



# Island Passages

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## May 2011

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
1 <b>10 am Service:</b> "Motivation for Deep Change"  After svc SRC	2 9-11 Worship Committee	3	4 10 am Men's Group	5	6	7 10 - Noon VAC
8 <b>10 am Service:</b> "Freedom and Creativity"  Noonish South End Lunch Bunch	9 7 pm Book Group	10	11	12	13	14 1-3 North End Coffee Klatch
15 <b>10 am Service:</b> "Finding Strength in our Mountains"  After svc BOT	16	17	18 10 am Men's Group  7 pm Lyceum 2.0	19 Noonish South End Coffee Klatch	20	21 Newsletter Deadline  9 - Noon Work Party
22 <b>10 am Service:</b> "Flower Com- munion"  6pm North End Dine Out	23	24	25	26	27	28 7 pm Conversation at Kit's
29 <b>10 am Service:</b> "Single in a Married World"	30	31				

## From Our Minister



Dear Whidbey friends,

Recently my email account was hacked and very dubious electronic messages went out to my entire mailing list! You may likely have received something that looked like I had renounced my vows of sensibility and had gotten into the so-called “pleasure” business. Sorry about that — I corrected it as soon as possible, but I was left with a sense of vulnerability and embarrassment at what my dependence on cyberspace can mean, at least in a negative way.

It reminded me of the early days of email when we didn’t know much about what its unintended consequences could be and people were unintentionally making small problems much bigger by being careless with language, how they often confronted people in very harmful ways over small matters because email was so convenient.

I googled “email manners” and discovered hundreds of sites and documents giving advice about being careful with email. Many of them you already know, but I thought it would be helpful to remind us of some of them.

In a former social setting, I had the ugly experience of being the target of a private email conversation in which my flaws and weaknesses were discussed in very negative terms. Instead of talking with me privately and in person, this group drummed up support for their position by inviting others in the group to share their concerns. Needless to say, it was humiliating and painful to be treated in this way.

We forget how easily mere words on a computer screen can be misconstrued; without facial clues and tone of voice clues, we may be offended or hurt when there is no such intent by the writer. Here are some pieces of advice (PoA) for us to consider:

- *PoA #1 would be “don’t address sensitive topics*

*with email if it’s possible to have a face to face conversation”.*

- *PoA #2 would be “think before you send: reread it, maybe even read it out loud, proofread it for typos which may skew your message”.*
- *PoA #3 is “don’t forward chain letters or solicitations without permission from the person you are sending it to”.*
- *PoA #4 is “email is never totally private and it never goes away.” Don’t send anything that you wouldn’t want your grandkids to see!*

I think we’re pretty good about this, usually, but I know I’ve made some errors of my own in the past and often need to be reminded about these things!

Much love,  
Kit

## Calender Listings

**May 1: "Seeking the Sources of Motivation for Deep Change"**

**Speaker: Rev. Kurt Hoelting**

Kurt Hoelting will explore with us how we can re-frame our fear and uncertainty around the great ecological challenges of our time, turning them into opportunities for self-transformation and healing in our communities.

Kurt Hoelting was ordained a United Church of Christ minister. He makes his living by commercial fishing in Southeast Alaska as well as guiding kayaking expeditions for environmental and religious leaders. These trips incorporate Buddhist meditation practice and contemplative silence. Three years ago Kurt became concerned about his own contribution to global warming and embarked on a yearlong experiment to rediscover the heart of his own home by the shores of Puget Sound. He traded his car and jet travel for a kayak, a bicycle, and his own two feet, traveling a radius of 100 kilometers from his home. One product of that adventure was his book, *The Circumference of Home: One Man’s Yearlong Quest for a Radically Local Life*.

*Worship Leader: Terra Anderson*

**May 8: "Freedom and Creativity"**

**Speaker: Rev. Kit Ketcham**

The end goal of life as a biological organism is to reproduce oneself, whether we are humans, grasshoppers, algae, or viruses. Human beings are perhaps the only creatures who can consciously choose to reproduce or not. What does freedom mean when it comes to creating new life? On this Mother's Day, Rev. Kit Ketcham will speak about the many conflicting factors facing those who would create new life.

During this service we will dedicate our new sanctuary artwork – the quilted wall hanging which will be unveiled today and the hand-carved doors installed earlier in the year – and recognize those who created the artwork. In addition, we will recognize those who have contributed to the installation of our library.

*Worship Leader: Sara Heath*

**May 15: "Finding Strength in our Mountains"**

**Speaker: Frances Wood**

Mountains can represent strength, facing challenges, wandering in the wilderness, and finding healing. We will consider native myths, personal and biblical stories as we explore the lyrics from the song by Vicki Courtney, "Pick the hill you're gonna stand on, choose the mountain you will climb." Feel free to bring any personal mountains you are attempting to climb.

Naturalist and writer Frances Wood is the author of *Brushed by Feathers: A Year of Birdwatching in the West* and contributor to BirdNote aired daily on public radio. She has climbed a few mountains and meandered around many more.

*Worship Leader: Mavis Cauffman*

**May 22: "Flower Communion – an intergenerational service"**

Vanessa Kohlhaas, director of Religious Education, Rev. Kit Ketcham, and Joann Roomes, goddess of intergenerational services, will present a favorite story in recognition of this traditional Unitarian Universalist celebration. A child dedication ceremony will welcome new children into the congregation (for details, contact Rev. Ketcham or Vanessa Kohlhaas).

**May 29: "Single in a Married World"**

**Speaker: Rev. Amanda Aikman**

"Reflecting on the over two hundred weddings at which I've officiated, I hope I've learned something about love, marriage, and the vast array of alternatives – including the choice of many to remain single. An invitation for all of us – married, partnered, happily single, or...prowling around...to celebrate and honor one another's status."

The Rev. Amanda Aikman is Consulting Minister at Skagit Unitarian Universalist Fellowship in Mount Vernon. She is a Spiritual Director and a Joyfulness Consultant, helping individuals and groups add joy to their everyday lives. Amanda has won many national sermon contests. She is a playwright, with 15 short plays – mostly comedies– produced in our area; and she is the author of the 2010 book, *Full-Spectrum Joyfulness*.

*Worship Leader: Toyan Copeland*

**May 8, Noonish: South End Lunch Bunch**

at China City. Yes, it's Mother's Day, so this is for all those mothers and others who aren't celebrating with family today. We order several dishes and split the cost. It's a lot of fun. All welcome. ***This is a different date than usual.***

**May 9, 7pm: Book Group**

If you haven't yet read *The Girl With The Dragon Tattoo*, now would be a good time so you can join in our discussion. We meet at 7:00 p.m. on the 2nd Monday in May at UUCWI. For those not in the know, this book is the first in a trilogy by Stieg Larsson, whose life in Sweden was somewhat analogous with the male protagonist in these books. I'm showing the film version at my house the week prior to our discussion, at 7:00 p.m. on May 2nd. Call me for directions. Mary Goolsby (360) 579-2838.

**May 14, 1-3 pm: North End Koffee Klatch**

at Whidbey General's cafeteria in Coupeville. Good food, good coffee, fabulous company! We laugh almost non-stop for two hours, pausing to talk seriously once in awhile. All welcome.

## From the Pres



What if . . .

*Sometimes I like to play a “what if” game – a dare-to-dream game. I think it stimulates our imaginations and encourages creative directions. Here are a couple of thoughts:*

What if every member and long time friend of our UUCWI community thought of our building as his/her own second home? How might that impact the way we greet guests? What would we do to make sure they felt comfortable, welcomed and at ease? And how might that impact our participation in the care of our building and grounds? I suspect that there are already quite a few of our members who do, in fact, think of our building this way. These are folks who care very deeply about our “home”, our “family” and our presence in the larger community. I thank you all so very much for your continuing efforts. What are some things we might do to encourage more to adopt this outlook?

What if every member and friend of our UUCWI community felt connected to this community via her/his unique gifts/talents/passions? A strong community is built upon the strengths of its individual members. Imagine a community in which each one of us felt that our own special gifts were part of the glue that holds our community together? Each person known, recognized, appreciated for his/her unique abilities. Again, I believe that this is already true for many of our members and long time friends. What can we do to help others connect in this way?

What “what ifs” would you add to this list? What are your dreams for a thriving UUCWI community? Is there a committee representative or Board member you might want to share that dream with?

Warmest regards,  
Lois

## May 18, 7 pm: Lyceum 2.0 at UUCWI

Our topic for this final session of Lyceum 2.0 is the several Whidbey Island projects using alternative energy sources. See article elsewhere in the newsletter.

## May 19, Noonish: South End Koffee Klatch

at Living Green in Langley, noonish. Delicious vegetarian and vegan food (try the raw kale salad or kitcheree — yummy!), terrific company, great conversation. All welcome.

## May 22, 6pm: North End Dine Out

at Zorba’s in Oak Harbor, 6 p.m. We order off the menu and enjoy each other’s company. All welcome.

## May 28, 7pm: Conversation at Kit’s

The topic this month is “Personal Experience as a Source of Spiritual Inspiration”. We socialize at 7, with refreshments, and begin conversation at about 7:30.

## Announcements

### "Guest" Newsletter Editor

Sandy Welch has agreed to put the June newsletter together while I’m away at a retreat May 22-29. Please send all items to [sandy.welch3@gmail.com](mailto:sandy.welch3@gmail.com) by May 21.

*Celia Bartram*

### Lyceum 2.0, May 18!

Lyceum 2.0 completes its first season this month with a review of alternative energy projects in existence on Whidbey Island. In addition, Puget Sound Energy provides information about the actual power demands of life on Whidbey. The Lyceum task force is adding members; if you are interested in serving on this lively group and helping to plan next year’s offerings, talk to Kit or Terra.

### Attention: Word Game Players

Janis and Judy love word games and would like to have an occasional gathering of like-minded folks. Scrabble and Bananagrams come to mind; open to other suggestions for a weekend get-together. Let us know if you're interested.

## PFLAG Whidbey

We are Parents, Families and Friends of Lesbians and Gays (PFLAG). Please join us as we grow this newly formed chapter here on Whidbey Island.

When people discover that a family member or a friend is gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender, intersex or questioning (GLBTIQ), they may experience many conflicting feelings and thoughts. Sharing in dialogue with other PFLAG parents and family members, and getting to know some wonderful GLBTIQ persons, is a pathway to understanding, acceptance, and renewed family relationships.

The members of PFLAG Whidbey welcome all who would like to visit during our monthly meetings. We offer the opportunity to share in an open yet confidential and safe dialogue with supportive members of other families who have dealt, or are dealing with acceptance of their loved one's identity and orientation.

PFLAG promotes health and well-being through Support, to cope with an adverse society; Education, to enlighten an ill-informed public; and Advocacy, to end discrimination and to secure equal civil rights. Only with respect, dignity and equality for all will we reach our full potential as human beings, individually and collectively.

### *Monthly Support Meetings*

2nd Monday of each month, 6:30 – 8PM  
Unitarian Universalist Congregation Whidbey Island  
For additional information please contact Cyn Becker at [CynBecker@gmail.com](mailto:CynBecker@gmail.com)

## 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 4-5.

*Barb Hutton*

## Committee News

### Caring Connections Committee

The CCCers will be adding visitations to infirm members and friends onto their to-do lists. As for our other tasks, we help Kit prepare memorial services for members and friends as well as assist with emergency care such as power outages, meals, etc. We welcome new members.

*Judy Kaplan*

### Visual Arts Committee

*Art and Poetry: May 7–June 26*

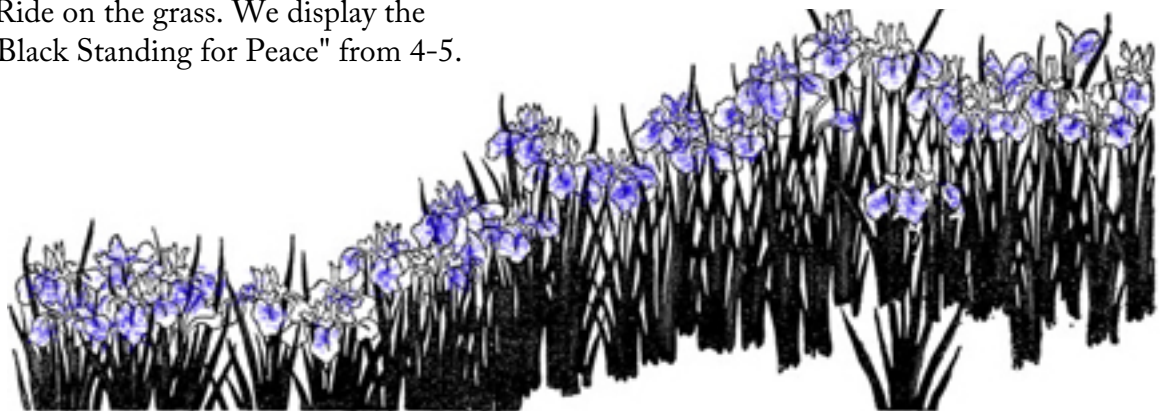
The Visual Arts Committee will showcase works from local artists who are also poets (or poets who are artists) in the UUCWI foyer/gallery beginning May 7. There will also be a poetry reading during that time, the date to be announced later. The artist/poets participating are Lorraine Healy, photographer; Sheila Mohn, painter; Natalie Olsen, weaver; Joan Gerteis, photographer; and Dallas Huth, fiber artist.

## To the Congregation

Dear UUCWI friends:

On April 19 the Board of Trustees of the Tahoma UU Congregation and I agreed to a contract providing that I will continue to serve as their full-time consulting minister to June 30, 2012, with an option to renew thereafter by mutual consent. There will be a ceremonial signing of the contract at the TUUC service on April 24. Francie and I will generally be on Whidbey Island on Mondays and Tuesdays. We would like to stay somewhat in touch so don't forget us in your social planning for those two days.

Warmly,  
Bill Graves



**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](mailto: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](http://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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**UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CONGREGATION  
OF WHIDBEY ISLAND**

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