

Unitarian Universalists of West Hawaii – July 2014 Newsletter (page 1 of 2)

A free and responsible search for truth and meaning

Sunday Services: 2nd & 4th Sundays @ 4 p.m. Kona Outdoor Circle, 76-6280 Kuakini Highway
www.uuwesthawaii.org P.O. Box 3433, Kailua-Kona 96745 Editor: Linda Olsen linda-o@audioeditions.com



CELEBRATE! Our freedoms just became enlarged. President Obama said, “It’s Justice like a thunderbolt!” And the White House was bathed in rainbow light. Happy Interdependence Day!

UPCOMING PLANS

Sunday, **July 12**, 4 p.m. “**Creativity as a Spiritual Practice**,” led by Mary Garris, a shining example of creativity in daily and professional life. Can being creative constitute a religious or spiritual practice? How can creativity enrich our lives and the lives of those around us? Why do many of us find it so difficult to be creative? With group discussion, there will be time for us to explore these questions, and will culminate in a collaborative creative project.

Sunday, **July 26**, 4 p.m. “**Creating Your Story**,” led by Karen Gold, one of our newest members. This will be a participatory service as we discuss the questions: What have you learned in life from experiencing art, music, creations of all types? What would you like to create, to share with your family, your congregation, your community?

Summer services until September will be informal, with discussions facilitated by a leader. We know that many members are off-island during the summer months and we are evaluating whether this is a good format when there is lower attendance. Of course the more members who can participate, the better! Whenever you are on-island, PLEASE attend. Your voice and presence are most valued, contributing to the web of our community.

Thursday, **July 30**, 4:30 p.m. – Board meeting by conference call. If you have items for the agenda, please email Linda at linda-o@audioeditions.com.

Mission

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.

“Aloha Spirit Day”

February 20, 2016

Reporting: The Steering Committee (co-chair Pat Mrazek, Rod & Sandee Crisp, Stone Wolfsong) met on June 14 with members of the Sunday Services Committee and Rev. Cat. Others (co-chair Linda and Maiden) have reviewed and contributed to these notes. This is a project in process with more details to be resolved in the future.

The **Purpose** of the day was discussed – it will be both national and local in focus, with the objective to serve the larger UU community and help potential members become aware of UUWH.

Advertising: Flyers with a “heads-up” on the date have been distributed at district and national UU events and also e-mailed to friends at other UU churches. If anyone would like a flyer to forward to someone, please let Pat or Linda know. In early September we will have a mass mailing of flyers that will include registration info plus a plan for other advertising.

Financial: To encourage commitment, \$10 per person will be charged for advance registration (at the door, the fee may be higher). The Outdoor Circle space (aka “Sadie Seymour Gardens”) has been booked for the afternoon/eve and will cost \$480. A hula/music group will be hired for a cost of approx \$150.

Program details: Still evolving, of course, but as of now it’s envisioned that the doors will open at 2:45 and the program will begin with a Welcoming opening by Rev. Cat including a vocal of the Hawaiian version of “Spirit of Life.” There will be 5-6 speakers with approx 25 minutes per session including time for questions/discussion and breaks. The hula group would precede dinner. How to handle **Dinner** is still an open question... pot-luck by members? catered? Bo’s presentation of underwater photography would follow the dinner.

Commitment of members and friends: This event will be successful if everyone is involved. A to-do list will be drafted with volunteer slots to be filled.

Next planning meeting: Sunday, Sept. 27, after church; anyone who wishes to participate is most welcome!.

UUWH visitors in Edinburgh and London:

During our recent trip to Europe, Grady and I were able to attend Unitarian Sunday services at the 200-year-old church in Edinburgh and, also, at a modern London church that claims the founder of Unitarianism in England as its original founder. It's a long story that members are well-versed on!

There are about 200 Unitarian congregations in Great Britain and Ireland; they do not include "Universalist" as part of their names.

The Edinburgh church – known as "St. Marks" – lists the Unitarian Ways (Principles) as:

We believe that

- Everyone has a right to seek truth and meaning for themselves
- Fundamental tools for doing this are your own life experience, your reflection upon it, your intuitive understanding, and the promptings of your own conscience
- The best setting for this is a community that welcomes you for who you are, complete with your beliefs, doubts, and questions
- We are not required to assent to any creed or statement of faith; the emphasis is on being true to oneself.

It was enriching to attend these churches, especially the one in Edinburgh, and I recommend visiting other U or UU churches wherever you are.

– Linda

WEBSITES & Greater UU connection

www.pcd-uuu.org This website for our Pacific Central District of the UUA has excellent information on it. You can also sign up for PCD-Currents, the monthly online newsletter.

www.pwruua.org This is the website for the new regional collaboration of the four western districts. Its slogan is "Big Faith * No Borders." Rev. Jonipher will be facilitating programs through this entity.

www.uua.org Serving 1,000 member congregations, the Unitarian Universalist Association website has much information of interest. You could probably spend several days reading about its various services and linking to other related causes.

www.uuworld.org This is the online link to the UU World magazine. You can subscribe to the print or digital editions. It has expanded news coverage and current updates. It's really interesting!

www.uusc.org The Unitarian Universalist Service Committee promotes human rights and social justice worldwide. Its website shows you how to affiliate with its important activities.

MEMBER NEWS

Gail Dawrs has just retired from 33 years of teaching 2nd grade at Kahakai School. Congratulations on a distinguished career that has positively influenced many children on this island!

Pat Mrazek will be traveling to Houston in July for her oldest son's wedding. She is also "expecting" two grandchildren – one that's due Nov. 28th and another that's due Jan. 2nd. Blessings.

Tom Fitch, in addition to political observations, writes, "As for health we are happy to report that both dogs are doing well. **Rosemary** has suffered far more from the chemo than from the cancer. We have learned to take one day at a time and not think too much about the future." We UUWHers are carrying them in our thoughts and hearts.

Jamie & Bo Pardau recently celebrated their 20th wedding anniversary with some friends in CA. Congratulations!

More news?

Please send to Linda at linda-o@audioeditons.com so we can all catch up with one another.

"Ah, summer, what power you have to make us suffer and like it." –Russell Baker