



February 2011

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
		1	2 10 am Men's Group	3	4	5 10-Noon VAC
6 10 am Service: "After the Laundry, the Ecstasy" <i>Noonish: South End Lunch Bunch</i>	7 9-11 Worship Committee	8	9	10	11	12 1-3 pm North End Koffee Klatch
13 10 am Service: "What's Love Got to Do With It?" <i>after svc: BOT 6pm Fun on Whidbey</i>	14 7 pm Book Club	15	16 10 am Men's Group 7 pm Lyceum 2.0	17 Noonish: South End Koffee Klatch	18 Newsletter Deadline	19 7pm Conversation at Kit's
20 10 am Service: "Learning To Be Astonished" <i>after svc:</i> Congregational Pot-luck Lunch and Meeting	21	22	23	24	25	26
27 10 am Service: "What's Sex Got to Do With It?" 6 pm North End Dine Out	28					

From Our Minister



Dear Whidbey friends,

As we get ready to look once again at our draft of a Covenant of Right Relations, prior to our congregational vote on Feb. 20, I have been thinking about how tricky it can be to get along with each other all the time! Even happily married couples or longtime friends can get testy and crabby if their toes are stepped on, even accidentally.

Every once in awhile, I hear friends complain about how so-and-so had hurt their feelings by making some remark or suggestion that rankled. The incident may seem trivial to somebody else, but it has hurt someone deeply or made them feel unimportant or invisible. I am sometimes guilty of making those remarks and I am also sometimes the one who is hurt.

One of the things I've learned over the years, even if I don't always manage to remember it, is that it is helpful to assume innocent intentions on the part of someone who has hurt my feelings. I have learned that rarely does anyone intend to hurt my feelings; it's more often that the sensitivity I experience is related to what's going on in my life at the time.

I hope our vote on the Covenant of Right Relations, on Feb. 20, is a vote to approve it and include it in our official documents, the ones we use in our governance and in our congregational lives together. We tend to be a peaceful congregation, generally, and as we grow, it will be important to offer that peace to those new folks who join us. Newcomers like to know what the guidelines are, for being together as a faith community, and our Covenant is our baseline guideline.

It's February! That's really, really early spring in the Pacific Northwest, especially here among the rhododendrons and azaleas and daphne and daffodils. I'm looking forward to it and I'll bet you are too!

Much love,
Kit

Calender Listings

Feb. 6: "After the Laundry, the Ecstasy"

Speaker: Dianne Shiner

Though we speak of the devil in the details, it is also true that the particulars of daily life invite us to "hold infinity in the palm of our hands, and eternity in an hour". By what alchemy, does the mundane manifest the sacred ... and can we bottle it? Using poetry from some of her favorite writers, Dianne Shiner will reflect on the power of the ordinary to shape and transform us.

Dianne holds graduate degrees in both theology and social work, and retired in 2009, having served as Executive Director of the Whidbey Institute, Holden Village, Lutheran Social Services, and Divorce Lifeline.

Worship leader: Mark Brown

Feb. 13: "What's Love Got to Do With It?"

Speaker: Rev. Kit Ketcham

Human relationships are rewarding, tricky, exciting, frustrating, fragile, tough, and much more. What are the foundations of successful friendships, loverships, parenting, caretaking? What makes us act the ways we do and what can we do to be more successful in our relationships? There will be a dedicated offering for WAIF. We will welcome new members of UUCWI today.

Worship Leader: Terra Anderson

Feb. 20: "Learning To Be Astonished"

Speaker: Larry Daloz

Glistening snow-capped peaks, radiant golden sunsets, morning light slanting through mighty trees, brisk winds whipping the Sound to foam.... We live in a beautiful place. We all know it and are grateful. But look! Right there. Under your feet. You see nothing? Just the ground, you say? This morning with the help of a few cryptograms and a dewdrop or two, we'll have a chance to look again. "Heaven," as our old friend Henry said, "is under our feet as well as over our heads."

Larry Daloz is a Senior Fellow at the Whidbey Institute. He lives in Clinton with his spouse Sharon Parks, also a Senior Fellow at the Institute. Both are Quakers.

Worship Leader: Ken Merrell

Feb. 27: "What's Sex Got to Do With It?"

Speaker: Rev. Kit Ketcham

Sexuality is a defining characteristic and essential life force of human beings, but it tends to lead us into the temptation of limiting our experience of other people to our preconceived notions of what sex, sexuality, gender, orientation, and biology mean. Why should it matter how anyone "does it", whether we're talking about washing dishes, making love, raising children, or being good persons?

Worship Leader: Gladys Howard

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Feb. 6, noonish: South End Lunch Bunch

at China City in Freeland. We eat family style and split the check. Come join us for a great lunch and wonderful conversation. Lots of room around the big table in the dining room!

Feb. 12, 1-3 p.m.: North End Koffee Klatch

at Whidbey General's West Wind cafeteria. Good food, good coffee, incredible conversation and many laughs! Come join us for a great time with fellow North Enders.

Feb. 13, 6:00 p.m.: Fun On Whidbey

The FOW Group believes that trivia is not trivial, but just plain fun! We'll meet for dinner at Mike's Place Restaurant on First Street in Langley at 6:00. At 7:00, we'll enter the trivia contest and we'll remember what we thought we had forgotten. Older children may delight in knowing more than we do; younger ones may get antsy. There are prizes! No need to RSVP Judy.

Feb. 14, 7pm: Book Club

The UUCWI Book Club will gather at the church to discuss *March*, by Geraldine Brooks. *March* is historical fiction, and follows the father in Louisa May Alcott's *Little Women* as he leaves his family to aid in the Union cause during the Civil War.

Contact: Janis Hummel

Feb. 16, 7 p.m.: "Tidal Power and Its Opportunities and Side Effects"

In the February presentation of UUCWI's Lyceum 2.0 series, Dr. Brian Polagye will speak about the growing interest in harnessing the tides of Puget

Sound as an energy source, including the ethics and unintended consequences of this possible resource. A panel of local citizens will ask pointed questions about his work and its outcomes, there will be an opportunity for dialog between Dr. Polagye and the audience, and a social time after the presentation will give attendees a chance to talk directly with Dr. Polagye and each other about this critical topic in the series "Energy Futures for Puget Sound".

Feb. 17, noonish: South End Koffee Klatch

at Living Green in Langley. Coffee and/or lunch with delicious vegetarian and vegan offerings. Come join us for a healthy meal and terrific conversation.

Feb. 19, 7 p.m.: Conversation at Kit's

We'll have refreshments at 7 and start our conversation at 7:30. This month's theme is the February worship theme---Love and Sex! Call for directions, if needed (331-2163).

Feb. 20, after the service: Congregational Pot-luck Lunch and Meeting

Sign-up sheets for the food that people will offer to bring will be set up on January 30th in the foyer. After the potluck, the congregation will have the opportunity to discuss the Covenant of Right Relations and then vote on its acceptance.

Feb. 27, 6 p.m.: North End Dine Out

at China City in Oak Harbor. We're shifting locations this month, for a change of scenery. (We'll return to Zorba's in the spring.) We'll reserve one of the big tables in the rear and eat family style, splitting the check. All are welcome!

Announcements

Saratoga Chamber Orchestra

The SCO will perform music of Scandinavian composers, featuring Norwegian pianist, Knut Erik Jensen, in Grieg's Piano Concerto on Monday, February 14 in the Oak Harbor Performing Arts Center and on Tuesday, February 15 at the South Whidbey High School. Both concerts begin at 7:00 PM Also on the program will be the "Aladdin Overture" by

From the Pres



Right Relations

This month our congregation will vote on a proposed Covenant of Right Relations – an agreement regarding the ways in which we relate to one another.

What does it mean to be in “right relationship”? The words of the Covenant are meant to guide our approach. For me, intention is a key element. If I ask myself, “What is my intention in this relationship/exchange/conversation?” I can better assess whether or not I am in right relationship. Is it my intention to prove the other person wrong? Is it my intention to demonstrate my superior skills/knowledge? Or is it my intention to genuinely know and be known by this other person? Do I really want to hear what he/she is saying, and do I really want to understand his/her point of view?

Having said that, and reflecting on times when a friend has taken offense at something I said, I realize that intention is not a guarantee of a good outcome. It is, however, a good start. From there, as long as communication remains open, we can together proceed to find the right words to clarify the intentions.

There is much good work we can do together as a caring community. Being in right relationship with one another helps us to focus our energies on that good work we all want to accomplish.

Warmest regards,
Lois

Our Covenant of Right Relations

Last Spring an ad hoc committee presented to the congregation a proposed draft of a Covenant of Right Relations along with a “best practices” document. The Covenant document requires congregational approval before we can consider it to be adopted. A congregational meeting will be held February 20th to vote on this issue. [You will receive official notice of this meeting soon.] Note that the “covenant” portion of this document is what we state each Sunday as a part of our worship service. We are proposing the addition of a list of “promises” intended to amplify the three elements of the covenant.

The proposed wording of the Covenant is:
The Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Whidbey Island Covenant of Right Relations
Love is the spirit of this congregation and service its practice.

This is our great covenant: to dwell together in peace, to seek truth in love, and to help one another.

Our promises:

- * We warmly welcome all.*
- * We speak with honesty, respect and kindness.*
- * We listen compassionately.*
- * We express gratitude for the service of others.*
- * We honor and support one another in our life journeys, in times of joy, need and struggle.*
- * We embrace our diversity and the opportunity to share our different perspectives.*
- * We address our disagreements directly and openly, and see conflict through to an authentic resolution.*
- * We serve our spiritual community with generosity and joy, honoring our commitments.*
- * We strive to keep these promises, but when we fall short, we forgive ourselves and others, and begin again in love.*

Please plan to attend the congregational meeting on February 20th.

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

Announcements continued from page 3

Carl Nielsen and the “Karelia Suite” by Sibelius.

Scandinavian music is unique in its poignancy and longing and resonates here in the Northwest because of the heritage of the early settlers of Scandinavian descent. Tickets at the door.

The Seattle Freelance Soloist Return

on Saturday evening, March 5! Miodrag Veselinovic (violinist), Kevin Kaukl (pianist), Teo Benson (violinist) will perform a program of works by Beethoven, De Sarasate, Tchaikovsky, Dvorak, and Vitali.

You'll want to put this event on your calendars and make sure not to miss it! Last year these talented, young performers played to a full house at UUCWI and were received with standing ovations. On March 5, 2011, the group will bring a newcomer to Whidbey Island as pianist, and he promises to "do right" by our newly renovated piano.

Loss Workshop

"Loss: Navigating the Rough Country Journey", with Leah Green, M.Ed. Saturday(s), April 9 & 23: 10 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. at UUCWI.

Leah is offering a two-part, experiential workshop on how to map out the powerful journey we can take when we lose something or someone important to us. The class is appropriate for any kind of loss, e.g., loss of a family member, friend, a job, a pet or a shift in identity or role (as in divorce).

Leah is a Certified Coach, former psychotherapist and Antioch Univ. Adjunct Faculty with over 40 years teaching experience in the U.S. and Canada. Register Early. Limited to 12 participants. Deadline, April 2.

Contact: leah@whidbey.com 360-221-8426

Committee News

Caring Connections

We will be asking the congregation to fill out an informational sheet to indicate how they would be willing to help in short-term emergency situations such as: medical transportation, power outages, child care, memorial services, etc.

Men's Group

The UUCWI men's discussion group continues to meet in the office the first and 3rd Wednesdays of the month at from 10-12. New members are always welcome. If the time does not work for you, let us know. We might be able to change or start a second group. Talk with Mark Brown or Dave Cauffman.

Kitchen Committee Forming

The kitchen committee is looking for a few new members to help us oversee the use of the kitchen. One of our responsibilities is recruiting volunteers to take care of refreshments on Sundays and to make sure they understand their duties. It is up to us to keep the kitchen stocked with supplies (which are paid for by the congregation). We also keep the kitchen spic and span by cleaning the refrigerator and washing the dish towels as needed. If this sounds like your cup of tea (or coffee), please let Judy Kaplan know you'd like to help out.

Religious Education

The RE Committee is forming an OWL sub-committee to consider the feasibility and help form an Our Whole Lives (OWL) program for our youth. OWL is an innovative sexual education curriculum. From the UUA website:

Our Whole Lives helps participants make informed and responsible decisions about their sexual health and behavior. It equips participants with accurate, age-appropriate information in six subject areas: human development, relationships, personal skills, sexual behavior, sexual health, and society and culture. Grounded in a holistic view of sexuality, Our Whole Lives not only provides facts about anatomy and human development, but also helps participants clarify their values, build interpersonal skills, and understand the spiritual, emotional, and social aspects of sexuality.

Last year UUCWI sent Shannon O'Phelan and Glen Eisenbrey to a weekend training. They have both agreed to be volunteer teachers of this program at our church. What a huge gift to our congregation!!! But, in order to offer this program, we need at least 3 volunteers to step forward to be on an OWL sub-committee. This committee will consider the feasibility of the program at our church, determine and create necessary paperwork and guidelines, and support this program to its creation. Once the program has begun, the OWL sub-committee will be disbanded.

Our church is in need of RE teacher assistants who are willing to volunteer once/ month. Volunteers are vital to our RE program. The number of children in our classes are growing, but it is difficult to imagine expanding our program without having the volunteer teachers needed to support the change. Volunteers will be oriented to their positions and supported by lead teachers and the Director of Religious Education.

If you are willing to volunteer, please contact Vanessa at: uucwi.re@gmail.com

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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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