



Topic: The Joy of Nature & a Summer Solstice Story

UU Source of Wisdom: Earth Based traditions & Principle # 7

This month our theme at church is **Joy**. Joy is the feeling of happiness and excitement. Joy is important for Unitarian Universalists. Nature gives us joy, because it is a time when we feel connected to all that is around us. We try to live carefully on the earth and take joy from nature. One of our principles, the web of life, is about the joy of living as part of everything around us.



STORY: "How Summer Came to the Island People" found in the book: **Summer Solstice** by Ellen Jackson
Adapted by the author, from an ancient Hawaiian chant that tells of the adventures of Maui, a mythological hero of Polynesia. (NOTE: If we could have a person here who's heritage it is to tell the story that would be ideal because we may miss the appreciation of this story as it is rightfully interpreted by Polynesian people.

SUNDAY ACTIVITIES:

- Sidewalk Sundial
- Chalk Drawings



TAKE-IT-HOME

- **Book: Summer Solstice** by Ellen Jackson - In the beginning of the book, it has the origins and cultural comparisons of Summer Solstice activities around the world and across time.
- **Learn about Hawai'i**
http://www.polynesia.com/polynesian_culture/hawaii/index.html#.WT7xCsa1uM8
- **Tapa cloth** https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tapa_cloth (see below a Kapa (tapa cloth), pre-1890, Hawaii (The Peabody Museum of Archaeology and Ethnology, Massachusetts))



- **Learn about a Family with children who visited Halea-kala National Park (in 2011)**
<http://www.theworldisabook.com/1847/haleakala-national-park-with-kids/>
- **ANOTHER BOOK the joy in Nature for Pre-K-2nd grades:**
The Hermit and the Well by *Thich Nhat Hanh* A story from the time the author was a young boy in Vietnam. When his school class goes on a trip to climb a mountain. He hopes to meet the hermit who lives near the top. Instead, he discovers a beautiful well and finds the secret to his own happiness.