

Unitarian Universalists of West Hawaii – May 2015 Newsletter

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 Newsletter Editor: Linda Olsen

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.

UPCOMING SERVICES:

Sunday, **May 10, 4 p.m.** – “**What is a Religious Experience?**” by Rev. Jonipher Kwong. This may sound like a mysterious and mystical question, but how does one know when one is experiencing a religious moment? Is there a thunder that strikes? Do the clouds part and a rainbow appears? Do choirs of angels come descending down from the heavens? Do we Unitarian Universalists ever experience something as transformative? Great questions. Why not come explore them with us?

>> Also of note, this is the last Sunday that Rev. Jonipher will be with us as he will be moving to CA (leaving the Honolulu UU church as of June 30th). We greatly appreciate his generosity and the PCD grant that has enabled his help during the past 2 years!

Sunday, **May 24, 4 p.m.** – “**This isn’t about UU it’s about you! You!**” This Sunday we join together to explore in a conversational format (no sermon!). “The illusion of the self”... or is it an illusion? Are YOU simply the result of your birth order, your culture, or your parent’s upbringing? Or is there something at your core that makes you, you. Explore what makes you, YOU with other UUs. Lightly facilitated by Stone Wolfson.

OUR 3rd annual Retreat WEEK-END? Will it Happen?

Only if you volunteer to organize it. And if you volunteer, you can name the time in June that’s best for you 😊. The Kilauea Military Camp at Volcano NP has space available now. Accommodations are private rooms in 3- or 4-bedroom apartments. It is approximately \$100 per room for the week-end plus food. If you’d like to be the Organizer, please call (530-368-0079) or email linda_o@audioeditions.com.

Ask those who have previously gone: Alvis, Rod, Sandee, Jamie, Bo, Ouida, Mary, Linda, Grady, Cat -- this relaxing time together allows us to know each other better AND share a wonderful Big Island experience. And the Volcano Sunday Market is a special treat! P.S. Organizing is **EASY** but we need someone to do it.

“Aloha Spirit Day”

February 20, 2016

Steering Committee: Pat & Linda, co-chairs;
Sandee & Rod, Maiden, Stone, Grady

BOARD REPORT

>>A Letter of Agreement with Rev. Cat Ishida is being developed to outline UUWH’s relationship with her as a professional minister coaching us and being available for at least 6 Sunday services during the year.

>>Board liaisons to committees will be Karen for Sunday Services, Maiden for Community Life, Jamie for Membership, and Gayle for Finance.

>>Adult RE with TED Talks will continue in the fall.

>>The Board voted to have 2 dates to contribute to the Food Basket with donations that are both monetary and food items – June 14 and Nov. 8. These Major Drive dates will replace our prior practice of donating every Sunday.

>>**Pledge Drive** for the 2015-16 Budget Year is almost complete. As of April 27, pledges have been received from 19 Members and 5 Pledging Friends. A total of \$13,185 has been pledged and \$6,910 has already been paid toward those pledges representing some significant increases in individual pledges. While we are likely to end up short of our goal of \$15,500 and have to make budget adjustments accordingly, we do expect to receive some additional pledges. Pledges are welcome any time with or without accompanying payment. “Thank you all,” says Pledge Drive Chair Grady.

>> Next Board Meetings: **April 30** at 4:30 pm, conference call; **June 9** at 1 pm, Maiden’s home; and **July 30** at 4:30 pm, conference call.

DISTRICT ASSEMBLY

Our church is part of the Pacific Central District (PCD) of the UUA (Unitarian Universalist Association of Congregations) and the annual meeting is called “District Assembly.” As your Board VP, I was able to attend this year in San Francisco on April 25.

The theme of the conference was “Walking a Faithful Path.” The most relevant workshop for us, imo, was about multiplying social justice effectiveness with partnerships. Definitely some inspiration for cooperative action with other groups!

I also was able to distribute many flyers about our “Aloha Spirit Day.” People were very interested! -- Linda

GOOD NEWS ABOUT PROSPECTIVE UUWHers

The Gordon Family, long-time UUs, met many of us when they came to our picnic anniversary party in Feb. They will be moving to the Big Island from Port Townsend, WA. The younger generation will come first. Marc & Amy Elizabeth and their boys, Everett and Toby, expect to be here in July before school starts. Marc’s sister Heather will come later in August and the senior Gordons (Jim & Kath) will move here when they get the all-clear from some docs. Welcome!