

Unitarian Universalists of West Hawaii

November 2015 Newsletter – page 1 of 2

A free and responsible search for truth and meaning

2nd & 4th Sundays @ 4 pm, Sadie Seymour

Gardens/Outdoor Circle, 76-6280 Kuakini Highway

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“Aloha Spirit Day”

February 20, 2016, 2:00-8:00 pm

Sadie Seymour Gardens Outdoor Circle

From our opening with the Hawaiian verse of “Spirit of Life,” to the concluding slide show of fabulous underwater photography, this will be a full day. We have invited UUs from the mainland and in January we will begin letting Big Islanders know about this special event. Pre-registration will be necessary as our space is limited and the event includes dinner.

Speaker topics: Picking Up Your Life & Moving to Hawaii; Finding a Hale for Happiness; Enjoying the Island through Tours & Activities; Local Crafts for You; Volunteering on the Big Island; Coping with Environmental Concerns; Hawaiian Instruments & Hula; plus an Identifier’s Guide to All Things Swimming.

Aloha Spirit Day allows us to host an event that’s valuable to the community, i.e. local folk and mainland-based UUs. It will offer an “inside look” at living in Hawaii. It will increase our visibility in the community and it may ultimately increase our membership.

Cost of the event? \$10!

In addition, members will be invited to bring a pot-luck dish to share or contribute a suggested amount toward purchased food. There will also be appropriate jobs for everyone. We share our talents & program with others as we celebrate our 4th UUWH anniversary.



UUWH Member Debbie Hecht visited from CA last week; she hopes to be back in February for Aloha Spirit Day. Marjorie & Duane Erway are pictured too. Happy Recent Birthdays to both – nothing like a zipline celebration (Marjorie’s)!

Personal offer: Trader Joe’s anyone? If you have some special item you’d like me to bring you from Trader Joe’s, I should have room in my luggage. Please call or email Linda at linda-o@audioeditions.com. Really! I’d be happy to do it... as long as we’re not talking toooo large. Need to know by Nov. 3. Delivery on Nov. 8.

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.

UPCOMING SUNDAYS:

Nov. 8, 4:00 p.m. – “Discovering Truth through Science and Religion,” led by member Karen Gold. We often hear that science and religion are two things that just do not go together. One relies on facts which can be proven. The other relies on faith and intuition. However, science and religion have a lot in common. They both inspire wonder, questioning, and seeking truth. What appeals to you about a religion that uses reason as a tool in shaping beliefs and constructing theology?

This day has been designated as “Share the Plate.” Remember your checks, cash, or food donations to **The Food Basket Inc.** – see page 2

Nov. 22, 4:00 p.m. – “Olu’olu: The Art of Confrontation,” with sermon by UU minister Rev. Cat Ishida. For English speakers, the Merriam-Webster Dictionary defines “confrontation” simply as “a face-to-face meeting.” For English language learners, the definition is “a situation in which people, groups etc. fight, oppose, or challenge each other in an angry way.” As students of aloha, how do we confront one another? Is it possible to have a meaningful confrontation of ideas while embodying olu’olu, the Hawaiian ideal of being agreeable and pleasant?

LOOKING AHEAD:

Sunday, **Nov. 8,** 5:30-6:30 p.m. – Steering Committee meeting for Aloha Spirit Day at the Outdoor Circle after the Sunday service. Please join us!

Tuesday, **Nov. 10,** 2:00 p.m. – Board meeting at Maiden’s home. Everyone welcome.

December 13 – Rev. Cat Ishida; **20** – Solstice Celebration with Stone Wolfson; **27** – Post-Xmas Pot-luck at home of Linda & Grady (in place of regular service).

“Share the Plate” – UUWH’s project to help address issues of hunger here on the Big Island.

REMEMBER THE ULU



Ulu, historically a staple food throughout the Pacific, is the symbol of our bi-annual collection on behalf of The Food Basket Inc, Hawai'i Island's Food Bank. Just as ulu could be the source of nutrition during bad times, so The Food Basket offers an island-wide supplemental food network that is the “wholesale” clearinghouse for those

We will **“Share the Plate”** on Nov. 8 when a special Donation Plate will be passed so that UUWH members may donate to The Food Basket, Inc. as they are able. This Social Justice Project – with The Food Basket as the beneficiary – only happens twice a year so let's really Make a Difference. Canned goods and other non-perishable food items can also be donated in the foyer. Big mahalo to whomever volunteers to deliver these contributions to the Food Basket

Checks may be made payable to **The Food Basket, Inc.** On the memo line of your check, you could write “UUWH” to facilitate credit for our group. There are special programs for Keiki and Seniors, for those needing emergency supplies, and for weekly fresh food boxes. Everything helps but \$\$ may be the most useful.

If you wish to donate to UUWH on Sunday, the 8th – to fulfill your pledge or otherwise – please put your donation into one of the provided envelopes.



Best wishes to all for a Thankful Thanksgiving.

“Ancient Language” by Hannah Stephenson

If you stand at the edge of the forest
and stare into it
every tree at the edge will blow a little extra
oxygen toward you

It has been proven
Leaves have admitted it

The pines I have known
have been especially candid

One said
that all breath in this world
is roped together

that breathing is
the most ancient language

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In Gratitude

November offers the opportunity to intentionally practice gratitude, offering thanks, and appreciation.

I'd like to speak for all of us -- our UUWH community is thankful for those who show up and for those who plan: for the folks who are willing to consider whether something fits with our mission, then figure out the details, attend some meetings, coordinate volunteers, and make things happen. Yes, for Sunday Services, it's the openers & closers, our audio visual tech, our fabulous musician, worship leaders, ministers & facilitators, those who bring snacks, and offering counters. Yes, to those who are making Aloha Spirit Day happen!

Many of these jobs overlap and are done by the same persons! You know who you are... we all know who you are. We are so grateful!

We give thanks for those who are behind the scenes, taking good notes, tending to the business details, contributing financially to make all this possible, for hours of service and care.

We give thanks for those who question, who risk, and for those who are clear in their “yes” as well as their “no.” We are building real community, a real presence of Unitarian Universalism in this area. All of us are caring for this community so it can thrive. -- Linda