



Island Passages

UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CONGREGATION OF WHIDBEY ISLAND

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December 2012

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1 9 – 11 am Leadership Council
2 10 am UU Worship Service 3:30 pm Quaker Sve	3 1pm Dennis' Office hours (call to confirm) 1pm Chime choir 6:30 BYOT	4 10 am Quakers in Classroom 1pm MAGIC class (Buxton) 6pm Meditation (Jarina Moss) 7pm Chalice Singers	5 10am UU Men's Group 1 pm MAGIC class	6 8:30 WIN Burrito Team 7pm Book Group	7	8
9 10 am UU Worship Service 11:30am Board Mtg 3:30pm Quaker Worship Sve	10 9:30 WIN/Kitche 10am Membership Ctte 1 pm Dennis' Office Hrs 6:30 PFLAG 6:30 BYOT	11 7pm Chalice Singers	12 7:30 Evensong (Prelude at 7:20)	13 6:30 BYOT III	14	15 9am UUCWI Work Party
16 8:45 Choir 10 am UU Worship Service 3:30pm Quaker Worship Svc 5pm Quaker Business Mtg	17 1pm Dennis' Office Hours 1pm Chime Choir	18 6pm Meditation (Jarina Moss)	19 10am Men's Group 4pm MAGIC	20 6 pm North End Discussion NEWSLETTER DEADLINE	21	22
23 10 am UU Worship Service 3:30 pm Quaker Worship Svc	24 9:30 WIN/Kitchen 1 pm Dennis' Office Hours 4 pm Christmas Eve Service	25 Merry Christmas!	26	27 5pm VAC Installation	28 VAC Zimbabwean Art Sale	29 VAC Zimbabwean Art Sale
30 10 am UU Worship Service Zimbabwean Art Sale 3:30pm Quaker Worship Sve 7 pm Dances of Universal Peace	31 1 pm Dennis' Office Hours (call to confirm)					

December Worship Services:

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.

December 9: "Seasons of Love"

with Dennis Reynolds

The song "Seasons of Love" from the musical *Rent* asks the question "How do you measure the life of a woman or man?" In years lived, in people whom we have loved, in the number of people who have loved us? The holiday season often overwhelms us with emotional expectations and remembrances. It is a good time to take stock of life and its measure. Eileen Soskin will be the worship leader.

Wednesday, December 12: EvenSong

7:30 pm (prelude at 7:20)

with Mavis Cauffman and Effie Brown

This month EvenSong will celebrate both Christmas and the Winter Solstice. EvenSong is a quiet, candlelit service including readings, silent meditation, and songs accompanied by harp. All are welcome.

"What lies behind you and what lies in front of you pales in comparison to what lies inside of you."
~ Ralph Waldo Emerson

December 16: "A Season for Music"

The UUCWI Choir (with surprise accompaniment) and other wonderful musicians will present past favorites as well as new pieces to please your ears. The variety of selections from classical to traditional are sure to add to your holiday celebration, and Worship leaders will be Libby Roberts and Mary Goolsby.

December 23:

"Season of Darkness, Season of Light"

with Dennis Reynolds

This is the season of long nights and short days. It is the time when we create festivals and celebrations that kindle light in our homes and in our hearts. We strive to push back the darkness yet perhaps it offers its own gifts. On this day before the night before Christmas let us blend story and song and shared silence to nurture and treasure soft light and the sweet shadow. Joann Roomes will be the worship leader.

December 24: 4 pm

Christmas Eve in Song, Story and Soft Light

With Terra Anderson and Dennis Reynolds

As the sun sets behind the trees let us gather to share the story and songs of Christmas and reflect on how the story of Christmas shines bright in our lives.

December 30: "Festival of Lights"

With Effie and Mark Brown

Fire is a sacred symbol common to the beliefs and rituals of many cultures. Several members of the congregation will share reflections on 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 prepare for the New Year with a candle lighting ceremony affirming our best intentions for ourselves, our families, our community, our country and our world.

Article about UUCWI in UUWorld ...

If you receive this publication, be sure to see pages 10-11 of the current issue for an article about the arts at UUCWI. Many thanks to Frank Allen and Mary Goolsby for the inspiration to get the article written. There is an online version (with fewer pictures) at:
<http://www.uuworld.org/life/articles/277410.shtml>

December Events:

Dec. 2, 11:45 am: First Sunday Lunch Bunch

We meet monthly at China City in Freeland. We order family style and share the cost. All are welcome. There is lively conversation on multiple topics. If you have questions, please contact Jelcy Romberg at jelcy@jelcy.com

Book Group, Dec 6 at 7 pm:

When the Emperor Was Divine by Julie Otsuka. Our discussion will be led by Jean McIntosh.

Work Party – Sat, Dec 15, 9 – 11 am

Our monthly gathering to maintain our building and grounds. Coffee, goodies and camaraderie provided! The Membership Committee is hosting this month.

Circle Dinner

There will be no circle dinner in December.

Dennis' December Ministerial Musings

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Sitting in a house darkened by the early setting of the winter sun, it is hard to remember the seasonal transformation that comes each spring. In my mind and heart I know those times will come again. The buds and blossoms will emerge again. The days will become longer. The grass will grow to mowing height and beyond. The garden will spring to life and the rain will get a wee bit warmer.

But right now it is cold and wet outside and I would like to give in to the silent primal urge that calls me to join some of my mammalian cousins in hibernation. But such urges are the purview of more solitary beasts.

We humans are, by nature, social beings and so we head out into the dark to gather together with others of our kind. We kindle fires and light lights and plan, prepare and enjoy celebrations and feasts. We give gifts as expressions of warm feelings. We do all this to keep the dark at bay and to remind each other that the light and the warmth will return again.

We also are good predictors of what will be and, thus, we know that this is the time to prepare for the spring. It is time do some of the work that will get things ready for the growing season to follow.

Raking leaves and piling them for compost will enrich the soil for next season's growing. After a good winter soaking, the pulling of weeds and transplanting of shrubs that have outgrown their current locations will be easier. The quiet to follow will give the plants time to settle in after the disruptions. It is time to sharpen our tools and check out the seed catalogues and make plans. And so it is with planning and preparing for the next season for the congregation.

I have time in this quiet season to ponder what I am learning about this unique community. You are growing in knowledge about this guy you have asked to be your minister.

We needn't wait until spring to begin the work of making dreams real. Sometimes winter is the best time to do some of the messiest work of transplanting and transition that makes growth transformation possible. We can speak to each other with passion about what we hope might be and explore what beloved community has been and can be in the seasons to come. As we listen with compassion to the voices of all, we begin to sow the seeds of new possibilities

Some old habits and past patterns of unhelpful behaviors may need to be pruned back or pulled up and discarded to make room for the new growth. Each of us has found something special, for ourselves, our families and the larger community, here in this community. We want more of it and we want to share it with more people.

As we gather together in this season of darkness and damp, may be warmed by faith in the new unfolding to come.

~ Dennis Reynolds

Terra's Tales

Eileen Soskin recently asked me to write some Thank You notes. I was delighted to do so. But the question that continues to "work me" is: *why did I need a request; why didn't I think of it myself; how many people are unaware how much I appreciate them?*

My association with UUCWI fills me with gratitude. There is not a day goes by without an interaction with someone that leaves me with a

smile and appreciation that I live in this community. How about you? Just this last Saturday I had the joy of working with Mavis and May-Britt, cleaning and visiting together. Is this what women farmers experienced with their quilting bees and time on the front porch processing fresh picked vegetables? I'm thankful for everyone who takes a moment from their busy day to do some work on our building and grounds. That's YOU.

Did you attend the Cabaret mid-November? I left there with a full heart and songs echoing my head. I'm thankful for Eileen and all the people who gifted us with their time, talent, humor, skill and dedication to music. I'm thankful, too, for Nola's constancy playing the piano for us Sunday after Sunday, and to Linda for sharing her vast network of talented musicians to fill our hall with beautiful notes, and to the Choir for inspiring us to sing together with joyous abandon. That's YOU.

At our recent auction, were you regaled with Glo and Laurie's great food, nearly 100 items available for purchase assembled by Libby, Jean and their stellar committee, the humor and skill of auctioneer Ken? I'm thankful for everyone who contributed goods and services, who worked on the logistics, who attended and made the bidding fun. That's YOU.

I am thankful for what will never be again – plein air services on our front lawn, (hoping it would not rain); for friends who moved away or died, who are now just memories that bring smiles.

I am thankful for all we have and all we are – for the 100+ members who create beauty, magic, compassion and thoughtful inquiry, who fill our sanctuary on Sunday mornings with song, reflection, hugs and compassion, whose very lives reflect our values in action.

And I am thankful for the unknown future we are creating together – for new friends and members we have yet to meet. I am thankful for the little ones Vanessa nourishes who lead *us* one day.

Dennis has spoken about the magic of an Attitude of Gratitude. I'm feeling that glow of appreciation.... how about you? What and/or whom would you thank?

~ Terra Anderson
President of the Board

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 discuss 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. 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.

Message from Our Board of Trustees

One of our UU principles is "*the right of conscience and the use of the democratic process within our congregation and society at large.*" Your Board of Trustees was elected by you to serve, dealing with problems and opportunities as they arise. We do our best. And... we realize that you may have ideas to share and thoughts to express that we do not get to hear. We invite you to share. Our board meetings are always open to all friends and members. We realize, though, that there is a big difference between our declaring them "open" and your knowing that you are always welcome. We meet on the second Sunday of each month, shortly after the coffee time post service. If you would like to join us any time, please do so. We would like to hear what you imagine for the present and the future of UUCWI.

From the Treasurer

It's that time of year again – time for year end tax strategizing. If you would like to remember UUCWI in your will, Dave Sweetwood would love to talk with you. As a lawyer he has some good information and suggestions. Also see the UUA website – <http://www.uua.org/giving/planned/>

Last week the finance committee added two new members. Paula Keohane used to be our Treasurer, and has agreed to help again. Also, new member Pat Collins, recently retired schoolteacher and artist (see his sculptures in the foyer,) has also agreed to help. We are grateful to both for their willingness to be members of our committee.

Last week Dave Cauffman, Paula and I spent an afternoon with Tom Buxton doing an informal audit of the books. Needless to say they were in impeccably good order. We are tremendously lucky to have someone with Tom's experience and ability looking over our financial affairs. Thank him the next time you see him.

Finally, our fiscal year is nearly half over and so far our budget projections are right on target. With the great success of the Auction and our Concert events, we look solid for the year.

Thank yourself for your generosity and for keeping your pledges current. It makes Tom's and my job much easier.

~ Mark Brown

We Give Thanks Every Day

"At times our own light goes out and is rekindled by a spark from another person. Each of us has cause to think with deep gratitude of those who have lighted the flame within us."

~ Albert Schweitzer

It takes a congregation - it took THIS congregation - to make our CABARET a big success. I am filled with gratitude to UUCWI for actors, our stage manager, our stage builders and painters, our costumers, our coffee and cookie makers, our ticket sellers, our poster designer, our photographer, our sound man, our clean-up crew, our people who distributed posters, our page turner, our light fixers, our program designer, our "please-just-take-a-moment-to-watch-this-rehearsal" friends, our program folder, our providers of props and last but certainly not least, our beloved audience.

~ Eileen Soskin

Zimbabwe Art Exhibit & Sale at UUCWI December 28-29-30

On the lookout for an usual gift for someone – either for Christmas or other special occasion?
The unique art that will be available for sale at this special exhibit might be the perfect answer to your quest!

This *Zimbabwe Art Exhibit and Sale* will be held 9:00am to 4:00pm Friday Dec 28th and Saturday Dec 29th. On Sunday Dec 30th art work will be for sale after Services. Art will also be for sale before and after a possible program about *poverty alleviation through entrepreneurship* on Saturday evening beginning at 7pm. (This program is tentative at the moment, but we will let you know as soon as possible whether it will be a go or not).

For those looking for that unique Christmas gift, *Zimbabwe Art Dollars* will be available for purchase from Donita Crosby beginning Sunday December 11th. Basically a gift certificate, *Zimbabwe Art Dollars* can be cashed in by your gift recipient(s) for art anytime during the 3 day exhibit. All art is reasonably priced – most prices ranging from \$16 to \$35.

The purchase of the displayed Zimbabwean art will support the *Dananai Project* in Zimbabwe. Donita is a long-time member of UUCWI.

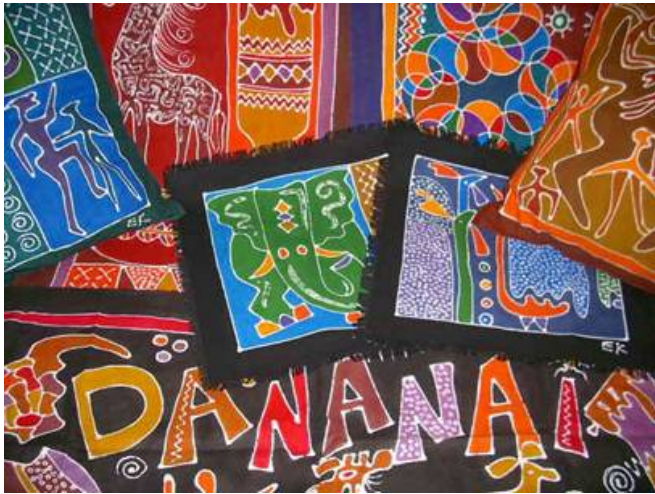
Dananai, means “love each other” in the Shona language of Zimbabwe and is a project started by Donita to give artisans the opportunity to improve their lives through the sale of their work in the US.

Donita became interested in Zimbabwe thru marimba music and while traveling there three years ago. She witnessed first-hand how the lack of water, power, and medical facilities make day to day life very difficult for most Zimbabweans, leading to outbreaks of cholera and typhoid. With over 90% unemployment there are few options for improving their situation and Donita felt called to do something to help. She met several artists from the Warren Park suburb of Harare and was impressed with their talent, creativity and especially their cooperative spirit. She purchased some of their work to sell when she got back to the U.S. and has continued to work with the artisans in this neighborhood.

Along with providing income and medical assistance, *Dananai* also gives micro-loans for business development and support for educational projects. They recently provided a loan to a single mother who works with leather, recycled tires and inner tubes. Constance purchased an industrial sewing machine and is making school shoes for kids along with other products. Several of the artists are active in their community, teaching traditional music and arts to children, and have received support for these projects.

Please feel free to give Donita a call anytime with questions you may have!

The UUCWI Visual Arts Committee is pleased to support this social outreach that is so congruent with our values.



Gallery News

Kathy Hornsby (watercolors), Pat Collins (sculpture), Janis Collins (quilts and needlecraft), and Shelly Lampman (watercolors) are presenting a joint exhibit at the Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Whidbey Island (UUCWI) gallery from November 9 to December 27, 2012.. The gallery is open after Sunday worship services and during other UUCWI events.

November Work Party Thanks!

The rain stayed away and we had a great day in the beautification of the UUCWI grounds as well as the interior of our facility. I am so proud of what has been accomplished. Thank you for your efforts and your ideas. Our participants were: Terra, Tom, May-Britt, Gene, Donita, Mavis and Dave C., Steve, and Dave H (who deserves extra thanks for making a dump run).

~ Chris Bell

UUCWI is a Scent Free Zone

Please remember, and remind visiting friends too, that UUCWI is a scent free zone. This is an important part of assuring that our sanctuary is fully accessible to those with significant chemical sensitivities. This means that all are requested to avoid wearing cologne, perfume, aftershave, fragrant skin lotions, etc. to services and other programs at the church.

Please spread the word so all can participate fully.

Whidbey Island Peace Gatherings

The Whidbey Island Peace Group meets every Saturday at the Bayview Park and Ride from 10 to 11 am. We have extra peace signs.

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

Auctioneer Extraordinaire:



Ken channeling the Blues Brothers

**Unitarian Universalist Congregation
of Whidbey Island**

2012 - 2013 Board of Trustees

Terra Anderson, President
Sara Heath, Vice President
Mark Brown, Treasurer
Gladys Howard, Secretary
Janis Hummel, Trustee
Jean McIntosh, Trustee
Ken Merrell, Trustee

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
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

Look for us on Facebook ... search for UUCWI

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