



**Announcements for Sunday, December 22, 2013
Abraham Lincoln Unitarian Universalist Congregation**



Next Sunday: "The Spiritual Dimensions of Family Stories" by Jacqueline Jackson

***** Happening TODAY *****

The Religious Education Committee has a vacancy for a worker in the nursery. If you are interested in becoming a nursery worker, please contact DRE Marla Johnson at 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** 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 Danielle Neus, who cofounded a group that is helping bring a highly successful model for home gardens from the rural countryside to Haiti's capital city. Danielle is helping urban earthquake survivors reap the wisdom from the rural eco-villages to regain self-sufficiency and food sovereignty.

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! Donations will be collected on January 12, 2014.

***** COMING SOON *****

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.

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 at your earliest convenience; we get a discount for bulk orders of books.

Adult Education Class Continues

Paul Oakley will offer the second half of the "What Moves Us" adult class on five consecutive Wednesdays, January 8 - February 5. We will begin at 6:00 PM with a simple meal, after which class will go for an hour and a half. Each session looks at a main idea of a different historical or living Unitarian, Universalist, or Unitarian Universalist thinker or leader, examines how that idea came from their lived experience, and discussing whether or how that idea continues to be important to us individually, in this congregation, and in the denomination. The sign-up sheet will continue to be available until the first class meeting. You do not need to have participated in the first half to join this class.

The deadline for submission of essays on King/Gandhi legacy has been extended to January 12, 2014. Direct your questions to Tom VonDeBur or Jacqueline Jackson.

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

<u>DATE</u>	<u>EVENT</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Room</u>
Sunday, Dec. 22	Committees Meet	12:00 pm	various
	Music Committee Mtg.	12:00 pm	Fuller
	Movie Night	6:00 pm	Commons
Tuesday, Dec. 24	Christmas Eve Service	7:00 pm	Sanctuary
Wednesday, Dec 25	Christmas Day	CLOSED	
Thursday, Dec. 26	Meditation	7:00 pm	Sanctuary
Saturday, Dec 28	Zen Meditation	9:00 am	Sanctuary
Sunday, Dec 29	Choir Rehearsal	9:15 am	Sanctuary

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

Gather NEW YEAR'S DAY to **Crystalize Your Intentions for a Peaceful 2014 !** Peggy Patty will be playing seven beautiful Crystal Singing Bowls on January 1, 2014 at 6 pm at Unity Church on Cordelia Street in Springfield. Help send these beautiful pure vibrations and prayers for a world in balance into this New Year.

