



Island Passages

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May 2010

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
						1 10-Noon VAC <i>Noon -1pm</i> <i>Canvassers'</i> <i>Celebration</i>
2 10 am Service: "Perspectives on Islam" <i>11:30 Picnic</i> 12 pm SE Lunch	3 9-11 am Worship Ctte	4	5 10 am Men's Group	6	7	8 1-3 North End Koffee Klatch
9 10 am Service: "A Matter of Life and Death"	10	11 7-9 pm Book Group	12 7:30 pm Even- Song: Rumi	13	14 9-11 am BOT	15 Small Group Dinners <i>Noon -5 LAC</i> <i>Scholarship Contest</i> 6:30 pm Fun On Whidbey
16 10 am Service: "This I Believe--- About Death" <i>SRC meeting after service</i>	17	18	19 10 am Men's Group Newsletter Deadline	20	21	22
23 10 am Service: "Flower Commu- nion & its Bouquet of Hope"	24	25	26 5:30 pm CRE	27 4pm South End Koffee Klatch	28	29 7pm Conversation at Kit's
30 10 am Service: "Memorial Day" <i>6pm North End Dine Out</i> 7-9 pm Dances of Universal Peace	31					

From Our Minister



Dear Whidbey Friends,

As we approach the end of our second church year in our new home, it's a good time to recap some of the good things that have come about because of our having built this space: lots of new people coming through our doors, drawn in by our welcoming sign on the highway, our beautiful sanctuary and grounds, the smiles of our congregation and the clear excitement about what we are doing here.

We are giving back to our larger community in several ways, with designated offerings, volunteering with Habitat, cleaning up Mutiny Bay road, providing space for music groups to perform, for non-profit groups to meet, for dancing and weddings. We're using our building well, though we're still learning the ropes of responsible rental policy.

At the same time, our leadership has been working to improve our infrastructure, the policy issues and governance procedures that help us become more effective in our programming. It's easy, when a congregation is tiny, to do things as a "committee of the whole"; as we grow, we need to expand our thinking about how we work together.

One of the projects our board has taken on is the development of a Covenant of Right Relations. This is a document that builds on our spoken affirmation, the one we say together every Sunday. I'll bet you know it by heart: "Love is the spirit of this congregation and service is its practice. This is our great covenant: to dwell together in peace, to seek truth in love, and to help one another."

A Covenant of Right Relations fleshes out these words by describing the promises we make to one another, as members and friends of our congregation. It reminds us that here at UUCWI, we speak kindly to one another and we listen respectfully to each other; when we disagree we are tactful, when we are angry, we seek a peaceful

resolution of the problem.

We have been lucky in that we have had very little conflict in our congregation in the last several years, which makes this the perfect time to develop a Covenant of Right Relations.

You'll all have a chance to look at the first draft, which is being put together by members of our Board and of the Committee on Ministry and will be published for you to see. When you have given your input and the wording has been finalized, we'll vote as a congregation on whether or not to accept it and use it in our everyday work with each other.

We want UUCWI to be a safe place for all persons, young and old, rich and not-so-rich, conservative and liberal, sad and happy, shy and sociable. We want a gentle way of reminding ourselves that our words matter, that our behavior matters, that we can disagree without hurting each other. We manage this pretty well right now without a covenant, but if issues do arise, we want to be able to say "this is how we are together at UUCWI", reminding ourselves kindly that we want to live up to our Great Covenant words as a peaceful, loving, helpful congregation.

I hope when the first draft comes out, you'll take a look at it and think about it. You'll have a chance for input; it will be revised as necessary. Then we'll vote. This could take awhile because we want to do it right.

If you have questions, you can ask me any time. I'm part of the task force writing the first draft and will be glad to answer whatever I can.

Much love, Kit

Calender Listings

May 2: "Perspectives on Islam"

Speaker: Jamal Rahman

Jamal Rahman is a Muslim Sufi minister originally from Bangladesh. He is cofounder and co-minister at Interfaith Community Church in Seattle, co-host of Interfaith Talk Radio, and adjunct faculty at Seattle University. Jamal's passion lies in interfaith community building. He remains rooted in his Islamic tradition while cultivating a "spaciousness" by being open to the beauty and wisdom of other faiths.

Rev. Rahman speaks with great charm and enthusiasm and his visit is always a highlight of our church year.

Worship leaders: Frank A. & Malcolm F.

May 9: "A Matter of Life and Death"

Speaker: Rev. Kit Ketcham

One of life's hardest experiences is the loss of a parent. No matter when this occurs in our lives, it is always a difficult transition, whether the parent was lovable or difficult. Our relationship with our parents, living or dead, is important. On this Mothers Day, Rev. Kit Ketcham will consider the contributions made by mothers and what it means when our mothers die.

Worship Leader: Sara H.

May 12, 7:30: EvenSong – "Poetry and Philosophy of Rumi"

On the second Wednesday of each month UUCWI holds a quiet, contemplative candlelight gathering of song, meditation and readings. The focus in May will be the poetry and philosophy of Rumi, the Persian Sufi mystic. Accompanied by harp music, this short service is reminiscent of Taizé.

May 16: "This I Believe---About Death"

Several UUCWI members and friends will share their thoughts about life and death. During May, our theological question of the month is "What does my death mean?". We are considering this question in a number of ways, culminating with a community remembrance service on May 30.

Worship Leaders: Rev. Kit Ketcham & Gloria S.

May 23: "Flower Communion & its Bouquet of Hope"

Speaker: Rev. Kit Ketcham

The Flower Communion ceremony is a favorite spring celebration. This year, we will learn about its creator, Rev. Norbert Capek, and celebrate its meaning for our community. We will also dedicate children who are new to our congregation on this Sunday. Please bring a flower or two to be shared during the communion ceremony. This is an Inter-generational Service, so most children will stay in the sanctuary for the whole hour; there will be child care for the youngest children.

Worship Leader: Joann R.

May 30: "Memorial Day"

Memorial Day is a time for remembering those now gone who have enriched our lives, whether through personal interaction or perhaps inspiration/influence from afar. We will acknowledge those beings - both human and non- we have known and loved and those who have touched our lives through their very existence. You are encouraged to bring pictures and mementoes of your beloveds to display on our altar; and as you are willing please plan to share just a few words about the difference they have made in your living.

Worship leader: Terra A.

May 1, Noon -1pm: Canvassers' Victory Celebration

Celebrate our successful pledge drive with pizza, beer, and juice at the Church. We will be telling Tall Stewardship Tales.

May 2, 11:30 am - 1 pm: 1st Sunday Picnic at the Park

Come join UUCWI families and friends at Freeland Park May 2nd from 11:30am - 1:00pm. Bring a picnic lunch for yourself and a side dish to share. This will be the first gathering of many to come.

Mark your calendars for UUCWI Picnic at the Park on the 1st Sunday of each month. And invite your friends!!!

May 2, 12 pm: South End Lunch Bunch

at China City in Freeland, 12 p.m. We gather around one of the big tables in the restaurant, order several dishes, eat family-style, and split the cost. A friendly, warm gathering, open to all. Newcomers welcome! Call Kit to reserve a place.

May 8, 1-3 pm: North End Koffee Klatch

at Whidbey General Hospital's cafeteria on the lower level. Nice place to eat lunch, have coffee and a cookie, and enjoy some rich conversation and lots of laughs.

May 11, 7-9 pm: Book Club

We will discuss "*Sit Down Young Stranger: one man's quest for meaning*" by John Graham at the Bs'. Harvard-educated John Graham had a career in the

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From the Pres



Have you visited the UUCWI Facebook page? Recently posted was a link to a news article about a UU congregation in Worcester, MA that is celebrating its 225th birthday. And what a history they have had! Here is a brief quote that caught my attention:

The membership includes Republicans and Democrats, liberals and conservatives, socialists and members of the tea party movement. That mix, church members said, shouldn't surprise people because four of the church's founding members were passionately involved in the debate over American secession from Great Britain. Timothy Paine and John Chandler, prominent local citizens, were on one side of the fence, arguing the Tory or Loyalist position. Isaiah Thomas, the influential printer and editor of the seditious Massachusetts Spy, and Timothy Bigelow, the Revolutionary War colonel whose legacy is memorialized by a marker on Worcester Common, were on the other side.

Part of the reason this piece particularly caught my eye is that I am currently working with an ad hoc committee to draft a proposed "Covenant of Right Relations". (See Kit's column for more about this). My first thought upon reading about the Worcester congregation's history was, "Wow, if anyone needed a Covenant of Right Relations it would be this congregation", so I went to their website to check them out. In their "mission and values" document I found this statement: "We welcome and honor diversity of belief, culture, lifestyle, and political view as *a source of strength.*" (Added emphasis is mine).

Aha! They are choosing to see this collection of disparate views as an advantage, an asset, rather than focusing on the potential for serious conflict. What a concept.

As we continue our work toward a Covenant of

Right Relations for our congregation, perhaps the example set by the Worcester congregation can help to inspire our thinking.

Warmest regards,
Lois

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State Department as political attache in many assignments overseas including Vietnam. His story tells of his evolution as a diplomat as he became more doubtful about US policies, and his personal spiritual growth away from the Catholicism of his childhood and toward a new life. He spoke to UUCWI last autumn. The author is local and the founder of the Giraffe Project (Stick your neck out!)

May 15: Small Group Dinners

Come join in the fun and conversation at the monthly small group dinners. These dinners are held in our homes. They range from 4 to 10 people. Dinner is potluck style. Volunteers are needed to host or co-host if you cannot provide your home. I will assign guests to the host by the Tuesday before the dinner. The hosts will then contact their guests as to time, directions to their home, and what to bring. Please contact me if you are interested in coming or want to know more about these dinners.

Carol B.

May 15, 6:30 Fun On Whidbey

We are going back to Thailand for another delicious meal at The Thai Restaurant at The Cove. It's in Coupeville, on Main Street, on the left-hand side going east from Highway 20. It's an older, blue house.

Please RSVP Judy K. so she can reserve a table and won't have to eat alone.

May 27, 4 - 5:30 pm or so: South End Koffee Klatch

at Mike's Place in Langley. Mike's has coffee drinks, ice cream, pastries, and even dinner if you're so inclined. A congenial group of folks usually shows up; newcomers are welcome!

May 29, 7 pm: Conversation at Kit's

on the topic "What does my death mean?" We socialize at 7 and start discussing the topic at about 7:30. All are welcome.

May 30, 6 pm: North End Dine Out

at China City in Oak Harbor. We'll gather in one of their banquet rooms or at one of the big round tables, order several dishes, eat family-style, and split the cost. A friendly, warm bunch of folks who welcome newcomers. Call Kit to reserve a place.

Announcements

Message about the Piano

Our UU Congregation is the beneficiary of a long-term loan of a 1924 Steinway grand piano which belongs to Judy M. We have agreed to conditions of use spelled out in a contract. Nola A. is the Trustee of the piano and the Music Committee, chaired by Frank A., is working on making sure that the congregation and renters of the building know the guidelines. Only certain people are authorized to play the piano, and when it is not in use it is covered up and locked. We are grateful to have the use of this piano and politely ask all members of the congregation to help monitor its use.

Thank you,

Linda G.

Attention Singers

The Music Committee would like to continue choir through June, with the choir singing at the June 6 service (Mavis directing). A visiting choir is performing in May. For a variety of reasons (Nola gone, Mavis gone,), about the only time to rehearse for June is *April 25*, after the service.

Dishwasher Update

An anonymous donor has stepped forward and offered matching funds to help us purchase a dishwasher! Here is the plan: By the end of May, if the congregation can collect \$1500 toward the dishwasher purchase, our very generous donor will match that amount and we will have enough money to purchase a commercial dishwasher. This donation is

being made in honor of the Bardarsons and Allens in recognition of all of the work they have done over the years on behalf of our congregation.

We need your help. Can you donate \$25? \$50? \$100? to the dishwasher kitty? Make checks payable to UUCWI but indicate on the memo line that it is for the dishwasher fund.

A commercial dishwasher will not only be a convenience to us, it will make our building much more attractive to potential renters. *As soon* as we have accumulated \$1500 the matching funds will be given to us. That means that if it takes only a week to do it we can have our dishwasher that much sooner. In time for the wedding season?

UUCWI Facebook Page

UUCWI now has its own Facebook page. If you're a Facebook devotee, please search for "Whidbey Unitarian" and become a fan. Let us know what you think.

Mavis C. & Sarah R., Co-Administrators

Save the Date! Annual Benefit Concert at UUCWI

On Friday, June 18, at 7:30 pm Peggy Bardarson, Violin and Nola Allen, Piano will present of program of Romantic Music by the composer Johannes Brahms. They will be assisted by Mezzo-Soprano, Kathryn Vinson. All proceeds from the program go to UUCWI. Tickets at the door; \$15 singles, \$25 families.

UUCWI Nuts and Bolts

An ongoing peek at the workings of UUCWI

This is the first in a series of short items to better acquaint everyone with the workings of congregational life. We have several committees doing a lot of good work behind the scenes and without whom we could not continue our programs. This month we'll introduce the Worship Committee. In future months we'll introduce other committees.

The Worship Committee

The UUA (Unitarian Universalist Association of Congregations) says that every member congregation will "conduct regular religious services". The only other requirements are to hold at least one annual

business meeting, elect officers, and make a financial contribution to the UUA ... so this emphasis shows how essential our worship services are to our identity, effectiveness, and our very existence.

The Board has a contract with our minister, Rev. Ketcham, to provide 21 sermons each year in addition to her extensive support of the congregation in committee work, pastoral care, various gatherings and discussion groups, and more. (Note that Kit is on vacation each year for the month of July.)

All remaining services are planned by the Worship Committee, currently under the leadership of Sandy W. The committee discusses and selects themes for the year, holds training for worship leaders, and engages speakers from within and beyond the congregation, and does all worship scheduling. They coordinate with the Social Responsibility Council to provide services with social action themes. They work with the Religious Education staff to plan intergenerational services. They work closely with the Music Director (Linda G.) and the Music Committee (currently led by Frank A.) to assure there are special musicians and accompanists for every service. This is a dynamic, dedicated group of people who are always open to your impressions regarding our services.

Committee News

Stewardship 2010

By the time you receive your May Newsletter the pledge campaign for the Operating Fund of the Church will be all but completed. Thanks one and all for being so gracious as to accept the Visiting Stewards into your homes. And thank you Visiting Stewards, all twenty two of you, for your devotion to the cause. Thanks to all those souls who made the Kickoff Dinner a success. Thanks to Judy K. and Gloria S. for their expertise and to Kit and Lois for their guiding hands. We are a remarkable group and I'm proud to be a part of it.

Baird B., Canvass Chair

Art Gallery News

A Father/Son art show featuring the work of our own Leonard Good and his well known artist father and that of local sculpture Ron Ward and his son

Johnathan Ward will be on display in our foyer gallery during the months of May and June.

Leonard Phelps Good (1907-2000) had a long and fruitful career as both educator and artist. As an artist he focused on the beauty of the natural world that surrounded him and his paintings are filled with the delights of color and light. Son Leonard Jacob Good expresses his art through photography, and has been a teacher of science as well as photography in Whidbey Island's schools.

Ron Ward is a self-taught sculptor. His works begin mostly in clay wax to be cast into bronze. Ron's son Johnathan Ward describes himself as a maker of things; if someone else can draw it, he can make it! He has been designing functional art for the home and garden using steel, forged objects, found objects, cast cement, wood, and glass since 1996.

The exhibit opens Sunday May 2nd and an artist's reception will be held immediately after Services. Please plan on welcoming our artists and chatting

Social Responsibility Council Update

Earlier this year, the Social Responsibility Council identified Good Cheer Food Bank as a worthy recipient of a dedicated offering that took place Sunday, April 18. SRC Chair, Toyon Copeland, introduced Kathleen McLaughlin of Good Cheer who outlined the mission and accomplishments of this vital organization. Serving South Whidbey since 1962, Good Cheer provides food to over 1500 clients on South Whidbey, operates thrift stores, raises funds, and educates.

Thanks to a very successful fund-raising concert organized by Libby R., the SRC elected to match up to \$250 of the dedicated offering. We took in \$408.52 in collection plate donations. Add in the \$250 from the SRC and we raised \$658.52 for this worthy cause.

Our next dedicated offering will be on May 23 to benefit Citizens Against Domestic Violence (CADA). Barbara Ballard will speak on the group's behalf, and we know UUCWI will answer the call.

If you know of a worthy cause for one of our dedicated offerings, please seek out a member of the SRC. Our focus is local, but we're not narrow minded. The SRC meets one Sunday a month after services. Our next meeting is May 16.

UUCWI 2009-2010 Board of Trustees

Lois C., President

Tom B., Treasurer

Joann R., Secretary

Roy B., Trustee

Mark B., Trustee

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.

Submitted articles may be edited for length. 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.

Communications Committee:

Celia B., Newsletter Editor

Mavis C., Church Administrator

Dean E., Webmaster

**UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CONGREGATION
OF WHIDBEY ISLAND**

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