



Worship

SUNDAY SERVICES 11 AM

December 1- Patrice Schwermer, Natalia Duke & Attorney Amanda Velazquez
"Keys Immigrant Coalition" This local coalition works to "empower, support, inform, uplift, and be in solidarity with our immigrant community by raising community consciousness, bridging connections and resources, and ending isolation while working for justice, accountability and transparency."

December 8- Marilyn Smith " Proud to be Unitarian Universalist"
As part of this program, we will invite comments from our members and friends who have attended services in other UU congregations recently.

December 15- Rev Steve Torrence "Yes, Virginia, there is a Santa Claus" By popular demand, Rev. Steve Torrence is returning as our guest speaker, from our neighbor congregation, the Metropolitan Community Church.

December 22- Ellen Paul "Creativity- Where Art, Science and Ritual intersect"
Ellen Paul is past president and lay leader of the UU Church in the Pines, in Weeki Wachee, FL. On this return to our southernmost congregation, let's ask for an update on their congregation's purchase of property in Spring Hill and their mission to help the homeless in Hernando County.

December 29- A Hanukkah collaboration- "Rekindle Wonder"

**Whoever you are, we welcome you.
Wherever you come from, we welcome you.
Whatever you worship, we welcome you.
Whomever you love, we welcome you.
We ARE One Island Family!**



News & Notes

President's Message DECEMBER 2019 Marilyn Smith

There's so much to look forward to in December! Your One Island Family board members expect to be busy getting ready for the start of our 2020 congregation year. You will be asked by our treasurer Joy Brown Taylor, to fill out a pledge form to declare your intention for financial support in the New Year. Based upon your pledge, our finance committee (Joy Taylor, Dave Arnold and Jim Smith) will be drafting a new budget for your approval to continue our mission and expand our programs. We expect to have vacancies for board positions, so all voting members are invited to step up and let our nominating committee (Liz Levi, Clare Angermann and Denise Obenauer- Kohnke) know if you are willing to serve on the 2020 board. We expect to have openings for at least one director and our vice president/president elect. Serving on our board is a great way to know what's happening, and involves attending one meeting per month and being available for policy decisions by email or cell phone as needed. We'll be sending out an agenda for our January 26, 2020 Annual Meeting and creating an Annual Report to keep you advised of all we've done in 2019. Each member and friend of One Island Family is important to us and we want to keep you involved and informed!

December is also when we celebrate many holy days and holidays in our Unitarian Universalist tradition. This is the season of the Winter Solstice, Christmas, Hannukah and Kwanzaa. We would like to share the following meditation to begin our season:

Meditation on Winter Celebrations

"We are in the midst of the season of celebration.

Celebrations: Of the birth of new hope, Of the festival of lights, Of the triumph of freedom.

The darkness of the year is lifting and the time of light grows longer.

We have gathered with an anticipation of hope for peace on earth and in our homes.

We have gathered in this season of celebrations seeking comfort to soften the pain and the losses our lives have suffered in the fast retreating year.

We have gathered to worship joyfully within this season of celebrations with the tenderness and love of family and friends around us.

Let us be embraced by the strength and power of this sacred space that we each bring as we create this beloved community.

Let joy and sorrow join in the fullness of our living.

Let the power and strength we embody join us together as we move through the seasons of celebration into a new year with a new vision of hope for peace on earth. . ."

(By Rev. Dr. [Elizabeth M Strong](#))



**May the gifts of abundant
joy, health & happiness
be yours this season!
Happy Holidays, One Island Family**

OIF Board meeting has been rescheduled to Tuesday, December 10 at 4:15.

FEELING THE SPIRIT?

This is the season of giving and sharing and One Island Family is ready to do just that! Watch for our GIVING TREE to appear in the sanctuary soon and add GIFT CARDS to it as you can! For more information, see Joy Taylor or email jbt22ster@gmail.com

FROM YOUR TREASURER:

As we wind down 2019 and look to 2020, it is time to count our myriad blessings and give thanks--with our time, our talents and our treasures. Our PLEDGE SEASON is upon us. We are all in this fellowship together, dear One Island Family members and friends. It is in our togetherness that we derive strength and common purpose. As our Board plans our operating budget for 2020, we ask for your continued monetary support of our mutual goals. Per our By Laws, your pledge commitment for 2020 must be received by JANUARY 10, 2020 (along with a good faith payment of \$5/ voting member, \$10/voting couple) to insure voting rights at our ANNUAL MEETING JANUARY 26, 2020. Watch for your letters of update (showing where your current pledge is in progress) and pledge 2020 emails during the month of December! May your holidays be happy days and may 2020 bring us renewed caring and commitment!
Joy Brown Taylor, Treasurer

Over a decade ago, one of our long-time members created an endowment at the Community Foundation of the Florida Keys (CFFK) to benefit One Island Family. The terms of the endowment are that once per year, One Island Family will receive a pay-out from the invested principle of that generous gift. There have been years when that pay-out was sorely needed! It's comforting to know that every November we have that automatic infusion of operating cash. If One Island Family should cease to exist, the balance of the endowment would revert to CFFK ownership.

The CFFK endowment allows *anyone* to add to the existing principal! This has happened in the past. The purpose of this note is to remind everyone of this opportunity. I'm a past Board member of CFFK, and if you would be interested in this gifting strategy, please contact me and we can make this happen. Aside from the tax advantages to the donor, the additional benefits are excellent:

- (1) It benefits CFFK to have this fund (and many others) in their portfolio. This is where charitable people go to see how Key West is investing in itself, and where the needs are.
- (2) It benefits One Island Family by virtue of the once-per-year unrestricted grant.

(3) And here's the real magic! The OIF pay-out percentage is calculated so that the endowment principal never runs out!! Your gift is not just for that calendar year ... it becomes a part of the annual OIF pay-out, FOREVER!

Please contact Jim Smith (305-304-2433, jim@varsityrealtor.com) if you might be interested.

Adopt-A-Highway. We have scheduled a highway clean up on December 14. We'll meet at 9:30 at Baby's Coffee, 3180 US Highway 1, MM 15. Our clean up area is from MM14 to 16. We all need to watch the safety video before going out for the clean up. The video is on the Florida Dept of Transportation web site: <http://www.fdot.gov/maintenance/aahinfo.shtm>. If you need transportation, please let me know. Dave Arnold, 757-285-1609

CFFK UNSUNG HERO - The Board of OIF is pleased to announce that **DAVE ARNOLD** is this year's designated Unsung Hero. The annual Luncheon and celebration of this award is scheduled for *Friday, February 7th, 2020, 11AM, at KW Marriott Beachside.*

If you would like to join Dave and Board members, the cost is *\$60 each* and tables hold a maximum of 12 guests. Checks payable to One Island Family (memo line indicating the CFFK event, please) to Joy Taylor, Treasurer, by December 20, please.

Congratulations to Dave!

One Island Family
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Monthly Calendar: <http://www.oneislandfamily.org/calendar>