



Island Passages

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

April 2011

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
					1	2 10 - Noon VAC
3 10 am Service: "This I Believe..." Noonish South End Lunch Bunch	4 9-11 am Worship Committee	5	6 10 am Men's Group 7 pm Lyceum 2.0	7	8	9 1-3 pm North End Koffee Klatch 6 pm Stewardship Dinner
10 10 am Service: "Loving and Cheerful Givers" after svc: BOT	11 7-9 pm Book Group	12	13	14	15	16 9 - Noon Landscape Work Party
17 10 am Service: "The Voice Behind the Back- stop" 11:30 am - 3 pm UU101 Session	18	19 Newsletter Deadline	20 10 am Men's Group	21 Noonish South End Koffee Klatch	22	23 7-9 pm Conversation at Kit's
24 10 am Service: "Why I am a Universalist and What that has to do with Easter" 6 pm North End Dine Out	25	26	27	28	29	30 7:30 pm Benefit Concert

For More Information on Listings - see pages 2 and 3

From Our Minister



Dear Whidbey friends,

As more and more new folks come through our doors, stay to get acquainted, register their kids for RE, and ask about membership, it would be a good time to review what membership in our congregation means and the steps on our path to membership. It's not very complicated and doesn't have many hoops to jump through, but there are some important milestones on the path.

Most people seek out a Unitarian Universalist congregation for similar reasons: they feel the need of a spiritual community; they want their kids to have some religious education that is not laden with dogma; they want to be with others whose values and religious goals jibe with their own; and they want to work with others to make the world a better place.

In several ways, we are unique among religious faiths. We don't have a dogma; we have principles of behavior toward each other and the world. We don't filter people out according to whether or not they believe exactly what we believe; we want people to do a search of their own hearts and minds to determine what they believe and whether this congregation feels like a good fit. We don't ask for bunches of money from members; we do ask that people contribute in as many ways as possible, because that's how folks connect with the community. And when it comes to membership, we don't have an altar call, we don't have a list of requirements to be fulfilled, we only ask that you attend our UU 101 class and sign our membership book.

Pretty easy, right? Yes, but there's more. Once you've learned about Unitarian Universalism through our class and have signed the book, we ask that you begin to think about where you might provide service. Will it be to act as an usher? Bring refreshments? Join a committee? Those

are worthy acts, but there's something even more important—and it's not money!

We want you to share yourself with the community, attend events, check out books from the library, get to know others in the congregation by volunteering your skills wherever they are needed. Because it is the act of sharing yourself that helps you connect most strongly with our congregation.

We do appreciate your financial contributions and urge you to be generous, but we have learned that generosity is the product of a happy heart, a committed heart, a heart eager to give of self in many ways. And that's the most important gift you have to offer—your wholehearted support of this community and the effort it makes to serve the world beyond our walls.

In this canvass season, as our pledge campaign gets underway, you'll hear a lot about budgets and hopes and dreams and obligations, just as you would in your own family. I hope you'll meet happily with the person who calls you for coffee and conversation, so that you can share yourself and your thoughts with that canvass steward. He or she wants to know how you're doing, how you're feeling about your place in the congregation (whether you're a member or not!), and what we could do to make it better for you. It's a great time of year!

See you in church!

Much love,
Kit



Calender Listings

April 3: "This I Believe..."

I believe that spirituality and art are like the chicken and the egg, neither can exist without the other, and it's impossible to know which came first. Since April's theme this year is "Art and Spirituality," I've asked three of our resident artists to discuss how art informs their worship (in the UU sense of the

word) and vice-versa. Please join me as these three talented and thoughtful members of congregation explore, well take your pick, *The Spirituality of Art* or *the Art of Spirituality*.

Mavis Cauffman: Musician, Fiber-artist, Crafter
Nola Allen: Musician, Painter, Water-colorist
John Long: Sculptor, Painter, Writer
Worship Leader: Ken Merrell; Writer, Musician, Actor

April 10: "Loving and Cheerful Givers" aka, "The Sermon on the Amount"

Speaker: Rev. Kit Ketcham

What does it mean to be a loving and cheerful giver? Why do we invest in things that are important to us? What do we receive in return for our investment? And does it matter?

Worship Leader: Libby Roberts

April 17: "The Voice Behind the Backstop"

Rev. Bill Graves

We all need the support of that voice, that wing extended as a bridge inviting us to join in realizing our potential, in blessing the world. Our Third Principle calls us all to be ministers encouraging each other's spiritual growth. It is an invitation to experience church involvement on a far deeper level than merely as a consumer.

Rev. Bill Graves returns to UUCWI, his home congregation that helped form him and ordained him to the ministry. He currently serves as consulting minister to Tahoma UU Congregation in Tacoma where he and his partner, Frances, maintain an apartment.

Worship Leader: Sandy Welch

April 24: "Why I am a Universalist and What that has to do with Easter"

Speaker: Rev. Kit Ketcham

As more conservative clergy argue about whether universalism is a good or a bad thing, Unitarian Universalists celebrate the idea of Universal Love and find that it is a healing force for humankind.

Worship Leader: Peggy Bardarson

April 3, noonish: South End Lunch Bunch

at China City in Freeland. Good food, good company. All invited. We order family style and split the cost.

April 6, 7pm: Lyceum 2.0

Rick Gustafson speaks about the uses of biofuels in our ongoing series entitled "Energy Futures for Puget Sound". Refreshments served.

April 9, 1-3pm:North End Koffee Klatch

at Whidbey General cafeteria in Coupeville. Good coffee, good food, good prices, good company. All invited.

April 9, 6pm: Annual Stewardship Dinner

Please come to the Stewardship dinner at UUCWI. It is the kickoff for our annual fund drive and is a thank you to all for supporting our church during the past year.

April 11, 7-9pm: Book Group

Our book discussion group will discuss *The Guernsey Literary and Potato Peel Pie Society*. The letters that make up this novel shed light on the suffering of the Channel Islanders during the German Occupation during World War II. Characters step from the past radiant with eccentricity and kindly humor. This is a book that will make you appreciate a long wait in a ferry line or an impossibly rainy day!

A large number of copies are available from our Sno-Isle library in a variety of formats in addition to print – Audio CD, downloadable audio from the library's website, e-book (for your Nook!), and large print. There's no good excuse to consider not reading this one!

Join us! And let us know you're coming!

Joan

April 16, 9-noon: Landscape Work Party

Attention Gardeners with or without a green thumb, you are invited to join us at our first-of-season Landscape Work Party. We'll be sprucing up our garden, clearing space for the children's play area and beginning work on the new "Bird House" garden, just outside the sanctuary windows. Bring gardening gloves and tools you like to work with. We have jobs for every skill and ability.

We are looking for ferns, vine maples and huckleberry plant donations. Please call Frances if you have questions or plant donations.



From the Pres



Ah, Spring! I think it is my favorite time of year. A new beginning. At UUCWI, Spring is also a time of new beginnings. Our committees are making plans for our new fiscal year that begins July 1st. Our finance committee is working out a preliminary budget. Looking ahead to growth and new directions is always exciting.

We want to hear your ideas about the kinds of new directions you would like to see us take. What are your dreams for us? In what ways would you like to help shape those dreams? April is Stewardship month. This is the time we assess where we are and where we are going. It is the time that members renew their membership commitment and pledge their continuing support to our congregation. A visiting steward will soon be calling you to arrange a time to meet with you. Please give careful thought to your relationship with our UU community and how you want to further its mission and support its growth. We need your help.

Thank you for all that you do to help us be a thriving community.

Warmest regards,
Lois

Calendar Listings continued from page 3

April 21, noonish: South End Koffee Klatch

and more, Living Green in Langley. Vegetarian/vegan/raw food, delish! All invited.

April 23, 7-9 pm: Conversation at Kit's

(Socialize at 7, conversation at 7:30). This month's topic is "The Arts as Spiritual Inspiration".

April 24, 6 pm: North End Dine Out

at Zorba's in Oak Harbor, 6 p.m. Mediterranean food is their specialty. We order individually off the menu. All invited.

April 30, 7:30 pm: Benefit Concert at UUCWI

An evening of Romantic Music by Brahms and other composers will be performed by Peggy Bardarson, Violin, and Nola Allen, Piano, with guest artist Kathryn Vinson, Mezzo-soprano, assisted by Violist, Louise Fiori. The concert will feature Brahms' Sonata no 3 in D-minor for Violin and Piano, "Two Songs" by Brahms for Voice and Viola, and German Lieder by Brahms, Mozart, and others.

Eileen Soskin will present a pre-concert lecture on the music at 6:45 pm. The program will begin a 7:30 pm. Tickets are available for a \$15 donation single, \$25 family. Tickets may be reserved by calling the church at 360 321 8656 or purchased at the door the night of the concert. All proceeds will benefit UUCWI.

Announcements

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

The Saratoga Chamber Orchestra,

Lagh Burns Conductor, will present concerts on Monday, April 4 in Oak Harbor at 7:00 PM at the Performing Arts Center and on Tuesday, April 5 at 7:00 PM in Langley at the High School. Featured will be De Falla's evocative orchestral suite "Nights in the Gardens of Spain" with Linnea Bardarson as piano soloist. Linnea is the daughter of Peggy and Baird Bardarson of UUCWI.

Other works are Enescu's "Romanian Rhapsody No. 2", Bizet's "Carmen Suite" and "Ritual Fire Dance" by De Falla. Many musicians familiar to UUCWI are members of the SCO. Tickets are available at the door.

Lyceum 2.0: What's Up with Biofuels

In 2007 and 2008 it was difficult to pick up newspaper or watch a newscast without there being something about renewable fuels and energy. While much of the hype has died down, the development of the industry is still marching along – although not as fast as expected or as dictated by the 2007 Energy and Security Act. This talk will bring you up-to-date on biofuels, both with regard to policy and technology, and will give you one person's view of what will happen in the future. The following are topics that will be covered:

- What's the big fuss about biofuels (and bioenergy)?
- What is the current biofuels US situation?
- How do we produce biofuels?
- What could be the impact locally?

Dr. Gustafson brings a unique perspective to his science, combining an undergraduate degree in Pulp and Fiber Science with a Chemical Engineering PhD. His interests in kayaking, hiking, cross country skiing and biking remind him that climate change is personal. He commutes between the U. of W. to his home in Bellevue on a bicycle, rain or shine!



Openings Available for Smorgasbord

The Swedish Smorgasbord auction event on Saturday, May 21, 5:30 pm at UUCWI has some openings remaining. If you haven't already signed up, please consider attending. The cost for an evening of abundant, yummy food and some easy Swedish folk dance is just a \$40 donation to UUCWI. Invite your friends too.

The food and fun will be provided by John & May Britt Kron, Janis Hummel, and Lois & Dan Anderson, with pea soup provided by our own Kit Ketcham. The Scandinavian musical group Sommarfesterna also plans to provide some live music for the evening. Please e-mail Lois & Dan at andersons18@comcast.net for more information or to let us know you plan to attend.

Committee News

Visual Arts Committee

You may have noticed a nice article in the South Whidbey Record on March 16 about some of the artists at Maple Ridge. Their work currently fills our UUCWI Gallery. There was a lovely reception for them on Saturday, March, 19 in the Gallery. We have so many talented people on our Island. The Committee welcomes any suggestions you may wish to submit for future shows.

Mary Goolsby

In The Time of Silver Rain

In the time of silver rain
The earth puts forth new life again,

Green grasses grow
And flowers lift their heads,

And all over the plain
The wonder spreads

Of life, Of life, Of life.

In time of silver rain
The butterflies lift silke wings
To catch a rainbow cry

And trees put forth
New leaves to sing
In joy beneath the sky.

When spring

And life
Are new.

Langston Hughes
Reading # 545

UUCWI 2009-2010 Board of Trustees

Lois Chowen, President

Tom Buxton, Treasurer

Dallas Huth, Secretary

Roy Bingman, Trustee

Mark Brown, Trustee

Sally Ann Elder, Trustee

Janis Hummel, 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 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
deleted from the online version for members'
privacy.

Communications Committee:

Celia Bartram, Newsletter Editor

Mavis Cauffman, Church Administrator

Dean Enell, Webmaster

**UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CONGREGATION
OF WHIDBEY ISLAND**

P.O. Box 1076

Freeland, WA 98249

360-321-8656