



# Island Passages

UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CONGREGATION OF WHIDBEY ISLAND

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## November 2012

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				<b>1</b> 8:30am WIN Burrito Team 7 pm Book Grp- Wealth of Nature	<b>2</b> 10 am VAC 1pm Rehearsal (Soskin)	<b>3</b> <b>UUCWI SERVICES AUCTION</b>
<b>4</b> 10 am UU /Worship  12 pm Rehearsal (Soskin)  4 pm Quaker Sve  6 pm Rehearsal (Soskin)	<b>5</b> 12:30 Quaker Mtg (office) 1pm Rehearsal (Soskin) 1 pm Chime Choir 6:30 pm Falling Upward 6:30 Cabaret Rehearsal	<b>6</b> 1pm Rehearsal (Soskin)  6pm Meditation (Jarina Moss)	<b>7</b> 10am UU Men's Group  1pm Rehearsal (Soskin)  6:30 Rehearsal (Soskin)	<b>8</b> 1pm Rehearsl (Soskin)  6:30 Audubon (Leaser)	<b>9</b> 10am VAC Installation (Foyer)  6:30 Concert Set-up 7:30 Cabaret	<b>10</b>   7:30 Cabaret
<b>11</b> 10 am UU Worship- Dennis Reynolds 11:15 VAC Reception 11:30 Board Mtg  4 pm Quaker Worship Svc	<b>12</b> 9:30 WIN in Kitchen 10 am Membership Ctte 6:30 Falling Upward 6:30 PFLAG 6:30 BYOT (Reynolds)	<b>13</b>  7 pm Chalice Singers	<b>14</b> 7:30 Evensong	<b>15</b> 6 pm North End Discussion  6:30 BYOT III (Knutila)	<b>16</b> 6 pm Sno-Isle Event	<b>17</b> 9 am UUCWI Work Party  Circle Dinner
<b>18</b> 10 am UU Worship- Reynolds 11:30 Caring Connections Mtg. 12 pm UU101- Dennis Reynold  4 pm Quaker Worship Svc 5 pm Quaker Business Mtg	<b>19</b> 9 am Worship Ctte  1 pm Chime Choir 6:30 Falling Upward 6:30 BYOT (Reynolds)	<b>20</b> <b>Newsletter Deadline</b>  6pm Meditation (Jarina Moss)  7 pm Chalice Singers	<b>21</b> 10am UU Men's Group  4 pm MAGIC	<b>22</b> <b>Thanksgiving</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>
<b>25</b> 10 am UU Worship- Rev. Bruce Bode  4 pm Quaker Worship Sve  7 pm Dances of Universal Peace	<b>26</b> 9:30 WIN in Kitchen  6:30 BYOT (Reynolds)	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b> 6:30 BYOT III	<b>30</b>	

## **Worship Services**

### **November 4: " Gratitude and Communion"**

This service, inspired by the traditional Eucharist, both acknowledges our challenges and invokes our gratitude. Members of the congregation will share readings which explore the themes of gratitude for the gift of life, the bounty of the earth, and our renewed commitment to a world of peace, justice and love. Sharing the fruits of the earth with our community both evokes gratitude for the blessings and abundance in our lives and challenges us to care for those less fortunate.

Worship Leaders: Effie and Mark Brown

### **November 11: "Samaritan Stories From Long Ago and More Recent Times Too" with Dennis Reynolds**

Sometimes we all question who is my neighbor and who do I try to help. Ancient teachings and our daily decision making offers many opportunities to learn and to practice being who we truly seek to be.

### **Wednesday, November 14 : *EvenSong*, 7:30 pm (Prelude at 7:20)**

Our monthly evening meditation service will focus on themes of hospitality and gratitude. *EvenSong* is a quiet, candlelit service including readings, silent meditation, and songs accompanied by harp. All are welcome.

### **November 18: " Oh We Give Thanks" with Dennis Reynolds**

As Thanksgiving Day approaches, lets us pause to consider all the gifts and unearned privileges that have been bestowed upon us. The celebration can be a wonderful feast and more.

### **November 25: "The Principle of Complementarity: Living with Contradiction" with Rev. Bruce Bode**

The principle of complementarity distinguishes between truth and consistency: truth is not necessarily consistent, and to be consistent is not necessarily to discern truth. Rev. Bruce Bode, minister of the Quimper UU Fellowship in Port Townsend, will draw upon physics and neuroscience to examine how we deal with paradox and contradiction. This sermon will explore the possibility of holding contradictory points of view that yet complement each other.

## **December 2: "Servant Leadership and Spirituality" with Amy Carrasco**

Radhanath Swami says, "Sometimes people don't have any inclination to be a leader, but because of their selfless service others put them in the position of leadership. Sometimes the one most qualified to be a leader doesn't want to be a leader."

Amy is the Director of Education, Academic Services, and Volunteer Services at Kadlec Regional Medical Center in Richland, WA. She also happens to be the daughter of Dave Sweetwood, one of our members. Amy holds a Master's degree in Organizational Leadership from Gonzaga University and received her BS in Sports Science from the University of Idaho. Her theme arises from her graduate studies which included spending time at a Jesuit monastery in southern California. Parker Palmer's writings and teachings have been central to Amy's spiritual and professional growth.

## **November Events:**

### **UUCWI Book Group, Nov 1, 7 – 8:30 pm**

This month we are reading *The Wealth of Nature: Economics as if Survival Mattered* by John Michael Greer. Our discussion is Thursday, November 1st at 7:00 to 8:30.

### **AUCTION TIME! – Nov 3**

The time is here! "UUCWI at the Movies", our major UUCWI fundraiser auction, will take place at UUCWI on Saturday evening, November 3rd. The silent auction, accompanied by snacks and drinks, will begin at 4:30PM and will end at 6:00PM when dinner is served. The live auction will begin at 7:00PM and will end at about 8:15PM. Come dressed as your favorite movie star and join the fun!

### **Nov. 4, 11:45 am: First Sunday Lunch Bunch**

We meet monthly at China City in Freeland. We order family style and share the cost. Members, friends and guests are all invited to participate. There is lively conversation on multiple topics. Here is a nice opportunity to get to know one another in an informal way. The food is good, the price is right and the fellowship is great. If you have questions, please contact Jelcy at [jelcy@jelcy.com](mailto:jelcy@jelcy.com)

**A BROADWAY CABARET – Nov 9 and 10**  
Performances are 7:30pm on Friday, November 9th and Saturday, November 10th. You won't want to miss these stars: Kate Matteson, Rich Doyle, Gloria Makino, our very own Ken Merrell, Gretchen d'Armand and backup singers Mavis Cauffman, John Leaser, John Long and Jean McIntosh. Tickets are \$20/\$10 for children.

**New UUCWI Women's Group – Nov 9**  
Would you like to be part of a UUCWI Women's Group meeting on the South End once a month in the evening? We will be holding our first meeting Friday, November 9th at 6:30pm in a home in Langley. Call or email Janis Hummel for more information.  
[jhummel50@yahoo.com](mailto:jhummel50@yahoo.com), 360-632-847

**Circle Dinner – Nov 17**  
This month's Circle Dinner is at Lois Chowen's home in Freeland. She has room for as many as 9 guests so let's see how many can make arrangements to attend this month. Contact Lois directly at 331-2042 or contact Jelcy at 972-816-1919.

**UU101, Sunday, Nov 18, 12:00 pm - 3:00 pm**  
Are you curious to learn more about Unitarian Universalism (UU) and this congregation? Perhaps you are considering membership and want to know who and what U and U and UU have been and currently are. You are invited to join our minister, Dennis Reynolds, in "UU101". This is an informal, fun discussion of a bit of history and a touch of theology and some local variation. A light lunch will be provided. To RSVP, contact Dennis at [dwreynolds123@gmail.com](mailto:dwreynolds123@gmail.com) so we can prepare food and handouts. Let us know if you will need child care.

**Caring Connections Meeting – Nov 18**  
The Caring Connections Committee will meet on Sunday, November 18th at 11:20 at UUCWI. We'll get to know one another, learn about the connections made and plan for the new year. We'll go out for lunch afterward. Please RSVP to Judy Kaplan at [peacefuljudyone@gmail.com](mailto:peacefuljudyone@gmail.com).

**Nov 22 - Extended Family Thanksgiving Dinner**  
The Extended Family Thanksgiving Dinner will be held mid-late afternoon on Thanksgiving Day

at the Romberg's for those who do not have family or friends to share the day with here on the Island. Jelcy will roast a turkey, make dressing and a few veggies. For those who wish to come, please bring a salad, soup, additional veggie or dessert. She and Conrad have been doing this for their UU friends for many years and wish to continue the tradition here on Whidbey Island.  
Contact Jelcy. [jelcy@jelcy.com](mailto:jelcy@jelcy.com)

### ***Dennis' Ministerial Musings***

When this Newsletter goes to press Suzanne and I will be in the middle of some much needed time away. As most of you know, we have spent much time over the last few months caring for and being present with Suzanne's sister Peggy who is very near the end of her life. It has been mentally, emotionally, and spiritually draining. We need a time of respite.

We don't just need R and R (recreation and rest). We need R and R and R. We need some renewal. We need a short sabbatical. So we will be spending the end of October and the first days of November visiting young friends in Buenos Aires, Argentina, viewing some of the natural beauty of that land and experiencing an extra Spring. The vital, fresh, and youthful energy of our young hosts will also be a special boost to our psycho-spiritual immune systems..

The concept of Sabbatical comes from notions in the Hebrew Bible that speak of Sabbath as a time to leave the fields, and perhaps the fields of our hearts and minds, unplowed and fallow. Such a time of rest is a natural method to enhance the productivity of the soil and the soul and was seen, by those ancient writers, as a good practice to follow.

I have not always been good at taking time for rest and renewal. When I participated in a career assessment process as part of my ministerial preparations, an unanswered question that emerged from multiple days of assessment and evaluation was "How does Dennis do Sabbath?"

It was valid question for someone who in addition to being very engaged in my career also volunteered in my kids' schools, was active as a lay leader in my church, did lots of chores and projects around the house and was a part time seminary students.

I have tried to slow down a bit. Completion of seminary took a little longer than I had originally planned. I reduced my non-seminary related involvements at church and I really did try to establish a contemplative spiritual practice. I was not very successful in that last effort.

About a year and a half ago I started to regularly visit with a spiritual director. I call her my "tutorial minister." Yes ministers need ministering to too. My director helps me to self-monitor as to when I am over doing or if I am overly focused on minutia rather than significant things. She also helps remind me that taking time to walk or run in the woods, dig in the dirt, or read a novel is time well spent.

She helps me to acknowledge that things like taking time to be with my kids, just sitting with Peggy, and sipping a cool beverage or an Argentine mate is not doing nothing, but is part of the important work of enriching and renewing myself.

A few years ago I came across a book titled *Don't Just Do Something, Sit There* by Sylvia Boornstein. It is good advice and I hope you and I can continue to strive to follow it.

See ya in church,  
Dennis

### **Ministerial Meetings**

Do you have theological questions percolating in your brain and/or significant "hard stuff" going on in your life that you'd like to have a discussion with a listening caring ear?

If so, our minister, Dennis Reynolds, is setting aside some regular office hours to meet such needs. Beginning November 12 and on subsequent Mondays he will be available at the church from 1:00 to 3:00 pm. Please call ahead at 541-517-7325 to assure others are not scheduled.

He is also willing to schedule other times as needed for meaningful and important conversations. He is "your minister" and looks forward to deepening connections and conversations

### **Terra's Message**

As many of you know, I am the primary care-giver to my 88 year old mother. She moved to the island – from Phoenix - a little over a year ago so she would be supported in times of need, so she would be near her grandchildren and new greatgrandchild, and so she could experience the community I have come to love here on South Whidbey. For the first 8 months she did enjoy life here, engaging with the UUCWI folks, starting to make a few friends at Maple Ridge, loving visits from Margaret, Effie, Gaea. Then trouble arrived at her door. She awoke in great pain one April morning and continued to suffer 24 hours a day for another 5 months until the cause was finally discovered. Were I not a UU with an emphasis on the *Universalist*, I would declare she discovered the Hell I imagined as a child. Life has been miserable, and unfortunately will probably continue for another 2 months as she recovers from a broken pelvis in addition to her new hip.

But her misery is not the inspiration for this note. Instead it is the rejoicing I feel that we are held by a community such as this one. While it is something we discuss and brag about from time to time, I personally have come to value it at a whole new level. I have dropped almost all my responsibilities, with wonderful, competent, caring people appearing at every right moment to take those responsibilities from me and carry them for a while.

Donita has come into my garden, knowing how that garden nurtures my soul, to pull weeds, prune, attend seedlings, giving Raven's Roost the love that reflects my own love for the land. My beloved Tom has taken over all the household chores with the support of Becca and Opus who continue to live with us. Mavis, Eileen, Effie, Mark, Gaea and too many others to even list have offered support through visits, quiet time, hugs, and just reaching out a hand to say "I see you".

Even more friends have offered massage, acupuncture, EFT, and priceless *witness* to the pain my mother has experienced and the stress that has created on her family. Dennis Reynolds has mentioned on more than one occasion that he wanted to serve this congregation because he "felt the love" from his very first interview. And I have *lived* that love these past 6 months.

I offer you – my community - my deepest gratitude and boundless appreciation. I would have collapsed long before this, or gone into deep despair, were it not for you. Did I take you for granted before this? Perhaps so. Perhaps it took this real need for me to recognize how community operates. John O’Donahue speaks it more eloquently than I could ever hope to do: “Real friendship or love is not manufactured or achieved by an act of will or intention. Friendship is always an act of recognition”

I invite you to take a moment to notice how you receive support and love from this community. Bask in it for a while. And then give thanks. We are truly blessed.

~ Terra Anderson, President of the Board

### **Comments Submitted During The 2012-13 Stewardship Visits**

This past spring, visiting stewards called upon our members and supporting friends to engage in conversations about our congregational life. As we now are fully engaged in our new church year, it is interesting and informative to review the comments that were garnered from those conversations. (Your specific comments have been provided to congregational leaders.)

Regarding some issues we are “all over the map”! Some appreciate being able to share joys and sorrows. Others wonder if we could skip this or handle it some other way. Some love the coffee hour. Others, not so much. Some suggest we should try to do more active outreach to support the larger community. Others fear we may be spreading ourselves too thin. These are just a few examples of the many areas in which we have diverse wishes and opinions.

Whew! If you were one of the decision-makers here, what would you do with this? If you are a member of the Board or one of our committees, these diverse preferences and opinions can pose a challenge. How do we set our course while trying to factor in such a range of concerns and suggestions offered by our members? What, if anything, should we change? How do we create services where each congregant can find what he or she wants but is not off-put by aspects of the service intended to appeal to other members? As you can see, answers are not simple. What

generates inspiration in one person may generate apathy in another.

I, personally, REJOICE at these responses! It turns out that variety is one area about which we have agreement. We love it. And we do offer variety. Now, for the most part when folks identify “variety” as something they really appreciate, they are talking about our Sunday morning services. We love the variety of speakers and topics – the variety of opinions expressed. But it stands to reason that if variety has such appeal for us, we ourselves would collectively represent a variety of opinions, tastes, and preferences. And as we’ve heard in several sermons lately “we need not think alike to love alike”.

If you have strong feelings about specific aspects of our congregational life, I encourage you to contact the committee or work group identified with that element and offer your support. It is a very satisfying way of deepening your connection with individuals and the congregation as a whole. Our leaders do listen to your comments and are interested in your suggestions. Hopefully we can all take joy in our diversity of tastes and opinions and define this as one of our strengths.

~ Lois Chownen,  
Chair of the Stewardship Committee

### **Whidbey Island Peace Groups**

The Peace Group meets every Saturday at the Bayview Park and Ride from 10 to 11 am.

**Women in Black** meet the first Friday of each month from 3 to 4 pm on the grass just above Bayview Park and Ride.



Eileen Soskin and Nola Allen at the Oct Pianothon



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of Whidbey Island**

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If you wish to contact any of the Board members,  
call UUCWI voice mail at 360-321-8656.

**Minister:** Dennis Reynolds 541-517-7325

**Chaplain:** Sally Elder 360-675-3314

Our minister and chaplains are available for rites  
of passage ceremonies (including ceremonies of  
commitment or union) and pastoral visits.

**Director of Religious Exploration:**

Vanessa Kohlhaas uucwi.re@gmail.com

**Newsletter Information:**

News, announcements, events, and other items of  
interest to members of the congregation should be  
submitted in writing by the deadline to editor  
Cary Sinnett [scattolina2@hotmail.com](mailto:scattolina2@hotmail.com)  
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  
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