



Island Passages

UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CONGREGATION OF WHIDBEY ISLAND

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January 2012

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
1 10 am Service: "Fire, a Universal Sacred Symbol"	2 9 am Worship C.	3	4 10 am Men's Group	5 7 pm Book Group	6	7 10 am VAC
8 10 am Service: "Winter Reflections" Noonish South End Dine Out	9	10	11 7:30 pm EvenSong	12	13	14 1-3 pm North End Koffee Klatch 2 pm Documentary "Raw Faith"
15 10 am Service: "Witnessing in a Time of Cultural Crisis"	16	17 7 pm Chalice Singers Rehearsal	18 10 am Men's Group	19 Noonish South End Koffee Klatch	20 Newsletter Deadline	21 6 pm Circle Dinners
22 10 am Service: "Visions of Past and Future" <i>after soc SRC</i> 6 pm North End Dine Out	23	24 7 pm Chalice Singers Rehearsal	25	26	27	28
29 10 am Service: "Cultivating Habits of the Heart"	30	31				

For More Information on Listings - see pages 2 through 4

From Our Minister



Dear Whidbey friends,

As we enter the New Year, a year of hope and challenge, I am looking down the road at endings and beginnings, starts and finishes, tears and laughter, all part of the transitions that lie ahead for us all.

Nationally and globally, we face many crises and opportunities; we are both scared and elated as the news around the earth circulates. The yin and yang of life have never been more visible; never have we been so aware of the changes swirling around us, the excitement and the dread that each change can inspire.

This month we begin to move toward a big change in this congregation: the selection of a new minister, the person who will join you all next fall to be part of this Beloved Community, bringing new ideas, new hopes, new dreams — and new challenges.

Already I find myself thinking about “your” congregation more often, and thinking about “our” congregation less often. There will come a time when I resign my membership and move off the island to enter a new phase of my life. Then it will no longer be “our” congregation but YOURS, yours to create and shape.

There will be many moments of sadness as we get ready to say goodbye, but there will also be many moments of joy and laughter and excitement, looking ahead to the future with its newness and promise.

On January 22, with the help of Mark Brown, former clergyman and beloved member of this congregation, I will be speaking about “the state of the congregation” as I see it at this time in its history. I hope to give you a picture of UUCWI’s strengths and weaknesses, a look at the trajectory set by former leaders now gone, and my thoughts about how you might consider building on the wisdom of former leaders, inviting newer members and friends to deeper involvement, and

setting your sights on what this congregation can mean on Whidbey Island over the coming years.

Our remaining time together will be sweet and full of joy, to temper the sadness. I will be working with you all to make this leave-taking memorable! And remember The Party! (June 16 — and you’re all invited.)

Much love,
Kit

Calendar Listings

Jan. 1: "Fire, a Universal Sacred Symbol"

Fire is a sacred symbol common to the beliefs and rituals of many cultures. We will explore the use of fire in the traditions of the Winter Solstice, Jewish Festival of Hanukkah, African American Kwanzaa Festival and the UU Chalice. Join us as we begin the New Year with a candle lighting ceremony affirming our best intentions for ourselves, our families, our community, our country and our world.

Worship Leader: Joann Roomes

Jan. 8: “Winter Reflections”

Speaker: Rev. Kit Ketcham

Here on weather-sensitive Whidbey Island, we experience a wide variety of winter weather and challenges; will the next windstorm take down that tree? Will we be able to get out of our driveway? When will the rain stop so we can go for a walk? But winter has its healing side too: it is our chance, like the land, to lie fallow, to rest, to reflect on our lives, to gather strength for the growing season ahead.

Worship Leader: Effie Brown

Note: Please bring your Guest at Your Table boxes to our service today; count the money inside and write a check to UUCWI for the amount you collected in your box. All our contributions will be sent to the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee.

EvenSong, Wed Jan 11 at 7:30 pm:

Each month we hold a quiet, contemplative evening service of readings, songs and meditation accompanied by harp. As we begin a new year, the theme will be Hope. All are welcome.

Jan. 15: “Witnessing in a Time of Cultural Crisis”

Speaker: Rev. Marilyn Sewell

Dr Sewell will address the need for both individual and institutional witness during a time in which our culture is challenged on so many levels: economically, environmentally, and certainly spiritually. What are we called to do as a religious people in such a time?

The Rev. Dr. Marilyn Sewell is an accomplished Unitarian Universalist minister, writer, activist, and spiritual leader. She retired from parish ministry in 2009, after serving 17 years as the Senior Minister of the First Unitarian Church of Portland, Oregon, and was named Minister Emerita.

Marilyn has become a noted figure in the Unitarian Universalist movement, known for her dynamic speaking, her writing, and her teaching. Frequently sought out by the media for interviews on various spiritual and social issues, she has received numerous awards and honors. She currently serves on the Executive Committee of Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon.

Worship Leader: Sandy Welch

Raw Faith, a surprisingly open and revealing documentary following two years in the private life of Marilyn Sewell will be playing at the Clyde on Saturday, January 14. For more details, see the article on page 5.

Jan. 22: “Visions of Past and Future”

Speaker: Rev. Kit Ketcham

As UUCWI moves ahead with its search process for its future minister, Rev. Kit Ketcham will share her thoughts about “The State of the Congregation” at this critical time; Mark Brown, as worship leader and speaker, will share his thoughts about the transition ahead and the challenges of ministry.

Worship Leader: Mark Brown

Jan. 29: “Cultivating Habits of the Heart”

Speaker: Jeanne Strong

Jeanne Strong will speak about her work with The Center for Courage and Renewal. The work of the Center is based on the writings of Parker Palmer. Jeanne will explore some of the ideas in his latest book *Healing The Heart of Democracy - the Courage to Create a Politics Worthy of the Human Spirit*. This

work is built on the premise that to help heal what’s currently ailing our democracy, we must begin with our own hearts. Jeanne will talk about cultivating “habits of the heart” that can be used in everyday settings to help heal the fabric of our civic life.

Jeanne Strong, M.Ed., Ph.D., is an educator who has worked with students from pre-school through graduate school. She has been a facilitator leading retreats for the Center for Courage and Renewal for more than 10 years. Jeanne is the daughter of a UCC Minister whose work took him to the UCC Board of World Missions and the World Council of Churches. Jeanne grew up in many different cultures, with family values focused on spiritual development and social responsibility. She is currently involved in developing an Early Learning Center in rural Uganda. She is a member of Whidbey Island’s Quaker Community.

Worship Leader: Toyon Copeland

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Jan. 5, 7 pm: Book Group

We will discuss Marilynne Robinson’s first novel, *Housekeeping*, written in 1981. Regarded by many as an American classic, it won the PEN/Hemingway award for best first novel and was nominated for the Pulitzer Prize. Last year the group read her second novel, *Gilead*, which did win the Pulitzer. We will meet at UUCWI.

Jan. 8, Noonish: South End Dine Out

at China City, Freeland, noonish, after the morning service. **Note change of date.** We reserve the large table at the back of the dining room and order several dishes, eat family style, and split the tab. Everyone is welcome! (This gathering is scheduled a week later than usual because of the New Year’s Day holiday.)

Jan. 14, 1-3 pm: North End Koffee Klatch

at Whidbey General’s cafeteria. We pull a few tables together and gab, eat the cafeteria’s excellent, inexpensive food, enjoy the (also inexpensive) coffee, and entertain the cafeteria staff with our howls of laughter. Everyone is welcome!

Jan. 14, 2pm, “Raw Faith”

Join us at the Clyde Theater to view the documentary about Rev. Sewell. For more details, see the article on page 5.

From Our President



Ten Resolutions

Well, it's New Year's again – time to contemplate our failings during the past twelve months and forgive ourselves. We make that easier by adopting resolutions – promises from and to ourselves to do better. Resolutions are personal – they're about changing ourselves, although, like Moses coming down from the mountain, it's tempting to promulgate resolutions we'd like everybody else to adopt: "Hey, everybody, could we cease the murder, theft, adultery, lying and coveting, already? Well, how about at least nixing the murder and theft?"

Resolutions are a natural for UUs – we have a bias towards action, and we like to choose for ourselves. Here are ten on my own list relating to our life together. Not copyrighted.

Resolved:

- *To check my pride at the door when I attend congregational functions.*
- *To become more aware of the needs of others, and to be there for them.*
- *To try harder to understand why those I disagree with act or believe as they do.*
- *To invest in self-improvement, taking steps on my spiritual journey.*
- *To speak out more courageously for social justice in the wider community.*
- *To identify and invite someone to church whom I believe might benefit.*
- *To give my share of the time, talent, and treasure needed to keep the congregation healthy.*
- *To welcome, accept, and support the new minister when she or he is selected.*
- *To practice courtesy, hospitality, and compassion more intentionally.*
- *To express affirmation and gratitude more frequently to you all, who do so much.*

Getting started: Thank you for all you do, have done, and will do!

What's on your list? How are you going to be different and better a year from now?

May you indeed change yourself and the world for the better in 2012, and may the new year bring you peace and happiness.

Dave Cauffman

Jan. 19, Noonish: South End Koffee Klatch

at Living Green, Langley. We commandeer the large table, order from the extensive vegan/vegetarian menu, and enjoy each other's company. Everyone is welcome!

January 21, 6pm: Circle Dinners

We have two locations again this month, hosting will be Mary Ann and Tony Imkamp in Coupeville and Marjorie Lohrer and Janis Hummel at Marjorie's home in Freeland. Circle dinners are potluck dinners and are a great opportunity to socialize with other Unitarians. To sign up for the January 21st dinner, email Janis Hummel, jhummel50@yahoo.com or call Janis at 360-632-9847.

Would you like to host a Circle Dinner? I still have one open date: June 16. Contact Janis Hummel. Thank you to Joan Gerteis and Roy and Carol Bingman for hosting the December Circle Dinners.

Jan. 22, 6pm: North End Dine Out

at China City in Oak Harbor. We reserve a big table, order off the menu, and continue the hilarious conversations begun at the Koffee Klatch. Everyone is welcome!

Announcements

Ministerial Search Underway

With both a touch of sadness and enthusiastic commitment, Search Committee members, Dave Sweetwood, Effie Brown, Jean McIntosh, Linda Good, Lori Taylor, Mary Goolsby and Tim Keohane have begun the search for a minister who will build on Kit's excellent work and grow with us into the future.

As a vital first step in the search process, we want to hear from you! Where do you see our congregation going in the next five years? What aspects of our congregational life are most important to you? What personal qualities, professional expertise and experience are important for a new minister to have in order to help us get there?

Members and friends are urged to complete a congregational survey which will be available after January 8 and may be completed as either a written or e-survey. If you would like more information and to discuss the survey questions, you are invited to gather with committee members in small groups following the services on January 15 or 22. We want to involve the broadest representation of our congregation and our committees, children, and the youth will be also encouraged to offer their perspectives.

We need your voice! This is your opportunity to participate in determining the candidates that will be selected and to help shape the informational packets sent to them.

Effie Brown

A Special January Visitor

UUCWI is fortunate to receive Rev. Dr. Marilyn Sewell on January 14 & 15. On Sunday, January 15, Reverend Sewell will be the guest speaker at the UUCWI morning service. On Saturday, her documentary *Raw Faith* will show at the Clyde Theater at 2 pm. Dr. Sewell will attend and conduct a Q&A session after the film. *Raw Faith* is an intimate and revealing documentary that follows two years in the private life of Rev. Sewell, an outspoken and socially progressive Unitarian minister who has re-energized her Portland community.

While serving a community that relies on her for wisdom and advice on both personal and ethical issues, Marilyn struggles quietly with decisions about her own future. As she seeks to reconcile the commitments of her profession with a longing for intimacy and love, childhood memories of mental illness and alcoholism come to the surface and must be dealt with before she can move forward.

As Marilyn's life unfolds in front of the camera in real time, she shares her journey with remarkable candor, humor and increasing wisdom, ultimately leading her to an unexpected revelation of faith and love in all of its guises.

Some of the commentaries about the film include the following:

"Marilyn Sewell is a person who is able to communicate directly to people's hearts. She is fearless where she stands. It is an honor to know someone of her courage and compassion." - Yangsi Rinpoche

"...it's refreshing to see a documentary about a normal grown-up who is struggling with problems of life and love, just as so many invisible others do." - *The New York Times*

"*Raw Faith* is as pared as Sewell's sermons, as there doesn't seem to be a misplaced or gratuitous moment in the entire film...one of the most emotionally accurate and empathetic documentaries I've seen in years." - *Slant Magazine*

"Shining an intimate light on an individual in order to reveal greater truths about life and the world, *Raw Faith* focuses on progressive-minded Portland, Oregon, Unitarian minister Marilyn Sewell." - *The Village Voice*

Libby Roberts

News From WA UU Voices For Justice

The 2012 Washington State Legislature convenes Monday, January 9th, at noon, and legislators face difficult decisions about increasing revenue and reducing expenditures. At risk are the Basic Health Plan, in-home care for the elderly and disabled, children's services, and programs that protect the environment and the quality of life for all Washingtonians.

More than ever, Washington State UU Voices for Justice needs your presence in Olympia as advocates for social, economic and environmental justice. When you attend legislative advocacy days, make those phone calls and write those letters, you let our legislators know that you support legislation to increase revenue that maintains critical programs for all residents and the environment.

WA UU Voices for Justice's 2012 legislative priorities are:

- Raise revenue
- Protect services for low-income persons
- Economic reform
- Restore the democratic process

Want to be part of an interest group formed around each WA UU Voices priority? Learn more about them by subscribing to our newsletter at: www.uuvoiceswa.org, then contact WA UU Voices at: coordinator@uuvoiceswa.org

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

Committee News

Social Responsibility Committee

The SRC continues to seek out local non-profits and service organizations to be recipients of special offerings through UUCWI. Then, once a month, we turn over the entire collection plate to these charities. Last year the SRC identified two goals for our special offerings. We want the organizations to be locally focused, and we want their activities to be in line with our core values and principles. So far this year we have raised and distributed over \$3000 to organizations that help feed and house South Whidbey families, who provide services to at-risk youth, and who serve those men and women who have served us in the armed forces. In the coming months dedicated offerings will continue to support local service organizations (see below for more information). If there is a worthy recipient near and dear to your heart, please let someone from the SRC know about it so we can get them on the calendar. And when the dedicated offering plate comes your way, give generously. You can be sure you are helping a neighbor.

July: Good Cheer – \$320
Aug: WISH – \$345
Sept: Ryan's House – \$556
Oct: N/A UU org – \$652
Nov: Veterans Resource Center – \$550
Dec: Good Cheer – \$700

We have identified recipients for the next few months as follows:

Jan: South Whidbey Commons
Feb: WAIF
Mar: Tiltb
Apr: Hearts & Hammers

Ken Merrell

From the Treasurer

I have often been asked what is the cost per person of operating the building and program – in other words, what is the real cost per person? Real cost per person can be derived by looking a budget divided by members. That realizes the following: 2011 budget (\$100,075) / members (89) = a real cost per member of \$1125. When “fundraising and occasional income (plate offerings, rent, etc)” are considered, that reduces the budgeted cost per member to \$890 to keep the doors of our new building and expanding programs open.

We know that some cannot afford that and others give much more. There is not a true “fair share” as we all have different amounts of money available to support the church as well as different kinds of gifts. Many people give in ways that cannot be measured in dollars – serving on boards and committees, working on building and grounds, singing in the choirs, etc. etc. But for those who wonder about budgets and dollars, here it is. That is why we look at pledging as percentage giving - a pledge is suggested to be from 2% to 5% percent income - rather than as a fixed dollar amounts.

Mark Brown

Board Member Biography

Janis Hummel, Trustee



Janis has deep roots in the State of Alaska where she was born and raised as was her mother. She moved to the Pacific Northwest 20 years ago. In her search for a ‘spiritual home’ she discovered the Unitarian

Church and attended the Edmonds Church and then the Woodinville Church before moving to the Island and joining UUCWI.

Janis is an Early Childhood Montessori Teacher, the mother of three children and grandmother of 5 children. Her participation with UUCWI includes being a member of the Adult Programs Committee and of the Caring Connections Committee. She coordinates the Circle Dinners.

UUCWI 2011 - 2012 Board of Trustees

Dave Cauffman, President

Terra Anderson, Vice President

Mark Brown, Treasurer

Sara Heath, Secretary

Janis Hummel, Trustee

Dallas Huth, Trustee

Ken Merrell, 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: celiabartram@gmail.com
Submissions may be edited at the editor's discretion.
Ads will not be printed. The deadline for each
month's newsletter is the 20th of the previous month.

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

Communications Committee:

Celia Bartram, Newsletter Editor

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Dean Enell, Webmaster

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