



Island Passages

20103 State Route 525 • P.O. Box 1076, Freeland, WA 98249 • 360-321-8656 • www.whidbey.com/uucwi/

April 2010

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
				1	2	3
4 10 am Service: "What Easter Can Mean to Unitarian Universalists" Noon South-End Brunch	5 9-11 am Worship	6	7 10 am Men's Group	8	9 9-11 am BOT	10 10-Noon Visual Arts 1-3 North End Koffee Klatch 5:30 Steward- ship Kickoff Dinner
11 10 am Service: "Money: Idolatry or Sacrament?" Right after service: SRC Potluck/ Meeting	12	13 10 -Noon Women's Spiri- tually Group Introduction 7pm Book Group	14 7:30 pm EvenSong "Living In the Moment"	15	16 Newsletter Deadline	17 9-11:30 am Gardening Workday 9-Noon Spring Cleaning Work Party
18 10 am Service: "God is a River" 6 pm North End Dine Out	19	20	21 10 am Membership 10 am Men's Group	22 4 pm South End Koffee Klatch	23	24 1-4 pm New UU Orientation 7 pm Conversation at Kit's
25 10 am Service: "View from the Bluff: A Celebra- tion of Earth Day"	26	27	28 5:30 pm CRE	29	30	

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From Our Minister



Dear Whidbey friends,

I hope you'll come to our Easter service all gussied up, even wearing an Easter bonnet, if you're so inclined. It's spring, the seasons have turned once again, and we are moving away from winter for another year.

There's something about the faithfulness of the seasons of the year, the adolescent weather of springtime, the green earth, and the movement of animals that strikes me as especially poignant and important in April.

In April we are reminded of the potential of the new season, we are reminded of the losses of the past season and the wisdom gained from those losses. In April we take stock---what shall we plant this year? What shall we do with this bit of dirt or that tree? How many seed packets will we need? Does the deer fence need to be repaired? Do I need to repair my life?

We're riding the crest of a wave that began in February when green fingers began to poke their way up through the dirt, when rhodies started to crack their buds, when the daphne's fragrance tickled our noses. All of a sudden, the earth has burst forth once again in its magnificence and dims much of the sorrow and worry that has accumulated over the winter.

Easter and Passover are times of celebration. The Vernal Equinox is a time of celebration. Underneath the religious doctrine of many religions is a long, strong tether to the earth and its story. We Unitarian Universalists celebrate the cycles of the earth and link those cycles to parallel cycles in our religious heritage: rebirth, release of captives, renewal of life.

Our theological theme this month is "How do we relate to the natural world and what is our obligation to it? Have humans really been given dominion over creation? What should we be doing with our faith about our environment?" Most

of our worship services this month will consider the theme of the natural world and our place in it. I hope you will join us for every one of them!

Much Love,
Kit

Calender Listings

April 4: "What Easter Can Mean to Unitarian Universalists"

Speaker: Rev. Kit Ketcham

We UUs, because of our pluralism (meaning that we have in our midst Christians, Jews, atheists and agnostics, pagans, and Buddhists, among others), have a lot on our plate in the springtime! Rev. Kit Ketcham will speak about the special meaning the Christian season of Easter can have for Unitarian Universalists. You are invited to wear an Easter bonnet, if you choose.

Worship Leader: Dave C.

April 11: "Money: Idolatry or Sacrament?"

Speaker: Bill Graves

Money is surely one of our culture's most prevalent and powerful idols. However, there is a liberating power in reframing money as a sacrament. We will do that with the aid of Gregorian plainsong and humor as we reflect upon stewardship of our beloved UU community and the benefits of a liberal religious presence on our island.

Bill Graves is a member of UUCWI, a candidate for the UU ministry, and recently completed two years as intern minister of the Skagit UU Fellowship.

Worship Leader: Sandy W.

April 14, 7:30 pm: EvenSong "Living In the Moment"

On the second Wednesday of each month, UUCWI holds a quiet, contemplative candlelight gathering of song, meditation and readings. The focus in April will be Living in the Moment. Accompanied by harp music and reminiscent of Taizé, this is a time of reflection and an opportunity to enhance personal spiritual practice.

April 18: “God is a River”

Speaker: Rev. Kit Ketcham

At our fall auction, Gloria Sherman bought the chance to suggest a sermon topic and she has chosen the Peter Mayer song “God is a River” for our consideration. Rev. Kit Ketcham will speak about the significance of this way of looking at the Divine, especially appropriate during April when we celebrate our connection to the Earth.

Worship Leader: Gloria S.

April 25 (Earth Day): “View from the Bluff: A Celebration of Earth Day”

Speaker: Frances W.

We live on the edge. The edge of land and water, the edge of nature and development, the edge of change. Frances will share spiritual inspiration from the Native American myth “How Raven Made the Tides.” We will look for ways to find our place on our fragile, wonderful planet and learn ways to live in harmony with our transforming world.

Frances W. is a writer, naturalist and lover of all things avian. She is author of *Brushed by Feathers: A Year of Birdwatching in the West*, frequent writer for public radio’s BirdNote and columnist for the South Whidbey Record.

Worship Leader: Mavis C.

April 4, Noon: South End Lunch Bunch

at China City. This is a change of time, so that folks can go out together after church rather than making a special evening trip. Please let Kit know if you plan to attend.

April 10, 1-3 pm: North End Koffee Klatch

at Whidbey General’s cafeteria. Good food, good coffee, great conversation!

April 10, 5:30 - 8:30 pm: Stewardship Kickoff Dinner

This year the dinner is catered as well as free. Our own Cranberry Bog Bluegrass Band will provide the music. Testimonials about our congregation will be offered. Please join us at this formal start of this year’s church membership renewal and pledge campaign. Reservations will have had to be made in advance.

April 10, 5:30 pm: Fun on Whidbey

We will be attending our own UU Canvass Kick-off Dinner. Details are in the notice about the dinner.

April 11, immediately after the service: Social Responsibility Council

We will enjoy a potluck lunch and discuss meeting with other UU justice groups, among other ideas. Join us!

April 13th, 7pm: Book Discussion Group

The UUCWI Book Discussion Group will meet at of Joan G. in Langley.

The book to be discussed is *Out Stealing Horses* by Per Petterson. The author’s tale of love, forgiveness, and the nature of evil has already swept up four prestigious literary awards: two notable prizes in Norway, the Independent (UK) Foreign Fiction Prize, and the International IMPAC Dublin Literary Award. This perceptive, poignant novel blends the exhilaration of youth and the impassive recollections of old age with subtle plotting and biting observations on the question of fate versus free will.

April 17, 9 - 11:30 am: Gardening Workday

Calling all Gardeners. Spring is here and so are the weeds! Join in a work party to freshen up our landscaping and make plans for our next projects. Bring gloves and hand tools. 

Our Landscape Committee is looking for new members. Please join us. Questions – contact Frances W.



April 17, 9-noon: Spring Cleaning Work Party at UUCWI

The building needs a good spring cleaning — floors, dusting, windows. Please bring your rubber gloves and a sponge mop if you have one. There will be coffee/tea/juice and goodies so it won’t be all work! Contact Mavis if you have any questions. 

April 18, 6 pm: North End Dine Out

at China City in Oak Harbor! This is a change of location and a temporary change of date. Please let Kit know if you plan to attend. The OH China City is located at 33185 SR 20, on the north end of OH.

From the Pres



New Beginnings

I love Spring! A fresh start. A new beginning. I know that, traditionally, many use New Year's Day as a time to make resolutions and start fresh. But, frankly, in the dead of winter I find it hard to muster the energy for that. Spring is nature's time for that new beginning – and I'm with her!! My garden is taking shape and the peas are already up. This is an exciting time of year.

At UUCWI, Spring is also a time of new beginnings. Even though our church year doesn't start until July 1st, now is the time that we lay the foundation for that "new year". In gardening terms, now is the time we prepare the soil and plant some seeds. And it is a very exciting time. New ideas are bubbling up all over the place. We want to make sure that you have an opportunity to have your ideas heard also. A visiting steward will soon be calling you to arrange a time to meet with you. What hopes and dreams do you want to share with your visiting steward? In what ways would you like to be involved in shaping those dreams? We look forward to hearing from you!

Wishing you a joyous Spring!
Hugs,
Lois

April 22, 4 pm: South End Koffee Klatch

at Mike's in Langley. Mike's has ice cream, coffee drinks, and you can even stay for supper if you're so inclined! Good conversation included!

April 24, 1-4 pm: New UU Orientation

A few times each year we offer an orientation class to better acquaint friends, visitors and new UUs with our history, values, principles, and the men and

women who have contributed to our movement. The class is an informal, fun way to learn about UUCWI and to get to know a few other people in the congregation.

If you are interested in learning more about us or are contemplating becoming a member of our congregation, you are invited to attend. (Attendance at one of these orientations is a requirement of membership.) Please RSVP to Kit or Mavis. If you will need childcare, please let us know.

April 24, 7pm: Conversation at Kit's,

on the topic of "What is our responsibility to the earth as people of faith?" We gather between 7 and 7:30 for refreshments and start our discussion at 7:30. Always a lively evening of conversation about topics that matter to UUs.

Announcements

Women's Spirituality Group Forming

I've learned a lot about UUs in the last 6 months..ways they differ from and ways they are similar to many other spiritual groups with which I've spent time and experienced community. A similarity is that UUs seem to want to share ideas and feelings, but don't often, because of scheduling or lack of someone to take the lead, have enough opportunities to do so.

Women who wish to participate in a small group, whose goal is sharing in a spiritual journey, are invited to an introductory gathering April 13, 10am-12 noon at my home.

The book we will be using as our initial guide is a UU publication, Heart to Heart by Christine Robinson and Alicia Hawkins. There is a website where you can read about the book and this particular form of small-group ministry (www.HeartToHeartBook.com <<http://www.HeartToHeartBook.com>>). I will have books available for purchase at the end of the introductory meeting.

Call me if you have questions at 360-341-4217 (I will be out of town from 31 March-6 April), or just show up at 7119 Holst Rd, Clinton.

Hope to see you there...Gloria S.



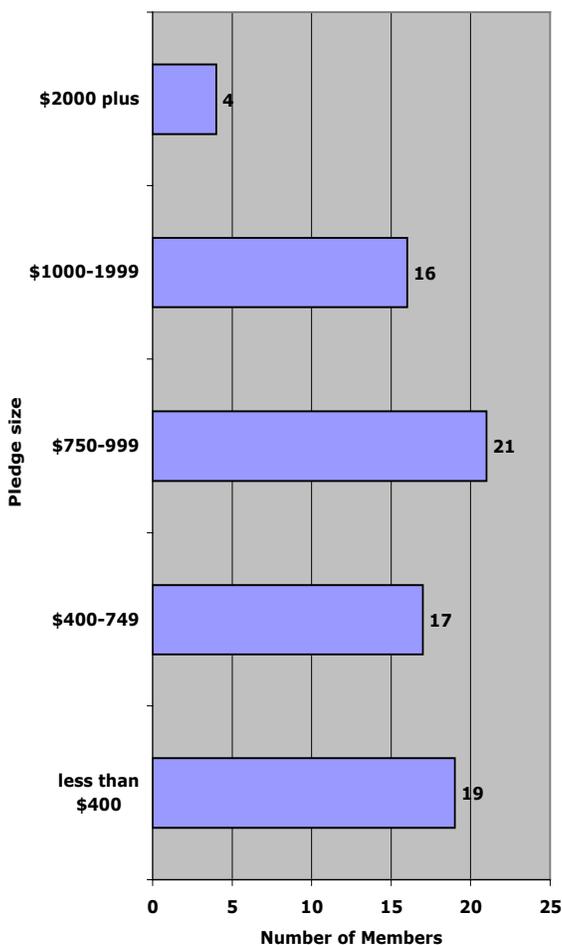
UUCWI Finance 101-Issue 3

How much should I/We pledge?

The first two of these articles on UUCWI finances looked at the content of our operating budget and the story of how we have been following the business plan for financing the new building. We have followed the business plan successfully in all but one area – the increase in membership fell short of the goal. Membership pledges count for 70% of our income. This shortfall in increased membership causes a projected deficit in the upcoming annual budget. With fewer members than expected, the way to increase income from pledges is to raise the level of existing pledges wherever possible.

As a guide for thinking about the amount of your pledge, we are including a chart showing the distribution of income from pledges for this current fiscal year. The data below is based on giving “per member”, i.e., two member households have their single pledge divided into two equal pledges for these tabulations.

Pledges for Fiscal Year 2009-2010



The average pledge in the current FY was \$800/member – and there is a wide dispersion around this average. The graphic shows that only 4 members gave more than \$2000. There are 16 members in the \$1000-2000 range. The biggest cluster is in the \$750-1000 range, in keeping with the average of \$800. Fifty-five percent of the pledges are in those three groups – near or above the average. Since this is not Lake Wobegon, we have the usual number below average.

We hope to accomplish an increase in the average pledge. Since pledges provide the largest portion of UUCWI’s income, this seems to be the best way to mitigate the projected deficit. The stewardship brochure you have received in the mail provides a table compiled by the UUA suggesting pledge levels according to gross income. An increase in the average pledge of about 15% (to \$900 average) is what would be needed to fully fund the church by the current membership, without waiting for growth in numbers to solve the issue in the future. To borrow from the refrain we hear in NPR public radio campaigns, that is “less than one latte fix per week”. We could do it if we choose.

In the upcoming weeks, please reflect on the amount you currently have pledged. If your financial means allow, please consider increasing your pledge when the canvasser visits you during our Stewardship Drive. UUCWI depends on the support of its members. We all benefit from the generous donations of time, labor, money, and spirit provided by our members and friends.

Tom B., Treasurer

Small Group Dinners

There will not be a small group dinner in April due to the Kickoff Dinner April 10. Circle your calendars for May 15 and June 19 for the last two dinners of this season. If you want to know more about these dinners, please contact me. Carol B.

Dishwasher Kitty

If you have ever helped with the kitchen clean-up task after Sunday morning services or after one of our dinner events such as the auction and stewardship dinners, you know what a huge benefit it would be to have a commercial dishwasher in our kitchen.

Why a “commercial” dishwasher? Commercial dishwashers are designed to handle large volume in a short period of time. Typically, a load can be washed in two to four minutes. (No one wants to hang around for several hours to process even a couple of loads in the kind of dishwasher designed for residential use.)

The bad news is – a new dishwasher of the type best suited to our kitchen will cost us between \$3500 and \$5000.

The good news is – thanks to the estate of our dear friend, Marilyn Saunders we are about half way there. We have \$2000 in our “dishwasher kitty”.

If each of us contributed a small amount to this fund we could soon realize our goal. If you can help with this effort please write a check to UUCWI and leave it in the collection plate – but be sure to indicate it is for the dishwasher fund. Or mail a check to the church if that is more convenient for you. And all of us who have ever helped with the kitchen clean-up say, “*Thank You Very Much!*”

UUA General Assembly – June 23-27

The Unitarian Universalist Association’s annual general assembly will meet in Minneapolis this year. If you are planning to attend and would like to be considered as a representative delegate from UUCWI, please let Lois know about your interest. We are entitled to two delegates.

General Assembly is an exciting and informative gathering of UUs from around the country. You can find more details and registration information at www.uua.org/ga

May 1, 7 pm: Benefit Concert for Boys & Girls Club by the Seattle Freelance Soloists

The Seattle Freelance Soloists will present "Seattle Comes to Oak Harbor: *A Community Concert in Three Acts*" at the new OHHS Student Union Auditorium in Oak Harbor. The concert will benefit the Boys & Girls Club of Oak Harbor.

The concert will feature not only the Freelance Soloists playing classical favorites, but two additional groups whose members include violinist Teo Benson and cellist Dylan Rieck — The Seattle Freelance Trio, playing original acoustic chamber jazz-rock compositions, and Crying Shame, an indie folk-rock band playing its original compositions.

The Seattle Freelance Trio played an encore piece by violin and cello at the UUCWI benefit concert on Jan. 31. UU support for this event will be much appreciated. Tickets will be \$15 each (\$10 for students with ASB) and will be available at the BookBay in Freeland, Windermere Real Estate in Coupeville, Click Music in Oak Harbor, and Watermark Books in Anacortes.

Committee News

SRC Update

The Social Responsibility Committee is looking for members. There’s plenty to do, and more we could tackle if we had a couple more members. If you’re new to UUCWI, this might be a great committee to get your feet wet in. It’s kind of a double whammy, you can get more involved in your community and UUCWI at the same time. You can also champion causes that are meaningful to you. Here is a list of the dedicated offerings we sponsored this year so far, all of which came to pass because someone brought them to our attention and we responded.

Habitat for Humanity	\$3,000
South Whidbey Youth	\$335
The American Red Cross	\$252
The Veterans Resource Center	\$338
Kids First	\$277
NRCAT	\$326
UUSC-GAYT	\$438
UUSC-Haiti Relief	\$875
Mother Mentors	\$133
TOTAL	\$6,073

In the coming months, we will be looking for candidates for next year’s dedicated offerings. These candidates can come from anyone in the community. The SRC then coordinates with the Worship Committee and schedules and sponsors the dedicated offerings. We invite someone from the charity or cause to come to the service and speak on behalf of the recipients. As you can see, we really are thinking globally and acting locally. Come join us in this important work.

And that’s not all we do! We have a host of ideas, projects, and causes ready and waiting for you to make the difference. So, whether it’s Gay, Lesbian, and Transgendered rights; Veteran’s Issues;

Homelessness; poverty; disaster aid; at-risk children; women's rights; the death penalty; torture; economic development; or whatever else calls on you to act, we can help you—if you can help us.

Art Gallery News



From left: Nola, Brenda, and Sandy A.

Our current Mother/daughter art show featuring Nola A. and her daughters Brenda and Sandy will continue to be on display until the end of April.

A Father/son show will follow in May and June. Featured art for that show will be that our own Leonard G. and his well known artist father (who died in 2000), and that of local sculpture Ron W. and his son Johnathan W.

Stewardship Chair Reports

It's hard for me to believe that in about a month the Stewardship Drive will be over. The training of our twenty two Canvassers will have taken place March 27. The following two weeks will see a bustle of activity as the canvassers canvass each other. Our catered kickoff dinner is day April 10. The following day will begin our every member canvass that will be concluded April 24.

I have often used the term ministerial outreach to describe these face-to-face canvass meetings. The parties involved share their hopes and dreams, joys and disappointments and the realities of their religious journey and thus minister to each other. It is a time to reaffirm one's membership. And then there is the opportunity to pledge generously.

Our country and the world are facing difficult economic times. The need for hope, community and

helping others is greater than ever. Those of you who tithe may rest assured that you will not be asked to give more. Otherwise there is a great need for you to be generous in your giving so as to strengthen our liberal religious presence in the larger community and fund our Social Justice Outreach.

Welcome your Steward with open arms and a generous spirit when you are phoned for an appointment to take part in this opportunity.

Baird B., Canvass Chair

Generosity

The burning of the stars
The glowing of sun
The blowing of winds
The clouds that rain
The rivers that flow
The crops that grow
In truth these all are
Acts of sacrifice
An openhandedness
And yet
Nothing's ever lost
All that goes around
Must ultimately come around
Nickel turning gold
So no need to capture
Lesser need to hold

All that abounds the universe
Is nothing but energy
Seeking the powerful flow
So give n do it profusely
Share n do it conclusively
The joy springs forth
When offered without a catch
May it be love, sympathy or care
Or possessions that you hold
Generosity is nothing but a burning wish
To sacrifice for the benefit of those that need
A deed, always awarded
By returns manifold

Ejaz Kahn

UUCWI 2009-2010 Board of Trustees

Lois C., President

Tom B., Treasurer

Joann R., Secretary

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Sally Ann E., Trustee

Helen K., Trustee

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 K.

Newsletter Information:

News, announcements, events, and other items of interest to members of the congregation should be submitted in writing by the deadline to editor Celia B.

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 deleted from the online version for members' privacy.

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Mavis C., Church Administrator

Dean E., Webmaster

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