

KUKUI LAMALAMA

Publication of The First Unitarian Church of Honolulu
A Unitarian Universalist Welcoming Congregation
2500 Pali Highway, Honolulu, Hawaii 96817
595-4047 <http://www.UnitariansofHi.org>

January 4, 2012

Vol. 2012 no. 1

Carla Allison, President

Minister Rev. Dr. Jonipher Kwong,

Dr. Nan Kleiber, Director R.E.

Sunday Church Services

Start at 10:15 a.m.

January 8, 2012

"Redefining Sin"

Rev. Dr. Jonipher Kūpono Kwong

Sin has been a nasty word used to guilt people into repenting, but is there a way to reclaim it as not just a violation of certain sacred laws, but perhaps something more meaningful? Come explore palatable UU definitions of sin.

January 15, 2012

The Face of Oppression

Bill Scarvie

The Face of Oppression deals with events which have dominated the news recently. It is seen in the angry faces of people demanding freedom and in the angry faces of rulers willing to kill to maintain their privileged position. Is the face of oppression still seen here in America? Is it waning as racial minorities gain economic and political clout? Or is its complexion simply changing? What are the risks, and what are the rewards as we approach a moment of grace in our national story? You do not want to miss this one.

January 22, 2012

"Myths About Forgiveness"

Rev. Dr. Jonipher Kūpono Kwong

There are many myths that abound, including the age-old saying, "Forgive and forget". What are some other misconceptions when it comes to forgiveness?

January 29, 2012

Social Justice Council

"Justice, Equity, Compassion, and Hawaiian Sacred Places"

The SJC will host the Fifth Sunday Social Justice Worship Service, "Justice, Equity, Compassion, and Hawaiian Sacred Places," featuring Dr. George Williams and Hawaiian guests, with the Offertory dedicated to Philippine typhoon relief. Join us after the service for Fifth Sundaes 'Ice Cream for Social Justice' during the Volunteer Fair in the Gallery, followed by a Fifth Sunday Forum looking more deeply into Sacred Place issues with Dr. Williams and guests in the Sanctuary.

February 5, 2012

"Misjudging Others: A Sacred Goal and Aspiration"

Rabbi Peter Schaktman, Temple Emanu-el

Though we'd like to believe otherwise, many of us spend a good deal of time engaged in unconscious, involuntary, unwarranted and hyper-critical judgment of other people. Sometimes it seems as though we actively seek to identify characteristics and behaviors that seem to be lacking in those around us. What if, instead, we could retrain ourselves to assume that at any given moment, everyone – really -- is doing the best they are capable of doing at that very moment with the inherently limited resources they have at their disposal? What if we were to raise the act of misjudging our friends, family, and neighbors – for the good! -- to a sacred act?

Coming Events

Saturday, January 7,	2:00 p.m.	Mission Process Workshop (see page 14)
	5:00 p.m.	Baby Shower (see page 5)
Sunday, January 8,	11:45 p.m.	Stone Soup Lunch
Sunday, January 15,	2:00 p.m.	Workshop "Building Community Resilience" (see page 7)
Monday, January 16,		Martin Luther King Jr. Parade (for details call Steve Lohse at 499-5406.)
Sunday, January 29,	12:00 p.m.	Volunteer Fair (see page 7)

From the President

We make mistakes. We unintentionally offend others. We speak and wish we hadn't, or wish that we had at least taken a moment before doing so. We fail to keep commitments. We break promises. We are inconsistent. We do damage in our relationships. We make a mess of things. Maybe this is what Norman Cousins was referring to when he said, "Life is an adventure in forgiveness."

We are, after all, human beings. We are not machines; programmable to ensure precision and perfection in everything we say and do. We humans don't come packaged with an apology feature or a forgiveness button. Instead we operate with skills, practices and habits.

So what's our competency level when it comes to apologizing? What habits have we learned and how do we practice this fine art? Do we jump to defensiveness when we made mistakes? Do we see it as the other person's problem to "just get over it?" Do we offer a quick "Sorry" when we offend and leave it at that? Or are we skilled and practiced enough to enter a mood of openness, to reflect on our actions and consider what we can do differently next time? Do we commit to learn new ways and promise a different future? Do we ask for forgiveness and then pause and wait for acceptance... grateful when it comes?

What about our forgiveness skills? Do we maintain a shield of righteousness as a shield for our hurts? Do we respond with a quick "No problem" yet maintain a hidden scoreboard to keep track of offenses? Do we file away the errors and mistakes, storing them a way for future retrieval? Do we let the trust and love die rather than enter into a messy or uncomfortable forgiveness conversation? Or do we hone our skills and purposefully practice consideration, compassion, and negotiation to repair the relationship? Do we allow "do overs?" Do we forgive and then extend trust, investing in the relationship and a different future?

As we enter 2012, may our year be an "adventure in forgiveness," and may we find the courage to welcome opportunities to increase our skill in the human acts of apology and forgiveness.

With gratitude & aloha,

Carla Allison

cbm@hawaii.rr.com

396-1488

December 2011 Board Actions

- * Created a Mission Ministry Task Force to design a team of the same name, sometimes known as a Committee on Ministry. Members are Jim Cooper, Julie Elting, Kevin Helliwell, Sue Yamane-Carpenter and Joan Schumacher with Jean Brokish and Veronica Morgan "on deck" to cycle in. According to Robert Latham, our current District Executive, the team's primary function "is to educate about the congregation's mission and ministry, assess all of its agents relative to their effectiveness of fulfillment and care for whatever conflicts might decrease the fulfillment of this effectiveness."
- * Adopted a revised Path to Membership that includes attending the All About Our Church Workshop, a meeting with the Minister and Board President, signing the Membership Book, making a contribution of record and being ingathered at one of our Fifth Sunday worship services.
- * Adopted a condensed version of the Safe Congregation Policy that includes a 13-item action plan for creating a safe congregation plus criteria for excluding a person with a history of sex offenses from congregational activities.
- * Revisited Dan Hotchkiss' governance and ministry model, discussed how it applies to our Church's organizational structure and supports our moving from a family/pastoral congregation to a program congregation.
- * Corrected DRE Nan's compensation package and accepted her proposal to move to 20 hours/month starting January 1st, 2012.
- * Launched the DRE Search Task Force.
- * Requested stewardship actions of our congregation resulting in over \$5,600 in new pledges and contributions as of 12/30/11.

FROM THE MINISTER

Beginning a new year is always a good opportunity for reflection. What's been helpful about the previous year that we would like to continue and what hasn't gone as well that we would like to change? Part of what makes human relationships so complex are the shades of gray and the inadvertent ways that we hurt one another. Oftentimes, we don't even know we've done something wrong until it's too late. Sometimes, these "wrongdoings" fester inside us until resentment builds up and pretty soon, we don't want anything to do with the person who "did us wrong" even though they were our best friend at some point in life.

This is why forgiveness takes a considerable amount of communication. A simple phrase such as "Is anything wrong?" can lead to a conversation about misperceptions or unskillful ways of phrasing things. It also takes communication to ask someone for forgiveness or to let someone know about your need for the words "I'm sorry". This skillfulness is a spiritual practice that we as a community of faith have the capability of modeling to the larger community.

Justice, equity, and compassion in human relations often involves the act of forgiveness. Our time in this world is too precious to squander with pent-up rage and resentment. So, why not make a new year's resolution today by engaging in the spiritual practice of forgiveness?

Malama Pono,
Rev. Dr. Jonipher Kupono Kwong

Did you know...

- * Since online donation button went up on our website the middle of December, we have received close to \$2,000 in donations!
- * Our "Mind the Gap" campaign generated over \$5,600 in extra pledges and donations.
- * Last quarter, our church was mentioned in the *Honolulu Star Advertiser* over six times (including the front page), full page articles appeared in the *Honolulu Magazine* and the *Honolulu Midweek*, we aired on Hawaii Public Radio twice, and KITV filmed us during our Christmas Eve service, which aired on the 10 p.m. news!
- * The Minister's priorities for the first quarter of 2012 include: Guidance for the Mission Statement process; Growth Task Force; construction of a second service; clarity of staff roles and responsibilities; and making the distinction between Committees and Teams.

We Made a Mistake...

Of course, it was a busy time and that is no excuse to not properly acknowledge the two wonderful Members who were responsible for the beautiful stole the Congregation presented to Rev. Jonipher at the Reception for the Installation.

Thank you, Hilikka Easterwood and Carolyn Eaton, for taking on this prodigious task and for overseeing the creation of the beautiful stole—our gift to Jonipher.

PUBLICATION INFORMATION

Kukui Lamalama is usually published monthly by The First Unitarian Church of Honolulu, at 2500 Pali Hwy, Honolulu, Hawaii 96817, with the deadline for submitted materials on the 1st Sunday of the month unless otherwise noted.

Editor - Molly Rowland, 988-4426

Production - Don Dvojacki, 595-4047

Proof Editor- Evelyn Shepard, 595-4025

Surf on over to our Web Page

<http://www.UnitariansofHi.org>

Facebook as "First Unitarian Church of Honolulu"

and follow us on Twitter as "UUHonolulu"

An electronic copy of the newsletter is on the website

If you would like to be notified, email the Church Office

e-mail us at Office@unitariansofhi.org

Next deadline: Sunday, February 5, 2012 11:30 a.m. If you can have items in the newsletter box several days or a week beforehand, the editor appreciates it. **Email** should reach the church by noon on Friday, February 3, 2012.

Calling All UU Women

Save the Dates for the 2011 Women’s Retreat: February 3–5, 2012

What: A weekend out of town, away from your day-to-day responsibilities, with discussion groups, workshops, great food, Sunday morning worship service, Yoga, Tai Chi, and activities like snorkeling & swimming at beautiful Pokai Bay.

When: Friday, February 3, afternoon/evening through mid-day Sunday, February 5.

Who: UU women ages 16 and older. The more the merrier and the broader the age range, the more we can learn from each other.

Where: The beautiful “Carpenter Retreat Center” at Pokai Bay in Waianae, aka, Sue and Dan’s place.

Why: To relax, connect and deepen our relationship with ourselves and other UU women.

Co-chair: Laurel Zeri 236-3032 zeri001@hawaii.rr.com

Cost: The entire weekend or Saturday and Sunday fee is \$65.00. Saturday only is \$40.00. Under age 20, Saturday only is \$20. Some scholarships available.

To register: Complete the form below and return to registrar Laurel Zeri, 46-262 Kalua Place, Kaneohe, HI 96744. Include your check made out to HUUWF, the Hawaii Unitarian Universalist Women’s Federation.

Registration Deadline: January 15, 2012.

You would like to volunteer to help or have questions: Contact Laurel Zeri

Detach and return the form below to Laurel Zeri, 46-262 Kalua Place, Kaneohe, HI 96774

Name(s): _____

Address: _____

Email Address: _____ Phone Number: _____

I will attend (check one): Fri through Sun ____ Sat through Sun ____ Saturday only ____

Please reserve half of a queen size bed for me (check one): Yes ____ No ____

I will bring my own futon or cushion and bedding (check one): Yes ____ No ____

My check to the HUUWF is enclosed for \$ _____

Someone Special, Someone Dear, Someone New to Love is Near

Join us in showering Genna & William Coursey and Jean Brokish & Ben Schmidt with a Baby Shower for their future daughters on Saturday, January 7 from 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. First Unitarian Church art room.

Hosted by Lisa Gillis-Davis, 282-2213 or lisagill@hawaii.edu

Karen Valasek, 485-8780, valasek.karen@gmail.com, and Laurel Trammell, laureluu@gmail.com

Social Justice Council First Unitarian Church of Honolulu

January is a busy month for the SJC! Our regular monthly Council meeting will be Sunday, January 8, 12:00 noon in the Fred Harper Room, all guests welcomed. Among other topics, this month we will discuss our UU participation in the MLK Day Parade on Monday, January 16; our UU interest in the Occupy movement and transformational social justice action, and we hope to have a briefing from Rev. Jonipher Kwong regarding his and RE Director Nan Kleiber's trip to the Philippines in March.

Also of special interest, on January 29 the SJC will host the Fifth Sunday Social Justice Worship Service, "Justice, Equity, Compassion, and Hawaiian Sacred Places," featuring Dr. George Williams and Hawaiian guests, with the Offertory dedicated to Philippine typhoon relief. Join us after the service for Fifth Sundaes 'Ice Cream for Social Justice' during the Volunteer Fair in the Gallery, followed by a Fifth Sunday Forum looking more deeply into Sacred Place issues with Dr. Williams and guests in the Sanctuary.

Please join us in January and help make First Unitarian Church of Honolulu a force for social justice in our community and our world! All discussion welcomed, as always. Please contact Steve Lohse, 499-5406, SJC@unitariansofhi.org.

4th Wednesday Potluck and Games Invites you....

After taking time off in December, the 'Ohana Pot Luck group will meet again on Wednesday, January 25 and on subsequent 4th Wednesdays.

We gather at 6 p.m. in the Gallery to share food and conversation and then play a word game similar to Scrabble but designed for groups. It is easy to learn and is especially enjoyed by people who like words. If you hate games of all kinds, come for the company and food. Call Molly Rowland at 988-4426 if you have questions.

GALLERY ON THE PALI

"To Be Determined",

Paintings by Dave Devenot, quilts by Elizabeth Kent
Dave Devenot will display realistic and abstract paintings & prints reflecting his travels in Europe and Honolulu.

Elizabeth Kent will present quilts in which she applies her talent to works begun by other artists, finishing them in creative ways.

"To Be Determined" runs from Sunday, January 15 through Thursday, February 2, 2012.

Everyone is invited to the artists' Reception to be held in the Gallery on January 21st, 6-8 p.m. (Thirty percent of sales goes to the church!)

Frank Oliva's exuberant "Holiday Spirit" exhibit continues through January 12, 2012. Following the Devenot/Kent show, will be David Friedman's "Color as a Second Language" (Feb 5 - Mar 1).

Joan Schumacher

A Course in Miracles

JOIN US! A new A Course In Miracles (ACIM) Group is meeting in Honolulu, Wednesday, January 11, 2012 at the First Unitarian Church of Honolulu, 2500 Pali Highway, Honolulu. 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. Meets the 2nd and 4th Wednesday of the month.

A Course in Miracles (ACIM) is a self-study curriculum that aims to assist its readers in achieving spiritual transformation. This group's purpose is in practicing the applications of the principles of A Course in Miracles. In this group everyone is the teacher and the student. All are welcome.

Contact Karen Renard for more information (808) 393-8499.

"CHAMPIONS OF CHOICE" CELEBRATION

Complimentary Champagne will welcome the guests to the annual Planned Parenthood of Hawaii's 7th annual fundraiser gala, the first prime social networking event of the New Year. Strolling musicians will greet guests on the beachside lawn of the Royal Hawaiian Hotel while the upgraded silent auction is under way. The annual dinner has also been revamped to promote networking and socializing. So join your friends and fellow Unitarians on Friday, January 20 beginning at 5:30 p.m. Tickets are \$160 per person of which \$85 is tax deductible. You can buy tickets online at www.pphi.org/tickets or call fellow Unitarian Sheila O'Keefe at 589-1156, ext. 225.

Phil Morris

The First Unitarian Church of Honolulu January 05 - February 12, 2012

January 7 Saturday

2:00 PM Mission Process Workshop (Sanctuary)
5:00 PM Baby Shower (Art Room)

January 8 Sunday

10:15 AM Sunday Church Service (Whole Church)
11:30 AM Second Sunday Lunch (Sanctuary
Kitchen)
12:00 PM Nominating Committee (MR#1)
12:00 PM Social Justice (FHR)

January 10 Tuesday

11:30 AM Staff Meeting (Office)
7:30 PM Buddhist Meditation (Gallery)

January 11 Wednesday

6:30 PM A Course in Miracles Group (MR#1)
7:00 PM Building Committee (Sun Room)

January 12 Thursday

1:00 PM Gallery Directors (Gallery)
7:00 PM Pali Paths (MR#1)

January 13 Friday

6:00 PM Play Reading (FHR)

January 14 Saturday

2:00 PM RE Teacher Training (MR#1)

January 15 Sunday

10:15 AM Sunday Church Service (Whole Church)
11:45 AM All About Our Church (Sanctuary)
12:15 PM Communications Committee (FHR)
2:00 PM Workshop "Building Community Resi-
-lence" (Sanctuary)

January 16 Monday

Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday - OFFICE CLOSED

January 17 Tuesday

11:30 AM Staff Meeting (Office)
7:00 PM Men's Support Group (F.H.R.)
7:30 PM Buddhist Meditation (Gallery)

January 20 Friday

5:30 PM Opera Group (Sanctuary)

January 21 Saturday

6:00 PM Art Reception "Elizabeth Kent" (Gallery)

January 22 Sunday

9:00 AM Personnel Committee (MR#1)
10:15 AM Sunday Church Service (Whole Church)
12:15 PM H.U.U. Women's Federation (FHR)

January 24 Tuesday

11:30 AM Staff Meeting (Office)
7:30 PM Buddhist Meditation (Gallery)

January 25 Wednesday

6:00 PM 'Ohana Potluck/Games Night (Art Room)
6:30 PM Board Meeting (Sun Room)
6:30 PM A Course in Miracles Group (MR#1)

January 26 Thursday

7:00 PM Pali Paths (MR#1)

January 29 Sunday

10:15 AM Sunday Church Service (Whole Church)
12:00 PM Volunteer Fair (Gallery)

January 31 Tuesday

11:30 AM Staff Meeting (Office)
7:00 PM All Believers Network (Sun Room)
7:30 PM Buddhist Meditation (Gallery)

February 1 Wednesday

7:00 PM Book Discussion (F.H.R.)

February 2 Thursday

Groundhog Day

February 3 Friday

6:00 PM Play Reading (FHR)

February 5 Sunday

10:15 AM Sunday Church Service (Whole Church)
12:00 PM Worship Committee (MR#1)

February 7 Tuesday

11:30 AM Staff Meeting (Office)
7:00 PM Men's Support Group (F.H.R.)
7:30 PM Buddhist Meditation (Gallery)

February 8 Wednesday

6:30 PM A Course in Miracles Group (MR#1)
7:00 PM Building Committee (Sun Room)

February 9 Thursday

7:00 PM Pali Paths (MR#1)

February 12 Sunday

10:15 AM Sunday Church Service (Whole Church)
11:30 AM Second Sunday Lunch (Sanctuary
Kitchen)
12:00 PM Social Justice (FHR)

New Deadlines!!!!

Starting January 1, 2012, the deadline for written Order of Service Announcements will be Noon on the Wednesday before the Sunday.

Please bring your copy to the Church Office or send an email copy to the Church Office at office@unitariansofhi.org.

Connect With Willing Volunteers...

And Review The New Church Organizational Chart....

So, could you use a few more volunteers to do the important work of your Committee?

We have a plan for you.

On **Sunday, January 29th, 2012 after the Service**, we will have a **Volunteer Fair** in the Gallery. The Volunteer Fair will be a way for your Committee or Group to recruit new Members.

The proposed Church Committee/Team/Task Force Organizational Chart will also be available for your review.

There will be ice cream!!!

So put this date on your calendar.

Please contact a Communications Committee Member (Russell Castagnaro, Jim Cooper, Chair Charlotte Huszcza, Steve Lohse, Molly Rowland, Sali Toda, Laurel Trammel, and Ian Valasek) if you need more information.

At Your Service

MUSIC COORDINATOR Karen Valasek
PIANIST Dennis Graue

January 8, 2012

Greeters Carla Allison and Laurel Zeri
Decorator Nancy Schildt
Parking Michael Brockert
Coffee Sue Jordan and Mitsue Stout
Usher Nancy Schildt
2nd Sunday Lunch Stone Soup

January 15, 2012

Greeters Ginny Fine and Charlotte Huszcza
Decorator Martina Queenth
Parking Jim Lomont
Coffee Shirley and Gene Parola
Usher Jim Cooper

January 22, 2012

Greeters Nancy Mower and Rick Mower
Decorator Theresa Moorleghen
Parking Michael Brockert
Coffee Beverly Lahr and Bob Fraser
Usher

January 29, 2012

Greeters Sheila O'Keefe and to be filled
Parking Michael Brockert
Decorator and Usher needed
Coffee Liz and Frank Morrow

February 5, 2012

Greeters Molly Rowland and Betty Murphy
Decorator Al Rowland
Parking Bob Murphy
Coffee Sue Jordan and Mitsue Stout
Usher Volunteer Opportunity

FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

5 Wilma Oksendahl
Richard Bell
9 Maria Tseu
27 Catherine Graham

Coming Book Group Selection

The Book Discussion Group meets at 7:00 p.m. on the first Wednesday of the month in the Fred Harper Room for an open discussion of the book at hand. Newcomers are welcome to join in. Allcomers select the books.

Wednesday, January 4, 2012 *Persuasion* by Jane Austen – The last of the adult novels was published with *Northanger Abbey*, the last of her juvenile novels (maybe), shortly after the author's death. This is a story about the difficulties of a man and a woman appropriate to one another finding one another and working out those difficulties in an environment that pays attention to and criticizes any struggles. It probably has a happy ending.

Wednesday, February 1, 2012 *The Namesake* by Jhumpa Lahiri – Perhaps best known for her Pulitzer Prize winning *Interpreter of Maladies*, the author, now an American, writes in this novel of the children of immigrants from Calcutta and their trials adapting to the new culture while continuing to relate to their parents.

Robert Durick

Renowned UU To Speak At Our Church...

On Sunday, January 15, 2012, from Noon to 2:00 p.m., Bill Scarvie will present a workshop:

Building Community Resilience in Uncertain Times.

There is a suggested donation of \$15.00 for the Workshop and no one will be turned away for lack of funds.

Inspired by the work of the **Resilience Circle Network**, this interactive workshop will explore our common economic uncertainty and more through introspection, intimate conversation, and group discussion.

The intention is to foster the creation of at least one **Resilience Circle** in our community.

Resilience Circles create a safe space where people can tell their stories, share their concerns and experiences, gain wisdom from each other, and build a basis for social action.

Bill will also be talking about these principles during the Sunday Service on January 15th.

His sermon, entitled ***The Face of Oppression*** deals with events which have dominated the news recently. It is seen in the angry faces of people demanding freedom and in the angry faces of rulers willing to kill to maintain their privileged position. Is the face of oppression still seen here in America? Is it waning as racial minorities gain economic and political clout? Or is its complexion simply changing? What are the risks, and what are the rewards as we approach a moment of grace in our national story?

You do not want to miss this one.

Charlotte Huszcza

Note from Nan:

At the December Board Meeting, my proposal to reduce my hours from 27 to 20 per week was accepted. I don't yet know what all the results of this change will be. Certainly, there will be things that I will no longer be doing. Thus, there will be opportunities for new volunteer adventures. Think about how you would like to contribute to Religious Education in our church community, and let's talk. Also talk with members of the Religious Education Team [formerly known as the RE Committee] about what can be done, and when, and by whom. This is one of several transformations taking place in Religious Education. Come, and be part of the change. We need one another!

Life Span Religious Education Nan Kleiber, Director

Coming Events:

Sunday, January 8: Children will be learning about Joshua and Jericho. Youth group members and others will be preparing Stone Soup to share with our congregation following the service.

Saturday, January 14, 1-4 p.m. Workshop for RE Teachers. We will be sharing our experiences with teaching stories from the Hebrew Bible. We will also have a special discussion on preventing sexual abuse of children.

Sunday, January 15: For the Lower Elementary Class, the story of Samson and Delilah. Introduction to David in the Upper Elementary Class. Youth group: Popcorn Theology. We'll also be talking about Martin Luther King, Jr. and the Parade to honor his birthday on Monday, January 16.

Monday, January 16: M.L. King, Jr. Parade.

Friday, January 20: Planned Parenthood Gala Fund-Raiser. Youth Group members are invited to volunteer as greeters and runners for this event. Please contact Nan for more information.

Friday, Saturday, and Sunday, January 20, 21, and 22: Training for facilitators for Our Whole Lives, Kindergarten - First Grade [healthy bodies, safe bodies and different kinds of families], and Fourth - Fifth - Sixth Grade [changes and puberty, friendship and relationship skills). This training will take place at the Church of the Crossroads, and will be led by Nan Kleiber and Ann Hanson. Ann is the point person for OWL programs for the United Church of Christ, and it is very exciting to have her coming to Honolulu to offer this training. Please contact Nan if you are interested in taking this training. Cost \$150. Scholarships available.

Sunday, January 29: Volunteer Fair. Please see page 7 for more information.

February and March, Sunday afternoons: Our Whole Lives program for 4th - 5th - 6th Graders, to be held at the Church of the Crossroads. The required Parent Orientation will be on Sunday, February 19, at 5 p.m. The programs for children and parents begin on Saturday, February 25, in the afternoon, and then on Sunday afternoons through April 1.

Again, please let Nan know ASAP if you and your family will be participating in this very important program. Cost: \$50 per participant with a cap of \$100 per family. Scholarships available upon request. Child care upon request, in advance only.

Youth Group: Will be helping with Stone Soup on Sunday, January 8. Thanks! Then, on with Popcorn Theology, and other special activities on Sunday mornings.

An attitude of gratitude at this latitude. There are so many people to thank for making our Religious Education Programs possible.

1. Members of the congregation who support our programs with time and money and enthusiasm.
2. Members of the Religious Education Committee [soon to be RE Team]: Genna Coursey, Catherine Graham, Susan Lebo, Steve Lohse, Mike Mottl, Kimberly Tobin and Laurel Trammell, who provide direction and support to our activities.
3. The RE Teachers!

For the Infants and Toddlers: Phyllis Keohohou our child care staff, plus volunteers: Eva Mair, Laurel Trammell, Carolyn Eaton, Bethany Schwartz, Erin Brown, and Laurel Zeri,

For Pre Kindergarten and Kindergarten: Sylvia Himeda, coordinator, plus volunteers: Julie Elting and Helen Slaughter.

For Lower Elementary: Amy Asselbaye, Catherine Graham, Ken Hamilton, and Brett and Kimberly Tobin. For Upper Elementary: Theresa Greaney, Steve Lohse, Mike Matti, and Richard Valasek.

For our Youth Group: Dirk Elting, Donna Lum, Ka'imi Nicholson, and Ako and Lester Stiefel.

4. The Sunday Morning Worship Team, which encourages the participation of people from all generations in our programs.

5. Church Staff: Don Dvojacki, who makes the whole production work. Karen Valasek, who sets us to music, and the Rev. Dr. Jonipher Kwong, who shares his vision and insight with us.

Special Request: We need two additional team members for our 4th - 5th - 6th Grade teaching team. This involves a commitment to assist with the class one Sunday a month, and to lead the class on the following Sunday. We are looking for active church members who are interested in learning and sharing with our Upper Elementary Class. Other team members are Mike Mottl, Steve Lohse and Theresa Greaney.

The Sky Is Falling!!!!

Okay, let's understand what is happening:

* Nan Kleiber will be resigning as Director of Religious Education on June 30, 2012.

*From now until then, Nan will be working 20 hours a week instead of her previous 30 hours per week.

*During March and June, Nan will be away. During the months, she is here, Nan will be working three (3) Sundays during the month.

Take a Deep Breathe and Remember What Is Printed In The Hitchhikers' Guide:

Don't Panic!!!

The Director of Religious Education Search Committee (DRESC) is looking for a new DRE.

In the meantime, **WE** need to step up and support our Religious Education Program.

Please fill out the form below and return it to the Church Office, Attn: Rev. Dr. Jonipher Kūpono Kwong or Charlotte Huszcza, Chair of the Personnel Committee.

Temporary RE Coordinator Needed...

During March and June, 2012, Director of Religious Education (DRE) Nan Kleiber will not be here.

We will need to hire a temporary Independent Contractor, who can recruit volunteers and run the RE program during these months.

If you are interested in this position, please contact The Rev. Dr. Jonipher Kūpono Kwong (minister@unitariansofhi.org) or Charlotte Huszcza, Chair of the Personnel Committee (lottefish@msn.com).

**Of course,
I want to support our
Religious Education Program**

I will help by coordinating materials for the Sunday RE Classes

I will help by supplying snacks

I will help by becoming a Team Member for a Sunday Morning RE Class

I will help by giving an Adult Course/Workshop

I will help by joining the RE Committee

I will help by applying for the paid position of Temporary RE Coordinator

Name(s) _____

Tel-Home _____ Cell _____

Email _____

Thank You

**Please return this form to the Church Office, Attn:
Rev. Dr. Jonipher Kūpono Kwong or Charlotte
Huszcza, Chair of the Personnel Committee.**

March 9 - 22, 2012: Unitarian Universalist Pilgrimage to the Philippines, to visit the UU Churches in Manila and on Negros Island. Nan Kleiber and the Rev. Dr. Jonipher Kwong and Kay Armstrong will be going on this trip. This is an opportunity to learn about Unitarian Universalism in the Philippines, to visit our Partner Church in Caican, Negros Oriental, to reach beyond our island to Unitarian Universalists from other islands and other cultures.

Special thanks to Betty Murphy and Hilka Easterwood, who have provided school supplies to send to our Partner Church in Caican. We continue to ask that you donate school supplies and books. Please keep this in mind as you sort through your holiday treasures. The UU Church in Caican has very few resources, so what we give makes a bit difference to the programs they can offer. We can share our good fortune, and our faith, with others.

You Can Make A Difference...

We Have Made A Difference To Our Philippines Congregations

In March, our Minister, The Rev. Dr. Jonipher Kūpono Kwong and our DRE, Nan Kleiber and other UUs will be going to the Philippines on a pilgrimage to the UU Churches which have been established there.

Many of our fellow UU's in the Philippines can use our help.

We will be collecting such items as school supplies and clothing to be sent in advance of Jonipher and Nan's visit.

Please start collecting now. This is an excellent way to regift unwanted Christmas presents.

Starting on Sunday, January 1st, a box will be placed in the foyer of our Church in which items may be placed.

If you need any reassurance about how important we are to the Philippine UU Community, the following email was received by Jonipher on December 18, 2011, from Rebecca Sienes concerning the Caican Congregation.

Rebecca reports: ***The Caican Congregation is fine except that there were big waves that hit the shore. The water breakers constructed through the donation of your Church was indeed a great help to the safety of the people.***

We made a difference.

Please help our sister Churches who are in desperate need.

Want to Learn All About Our Church?

On Sunday, January 15, after the morning service, you are invited to gather in the Sun Room to get acquainted and to learn more about the history of Unitarian/Universalism and of this particular (some might say peculiar) congregation. Newcomers are especially invited, but anyone interested is welcome. Attending one of these sessions is one of the steps to formal membership in the church. Questions? Talk to Catherine Graham, Membership Committee chair.

1 Entrepreneur + 3 Clerics = Formula For Peace

Starting on January 28th, 2012, The First Unitarian Church of Honolulu, The Church of the Crossroads, Mo'ili'ili Hongwanji Mission and NetWorks Incorporated will present a series of workshops on Compassionate Nonviolent Communication at the Church of the Crossroads (1212 University Ave., Honolulu).

Saturday, January 28th, will be the Introductory Event, from 9:00 a.m. to Noon, in Weaver Hall, Church of the Crossroads.

Tuesdays, February 7th to May 8th, at 6:30 – 8:30 p.m., will be the 14 week course in the Ross-Davis Room, Church of the Crossroads.

The primary facilitator, Chris Miller of NetWorks Inc. will use the text ***Nonviolent Communication: A Language of Life*** by Marshall Rosenberg as a guide for the workshop series.

The primary question is, "How do we avoid violence and suffering while changing the world?" Among the topics open for discussion will be listening deeply, practicing attentiveness and attitudinal healing.

Marshall Rosenberg asserts: "Nonviolent Communication shows us a way of being very honest, but without any criticism, without any insults, without any putdowns, without any intellectual diagnosis implying wrongness."

This information is perfect for dealing with workplace issues, family interactions, interpersonal relations and governmental situations.

The Church Leaders' Development Fund

The Board has designated the 4th Sunday Lunch (previously called Spaghetti Lunch) a fundraiser which would underwrite the costs to send First Unitarian Church of Honolulu Members to UUA (e.g., GA) and PCD Activities (e.g., Leadership School).

Everyone who volunteers for the program acquires hours which will be used to determine eligibility for the scholarships.

The HI-5 Recycling Program is also incorporated into this program.

In this Newsletter, the Scholarship Application Form is published. The deadline for submitting an application is February 29.

The Board President will appoint three Church Members to evaluate the Scholarship Applications and present recommendations to the Board at the March Board Meeting.

We Are So 21st Century...

Right now on the Church's website there is a **Donate** button.

You may pay your Pledge or increase your rate of payment or just enjoy our modernity by clicking on the **Donate** button, sharing your Bank Card or Credit Card or Checking Account information on a secure site and then sitting back and feeling the warmth of your generosity.

And if this isn't spectacular enough, we are now offering a way to donate to the Church anytime using your smart phone. We have our very own **QR (Quick Response)** Code. Just scan the image you see here using your phone's **Quick Response (QR)** code reader.



You Were On Santa's Nice List...

Thanks to all who participated in the Church's booth at the Christmas Fair on December 16-18, at Blaisdell.

The following volunteers gave of their time, talent and treasures: Betsy Brandt, Jim Cooper, Janice Davis, Paul Davis, Hilka Easterwood, Carolyn Eaton, Julie Elting, Ginny Fine, Catherine Graham, Marshall Heaney, Dave Hill, Charlotte Huszcza, Norma Koenig, Mell Lorentz, Theresa Moorlaghen, Dorothy & Phil Morris, Nancy Mower, Rick Mower, Arthur Nelander, Christian Peterson, Martina Queenth, Beth Ruze, Sali Toda, Laurel Trammell.

What a wonderful group of hard working and generous folks!!!

We so appreciate you and your gifts to the Church.

Charlotte Huszcza

Church Leaders' Development Fund Scholarship Application (Deadline: February 29)	
Name	_____
Tel #	_____
Cell #	_____
Email	_____
UUA/PCD Event	_____
Dollar Amount Requested \$	_____
For	_____
# Volunteer Hours	_____
Hours Verified	<input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO
Scholarship Awarded	<input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO
\$ Amount Awarded	_____
Comments From The Task Force:	

Task Force Members:	

More Transformation Stories

Aloha Dear Amazing Jonipher & First Unitarian Church of Honolulu members.

Mahalo for an incredible experience! Rev. Dr. Jonipher Kwong is brilliant, generous, gracious and the ideal Unitarian Universalist Minister. Your church is magnificent, and the Installation Service was the best we've ever seen or imagined. What a vigorous, competent, warm & friendly group of people you are & how we enjoyed the reception.

We did not know Jonipher before. I, Natalie, being a lifelong Unitarian, sent him an email asking if he knew of a congregant who had an extra room for us to sleep in while we were visiting our son in Honolulu. Our son is Jonathon Berliner, the Executive Director of Gregory House. He has cancer, is undergoing chemotherapy, and has a small condo. He is quite sick, and it was very good to be with him every day while we were there.

Jonipher picked us up at the airport with a lei for each of us two days before his Installation (and with a full schedule) and drove us to Krista & Matt Graves' home, where we stayed for a week. They are the most hospitable people we've ever met! Their children, JJ and Jesse, are the happiest, best adjusted, most loved darlings in the world. We miss them all.

We also had generous offers to stay from Paul Davis and from Natalie Gable. This is a testimony to the power of community coming together & being generous & transformational with radical hospitality.

In Fellowship. Natalie & John Tyler

My testimony about giving:

When I was 19 years old I went on my first solo bicycle trip on the Blue Ridge Parkway in North Carolina over spring break. Being my first time doing this, I was not as prepared as I should have been and on the third day of my trip I found out that the lodge where I had planned to restock my food was still closed for the winter. It was raining and cold as I rode down the mountain to the nearest town to find a store. When I finally got there I bought some supplies and tried to find a dry place to eat and sleep since it was already getting dark. I found a church with a light on inside. There were people meeting there, so I laid out all of my wet camping gear and waited until they had finished. When the pastor came out I asked him if I could spend the night there. I assured him that I would not be a bother and I would be gone in the morning. To my surprise, he insisted that I come home with him to spend the night and he would bring me back to my bicycle in the morning.

When we got to his house, I met his family and we dried my wet things. I took a hot shower and we shared a nice hot meal and talked for a while. I slept in their son's bedroom who was away at college. The next morning, the pastor brought me back to the church and I was on my way. When I told him that I wished I had a way to thank him he smiled at me and said that if one of his children was out doing what I was doing, he would hope that someone would do the same for them.

As I rode my bike away, I thought about what he said and I still think about it often. What he did for me was not much of an inconvenience to him, but it meant the world to a cold, soaking wet, kid who just came out of the woods. Since then, I have been on the giving and the receiving side of similar situations many, many times. Now, whenever I have the opportunity to thank that man by helping someone like John and Natalie, whether they need a place to stay, or a ride to the airport, or even just directions, whatever it is, I jump on the opportunity. I know why he was smiling when he said that to me. It feels good to give, and I think that it probably feels better than it does to receive.

"Your generosity empowers this Beloved Community to transform lives. Mahalo for growing our Unitarian Universalist witness throughout Hawaii."

Matt Graves

We're saddened by the news that **Clarence "Budge" George** died in late November. Budge and his wife Jane were regular visitors every fall for over twenty years. This church was important to them, although they maintained membership in the Santa Barbara, CA UU church. Budge was responsible for the creation of our beautiful stained glass piece. It was his idea, and after he and Al Rowland designed it, Budge took the project to a stained glass artisan in Santa Barbara. He oversaw the fabrication of the piece and then crated and shipped it to Honolulu for installation at the church. We had not seen Budge and Jane for two years, as his health did not allow for travel. Jane is listed in the back of our church directory, if you wish to send condolences.

Our sympathy goes to **Sheila O'Keefe**, whose mother died in December.

We're happy to welcome **Leanne MacIntire** as our newest member. She and other new members will be formally recognized at the January 29 service.

Beth Ruze would like to share this message: "I had a great visit with **Judy Robeck** in Kihei this December. I was teaching a tax class on Maui for Taxbusters' new employees. Judy and I attended a Toastmasters meeting together."

Norma Koenig will be leaving Hawaii for Spain in March, and she has sent a farewell message.

From: Norma K. Koenig: As you may have heard, I'm leaving Honolulu on March 28 to relocate near Malaga in southern Spain. By leaving Hawaii, I feel I'm taking the road less traveled (since I never planned to leave) and yet it is with a happy heart and great expectations for a future filled with work and sweet rewards: 1) I'll be closer to my original family since ethnically I'm Catalan; 2) Spiritually I feel I'm honoring my parents by caring enough to go back to my roots (having been victims of Franco, that is the least I can do in my life time to repay them for their struggle); 3) My nephew Patrick and I will be transforming a home into a B&B slated to open in the Spring 2013; and 4) last but not least, I get to invite my friends to come and visit us in what will become the center of my new universe. My e-mail is: norma2kk@aol.com. My phone- 946-3291- will be turned off on 3/1/12.

In Spain, we are buying 2.5 acres on top of a hill with 360 spectacular and breathtaking views which include the Mediterranean Sea with the port and coastline of Malaga and the distant snow capped Sierra Nevada and surrounding mountains.

I plan to continue serving my community (teaching mostly and possibly starting a UU Fellowship – no UUs in southern Spain!!) since I try to live by one of my favorite quotes "*I don't know what your destiny will be, but one thing I know: the only ones among you who will really be happy are those who have sought and found how to serve.*" (Albert Schweitzer).

In November, I joined the UU Church of the Larger Fellowship (CLF). It has been very rewarding to connect with folks around the world. In Spain my closest UU contact so far is in Barcelona; wonderful but not great for a coffee clutch (5 hours drive). In parting, I had liked to thank you all for your gift to me. Your gift was to let me serve a bit– as your President - and in so doing, you helped me learn to be happy... I look forward to hearing from you, nkk

The First Unitarian Church of Honolulu
2500 Pali Highway
Honolulu, Hawaii 96817

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



We Serve A Higher Power...

OUR MISSION!!!!

On Saturday, January 7, 2012,
your mission is to discuss the mission of our
Church.

Who are we? What do we do?
What is our place in the
Community???

We may also discuss the need
for a Second Sunday Service and more UU
Churches on Oahu.

**We need your input—your
creativity—your insights.**

The goal is to vote on our new
Mission Statement in the Spring, 2012.

See you in the Sanctuary at
2:00 pm.

We will be done by 5:00 p.m.

Stone Soup

2nd Sunday Lunch in January is
traditionally Stone Soup Sunday – we
have the stones – we drop them in water
and let them boil. With luck, you will
bring a cup or two of chopped veggies or
meat to add to the soup. Whoever finds a
stone in their soup bowl gets, a year of
good luck. (Providing they return the
stones to use again.)

So, join us on January 8, for
yummy soup, for which you will have
added some of the yumminess.

Your part: Bring 1-2 cups of
chopped veggies or meat to the kitchen
when you arrive at church – the kitchen
menehunes will add it to the stones. Eat
delicious Stone Soup after the service.
The Youth Group will comprise the
kitchen menehune group.