



Island Passages

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June 2011

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
			1 10 am: Mens' Group	2	3	4 10 am: Visual Arts Cmte
5 10 am Service: "The Heart of Islam" <i>after service-</i> Annual Congregational Meeting	6 9-11 am: Worship Cmte	7	8 7:30 pm: EvenSong	9	10	11 1-3 pm: North End Koffee Klatch
12 10 am Service: "Embracing the Other" <i>after svc: South End Lunch Bunch</i>	13 7 pm: Book Discussion Group	14	15 10 am: Membership Cmte Mens' Group	16 Noonish: South End Koffee Klatch	17	18
19 10 am Service: "The Wisdom of Buddhism"	20	21	22	23	24	25
26 10 am Service: "At Cross Purposes?" <i>6pm North End Dine Out</i>	27	28	29	30		

From Our Minister



Dear Whidbey friends,

As we come to the close of another church year, I am so pleased by the ways we have grown together in the past several months. We've taken in several new members, hosted a variety of community and congregational events, increased our adult and children's programming, created and ratified a Covenant of Right Relations, and shared a great deal of joy. We've also experienced grief together as we've said goodbye to beloved friends and family. We've welcomed babies, young parents, growing families, and elders. We've dedicated works of art and knowledge contributed by members and friends, thrilled to the music within our walls, gazed out the windows of our sanctuary during worship and felt peace and calm enter our hearts.

As a congregation we are steadily growing in several ways. We always welcome additional members and friends within our community, but numerical growth is not the only way we need to grow, though it is important. We also are growing in our wisdom, our understandings of what it means to be Unitarian Universalists, religious liberals in an illiberal society. We are growing in spiritual strength, fostered by worship and the compassionate work we do within our community and beyond these walls. And we are growing in our ability to handle the responsibility of a beautiful building and its maintenance, as well as the challenges of governance of an active, thriving community.

In the years ahead, we will continue to grow: we'll grow in numbers, yes, but we will also grow in our understanding of how we can serve the community within our walls and the needs of the community we live in; we'll grow

in our ability to meet the needs of our building and the challenges of governance. And we'll grow in our programming, as we develop ways to reach out to each other and to those who need our help in the larger community.

These are exciting times! I am looking forward to the next steps we take together. A grateful Thank You to all those who have contributed to the many steps we've taken this year and a hearty Welcome to those who have joined us in the work we've begun together.

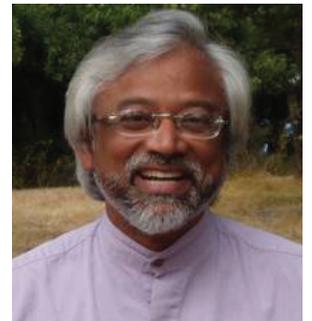
Much love,
Kit

Calender Listings

June 5: "The Heart of Islam"

Speaker: Jamal Rahman

For the ninth consecutive year we welcome Sufi Jamal Rahman. Jamal's passion lies in interfaith community-building.



He remains rooted in his Islamic tradition and cultivates a "spaciousness" by being open to the beauty and wisdom of other faiths. By authentically and appreciatively understanding other paths, Jamal feels that he becomes a better Muslim. This spaciousness is not about conversion but about completion.

Jamal is cofounder and cominister at Interfaith Community Church in Seattle, Washington, and adjunct faculty at Seattle University. Jamal travels often, teaching classes, workshops, and retreats locally, nationally, and internationally. He is the author of *The Fragrance of Faith: The Enlightened Heart of Islam*, and a coauthor of two new books: *Out of Darkness, Into Light: Spiritual Guidance in the Quran with Reflections from Jewish and Christian Sources*, and *Getting to the Heart of Interfaith: The Eye-Opening, Hope-Filled Friendship of a Pastor, a Rabbi, and a Sheikh*.
Worship Leader: Dave Cauffman

June 12: "Embracing the Other"

Speaker: Rev. Kit Ketcham

One of our typical UU challenges is finding ways to talk about the differences between our religious views and those of our more conservative relatives and friends. Being respectful of divergent views and yet true to our own can be a tightrope walk! Rev. Kit Ketcham will speak on this topic requested by Eileen Soskin, who bought the right to choose a sermon topic at our auction. During this service, we will also honor our graduating seniors and their parents.

Worship Leader: Terra Anderson

June 19: "The Wisdom of Buddhism"

One of the sources from which UUCWI draws inspiration is wisdom from the world's religions. This wisdom inspires us in our own ethical and spiritual life. On June 19, we will explore some of the wisdom that comes to us from Buddhism. In doing so, we will experience satsang, a coming together of people sharing a spiritual time together. Please join us.

Worship Leader: Gloria Sherman

**June 26: "At Cross Purposes?
Unitarian Universalism and Christianity"**

Speaker: Rev. Kit Ketcham

UUism is a direct descendent of Christianity but has diverged sharply from many traditional doctrines of our parent faith. How do we acknowledge and respect our roots while healing from leftover pain caused by old beliefs and practices? During this service, we will also welcome our newest members.

Worship Leader: Mark Brown

June 5, Annual Congregational Meeting, following the service

Our Annual Congregational Meeting will be held Sunday, June 5 following our morning worship service. Information about the business to be transacted has already been sent to all Members of UUCWI. If you are a member and have not received yours, please contact our administrator at uadmin@whidbey.com. Please make every attempt to attend so that we are assured of a quorum. (Note that members must have signed the membership book at least 60 days prior to a meeting to be eligible to vote.)

Wednesday, June 8, 7:30 pm: EvenSong "Poetry as Spiritual Practice"

Poetry is a spiritual practice for many. We'll share some poetry—and thoughts about poetry—during this quiet, contemplative candlelight gathering of song and meditation.

June 11, 1-3 pm: North End Dine Out

Whidbey General Hospital cafeteria, 1-3 p.m. Good food, coffee, conversation with lots of laughs! All welcome!

June 12, noonish: South End Lunch Bunch

at China City in Freeland. Because of our congregational meeting on June 5, this event is rescheduled. We order family style and split the cost. All are welcome!

Monday, June 13, 7pm: Book Discussion Group

Gilead, the Pulitzer Prize winner for fiction in 2005 is the June selection. This is an intimate tale of three generations from the Civil War to the twentieth century: a story about fathers and sons and the spiritual battles that still rage at America's heart. Writing in the tradition of Emily Dickinson and Walt Whitman, author Marilynne Robinson's beautiful, spare, and spiritual prose allows "even the faithless reader to feel the possibility of transcendent order" (Slate). In the luminous and unforgettable voice of Congregationalist minister John Ames, *Gilead* reveals the human condition and the often unbearable beauty of an ordinary life.

Meeting to be held at UUCWI.

June 16, noonish: South End Lunch Bunch

at Living Green in Langley, noonish. Fabulous vegan and vegetarian dishes and terrific company. All are welcome.

June 26, 6 pm: North End Dine Out

at Zorba's in Oak Harbor. Mediterranean food. We order separately. All are welcome!

From the Pres



Thank You

My term as your president is wrapping up, and I want to take this opportunity to say one more "thank you" to all of you who contribute so much to make this such an amazing community! If I tried to name everyone individually, I would probably come up with a list of about eighty people – and would still inadvertently leave someone out. So, let me say it this way:

Thank you to the many dedicated individuals who have devoted so much of their time and talent to working with our young people in the Children's Religious Education program.

Thank you to all who chair and serve on our many committees. This is the heart of the week-to-week workings of our mission. We couldn't do it without you.

Thank you to those who donate their special skills and talents so generously. Music, computer skills, artistic talents, printing, organizing. What a richly talented community we have!!

Thank you to all who have served on our Board of Trustees during these past two years. You have been great to work with. I appreciate your advice and assistance.

Thank you, Kit and Mavis, for your support, encouragement, and guidance!

And thank you to all of our members and friends who so generously contribute financial resources to ensure that UUCWI will continue to thrive.

It has been a great honor to serve as your president.

Warmest regards,
Lois

Peace Activities

The Whidbey peace group meets every Saturday at Bayview Park & Ride from 10-11 am. Come join us!.

Women in Black, a nation-wide organization, meets the 1st Friday of each month south of the Bayview Park & Ride on the grass. We display the sign "Women in Black Standing for Peace" from 3-4 pm. *-Barb Hutton*

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The Word of God

by Catherine Faber

From desert cliff and mountaintop we trace the wide design,
Strike-slip fault and overthrust and syn and anticline...
We gaze upon creation where erosion makes it known,
And count the countless aeons in the banding of the stone.
Odd, long-vanished creatures and their tracks & shells are found;
Where truth has left its sketches on the slate below the ground.
The patient stone can speak, if we but listen when it talks.
Humans wrote the Bible; God wrote the rocks.

There are those who name the stars, who watch the sky by night,
Seeking out the darkest place, to better see the light.
Long ago, when torture broke the remnant of his will,
Galileo recanted, but the Earth is moving still
High above the mountaintops, where only distance bars,
The truth has left its footprints in the dust between the stars.
We may watch and study or may shudder and deny,
Humans wrote the Bible; God wrote the sky.

By stem and root and branch we trace, by feather, fang and fur,
How the living things that are descend from things that were.
The moss, the kelp, the zebrafish, the very mice and flies,
These tiny, humble, wordless things — how shall they tell us lies?
We are kin to beasts; no other answer can we bring.
The truth has left its fingerprints on every living thing.
Remember, should you have to choose between them in the strife,
Humans wrote the Bible; God wrote life.

And we who listen to the stars, or walk the dusty grade
Or break the very atoms down to see how they are made,
Or study cells, or living things, seek truth with open hand.
The profoundest act of worship is to try to understand.
Deep in flower and in flesh, in star and soil and seed,
The truth has left its living word for anyone to read.
So turn and look where best you think the story is unfurled.
Humans wrote the Bible; God wrote the world.