

ONE ISLAND FAMILY

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DECEMBER 2023

Happiest of Holiday Season to All!

WORSHIP

DECEMBER SERVICES AT ONE ISLAND FAMILY: JOIN US (LIVE OR ON ZOOM) SUNDAYS AT 11AM

- 3** **Rev. Steve Torrence:** We welcome back our friend with his singular "INSIGHTS"
- 10** **Rev. Doug Slagle:** "Chanukah and the Light We Cannot See"
- 17** **Barb Goldworm and Karen Blackwell:** "Lighting the Dark Season" Reflections on Christmas, Kwanzaa and Solstice
- 24** **Early Evening Music Service** (with supper after)
- 31** **We invite all to:** "Share RESOLUTIONS"

NEWS AND NOTES

PRESIDENT'S NOTE

Hello One Island Family,

This December as the days get darker and the nights get longer, we celebrate many lights; Chanukah, Solstice and Christmas. I especially welcome the lights this year and the joy and wishes for peace on earth. I look forward to returning to Key West where the days are always longer than the rest of the country and the vibe stays peace loving.

I also look forward to working toward gaining Welcoming Congregation status for our congregation. This would certify us as a safe and welcoming place for LGBTQIA people specifically. We have received the official application and are working with the Side With Love UUA team to determine what that will take as well as documenting all of the work we are already doing which will count in the process. We have a team which has volunteered to work on this from our last newsletter mention but if anyone else wants to join, please let me know. There will certainly be more opportunities to participate as we complete the process.

Barb and I wish everyone a vet safe, happy and healthy holiday season!!

In peace,

Karen Blackwell

PLEDGE SEASON

There are several things effected by your pledge. First, your pledge is a key item in determining our budget income, Second, your payment of at least \$5 is part of qualifying as a voting member at our annual meeting.

As you know, our 2023 fiscal year end is coming up soon (December 31, 2023). Thus, we need to be planning for 2024. As part of getting ready for the new year, we will develop a budget. Of course the members and friends pledge totals is a key item in setting the budget income.

An initial payment, of a minimum of \$5, is required to qualify you to vote at our annual meeting. For current renewing members the payment is required at least 15 day prior to the annual meeting (Jan 6 2024). For new members the payment is required 30 day prior to the annual meeting (Dec 22, 2023). New members must also sign the Membership Book.

The annual 2024 meeting will be held January 21, 2024.

WORDS TO SHARE FROM REV. BOB MURPHY: "SEASONS GREETINGS: FOOD AND HOLIDAYS"

Lyn and I don't have a fireplace. So we use a chimenea on Christmas Eve. Chimeneas are used for heating and cooking in some villages in Latin America. Our Mexican chimenea is a freestanding fireplace, made of clay, with a holiday chimney decorated with lights.

How does Santa Claus squeeze himself down the small chimney on a chimenea? He has magical powers. Gifts arrive for Christmas morning, although, sometimes, the old guy gets confused about colors, sizes, and other matters. We have a solution for the problem.

Instead of hot chocolate, Lyn and I prepare a pot of hot coffee for Santa. Hot cocoa is nice, but if Santa needs a jolt of caffeine, he'll find some espresso at our house during the early morning hours.

Can you imagine the December holidays without chocolate and coffee? The story is the same for Hanukkah, Kwanzaa, and the Night of the Winter Solstice. Vanilla, ginger, nutmeg, sugar, and cinnamon, and other tropical and sub-tropical items are important for all of the December holidays. Some of these items are identified with places near the Gulf of Mexico. In November, Lyn and I went to Central America to learn about fair trade in the Americas.

Look for fair trade labels when you shop in local markets. Check the labels on spice and coffee containers, on chocolates, on bananas, and on other products. Fair trade organizations help farmers in developing countries to achieve equitable and sustainable trade relationships. Fair trade products sometimes cost a bit more than other products. Still, paying a few pennies more for fair trade products supports food justice. Congregations and families can be helpful.

2024 UNSUNG HEROS CELEBRATION, FEBRUARY 2

Since 2001, the Community Foundation of the Florida Keys has been hosting an annual event to recognize the service of volunteers. Monroe County 501(c)(3) nonprofit organizations are invited to nominate one Unsung Hero to recognize that individual's unpaid contributions over the past year. Your Unsung Hero and one organization representative are invited to attend the event as our complimentary guests.

One Island Family has always participated in this recognition! If you would like to suggest a nominee, please send your 'candidate's' name and a few words about why you have chosen that person to uufkw@yahoo.com in the next 2 weeks. The Board will announce the Congregation's choice after the **Dec. 13** Board meeting.

If you would like to attend the luncheon, please watch for the sign-up during Coffee Hour;-).

HOMETOWN HOLIDAY PARADE, DECEMBER 2

Parade kicks off at 7 PM starting on Truman Ave. (at White St.), then proceeds to Duval St., then down Duval St., ending at Eaton St. The most charming hometown parade you'll ever see with holiday floats, and tons of kids (of all ages).

Of course, Santa will make a guest appearance!

HOMELESS MEMORIAL, DECEMBER 15

Homeless Persons' Memorial Day recognition will be held Dec 15, 4-5 PM, 701 Passover Ln, Key West.

BLUETOOTH HAS ARRIVED!

There is now Bluetooth capability in the One Island Family hall. There's a little box on top of the amplifier where you push the button and connect to Bluetooth on your phone. I've notified the two regular Exercise teachers. If anyone has contact with others who might have meetings in there or use for this, please let them know that we have reached the 21st century.

ONE ISLAND FAMILY CHOIR

Yes, there will be choir this week for Steve Torrence's service. Anyone interested in singing? Please join me at 10:15. The songs will not be hard, mostly familiar with easy arrangements. I encourage anyone who loves to sing to join us. Nancy 3. Hoffman. If you wish to receive more information details before Sunday, please text me at 207-9 39-0301.

A CHRISTMAS CELEBRATION

Tuesday, December 5 – 7:30 pm at Big Pine United Methodist Church, Big Pine Key

Thursday, December 7 – 7:30 pm at Venture Out, Cudjoe Key

Enjoy a collection of music and lessons to celebrate the season, presented by the Lower Keys Community Choir and the Keys Chamber Orchestra. Admission is free, and a goodwill collection will be taken.

***The Keys Chamber Orchestra &
Lower Keys Community Choir
present***

A Christmas Celebration

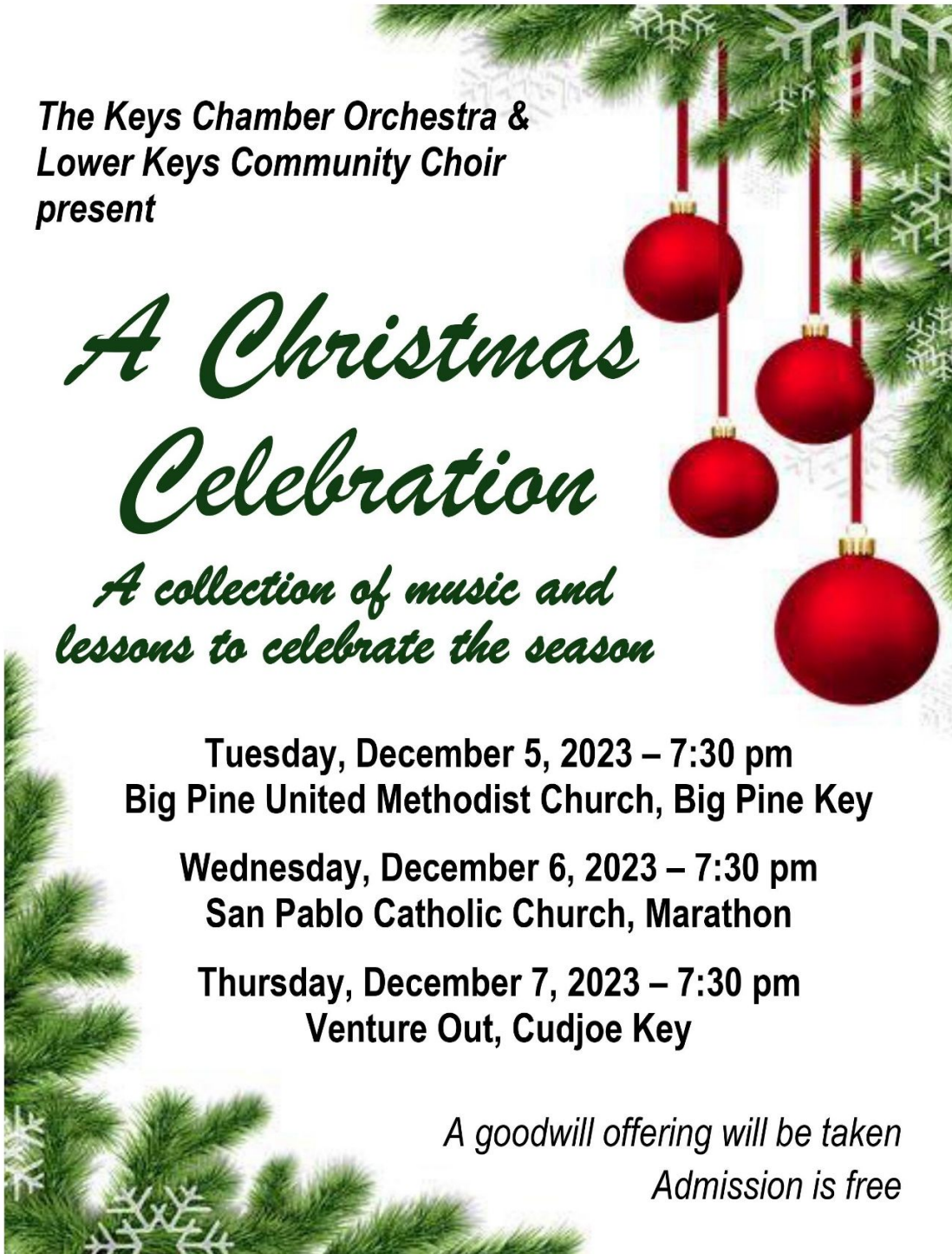
*A collection of music and
lessons to celebrate the season*

**Tuesday, December 5, 2023 – 7:30 pm
Big Pine United Methodist Church, Big Pine Key**

**Wednesday, December 6, 2023 – 7:30 pm
San Pablo Catholic Church, Marathon**

**Thursday, December 7, 2023 – 7:30 pm
Venture Out, Cudjoe Key**

*A goodwill offering will be taken
Admission is free*



KEY WEST HOLIDAY CONCERTS 2023

Sunday, December 3

Messiah concert

FREE, 7 pm, at Old Stone Methodist Church

Or pop in to the rehearsal in the afternoon from 2-4.

Friday December 8

Holiday Concert

FREE, 5 -9 pm. multiple entertainers at Custom House Museum - Holiday Bazaar.

The Ukulele Xmas group will go on around 7:30 pm.

Sunday December 10

Eaton Street Stroll

FREE 4-7 PM, multiple venues like Woman's Club, Williams Hall, Studios, more.

Keys Choral Arts will perform last at St Paul's, around 6:30.

Tuesday, December 19

Keys Choral Arts Holiday Concert

with Southernmost Chamber Music Society

\$30, 7 pm at St Pauls' Church

Ticketed event, includes reception.

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