

A free and responsible search for truth & meaning
Service location Sundays 7/10 and 8/14 @ 4 p.m.
Kona Outdoor Circle, 76-6280 Kuakini Highway
See below for 7/24 and 8/28
www.uuwesthawaii.org Box 3433, Kailua-Kona 96745
Editor: Linda Olsen linda-o@audioeditions.com

JULY & AUGUST SUNDAY SERVICES

Sunday, **July 10**, 4 p.m. "**Heart Land: Where Faiths Connect**," Presented by Karen Gold and Gail Dawrs. Join us for a video and discussion of the UUA General Assembly theme.

The faith world is increasingly multi-faith. People are crossing borders of religion and spiritual practice to create wholeness in their lives individually and collectively. The labels — Christian, Jew, Muslim, Buddhist, Hindu, theist and non-theist — no longer define who or what we love, or how spirit moves in our lives. General Assembly 2016 in Columbus, OH will assemble leaders and communities of many faiths to worship together, learn from one another, and create a new vision of faith that no longer divides us, but connects to an interdependent future that works for all.

Sunday, **July 24** -- TBD* This will be a field trip but we are not ready to put it in the newsletter, hope to have info in a few days. We are working on contacting Ke Kai Ola about a tour of the monk seal facility (suggested by Marjorie Erway).

Sunday, **August 14**, 4 p.m. "**How to Build a Global Community**," presented by Mary Garris. How can we increase our awareness of how our actions affect other people and other living creatures? How can we take concrete steps to reach out to others? Let's get out of our comfort zone and try something new!

Sunday, **August 28**, 1 p.m. -- *a pot-luck picnic and labyrinth walk in Honoka'a hosted by the UUWH-North Women's Group. Watch for an invitation with details in early August along with directions to the home of Jeanne Teleia.* The UU Puna group has also been invited.

EDITOR'S NOTE:

This newsletter covers both July and August. Updates will be sent to you by separate email. Hope you all are having an enriching summer despite the dismal news. Grady and I are off to Oregon for rafting/kayaking on the Rogue River and then in late July, we'll go to Kentucky (family reunion) and then to NYC, Boston, and Maine.

REMINDER

There will be no Sunday Service on June 26 – in its place, we will have a field trip: Saturday, June 25, 1 p.m.

"A Visit to Paleaku Gardens Peace Sanctuary."
Location: 83-5401 Painted Church Road, Captain Cook.

Cost: Member Tom Fitch has offered to make a donation on behalf of our members who attend this...
THANKS, Tom!

RSVP: Call Karen Gold or email so we have an attendance count – ksgold10@outlook.com or 425-444-1974.

Idea: call someone and car pool ☺.

Paleaku Gardens (www.paleaku.com) invites individuals and groups to experience the peaceful beauty of a unique botanical setting. View ancient Hawaiian petroglyphs and Tibetan Sand Paintings. Walk a Labyrinth and a native American Medicine wheel. Their mission is to offer a sanctuary for the advancement of individuals toward peace and harmony.

Our guide for the Paleaku Gardens Peace Sanctuary is Jon Lomberg, designer of the Galaxy Garden. The Galaxy Garden, built in 2007, is the world's first accurate walk-through model of the Milky Way. It is mapped in flowering plants and based on current astrophysical data. Jon Lomberg was the artistic designer for Carl Sagan's "COSMOS" series, and also illustrated most of Sagan's books and magazine articles. His website is www.jonlomberg.com

MARK YOUR CALENDARS:

Tuesday, **July 26**, 1 p.m. Board meeting at home of Maiden Temple. All members are welcome to attend. Call Maiden for directions, 325-6775.

UUWH-North Women's Group: **July 8** and **22**, **August 5** and **19**, each meeting from 11:30-1:00. Locations vary so please call Linda Cherry for details, 808-238-8138 or email linda-cherry@att.net. The group is open to all UU women.



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.

Message from Meg Riley, senior minister
Church of the Larger Fellowship (CLF) –
[edited for space considerations]

Dear Friends, I've been silent in the wake of the Orlando shooting, trying to slog through my own numbness, shock, and disbelief following Saturday night's mass shooting at the Pulse bar. As I try to find language here, I will fumble about. I apologize for that...perhaps my own incoherence is matched within you.



When I came in from my early morning hours in the garden on Sunday, I had a text from my friend and colleague, Rev. Carlton Eliot Smith, saying, 'We should do a vigil about Orlando.' I texted back one word: Yes. Carlton and I have done vigils in the wake of other tragedies (he serves the southern region of the UUA where a high number of them seem to occur) and I was sure if he said we needed a vigil about Orlando, we did. Then I googled "Orlando" to find out why, this time. Thus began my own path towards incorporating this latest horror into my own psyche. A gay bar this time. Latinx night during Pride Month. Another young male shooter with a powerful, legally procured weapon. This time aligning his hate and rage with his homophobia and claiming the mantle of holy hate and righteousness in the name of radical Islam. Masses of people coming forward to help, as always, to hold the center and to support one another as the center fell apart once again.

Our CLF/ UUA vigil was powerful -- 60 people came to listen to music, pray and be with one another. Many ministers, including Marni Harmony, Minister Emerita in Orlando, who stressed how active and focused the UU congregation there has been in the wake of the tragedy. Others looked as numb and battered as I felt; seeing those other faces was tonic.

Part of what has made this particularly numbing for me is the complex intersectionality of identities which are being named, ignored, and honored in the media, as the 'official' version of the story unfolds. Queer people. Latinx people. Muslim people. Young people. All of these identities are central in the story, and yet the huge number of meaning makers who are pontificating are old straight white men. My friend Faisal Alam, who

founded Al-Fatiha, an association of queer Muslims, wrote this about being the only person of color at MSNBC doing an interview: "The former director of the CIA was interviewed, the mayor of NYC, the governor of FL. Each of them instilling us with fear and terror. Beware of the brown and black boogie man folks. Because we will not be interviewed to share our own stories of love and resilience. . . The media controls the American mass' view of the world. Period. And marginalized communities must keep pushing against the fantasies and false narratives that make black and brown people's lives expendable. We are taught to fear black and brown bodies. They cause terror and violence. . . I'm sick to my stomach tonight and sitting with immense pain, profound sadness and so much anger. . . May the Divine bring peace into our hearts and help us build beloved communities."

Now, as the communities in Orlando struggle to lift up life once again, as the levels of grief ripple out, our media focuses on politics -- Presidential politics, partisan politics, pundits carrying on, networks scheming how to make money off of this horror one way or another. And I don't know about you, but I can't listen to it. It does not help me to move towards life, and I'm not listening. The same tired words, the same self-righteous posturing. And now my fumbling here about brings, finally, my own wrenching tears, and I find my own thread of life...And here's what I want to say:

Young queers, you who are just daring to come out, who are now wondering if it might not be a better choice to lie and to hide: Please, do come on out. There is no safety in the closet and we need your true self and your gifts to help us all.

Muslims, you who are in the midst of Ramadan, who love your faith and embrace its compassionate practice, who are now witnessing this sacred identity being defined as terrorism by U.S. media once again: Please know not all viewers buy those lies. We know that your faith is a gift to our world. We need more compassion and love in our world.

We are grateful for your practice; please keep practicing!

Latinx queers, you who are celebrating unique pride and power as you dance deep into the night: Please keep dancing. The beat of that music brings life to us all.

Men who dared to kiss each other in public, who now wonder if it was your kiss that, according to the killer's father, upset him so much he wanted to kill people: Please keep kissing. Your kisses for each other are a wonder in this world where men are forbidden to be vulnerable and instead offered guns.

All of us who are struggling to hold onto our humanity in the face of this latest atrocity: Please let the tears come. Don't listen to the pundits who are peddling fear. Struggle to find the witnesses of love and resilience and honor their stories.

Let us refuse to allow any gunman to assassinate our own humanity. Let us refuse to divide our own hearts, according some people "us" status and labeling others as "them." Let us peer deep within this mess of terror and healing and choose life, and choose love, over and over.

In Love and Solidarity, **Meg**

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



**Best Wishes for the 4th of July,
however you choose to observe it.**

UUA President the Rev. Peter Morales issued this statement in response to the tragic night club shooting in Orlando, FL:

Like people everywhere, I am horrified and distraught at the news of the killings at an Orlando gay night club. What is even more distressing is that this is but the latest in a long line of mass shootings. Our thoughts go to the victims, both the dead and the survivors, and the people close to them. May they find comfort and strength.

Unfortunately, this is the kind of violence that is predictable when hatred and fear are aroused by demagogues and when firearms are easily available. There are about 100 gun deaths per day in the United States. Only mass shootings are newsworthy.
This is madness.

May all people of good will, people of all faiths and no faith, renew our determination to end racism, end demonization of those of other faiths, end homophobia, and create a society where access to lethal weapons has some rational control. Otherwise we will wait helplessly for the next atrocity.



First Unitarian Church of Honolulu Minister in Residence Program

The [First Unitarian](#)

[Church of Honolulu](#) is moving towards the next chapter in its Church history through a new ministerial program they call the Minister in Residence Program for the 2016-17 church year. They would like to identify UU and liberal religious professionals who are interested in a tropical working vacation of approximately 3 weeks in Honolulu, Hawaii.

The minimum requirement is that participants perform one sermon per week and run one workshop promoting spiritual, congregational and community themes. Compensation for this base level of service is \$1450. The program does not pay for travel or lodging; however lodging for all or part of a stay may be available through church members and friends.

Margaret Mann, President of the Board, will be attending GA this year and will meet with candidates there and answer any questions.

Her email: margaretmann2000@yahoo.com or call her cellphone at 808-265-6551 if you or anyone you know would like to connect about this tropical working vacation.