



December 2010

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
			1 10 am Men's Group <i>Sunset Hanukkah begins</i>	2	3	4 10-Noon VAC
5 10 am Service: "Music to our Hearts" Noonish South End Lunch Bunch	6 9-11 am Worship Committee	7	8 7:30 pm EvenSong "Christmas"	9	10	11 1-3 pm North End Koffee Klatch
12 10 am Service: "Would You Like to Hold the Baby?"	13 6 pm Book Group Pot-Luck	14	15 10 am Men's Group	16 Noon South End Koffee Klatch	17 6pm Fun on Whidbey Newsletter Deadline	18
19 10 am Service: "The Songs of Christmas" <i>BOT after svc</i> 6pm North End Dine Out	20	21	22	23	24 4 pm Service: "Christmas Eve"	25 <i>Christmas</i>
26 10 am Service: "Resolutions" <i>Kwanzaa begins</i>	27	28	29	30	31 <i>New Year's Eve</i>	

From Our Minister



Dear Whidbey Friends,

How did it get to be December already? Here we are sliding down the end of 2010 into 2011, preparing for a new year, having already weathered some serious weather and expecting to weather more.

I hope your holidays are bright and warm, with friends and family galore. But this can be a sad time of year as well, when loved ones are no longer with us, when the worries of the world seem overwhelming and when loneliness can creep in.

If you are lonely, come to church. If you feel overwhelmed by the worries of the world, come to church. If you are tired of the incessant demands of the marketplace, come to church. Or EvenSong or the book club or a dineout or a koffee klatch or the men's or women's groups. Come be with us; there is laughter and joy to be shared in community with others.

We are the Christmas and Hanukkah gifts to each other. In a community, we give to each other and receive from one another. We reach out into the larger world to give to others in need and we receive blessing from those acts of kindness.

May we remember each other and the joys we receive from being together in this faith community.

Much love,
Kit

satisfying to us? Rev. Kit Ketcham, joined by worship leader Dave Sweetwood, will reveal what music means to our hearts.

Worship Leader: Dave Sweetwood

Dec. 8, 7:30pm: EvenSong – "Christmas"

All are welcome at this quiet, contemplative, candlelight service of holiday readings and song. The service is accompanied by harp music.

Dec. 12: "Would You Like to Hold the Baby?"

This intergenerational Christmas pageant will celebrate the spiritual truths and the metaphorical beauty of the Nativity story.

Worship Leader: Rev. Kit Ketcham

Dec. 19: "The Songs of Christmas"

Speaker: Rev. Kit Ketcham

Beloved carols and anthems of the season mark this Sunday before Christmas. The choir will sing, we'll tell stories and share the laughter and high spirits of this time of year.

Worship Leader: Mary Goolsby

Dec. 24, 4pm: "Christmas Eve"

Our annual Christmas Eve service of carols, stories, and reflections will start at 4 p.m. with candle lighting as the sun goes down behind the trees. We will rejoice in the blessings and gifts of this season that have been celebrated in the northern hemisphere since the beginning of time.

Worship Leader: Terra Anderson

Dec. 26: "Resolutions"

Speaker: Ken Merrell

Since December's theme is music, and this is the last service before the New Year, we will explore the concepts of resolution and resolutions. "Resolution" is an interesting word. It has three core meanings: completion, clarity, and intention. What better way to close out 2010 and usher in 2011 than to riff on this schizophrenic word and all its meanings. At the service, we will create a resolution time capsule. Bring a 3x5 card with your resolution for 2011 written on it—no names, just your resolution. We'll read some, then seal them up until the last service of 2011. Then we'll break them out and see if we had the resolve to bring them to resolution.

Worship Leader: Sandy Welch

Calendar Listings

Dec. 5: "Music to our Hearts"

Speaker: Rev. Kit Ketcham

During this holiday season, we are constantly serenaded by the music of Christmas, Hanukkah, ---and marketing. The tunes have become so familiar that they are more "white noise" than anything else. What makes music spiritually meaningful and

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Dec. 5, Noonish: South End Lunch Bunch
meets at China City. We reserve the big table in the far end of the dining room and crowd as many folks as necessary around it. We order family style and split the cost, which includes a senior discount! Meet us there! All are welcome.

Dec. 11, 1-3pm: North End Koffee Klatch
at Whidbey General's cafeteria. Some arrive early and have lunch, as the food is excellent and inexpensive. We pull tables together and wow the cafeteria staff with our howls of laughter. Join us! All are welcome.

Dec. 13, 6pm: Book Group Pot-Luck
Although the Book Group has changed it's meeting day (2nd Monday of each month), we shall continue our tradition of celebrating December's get-together with a pot-luck and book exchange rather than our usual book discussion. Ergo, meeting will be Monday, December 13th at 6:00 p.m. at UUCWI. Any books you don't feel a need to keep but would recommend to others may be brought for exchange. Please be prepared to take any home again that are not selected. You may call Mary Goolsby at 579-2838 to see what foods others are bringing to share. You don't have to be a regular attendee to join us for this festive occasion. Come and see what we're up to!

For our January meeting, two books are recommended (and we have longer to read them as well). They are *The Sparrow* and *Children of God*, both by Mary Doria Russell. They come highly recommended by Dave and Mavis Cauffman.

Dec. 16, Noon: South End Koffee Klatch
Change of time! Change of venue! Come join us! Starting in December we'll be visiting Living Green in Langley at noon on the third Thursday. They have a delightful vegetarian or raw food menu. (The raw pumpkin pie is delicious!) They also have comfortable and quiet accommodations. Come join us for lunch and invigorating conversation on December 16th!

There will be no **Conversation at Kit's** this month because of the Christmas holidays.

Dec. 17, 6pm: Fun on Whidbey
We are going to try out the new restaurant above the Greenbank Store, called "1904". I've heard that the food is good! No need to RSVP Judy this time as it's very close for her.

Dec. 19, 6pm: North End Dine Out
at Zorba's in Oak Harbor. This event is a week earlier than usual because of the holiday season. We'll pull tables together as necessary to accommodate all. Kit will call to warn them that we're on the way. Join us! All are welcome!

Announcements

Dec. 7 & 8, 7:30pm: SCO Christmas Concert
Please note date and time change for Langley Concert.

The Christmas Concert featuring the Saratoga Chamber Orchestra and the WICA Conservatory Choir will perform Tuesday, December 7 at 7:30 at Langley Middle School Auditorium. The Oak Harbor concert will be Wednesday, December 8 at 7:30 at the Performing Arts Center. Conducting will be Legh Burns and Rob Prosch. Music by Anderson, Shaw/Rutter, Holst and others will be performed. Tickets at the door. Many musicians familiar to UUCWI are participating.

Legislative Advocacy Is Justice Work!

Washington State UU Voices for Justice, at its annual Legislative Conference in November, named four priorities to address in Washington's 2011 legislative session:

- ♦ Campaign Financing Reform
- ♦ Global Warming and the Environment
- ♦ Restorative Justice and Corrections Reform
- ♦ Housing and Homelessness

Hear a podcast of the conference at www.uuvoiceswa.org, and hear why we must address these issues, even as the state faces critical economic challenges. Join an issues action group by volunteering at the UU Voices website; help bring our Unitarian Universalist values of justice, equity, and compassion to the state legislature! Need more information on how you can be part of our legislative advocacy? Contact us at coordinator@uuvoiceswa.org

From the Pres



The holiday season is upon us, and I hope that yours is a safe and joyful one.

What are your favorite things about this time of year? I love the excitement of the children, the decorations, the family gatherings, and the carol singing. I love that my brother, who has a long white beard and long white hair, wears a red T-shirt and a Santa cap whenever he goes out in public between now and Christmas Day. I love “flambéing” the steamed Christmas pudding – a family tradition since I was very young.

But for many this time of year is difficult. Some struggle with the short days and inadequate sunlight. Some find the holiday season to be too stressful. For some this season brings sad memories and a longing for happier times. In our own UUCWI community I know that several are dealing with health problems and the loss of loved ones. If you find yourself struggling to get through these months remember that we have a loving, caring community to offer support. Reach out. Talk with someone.

Stay safe and warm.
Lois

Announcements continued from p. 3

Aid for Family Pets

There are people on this island who can no longer feed and keep their pets due to losing jobs, medical emergencies, and other financial considerations. The shelters are busy trying to keep up with all of these companion animals losing their homes. Couldn't we pool our resources, contact a local vet or two and offer to help? If you would like to help both the humans and the animals, contact Judy Kaplan.

Peace Activities

The Whidbey peace group meets every Saturday at Bayview Park & Ride from 10-11 am. Come join our friendly, interesting group.

Women in Black, a nation-wide organization, meets the 1st Friday of each month just south of the Bayview Park & Ride on the grass. We display the sign "Women in Black Standing for Peace" from 3-4.
Barb Hutton

Soap Box Sunday – Jan 2, 2011

On the first Sunday of each year, we have an open pulpit to allow any congregant to speak for five minutes or so on any subject he or she pleases. Who knows who will step up or what the subjects will be? Please let Malcolm Ferrier know so he can put the service together. (If nobody volunteers, he will attempt to co-opt some - but this has always been a service with several ready volunteers and out-of-the-way topics.)

Committee News

Worship Service Survey Results

Thank you to those of you who completed and returned a Worship Service Survey. We received 30 completed surveys representing the opinions of 33 individuals. We especially appreciated the written comments or suggestions of ways we can improve our services. Most respondents attend services almost every week based on a desire to stay connected to their church community.

Some results were overwhelmingly positive—we love our special music, singing, and sermons! Other elements that received mostly positive responses were: Joys and Concerns, moments of silence (with suggestions for improvement), Story For All Ages (with suggestions for improvement), ritual/familiar format, slides/visuals, and antiphonal reading. The challenge remains with those elements that received nearly equal positive and negative responses—“talk back”/discussion, open mic announcements, dancing or movement, and sound effects.

Overall, we received nearly unanimous positive feedback for the diversity and overall quality and satisfying experience of our Sunday services. In what may have been the most affirming and interesting finding of the survey, the majority responded that they felt our services offered a balance of intellectual and spiritual content. Of those who didn't find it balanced, 4 wanted more intellectual content and 5 wanted more spiritual content!

Our biggest challenge as a committee is to offer a

program of services that encompasses and encourages a diversity of worship experiences. The survey shows that on any given Sunday it would be nearly impossible to meet the needs and expectations of every single person attending. Our goal, and one that we hope you share, is to respect and celebrate the beautiful variety of human expression and connection paths to the infinite.

If you missed out on participating in the survey, or you would like more detailed information about the survey results, please send an email to sandy.welch3@gmail.com.
Sandy Welch, Worship Committee Chair

From the Social Responsibility Committee:

The Social Responsibility Committee continues to participate in Standing on the Side of Love a social advocacy campaign sponsored by the UUA. Please visit www.standingonthesideoflove.org for more information about this program. Standing on the Side of Love advocates for marginalized groups within our social family. These include, but are not limited to, immigrants, lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgendered individuals (LGBT), veterans, and the homeless. On Sunday, November 14 the SRC presented its first Standing on the Side of Love service which centered on immigration rights, immigration law, and UUA President Peter Morales' recent public outcry against changes in Arizona immigration law and law enforcement's policy of demanding identification from individuals suspected of being illegal immigrants. Future Standing on the Side of Love services will focus on LGBT issues, including marriage equality, the challenges facing returning veterans and their families, and homelessness on Whidbey Island.

We are also pleased to announce UUCWI is putting its money where its values are. In our last two dedicated offerings we raised \$504 for the South Whidbey Youth Connection and \$423 for the Veteran's Resource Center. We will continue to dedicate one offering a month to an external organization, cause, or charity. If you know of a worthy organization, especially one with a local focus, please tell Ken Merrell or Toyon Copeland, so we can get it on the calendar. December's dedicated offering recipient will be Whidbey Nourishes.

Dave Sweetwood heads up our Adopt-a-Road program, and is putting together another cleanup of Mutiny Bay Road behind the church for shortly after the beginning of the new year.

As always, I would like to tell you how rewarding it is for me to serve on the SRC which transforms many of our congregational values into actions. As is true of all work, many hands make it lighter. So I invite you to join us.

Ken Merrell, SRC Secretary

Caring Connections Committee News

One task of the Caring Connections Committee is to offer emergency assistance to those in need. It takes a village to survive or to share warmth in the coming power outages. Some of us have generators, space in a freezer to save meat from thawing, wood heat, light and so on and some of us will need that kind of help from generous members and friends. Help can be at hand by calling Judy Kaplan at 206 291-3142. She will also compile a list of generous congregants who can provide assistance. Please let me know if you can be one of those good samaritans. Email is better: peacefulJLK@starband.net

Judy

Religious Education

One of my favorite experiences at UUCWI so far has been our intergenerational services. For these, many people work together to form a program that engages all members of our congregation – young and old. Our next intergenerational service will be our Christmas pageant.

The story of Jesus' birth has a deeper impression for me since the birth of my own babies. Carl's birth is still so fresh in my heart – the wonderful moment he was placed in my arms for the first time. What a gift every child is to our world! They hold such hope and promise for our future. Every child's birth is a reason to celebrate.

Our Christmas pageant will be that celebration. It will be a fun, community-building experience that provides original, singable songs that are highly participatory for the whole congregation. Plus, you get to see John Long dressed up as a cow. (:

Vanessa Kohlhaas

Gallery News

The Visual Arts Committee hopes you have been enjoying the latest exhibit in our UUCWI gallery, which we call "Whidbey in Watercolor." The three artists chosen for this show enjoy depicting local landmarks and landscapes with which we may all be familiar. The artists are Margaret Livermore, Ginny O'Neill, and Gary Schallock. It is always fascinating to see how different artists, using similar mediums and subjects, express their impressions of a subject matter. If you haven't had a chance to enjoy this show, do take a look.



Baird M. Bardarson, M. D. October 28, 1926 - October 28, 2010
Pioneer Abortion Provider – Champion Sailor – Community Activist

Baird Bardarson, 84, of Seattle and Whidbey Island passed away Thursday, Oct. 28 after an illness of five months with his family around him. He was born in Seattle to Gertrude and Otto Bardarson but grew up in Carmel, California where his father was the Superintendent of Schools. After leaving High School in Carmel he attended UC Berkeley until he was drafted into the Army January of 1945. He served as a 1st Lieutenant in the Constabulary Corp in Germany until his discharge in January of 1947. Returning to UC Berkeley, he studied there until 1948 when he transferred to the U of W. where he completed his undergraduate studies in 1950. He met and married Peggy Bullock there in 1951. Baird was accepted at five medical schools but chose the fledgling UW and graduated there in 1955. He entered Family Practice in Renton in 1956 and he and Peggy made their home there for 35 years.

Baird bought his first International 14 sailing dinghy in 1951 two weeks after his marriage. This was the first of many racing dinghies which he owned and campaigned around the world until his retirement from racing in 1999. He won the I-14 National Championship three times in the 1960s. Competing many times in the UK, he was honored twice with Replica Trophies during Race Week in the Prince of Wales Cup at Cowes for placing in the top five in a fleet of 90 boats. He was a member of Seattle Yacht Club and Corinthian Yacht Club.

In 1978 he and Peggy bought their cruising sail boat, 'Bright Star', which they sailed in British Columbia every summer for 31 years, making many trips to the Queen Charlotte Islands. Particularly fond of the area north of Vancouver Island, they explored there until 2009 when they sold the boat.

Always concerned about the equitable provision of medical care to all those in need, he worked hard for fair sharing of care to welfare patients by King County doctors. He became the first Chief of Staff of the new Valley Medical Center when it opened.

In the 70's when abortion became legal in the State of Washington he began providing first trimester procedures at his Renton office. His family practice was soon overwhelmed by the volume of abortion patients. He then became a leader in procedures utilizing new technologies and was the first to introduce them to Washington State, helping to change the state code. He served on the national boards of the National Abortion Federation and many pro-choice organizations. His clinic was the target of protests and vandalism many times, but he remained dedicated to the providing of safe, legal abortions. He retired in 1991 after 35 years of medical practice in Renton.

Retiring to Freeland on Whidbey Island, he and Peggy became active in the local Unitarian Universalist Congregation. Over a 10 year period, Baird led the effort to plan and build a new Meetinghouse that was finished in 2008. This enabled UUCWI to move from rented space to its present location.

Baird pursued his interest in the Icelandic heritage of his father and made many trips to Iceland. At the Nordic Heritage Museum he studied the language and served as President of the Icelandic Club.

He is survived by his wife of 59 years, Peggy, their five daughters, Siri, Karin, Berit, Lisa (husband Jon Reichlin) of Philadelphia and Linnea (husband Joel Wolfe) of Boston, and grandchildren Seth Sobottka, Lily Reichlin, Jonah and Reuven Wolfe, his brother, Linne Bardarson and wife Dot of Seward, Alaska and numerous nieces and nephews.

A Celebration of Baird's life was held on Sunday, November 7, at the Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Whidbey Island. Memorial gifts may be made to Planned Parenthood or Amnesty International.

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If you wish to contact any of the Board members,
call UUCWI voice mail at 360-321-8656.

Minister: Rev. Kit Ketcham 360-331-2163

Chaplain: Sally Elder 360-675-3314

Our minister and chaplain are available for rites
of passage ceremonies (including ceremonies of
commitment or union) and pastoral visits.

Director of Religious Education: Vanessa Kohlhaas

Newsletter Information:

News, announcements, events, and other items
concerning the UUCWI Congregation or the UU
principles are welcome. Please submit to the editor:
Celia Bartram: celia@bartramrecorders.com

Submissions may be edited at the editor's discretion.
Ads will not be printed.

Items submitted after press time will appear in the
following month's newsletter if appropriate.

Time-sensitive late items will be posted with the
announcements and/or on the calendar on our
web site.

Current and past issues of this newsletter are
available online at:

www.whidbey.com/uucwi/newsletter.html

Last names, phone numbers, and addresses are
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**UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CONGREGATION
OF WHIDBEY ISLAND**

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