



Island Passages

UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CONGREGATION OF WHIDBEY ISLAND

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March 2012

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 7 pm Book Group	2 10 am VAC meeting and Installation	3 9:30 Emerson Workshop- Pt. Townsend 10 am VAC meeting and Installation
4 10 am UU Worship: "Service is Its Practice" 12 pm South End Dine out-Freeland 4 pm Quaker Worship Service	5 7 pm A House for Hope 7 pm Web Working Group	6 7 pm Chalice Singers (off site) 7 pm What is Your Experience of Presence	7 10 am Men's Group	8 6:30 pm Audubon Sanctuary	9	10 9 am AAUW Mtg 12 pm Stewardship Prep 1 pm Koffee Klatch at Whidbey General 6 pm Stewardship Gathering
11 10 am UU Worship: "By Our Love" Rev. Eric Kaminetzky 4 pm Quaker Worship	12 6:30 pm PFLAG 7 pm Web Working Group	13 7 pm UUCWI Board Meeting 7 pm What is Your Experience of Presence	14 7:30 Evensong	15 6 pm North End Group	16	17 9 - 11am Work Party Sponsored by the Membership Ctte 6 pm Circle Dinner
18 10 am UU Worship: "Spring Equinox" 4 pm Quaker Worship 6 pm Mevlevi Zikr	19 7 pm A House for Hope 7 pm Web Working Group	20 Newsletter Deadline 7 pm Chalice Singers (off site) 7 pm What is Your Experience of Presence	21 10 am Men's Group	22	23	24 9 am Justice Workshop at Northlake UU 7 pm UUCWI Bluegrass Concert
25 8:45am Chalice Singers 10 am UU Worship: "Evolution & American Culture" Rev. Ketcham 11:45 am SRC Mtg 4 pm Quaker Worship 6 pm North End Dine Out 7 pm Dances of Universal Peace	26 7 pm Web Working Group	27 7 pm What is Your Experience of Presence	28 UUCWI Budget Inputs Due 7 pm Healing Democracy Action Circle	29	30	31 9 am Leadership Council 2 pm Concert Setup 4 pm Chanteuse Concert (Community Women's Choir)

**Stewardship 2012:
Celebrating Our Community –
Strengthening Our Future**

The Stewardship Drive is our annual effort to have a one-on-one conversation with each member and close friend of the congregation to discuss what we're doing right and what we could do better. It's also our opportunity to pledge financial support to UUCWI for the coming year. We are a self-supported congregation and pledges provide most of the funds for our operating expenses. Making our pledges in the spring allows us to budget for the coming fiscal year (July-June).

Our theme this year focuses on community – the meaningfulness in our lives of our own UUCWI community and our collective determination to make a difference in our larger community.

Our annual Stewardship Gathering will take place on March 10th at 6:00 PM at the church. This gathering is a celebration of our community – all that it is and all that it can be. I hope you will be there.

Our UUCWI leaders are exploring a variety of exciting ways to strengthen our ability as a congregation to better meet the needs of our members and, at the same time, to build a stronger relationship with the larger Whidbey Island community. You will soon be hearing more about some of these initiatives. We've recently heard Marilyn Sewell challenge us to take action on our values, and Jeanne Strong reference Parker Palmer's habits of the heart that remind us we are all in this together. These messages intertwine to create a vision of the potential for our community.

We cannot have a final budget proposal from our finance team until the completion of the canvass. However, we do have clear goals.

I invite you to dream big with us this year. Here are some preliminary figures that will give you a sense of what we hope to achieve this next fiscal year. Let's make it a top priority to afford a half-time new minister. And we all share a commitment to pay all our employees at rates commensurate with the generosity they offer of their time and talents, something we have not done to date due to all our other priorities (such as building a new church). The numbers below

represent that dream. If we don't step up to this challenge, we will have to do less. However, the stewardship committee hopes that you will share this dream and will consider increasing your pledge by 15 – 20% this year to achieve these goals.

	Current yr Budget	Next year Goal
INCOME:		
Pledges	\$71,500	\$91,900
Sunday collections	6,400	6,720
Building rental	5,000	5,100
In-kind and other	4,825	3,630
Fund raising	14,350	14,900
Total Income	\$102,075	\$122,250

EXPENSES:

Administration	\$19,385	\$20,794
Children's Program	12,940	13,178
UUA/District fair share	6,480	7,766
Facilities (Mortgage!)	28,820	29,231
Ministry/worship/music	30,100	48,637
Other (including search)	4,350	2,644
Total Expenses:	\$102,075	\$122,250

We have 102 members and several supportive friends, and for our congregation to thrive each of us must be generous with our time, our talents, and our treasure. Please consider making a financial pledge of at least 3 to 5% of your adjusted gross income. We are all in this together, and together we really can make a difference.

~ Lois Chowen, Stewardship Chair

Worship Services:

March 4:

“Service is Its Practice” John Long

Our weekly affirmation begins “Love is the spirit of this congregation and service is its practice.” What does it mean that service is our practice? Lots of us are involved in different kinds of service to our community, our nation, and the world at large. And we regularly collect dedicated offerings for island non-profits. But are we *as a congregation* doing what we proclaim as a central value? John Long will share his thoughts about how service transforms not only those served but those doing the service.

March 11:**“By Our Love” Rev. Eric Kaminetzky**

How will our “next right minister” know that we are their “next right congregation”? Let's reflect on recent history, preparing for our next right minister, and Rev. Kaminetzky's recent history looking for his first settled ministry. The search and settlement of our next minister will engage and extend the edges of our history and future as a congregation. And it will do the same for our next minister. Rev Kaminetzky is the recently called minister at the Edmonds UU Church. Dave Cauffman is the worship leader.

March 14: EvenSong at 7:30 pm

On the second Wednesday of each month we hold a quiet, contemplative evening service of readings, songs, and meditation accompanied by harp. All are welcome.

March 18:**“Spring Equinox – An Invitation to Joy”**

How do we find a creative point of balance between the serious environmental, social and economic challenges we face and lives lived with intention and zestfulness? The celebration of equal darkness and light at the Vernal Equinox offers an opportunity to recognize and choose joy as a still point of balance between the paradoxes of our lives. Effie Brown is worship leader.

March 25: “Evolution and American Culture”**Rev. Ketcham**

Scientific understandings that led Charles Darwin to formulate his now well-supported theory of natural selection, aka “evolution”, are now so wide-spread that we marvel that anyone can fail to accept them. However, many do and creationism and intelligent design proponents resist learning from the discoveries of science. How has this resistance affected American culture today? Frank Allen is worship leader.

March Events:**March 1: Book Group, 7 pm at UUCWI**

The group will discuss *Floating in My Mother's Palm*, by Ursula Hegi. The discussion will be led by Janis Hummel. Newcomers are welcome.

Mar 3: Emerson Workshop, 9:30 am – 3 pm

Details in last month's newsletter. Contact Kit for more information.

Mar 4: South End Lunch Bunch

Gather at China City in Freeland, after the morning service. We gather around the big table at the back of the restaurant, order several dishes, eat family style and split the tab. Our record attendance so far is 17! Come join us! All are welcome.

Adult Program:

"House for Hope" will begin **Monday, March 5**, 7-8:30 pm at UUCWI (every **other** week through May 7) ~ Mavis Cauffman

This 5-session series will involve reading and discussing *A House for Hope: The Promise of Progressive Religion for the Twenty-first Century* by John Buehrens and Rebecca Parker. The UUA Bookstore describes the book: "The impact of liberal religion is richer and more far-reaching than many know ... a force for good that has inspired and supported two centuries of American social progress. Progressive people need to reclaim the transforming power of our theological heritage." Please email uuadmin@whidbey.com if you would like to participate or have more questions.

Adult Program:

"Experiencing Presence" will begin **Tuesday, March 6**, 7-8:30 pm at UUCWI (every week through April 10). ~ Jarina Moss

We will focus on developing mindful presence through meditation and inquiring into our experience. We will be cultivating and thus developing a state of mind that allows us greater integration and understanding. I will be covering some essentials about the nature of the mind and mindfulness. I have been engaged in spiritual development journey for many years, having been deeply influenced by Hameed Ali's Diamond Heart teachings, Buddhism, Dr. Stan Grof, Adyashanti, Eckhardt Tolle, Daniel Siegel, M.D. and others. If you have any questions you can reach me at jarinam@whidbey.com

South End Koffee Klatch is suspended due to lack of attendance. Call or email Kit if you would like to see it reinstated.

Mar 17: Work Party at UUCWI, 9 – 11 am

The Membership Committee will sponsor this month's gathering. As usual, there will be coffee, snacks, and camaraderie! Please mark your calendars and come help. Thank you.

March 17, 6pm: Circle Dinner

The Circle Dinner for March is at the home of Toyon Copeland and Chris Bell. Circle dinners are potluck dinners and are a great opportunity to socialize with other Unitarians. To sign up for this dinner email jhummel50@yahoo.com or call Janis at 360-632-9847. Would you like to host a Circle Dinner? open date: June 16

March 25: North End Dine Out

We'll meet at CIAO in Coupeville. We reserve a big chunk of the dining room, order off the menu, pay separately, and have a fabulous evening of conviviality. This North End bunch is a lively group and welcomes everyone, especially newcomers, into its warm and friendly midst.

Chalice Singers Choir

We rehearse two Tuesday evenings each month (see calendar) at a private home and sing at one Sunday service each month. If you would like to join us – or just want more information - contact Mavis Cauffman. We have a good time, improve our skills, and provide an important music ministry to the congregation.

We are all in this together – by choice**Ministerial Search Committee Report**

Good news! The congregational survey and UUCWI information packet have both been completed and are available for persons interested in applying for our Ministerial opening. The closing date for application has been extended to March 19. We will not look at or ask the district to forward any applications until March 20. We will then select several applicants to be personally interviewed by the committee. While we hope to find a candidate whom we feel is an excellent fit for UUCWI, as your representatives, we will not select a candidate unless we are convinced that the candidate will serve the congregation very well. Thereafter, we will ask the congregation for a vote of confidence in our selection. If you have any questions, please talk to any members of the search committee.

~ Dave Sweetwood, Chairperson

From Our Minister

Dear Whidbey friends,



I hope you'll take a fresh look at the new books that have arrived in our church library. I recently welcomed our retired librarians (Joan, Joann, Sandy, and Camille) into my home to sort through and haul away my collection of books, most of which are related to Unitarian Universalism and liberal religious thought. It was a bit of a wrench to see them go out the door; books have always been my beloved friends, but I figured the congregation could use them better than I can, once I'm retired.

As the search for your next minister continues, I'm impressed by the quality and commitment of our search committee, as well as by the quality of the folks who are calling me to ask about UUCWI, intending to apply to be your next minister. I have no doubt that you will find the right person, and that knowledge delights me. I know you'll help your next minister become a better minister and a happy person, as you have helped me to be.

We will miss each other, once I move away, but I will always love and cherish you, as a congregation and as individuals who have become very dear to me. Someday, after we've been apart for awhile, I will come back to visit and will be thrilled, I know, at how you have grown and prospered with new ministerial leadership

Much love,
Kit

New Images – South Whidbey Youth

Look for a new Gallery show for March and April, which will be installed soon by the Visual Arts Committee. Middle School and High School students will be featured with a variety of 2-D and 3-D work, which includes photography, drawings, sketches and ceramics.



Our Intentional Community

By Dave Cauffman,
UUCWI President

Some communities are accidental – associations of people brought together by fate, necessity, or as a byproduct of some other purpose, as, for instance, parents of a youth soccer team. UUCWI, on the other hand, is an intentional community. What does that mean?

It means we are purposeful in our coming together. We gather not only to feel good, but to do good; we help each other grow as persons, and help to make the world a better place. We covenant on how we will get along, and we pitch in to share the work that makes this community vibrant. We promote a culture of participation, not passivity.

Some folks just show up and listen, absorbing, we hope, some of the wisdom and inspiration in the music and the words shared here, and we welcome them; that's a good start. But if you want to experience fully the joy that comes with camaraderie and accomplishment, you go further: you usher, provide refreshments, show up for work parties, and join the committees that make things happen here, that create our future.

You may have noticed that this list did not emphasize money, and we don't want our faith to be about money. It is gratifying that we have so many volunteers donating time and talents. Nevertheless, we do have expenses, and money is, after all, a medium for exchanging labor for other needs. Some of these needs are quite important to our enterprise: paying our minister's salary, compensating our speakers and musicians, maintaining our so-nice-to-finally-have facility, and providing values-based programs for children.

Pledging once a year prevents more frequent appeals, and lets the church plan confidently for the year ahead. This is more important than ever this year as we strive to prepare a budget that provides secure compensation for our next minister – a factor in whether the person we want will come. Welcome your visiting steward and make use of the opportunity to contemplate what UUCWI means to us, its value in our lives, and to provide constructive feedback on the church's programs. Please give gladly, and be generous.

UUCWI is proud to sponsor

Bluegrass Breaks

...a spring celebration of bluegrass, on Saturday evening, 24 March 2012. Our very own *Cranberry Bog Band* will be the opening act (featuring Ken Merrell and Dave Sweetwood). In addition, we are presenting two well-known Pacific Northwest bluegrass bands, *Pearly Blue* and *Money Creek*. Tickets are \$15.00 and will be on sale after services in March and at Book Bay in Freeland and Moonraker Books in Langley.

Children's Religious Exploration

In wonder play, the children have been bonding through free play, a shared story, joys and concerns, and gathering around a table for blessing and snack. There is much singing and conversation, and the older children love to help the little ones.

The stories beautifully illustrate our UU principles. This year the children have enjoyed stories that have honored the earth's abundance at harvest time and during the holiday season we shared an ancient legend of Saint Nicholas that celebrated the quality of selfless generosity. Our most recent story was a wonderful telling of the book *Grandfather's Prayers of the Earth* by Douglas Wood. Currently, the class gathers at circle time to listen to a rhyming story from the book, *All I See is a Part of Me* by Chara M. Curtis.

Our RE program includes Wonder Play for infants through kindergarten age children; Spirit Play for first through fifth grade children; and Youth for our middle and high school students. We will highlight our Spirit Play and Youth classes in upcoming newsletters.

In the meantime, our RE teachers welcome parents and other congregation members to ask questions about our program and hear more about what we do in our classes. If you are interested in volunteering, please see our Director of Religious Exploration, Vanessa Kohlhaas.

February Work Party Success

A huge thank you to all who turned out for the recent Saturday work party! Our building and grounds look wonderful. It is amazing what can be accomplished in just two hours – and how enjoyable such team work can be.

The Worship Committee hosted this successful session. We are told this was the largest work party ever! Those participating included: Frank A, Terra A, Chris B, Gene B, Effie B, Tom B, Lois C, Toyon C, Donita C, Mary G, Judy K, Paula K, Tim K, Ken M, Sandy W and Dave S. May the Membership Committee next month have such response and results!

~ Toyon C., Worship Committee

Who are our UUCWI Board Members?

This month's board bio is of Terra Anderson, currently our Vice President. Many of you first met her as Terri. For her 60th birthday she was gifted with a name change that she accepted with joy. She says she's nowhere happier than in her garden. Her children laugh at her frequent complaint about plants in the garden, "they weren't supposed to grow that big!"

She moved to the island with her beloved, Tom Buxton, 8 years ago. Tom has also served on the board and is currently our UUCWI financial advisor. Terra has had an eclectic career - from life guarding, teaching ballet, cake decorator, dog breeder and handler, event coordinator, computer programmer, business manager, organization development consultant, and most recently a professor at the Bainbridge Graduate Institute, an MBA program in sustainable business.

She and Tom are "owned" by a standard poodle, Raven. They have 2 birth children - Cirith and Carl, both of whom are married. They also have a "collected" daughter, Rebecca, who just this week moved back to the NW with her husband and 2-year old son Leo. Coming to the island was a good move for Tom and Terra. They love the land, enjoy producing most of their food, and feel blessed to be part of the UU community. They are committed to a sustainable local living economy and to the notion of people taking care of one another, their mother earth, and the as-yet-unborn grandchildren.

Discouraged with the state of our Democracy? Want our politics to reflect the true dignity of the human spirit?



The Center for Courage and Renewal is launching, nationwide, **Healing Democracy Action Circles**, to help us reclaim the spirit of a living democracy in our own lives and communities, and re-imagine our own roles as citizens in a world that is in dire need of such innovation and commitment. This opportunity seems particularly timely as we anticipate the upcoming election and think about what we really want this country to reflect about who we are as citizens and neighbors.

Growing out of Parker Palmer's newest book: *'Healing the Heart of Democracy: The Courage to Create A Politics Worthy of the Human Spirit'*, **Whidbey Island's Healing Democracy Action Circles** will be held in 6 sessions over the next several months (the last Wed of the month for the next 4 months, and 2 sessions in the Fall.)

Come join us, even if you are unable to attend every session. The sessions will be free of charge (with a requested donation as you are able) and will be led by Jeanne Strong, a facilitator for the Center for Courage and Renewal.

These gatherings are co-sponsored by the Whidbey Island Quakers, Whidbey Island Fellowship of Reconciliation (FOR), the Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Whidbey Island (UUCWI), and the Episcopal Peace Fellowship.

For more info, see the website <http://www.couragerenewal.org/actioncircles> or contact Jeanne at jeannerstrong@gmail.com

When: [From 7 - 9pm] Feb 29, Mar 28, April 25, May 30,

**Unitarian Universalist Congregation
of Whidbey Island**

2011 - 2012 Board of Trustees

Dave Cauffman, President
Terra Anderson, Vice President
Mark Brown, Treasurer
Sara Heath, Secretary
Janis Hummel, Trustee
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Ken Merrell, Trustee

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

Minister: Kit Ketcham 360-331-2163

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 Education:

Vanessa Kohlhaas

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

Last names, phone numbers, and addresses are
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