



**Announcements for Sunday, December 15, 2013  
Abraham Lincoln Unitarian Universalist Congregation**



*Next Sunday: "Winter's Bouquet of Holidays & Holy Days" by Rev. Martin Woulfe*

**\*\*\* Happening TODAY \*\*\***

**ALUUC Annual Glove, Mitten, Hat and Scarf Tree:** This year we are again collecting gloves, mittens, hats, and scarves for the Contact Ministries for their Christmas Assistance Giveaway Program. Please bring new gloves, mittens, hats, and scarves to ALUUC TODAY, December 15 and hang them on the tree!

**The Religious Education Committee has a vacancy in the nursery.** If you are interested in becoming a nursery worker, please contact DRE Marla Johnson at [DRE@aluuc.org](mailto:DRE@aluuc.org).

**Looking for a Different Holiday Gift? Consider Fair Trade Products**

We all know that the holidays are a time for reconnecting with family and friends. They are also a time to connect with our global community. When you support Fair Trade, you become part of a network of people dedicated to facilitating change for disadvantaged artisans and farmers. During the month of December, the Social Action Committee will be selling Fair Trade products (coffee, teas, cocoa, and chocolate bars) **TODAY** and **December 22** following the service.

**Celebrate the Guest at Your Table!**

Our Guest at Your Table program is going strong! So many families and friends have brought human rights home and welcomed our "guests" into their lives. Thanks to your support, the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee is working throughout the United States and around the world to advance human rights.

Your beautiful Stories of Hope booklet introduces you to people whose efforts in partnership with UUSC have helped change people's lives. Each week, with family and friends, we can focus on a different story of hope as we gather and consider our many blessings.

This week, meet Nelson Escobar, who came to the United States from El Salvador seeking asylum but experienced oppressive working conditions at a cleaning company. Nelson now teaches food workers about their rights and helps them access support from workers' centers and other organizations.

If you have not yet picked up your Stories of Hope booklet and Guest at Your Table envelope, you can do so in the vestibule or by talking with Deborah Cavanaugh-Grant, our Guest at Your Table coordinator. Your gift to Guest at Your Table is tax deductible - please be sure to complete the form on your envelope to receive your acknowledgement. And remember, gifts of \$100 are eligible to be matched by the UU Congregation at Shelter Rock, doubling the impact of your support!

Please help stack chairs after the service today in preparation for the Labyrinth Walk this Friday.

**\*\*\* COMING SOON \*\*\***

Paul Oakley will lead a **"Blue Christmas" service** at 6:00 PM on Friday, December 20. A Blue Christmas service is intended for those who are experiencing grief during the holiday season. If Christmas and this time of year painfully reminds you of the absence of people you have lost at this

season in years past, if this will be your first Christmas after losing a loved one to death or estrangement, if Christmas used to be meaningful but is now difficult because of the things you no longer believe, or if there are other losses you are grieving while those around you are celebrating, this is a service for you.

**Paul Oakley will lead a small group focused on exploration of the spiritual practice of prayer** beginning in January. In order for this to be available to the largest number of interested persons, your feedback is needed. A sign-up sheet will be up through the month of December. Please let Paul know by January 1 which of these three options you would attend:

- 1) The second and fourth Friday of each month at 7:00 PM.
- 2) The third Tuesday of each month at 7:00 PM.
- 3) The last Thursday of each month at 11:00 AM.

**The ALUUC “Focus” Newsletter deadline for January 2014 is December 17.** Due to the holidays, the date has to be pushed up a little in order to get it out before the end of the month. Thanks for your support.

**Study Group:** The Social Action Committee is sponsoring a three-week study group on the book, *Behind the Kitchen Door* by Saru Jayaraman. This is the 2013-2014 UU "Common Read", and focuses on the struggles of restaurant workers with low wages and poor working conditions. Our study group will meet on three consecutive Monday evenings, January 6, 13, and 20 at 6:30PM. For a talk on this subject by Saru Jayaraman on YouTube, visit this link:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UEd70vVI-uo> Please RSVP Susan Solon at [welcome@aluuc.org](mailto:welcome@aluuc.org) at your earliest convenience; we get a discount for bulk orders of books.

**\*\*This Week at a Glance \*\***

<u>DATE</u>	<u>EVENT</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Room</u>
Sunday, Dec 15	Choir Rehearsal	9:15 am	Sanctuary
	RE Holiday Youth Pageant	10:30 am	Sanctuary
Monday, Dec 16	PFLAG Meeting	7:00 pm	Commons
Tuesday, Dec. 17	Choir rehearsal	6:30 pm	Sanctuary
Thursday, Dec. 19	Meditation	7:00 pm	Sanctuary
	Men’s Group	7:30 pm	Emerson
Friday, Dec. 20	Blue Christmas Service	6:00 pm	Commons
	Labyrinth Walk	7:00 pm	Sanctuary
Saturday, Dec 21	Zen Meditation	9:00 am	Sanctuary
	Pagan Group Yule Celebration	6:00 pm	Sanctuary
Sunday, Dec. 22	Committees Meet	12:00 pm	various
	Music Committee Mtg.	12:00 pm	Fuller
	Movie Night	6:00 pm	Commons

**\*\*Other Items of Interest \*\***

The Friends of Lincoln Library will be holding their annual winter **Paperback Book Sale** on Saturday, January 18, 2014. The sale will be held in the Carnegie Room from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. (The library will be open to the public at 9 a.m. that day.) More details, including prices, will be announced in January.