

RE guide to winter holidays @ UUCA!

Dear families;

As you know, this time of year is usually *packed* with seasonal activities! Many of our winter traditions will be familiar with some of you, but new to others. We don't want any of you to miss out on these wonderful opportunities to participate in celebrations, pageants and social justice. So, here for your convenience, is our *Family Guide to Winter Holidays @ UUCA!*

Social Justice

- **Guest at Your Table**

GAYT was launched last week, and we will be collecting boxes in the downstairs foyer until **December 15**. GAYT is a great opportunity for children and families to learn how our work with the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee benefits specific people and projects around the world. You can also donate online at <http://www.uusc.org/guestonline>, use the online fundraising tool to ask your friends and family to increase your impact. Learn more about GAYT here: <http://www.uusc.org/guest>. **Deadline: December 15 Questions about this?**

Contact ReAsst@uucava.org

- **Secret Santa**

Every year, families of UUCA work with community partners such as the Arlington Partnership for Affordable Housing (APAH) to make the holiday wishes of many families come true. How it works: Families sponsor individuals on our list by purchasing gifts for them and leaving them under our RE Christmas tree. The gifts are then delivered to the partner organizations to give to the families who await in anticipation. UUCA plays a big role in this drive, along with other houses of worship, and this year, we have offered to very generously sponsor quite a few families. Visit the desk in the downstairs foyer to sign up to sponsor a family! We will provide you with a "tag" describing the individual and his or her needs. The deadline to bring gifts for your recipients is **December 15**. **Questions about this? Contact ReAsst@uucava.org**

Festivities

- **Solstice Holiday Party**

The kid-friendly program draws upon a range of traditions to celebrate the changing of the seasons and the community that sustains us through the long winter. The evening begins with a Wassail bowl and crackers and cheese. The program includes reading, singing, and dancing elements that engage all ages. We take a break part way through to share a pot-luck dessert. **Saturday, December 14, from 6:30 to 9:00 pm in Fellowship Hall. Tickets: \$5 for adults and \$2 for children, payable at the door. For more information: uucasolstice@gmail.com**

- **Mistletoe Maze and Mistletoe Meal! (Part of the annual Mistletoe Mall)**

This exciting event is anticipated every year not only by UUCA families, but also our community and neighborhood partners and families! Upstairs in the Activity Room will be the usual array of wonderful local vendors and artisans, for your gift-buying pleasure! In the downstairs Activity Room, we are featuring a new "Mistletoe Maze!"

Travel winter holiday traditions and crafts from around the world while following our maze, and at the very end, take a picture with UUCA's own Santa Claus! The family-friendly activities culminate upstairs in the Fellowship Hall, where we invite you to enjoy wholesome food via potluck (and pizza) as well as some seasonal storytelling and music. **Interested in volunteering to help put on this event? We would love your help! Contact fstokeldjr@aol.com or ReAsst@uucava.org to find out more. Family-friendly activities on Saturday, December 7 from 10:00 am – 1:00 pm. (Vending upstairs from 10:00 – 4:00).**

Observances

- **Winter Solstice Ceremony w/ Outdoor Bonfire**

Join Reverend Linda Olson Peebles for an outdoor celebration of this powerful time of the year, a time of change, of letting go of things past and calling forth things to come! **This family-friendly ceremony will take place on the Winter Solstice on Saturday, December 21 @ from 5:30 to 6:30. Meet in the UUCA parking lot. For more information, contact Rev. Linda Olson Peebles: rev.linda.peebles@uucava.org**

- **Christmas Eve Nativity Pageant & Family-Friendly Worship Services**

It's almost here!!! The pageant and Christmas Eve services will take place at 4:00 and 6:00 pm, with the more adult-oriented service at 9:00 pm. There are many opportunities to participate in the pageant because each family service will need its own cast! So don't wait! Beginning this Sunday, sign up in the downstairs foyer or at the RE table in the Fellowship Hall to participate in this year's Christmas Eve pageant! **Rehearsals for this event will be on Sunday, December 22 and Monday, December 23. If you are interested in volunteering or having your family participate in the pageant cast and want to know more, you can also contact dre@uucava.org**