30-8:00 pm: January 21, February 11, March 10 and April 14.

Place? To be announced in January newsletter.

Description? Explore what *you* believe. What have people of liberal religious faiths past and present believed? In a series of four gatherings, we'll share our spiritual journeys with one another and explore our personal and collective answers to several philosophical questions. Where did we come from and where are we going? What is the purpose of (intentional) community? Is there evil, is there brokenness, and if so how do we respond to these?

The course will be loosely based on the first half of the book *A House for Hope: The Promise of Progressive Religion for the Twenty-first Century* by Rebecca Parker and John Buehrens, two Unitarian Universalist ministers. We'll spend some time during our first gathering to establish what we expect from each other in the course, and I hope some of you will choose to read the book and journal about it! The book is available from Amazon (\$14.49 and eligible for Prime free shipping) and the UUA bookstore.

Sunday, **Dec. 27**, 4:00 – 7:00 pm: In place of a church service, let's celebrate our community with socializing and fun. Gather at members' home – Linda Olsen & Grady Hesters' – for pool play, if you wish, plus lots of relaxed visiting. Please bring whatever you'd like to drink along with delectable "heavy" **pupus to share**. Pool volleyball will be enjoyed by youth and the Young at Heart.



The rest of us can cheer!

The gathering will be by the pool and is wheelchair accessible.
Call for directions, 530-368-0079.

Tuesday, **Dec. 8**, 1:00 p.m. – UUWH board meeting, at Maiden's home. Anyone who would like to attend is most welcome!

**UUWH's BI-ANNUAL DRIVE TO HELP SUPPORT
The Food Basket Inc. of Hawaii**

From Treasurer Gayle Dawrs: "Our relatively small group has just donated \$714 in checks & cash and I just got back from dropping off the food (43 lbs) at the Food Basket." Combine this with our June donations and we have contributed this year \$1,239 and 61 food pounds.

Guest at Your Table is an annual fundraising and education program that supports UU Service Committee's (UUSC) human rights work. We invite everyone to take part. The website is uusc.org/welcome-to-guest-at-your-table.

An Appeal from the UUA regarding the arrest of Rev. Fulgence Ndagijimana, the minister of a Unitarian church in Burundi:

<http://www.standingonthesideoflove.org/ourstories/showing-up-for-our-siblings-in-burundi>

There is great civil unrest in Burundi (a central African country just south of Rwanda). Rev. Fulgence was arrested on Nov. 20 and the UUA is actively engaged in the effort to release him and support Burundian Unitarians. The U.N. Security Council has condemned the situation in Burundi and now the UUA is attempting to bring all-possible international pressure to bear.

BOARD MEETING REPORT – Nov. 10 highlights:

- Adult RE class in planning stage, see page 1.
- Our "Community Life" committee includes Social Justice action, e.g. the Food Basket collection on Nov.8. There is much more the committee could do. If you'd like to participate in this way, please let Maiden know. It's best to phone, 808-325-6775.
- In December, Mary Garris plans to put out food donation collection boxes at various business locations as she has done in the past. Members will assist with pick-up and delivery to Food Basket.
- The Membership Committee would like additional participants. Contact Jamie or Betty Meyerson.
- The Board reviewed Aloha Spirit Day plans.

The Board extends its most sincere good wishes to everyone for the Holiday Season – may you thrive as we share love and joy with care and concern.

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"Aloha Spirit Day"

February 20, 2016

A newly-revised flyer will be available in the next few days. You will soon receive another email with the flyer attached. Please share with your family, friends, and others who may be interested in this fascinating event.

We have made arrangements with an online website that takes payment by credit card so it will be very convenient to register – it's brownpaperticket.org. This will sell out!

**This is worth repeating from last year's newsletter:
"A PRAYER OF THANKS"** by member Duane Erway

As peoples' minds and instruments probe your smallest creations

As we each see the beauty in our world and attempt to understand the wonders of our galaxy and those galaxies beyond, and

As our growing knowledge allows the resources to satisfy real and imagined needs,

We begin to grasp the enormous significance of the gifts of creation.

And we give thanks.

Thanks for the gifts before us, for the gift of life

And for the gifts we imperfectly understand.

Amen!

