



Island Passages

UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CONGREGATION OF WHIDBEY ISLAND

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April 2012

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 10 am UU Worship 12 pm South End Dine Out, Freeland 4 pm Quaker Worship	2 9 am Worship Ctte 7 pm House for Hope 7 pm WWG	3 4 pm Quaker Mtg in Classroom 7 pm Your Experience of Presence?	4 10 am UU Men's Group	5 7 pm Book Group	6 10 am Library Ctte	7 10 am VAC mtg 6 pm Jewish Gathering
8 10 am UU Worship RE Spring Festival and Congregational Potluck (see page 5) 4 pm Quaker Worship	9 10 am Membership Ctte 6:30 PFLAG 7 pm WWG	10 7 pm UUCWI Board Mtg: Budget 7 pm What is Your Experience of Presence?	11 7:30 Evensong	12	13	14 9 am Courage and Renewal Workshop@ Edmonds UU 1 pm North End Coffee Klatch/Whidbey General
15 10 am UU Worship 4 pm Quaker Worship	16 7 pm House for Hope 7 pm WWG	17 2 pm Mevlevi Gathering 7 pm Chalice Singers (off site)	18 10 am Men's Group 7 pm Whidbey Reads – Sno-Isle Event at UUCWI	19 6 pm North End Group Disc.	20 Newsletter Deadline	21 9 am Work Party 11 am Dances of Universal Peace at UUCWI 6 pm Circle Dinners
22 10 am UU Worship 11:30 SRC Mtg 11:15 WWG Demonstration 4 pm Quaker Worship 6 pm North End Dine Out, Oak Harbor	23 7 pm WWG	24 7 pm Chalice Singers (off site)	25 7pm Healing Democracy	26	27	28
29 8:45 Chalice Singers 10 am UU Worship 4 pm Quaker Worship	30 7 pm House for Hope 7 pm WWG					

Worship Services:

April 1: "With or Without Rhyme or Reason" Mary Goolsby and Others will share personal poetry.

There are those among us who write poetry, some frequently and others, rarely. Whatever it is that drives us to do so, the result is language of a different sort. A dozen brave souls among our congregation have agreed to share some part of our creative lives in the belief that our community is made stronger through deeper understanding of one another.

April 8: Why Do Unitarian Universalists Celebrate Easter?"

UUism is a direct descendent of Christianity, which is one of our several sources, and we celebrate many of the religious holidays of the Christian liturgical calendar. However, we tend to celebrate those holidays somewhat differently than traditional churches might. Spring is a season of rebirth, renewal, and resurrection; we celebrate the beauty of the season as well as the beauty of the love the prophet Jesus had for humankind. Rev. Kit Ketcham will speak; Dave Sweetwood is worship leader.

April 11: Wed, 7:30 pm, EvenSong at UUCWI

On the second Wednesday of each month we hold a quiet, contemplative evening service of readings, songs accompanied by harp, and silent meditation. This month's gathering will explore some of the writings of Robert Walsh, who served as minister of First Parish Church (UU) in Duxbury, MA for 22 years.

April 15: "Why is this night different than any other night?"

Allan Ament will explore some of the historical and contemporary significance of the Jewish holiday of Passover, and the ritual seder meal which starts the holiday. Beginning on the evening of April 6, this year, Passover celebrates freedom as it plays out in the historical exodus of the Israelites from slavery in Egypt as well as in more personal ways today. A retired lawyer and mediator, Allan teaches for the University of Phoenix and serves on the board of several local organizations. Mark Brown will be worship leader and will be assisted by members of the UUCWI men's group

April 22: Jamal Rahman

Jamal is a Muslim Sufi, co-founder and co-minister of Interfaith Community Church in Seattle, and adjunct faculty at Seattle University. Jamal travels often, co-facilitating workshops and retreats locally, nationally, and internationally. Jamal's passion lies in interfaith community building. He remains rooted in his Islamic tradition but cultivates 'spaciousness' by being open to the beauty and wisdom of other faiths. Jamal has an abiding faith in the power of heart to heart connections to encompass differences and dissolve prejudices. Since 9/11/2001 Jamal has been collaborating regularly and actively with Rabbi Ted Falcon and Pastor Don Mackenzie. Affectionately known as *The Interfaith Amigos*, they travel the country sharing a message of inclusive spirituality.

April 29: "A Trail of Beauty and Tears"

Native American nations have contributed a great deal of beauty to human culture, have offered a way of living that has shaped our treatment of the earth, and yet have not received respect and dignity in return for these gifts. Mistreatment of First Nations peoples has been rampant in American history. How can we make amends for some of these wrongs? How can we pay tribute to the great gifts received? Rev. Kit Ketcham will speak; Terra Anderson is worship leader.

April Events:

April 1: South End Lunch Bunch at China City in Freeland, noonish. Join a congenial bunch of folks after the morning service for great Chinese food and lively conversation around the big table in the back of the restaurant. We order several dishes, eat family style and split the cost. Everyone is welcome!

April 5: 7 pm at UUCWI

Our book for April is *Birds in Fall* by Brad Kessler. "What unfolds is the story of how families unite and disperse in the wake of tragedy, and how their interweaving lives are ultimately transformed. Brad Kessler's knowledge of the natural world, music, and myth enriches every page." The discussion will be led by Jen McGill. All are welcome.

April 14: North End Koffee Klatch at Whidbey General Hospital's cafeteria, 1-3. We pull a few tables together in one corner of the cafeteria, enjoy the coffee and great food, and do a lot of laughing and even some serious conversation! Everyone is welcome.

April 21: 9 – 11 am: Work Party at UUCWI
The Committee on Ministry will sponsor this month's gathering. As usual, there will be coffee, snacks, and camaraderie! Please mark your calendars and come help. Thank you.

April 21: 6pm: Circle Dinners
We have two locations this month, hosting will be Jelcy and Conrad Romberg in Greenbank and Wendy Ferrier in Langley. Circle dinners are potluck dinners and are a great opportunity to socialize with other Unitarians.

To sign up for the April 21st dinner, contact Janis Hummel at jhummel50@yahoo.com or 360-632-9847. Would you like to host a Circle Dinner? We still have one open date: June 23rd.

April 22, Website Working Group
The Website Working Group (WWG) is designing a new UUCWI website. After the service on April 22 they will display some enlarged examples of the web site layout for your perusal and comments. Members of this committee are Terra Anderson, Shaunna Baganz, Dave Cauffman, Dean Enell, Joan Gerteis, and Charlie Knutla. Once the website is completed and functional, you will find it at UUCWI.ORG But that won't happen for several more months.

April 22, North End Dine Out at CIAO in Coupeville, 6 p.m. We reserve several tables, order off the menu, pay separately, and have a great time. Everyone is welcome.

Whidbey Island Peace Groups:

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.

From Our Minister

Dear Whidbey Friends,



I love spring, with its unpredictable weather---stormy one minute, brilliant sunshine the next---a little bit like our own human nature! I hope your springtime mood is as upbeat as mine is right now. It's fun to think about gardening, putting in the radishes and peas, planting another perennial or shrub to brighten the summer days to come, anticipating the harvest of vegetables and fruits, enjoying the blossoms on the wild plum and apple trees and blackberries.

April is one of those months with both showers and sunshine, flowers and frost. We swing from one season to the next and back again, and we just try to cope! It reminds me of the years when I was working with teenagers, including my own son!

I'm packing up a few things every week, making donations of extra stuff to thrift shops and friends, sorting out clothes that are too big (or too small!), in preparation for my move. I'm thrilled that Paula and Tim Keohane have asked me to house sit for them this summer, which works out well with my plan to stay on the island till the end of August. I'll have a couple of rent-free months in which to find housing in Astoria and make the transition official. And I'll get to live in their beautiful home and take care of their animals!

Max, my beautiful boycat, will be adopted by Camille and John Long, where he will be fussed over as befits a cat of his renown, and Lily and Loosy will come with me to Oregon.

So things are progressing well, as far as the move goes, and I'm getting used to the idea that in a few months, I will no longer be a Whidbey Island resident. I will miss you all but you will always be in my heart.

Much love,
Kit

Acceptance

By Dave Cauffman,
UUCWI President



By now you've heard: In June we'll be saying a fond "Farewell!" to Kit. We're actively looking for a new minister. We feel sad and hopeful at the same time. It seems timely to address "expectations management" in this column.

While we have a variety of guest ministers as speakers, there's a lot more to parish ministry than sermons; it's a special relationship. Likely, Rev. Ketcham knows your name and a considerable amount about you. You have come to appreciate Kit's many fine qualities, and the familiarity and trust have grown into acceptance.

The bad news is: that's all about to change. The good news is: the dislocation is temporary.

Despite our hopes, we can anticipate problems. It's unlikely that the next minister will have the same strengths Kit has, or emphasize the same issues. Perhaps being taken a bit out of our comfort zone is just what we need! Some of us remember Kit doing just that soon after she arrived – and we grew in discernment as a result of embracing the change she led. We became a "Welcoming" congregation.

What, then, is our role as members of the congregation in making this transition successful?

First, we need to open our minds and hearts to change, not only the change of style, but different ways of doing things. We ought to welcome as many as possible of the new ways of conducting our affairs that the new minister suggests. "We don't do it that way here" may be true, but would it hurt to give it a try? Our vague feelings of discomfort as habitual routines are interrupted are natural and unavoidable, and will go away in time.

Next, we would do well to avoid a consumer mentality when evaluating the candidate for new minister. Ministers aren't mass-produced commodities, they're very individual works of art – and works in progress, at that. If we were to specify what we want – the perfect pastor - be assured, we couldn't afford him or her. What we can do is find someone willing to work with us, to walk the path with us, for the next few years.

The most important thing we must do is to support the new minister as he or she attempts to get to know and serve us. For better or worse, ministers are mortals. As we do already for one another, we will step in to do what the new minister dislikes doing or does not do well. We will pitch in to minimize stress and overload. We will accept leadership even in areas in which we're used to "doing it ourselves". We will offer information and perspective, as opposed to advice. We will be patient.

Let us offer our new minister the gift of acceptance.

Ministerial Search Moves Forward

The Rev. Eric Kaminetzky's March 11th sermon entitled "By Our Love" (aka "the sermon on the amount") was timely and relevant, coming as it did at the beginning of our annual stewardship visitations and our search for a new minister. He suggested our "next right minister" will know that we are their "next right congregation" by our clarity and implementation of our vision and goals, our strong commitment to be generous in our financial support, and by our love for one another.

The Ministerial Search Committee will receive, review, and rank the resumes from interested candidates the week of March 19th. We will send them our informational packet and arrange initial *Skype* interviews with the most promising candidates. Top candidates will be invited to speak at a nearby UU church, after which we will make our final selection to be presented to the congregation.

Responding to several requests, a summary of our Congregational Survey results has been posted on Google Docs and a link to this site will be sent to members of the congregation. We think you will find this information very interesting.

~ Dave Sweetwood, MSC Chair

From the Treasurer

We Unitarian Universalists want to be effective trustees and stewards of our great liberal religious heritage. We want future generations to inherit and enjoy this free faith, and we know financial support is vital to this hope. You can now make a “legacy gift” to UUCWI and/or UUA.

The most common type of legacy gift is a bequest, also called a testamentary gift, by including in your will language such as the following: I give _____ [\$ amount, description of property, or % of estate] _____ to the Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Whidbey Island, a church located in Freeland, Washington, for its unrestricted use. When your estate is settled, upon your death, UUCWI will benefit from your generosity.

There are several other life income gift options; check them out at <http://www.uua.org/giving/planned/index.shtml>.

You can call the UUA at (617) 742-2100 or email giftplans@uua.org for more details and application forms. You should talk to your estate planner and tax advisor to clarify the tax benefits of legacy gifts. Consider leaving a legacy of generosity to support and inspire succeeding generations.

~ Mark Brown, UUCWI Board Treasurer

UUA General Assembly

Looking for a little sun, or maybe a lot? This year's Unitarian Universalist Association of Congregations General Assembly will be held in Phoenix, AZ, June 20 - 24. The GA is the annual business meeting of the denomination. General Assemblies make the overall policy for carrying out the purposes of the Association and direct and control its affairs.

The agenda covers study/action issues ranging from climate action and adaptation plans, to reproductive justice, to exploring class barriers, and more; plus UUA business resolutions, and amendments to the by-laws.

This is your chance to find inspiration from a multitude of workshops, experience opportunities for personal development, enjoy music and entertainment, explore the Justice GA Expo, and

impact the direction and the governance of the UUA.

If you are interested in this opportunity to expand your knowledge of our UU Association and would like to represent UUCWI as an "official delegate" to vote on issues on our behalf, please, check out the General Assembly website at:

www.uua.org/ga and contact Dave Cauffman or Terra Anderson for more information.

~ Sara Heath, UUCWI Board Secretary

Spring Festival for RE!

We will be having a Spring Festival for our RE children, students and friends on Easter Sunday, April 8th. We will be having a “canned food hunt.” Please bring donations of canned food to church. The youth will hide the food and the younger students will search for it. Then, all the food will be donated to Good Cheer food bank. We will also be having activities and a pot-luck after the service. Everyone is invited!!!

Our Wonder Play children have been hearing the story, *Pelle's New Suit*. Pelle has a lamb whose coat grows longer and longer, while Pelle's Sunday suit grows shorter! Pelle shears the lamb, and the wool is carded, spun, dyed and woven. Finally, the tailor makes a new suit for Pelle. It illustrates our green principle “Grow by exploring ideas.”

Our Spirit Play class has had to say good-bye to two of their teachers. Natasha Zimmerman just welcomed the birth of her son, John Henry. Evan Ragland has left the island to be a tutor in Costa Rica. Vanessa will be teaching in the Spirit Play class as we find replacements for our teachers. It is a joy for her to be in the classroom with our Spirit Play students. The class continues our exploration into UU principles through stories, games and activities.

Our Youth class has been exploring different faiths through visitors to our church, as well as visiting other worship centers. Abbot Dairin Zenji from the One Drop Buddhist Monastery near Freeland visited our class in March in preparation for a visit from our youth in April. The youth class is also going to be preparing meals for Habitat Store volunteers in April as a community service opportunity.

We welcome you to be a part of our RE program. If you would like to volunteer or contribute to our snacks, please speak to Vanessa at: uucwi.re@gmail.com

~ Vanessa Kohlhaas, UUCWI CRE Director

The Visual Arts Committee

The UUCWI Visual Arts Committee (VAC) serves as a clearing house for ideas concerning the selection, use and display of art objects within and around the church building and for maintaining the aesthetic integrity of our building.

The Committee accepts specific responsibility for planning & installing Gallery of Art exhibitions, advising/consulting re building aesthetics, and sponsoring/managing special art-related projects & exhibits. Meetings for planning purposes are usually held the first Saturday of each month and are open to any UUCWI member. Current members of this committee are Nola Allen, Gene Berg, Carol Bingman, Joan Gerteis, Mary Goolsby, Dallas Huth, Judi Nyerges, and Christi Shaffer. If you have a love of art and feel you have the skills and *time* needed to help us accomplish our 'mission', please contact a current member to learn more.

The two month long rotating art shows in the foyer Art Gallery featuring local artists are clearly our primary focus. The purpose of the Art Gallery is to celebrate art as an expression of the connection between creativity and spirituality, to give opportunities to local artists to display their art in a unique gallery environment (without fees or commissions) and to grace our walls with art that will bring enjoyment to those who view it. We do not handle sales; those interested in purchasing an artist's work are encouraged to contact the artist directly. During the past year the Committee has had the pleasure of displaying the artwork of the Whidbey Island Sketchers, several Whidbey Island artists who are also *poets*, Kris Wiltse, a well-known commercial artist here on Whidbey, Michelle Schmidtke, a travel photographer and Congregation friend, and most recently the large colorful multimedia work of another of our members, Shirley Ashenbrenner. During our *Poetry and Art* exhibition a special poetry reading event (featuring the artists who

were exhibiting) drew some 40-50 people. More information about our Gallery may be found on the *UUCWI Gallery of Art* website page (May perhaps) and in the *UUCWI Visual Arts* brochure. The committee's advising & consulting roles with respect to building aesthetics are called on as needed and the committee discusses those matters in a timely way at monthly meetings.

The fabric art panels displayed on the front wall of our Sanctuary are an example of one of the special projects undertaken from time to time in cooperation and coordination with others in our UUCWI community.

Calling All UU Artists -

The Visual Arts Committee would like to see the congregation wearing beautiful personalized UUCWI Tee Shirts – wouldn't you? But first, we need an INSPIRED DESIGN. Toward that end, we're holding a CONTEST. Here are the rules:

- Design must be no larger than 9 ½ in. wide by 17 in. long
- One or two solid colors or one color (grayed or shaded)
- Deadline for entry: May 20th
- Submit to VAC member (Nola Allen, Gene Berg, Carol Bingman, Joan Gerteis, Mary Goolsby, Dallas Huth, Judi Nyerges, or Christi Shaffer)

This is what you will win: A TEE SHIRT (not to mention the admiration of practically everyone you know). Please join us in this venture. You don't even have to be an artist!

Joining Together to Approve Referendum 74

Referendum 74 is the state-wide election issue which will determine whether or not Marriage Equality becomes law in Washington state. The referendum itself consists of a statement of the legislation which was signed by Governor Gregoire in February, with a neutrally-worded title. When we vote to approve the referendum, we are voting in favor of Marriage Equality, the right of all couples to marry the person they love.

Marriage Equality has been strongly supported by Unitarian Universalists across the North American continent and has been voted into law in several states and in Canada. Here in Washington, we were the seventh state to make Marriage Equality

into law; as in other states, this law has been challenged by opponents who wish to deny same sex couples the right to marry and to receive all the benefits of marriage, both legally and culturally.

As your minister and as one of the final “big pushes” I’d like us to make, as my time with you winds down, I am asking UUCWIs to help me and the several members and friends of this congregation who have g/l/b/t/i children, friends, and family members to defeat the effort to repeal this law.

The Whidbey Island chapter of Parents and Friends of Lesbians and Gays (PFLAG) meets in our building every month and has begun to work on the campaign to approve Referendum 74 and make Marriage Equality the law of our state. Several members of our congregation have attended PFLAG meetings and are interested in helping with this project.

I would like to see all of us pledge to vote Yes on Referendum 74 in November. I will be inviting our members and friends who have g/l/b/t/i relatives and friends to join me in getting others to pledge their Yes vote. I have tentatively guaranteed at least 100 yes votes from our congregation. Can you help us?

We know that the opponents of this law are using their legal right to tell their own congregants how to vote on this issue (it is legal to recommend a certain vote on an issue, but not on a candidate); they are required to turn in over 150,000 legal signatures on petitions in order to get the referendum on the ballot. The campaign by Washington United for Marriage (WUN), which is the not-for-profit corporation supporting Marriage Equality, wants to get the pledges of at least 150,000 supporters who promise to vote Yes on Referendum 74.

I hope you all will join me and other members and friends of UUCWI in assuring the passage of Referendum 74. We will have information and vote pledge cards available in the foyer after church starting in April. Get a free bumpersticker and make your voice heard!

~ Rev Kit Ketcham

Who is this UUCWI Board member?

I was born in Beattyville, Kentucky, woolly-worm capital of the world. I married a navy pilot and spent the next 25 years moving from Texas to California to Washington to Hawaii to Japan and many other wonderful places. We were married for 48 years and have three children and three grandchildren. My husband passed away 10 years ago when we lived in Santa Fe, NM, and three years ago I moved to Langley, to be close to my children who all now live in Washington.

I feel fortunate to have discovered the UU community and to become a part of it. I’m on the Board of Trustees, and serve on the Visual Arts, Caring Connections and Auction committees.

I’m a member of the Whidbey Art Gallery Co-op with my Rapt Stones and woven baskets. I garden, play a little bridge, and read a lot. I used to be an avid birder, but now I’m an avid dog walker with Stella, who rescued me from a sedentary life.

UUCWI Auction Event: Readers' Theater Group

Don't feel left out from the UUCWI readers' theater group! There is still a little room left. So, sign up with Judy Kaplan, pay her \$10, and enjoy reading a very funny play entitled, "The Latent Heterosexual". It makes fun of corporate-types, not sexual-minority people. Come and let the ham in you out for a run on May 26th, at the UU, at 7:00. Nibbles and props provided. We still need some more men's business hats and jackets.

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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: 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 Exploration:

Vanessa Kohlhaas

**UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST
CONGREGATION OF WHIDBEY ISLAND**
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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
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