



**Announcements for Sunday, December 8, 2013  
Abraham Lincoln Unitarian Universalist Congregation**



*Next Sunday: "Holiday Youth Pageant" by ALUUC Youth*

**\*\*\* 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 on Sunday, December 8 and 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 15 and 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 George Friday, who learned at an early age that it can be hard to stand alone against injustice. She trained in community organizing and began working to help others in building coalitions. George helps people understand the capacity of their combined voices and the value of their grassroots knowledge and expertise.

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! We will be having a **special collection of the envelopes (and boxes) on Sunday, January 5** or you can mail your contribution directly to UUSC.

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

**Youth Holiday Pageant:** A special "dress" rehearsal (parents were notified if their child requires a costume) is scheduled for **Saturday, December 14, 2013 at 2:00 pm until 4:00 pm** here at the church. Please mark your calendars. Contact Kathy Schultz, Choir Director or Marla Johnson, DRE with any questions.

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. If you will attend this service, please contact Paul no later than December 13 by email at [intern@aluuc.org](mailto:intern@aluuc.org) or by phone at 618.214.0340 so that we can finalize our plans accordingly.

**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.

**New to UU Class:** Have you been attending ALUUC and feel this should be your “spiritual home”? Would you like to learn more about UUism and this congregation? Please sign up for an informal session on Monday, December 9, 7 pm and meet other new people, as well as Rev. Woulfe and our Membership Coordinator, Susan Solon. All are welcome. Please sign up on the sheet posted by the water fountain. Child care will be provided upon request.

**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.

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

<u>DATE</u>	<u>EVENT</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Room</u>
Sunday, Dec 8	Choir Rehearsal	9:15 am	Sanctuary
Monday, Dec 9	New to UU Class	7:00 pm	Channing
Tuesday, Dec. 10	Choir rehearsal	6:30 pm	Sanctuary
	Board Meeting	7:00 pm	Fuller
Thursday, Dec. 12	Meditation	7:00 pm	Sanctuary
Saturday, Dec 14	Zen Meditation	9:00 am	Sanctuary
	Youth Pageant Rehearsal	2:00 pm	Sanctuary
Sunday, Dec 15	Choir Rehearsal	9:15 am	Sanctuary
	RE Holiday Youth Pageant	10:30 am	Sanctuary

**\*\*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.