



# Island Passages

UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CONGREGATION OF WHIDBEY ISLAND

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## August 2012

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			<b>1</b> 10 am UU Men's Grp	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b> 8am Board Retreat @ UUCWI
<b>5</b> 10 am UU Worship "Waldo's Aunt Mary" w/ Dennis Reynolds 1 pm Private Party 4 pm Quaker Worship	<b>6</b> 9 am Worship Ctte 6 pm WWG	<b>7</b> 7pm Meditation with Jarina Moss	<b>8</b> (No EvenSong this month)	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b> 1:30 pm Setup for Graduation 3pm Whidbey Island Writers Assn Graduation
<b>12</b> 10 am UU Worship "Rediscover the 3 <sup>rd</sup> Grader in You" w/ Nydia Stephens 4 pm Quaker Worship	<b>13</b> 9 am SRC/WIN Kitchen 6 pm WWG	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b> 10 am UU Men's Group 4 pm MAGIC	<b>16</b> 6 pm North End Discussion	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b> 9 am Work Party
<b>19</b> 10 am UU Worship "Hymn Sing" w/ Frank Allen 4 pm Quaker Worship 5pm Quaker Business Mtg	<b>20</b> 6 pm WWG Newsletter Deadline	<b>21</b> 7pm Meditation with Jarina Moss	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b> 5pm Trillium Community Forest Public Forum	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b>
<b>26</b> 10 am UU Worship "Dances of Universal Peace" w/ Eileen Soskin 4 pm Quaker Worship 7 pm Dances of Universal Peace	<b>27</b> 9 am WIN in Kitchen 6 pm WWG	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>September 1</b>
<b>September 2</b> 10 am UU Worship "Labor Day" w/ Linda Good and Effe Brown Noon: Choir Potluck, Meeting, and Rehearsal 4 pm Quaker Worship						

## ***Worship Services: Sundays, 10 – 11 am***

### **August 5: "Ralph Waldo's Aunt Mary"**

**Speaker: Dennis Reynolds**

The transcendentalist movement and school of thought, whose chief spokesperson was Ralph Waldo Emerson, had a significant impact on Unitarianism and American philosophy. That renowned speaker, minister, and writer was deeply influenced by a less known woman of his time, his aunt, Mary Moody Emerson. Exploring the roots of transcendentalism can help deepen our own explorations of the nature of divinity and the divinity of nature.

Worship Leader: Mavis Cauffman.

### **EvenSong – No EvenSong in August**

We will resume September 12.

### **August 12:**

#### **"Rediscover the Third Grader in You"**

Nydia Stephens has designed this service as a multigenerational summer gathering. Somewhere along the journey to adulthood we "refine" and "define" ourselves into boxes. Why is it important for you and the community to challenge those cardboard walls and show up to life open to what greets us? Tastes change over time and you might decide you like asparagus, broccoli or theatre or choir... Or you might just laugh a whole lot along the way.

Nydia has been an educator since she was very young and has worked in Haiti as well as in Palau as a Peace Corps volunteer. She has been a school director, taught English to refugees, and at an early age worked with the destitute and dying. She is currently a seminary student at Seattle University.      Worship Leader: Mary Goolsby

### **August 19: "Hymn Sing"**

We will sing some of our favorite hymns as we consider how they reflect our principles. If you would like to suggest a hymn, contact Frank.

Worship Leader: Frank Allen

### **August 26: "The Dances of Universal Peace"**

The Dances were envisioned by founder Murshid Samuel Lewis as a context creating conditions that might allow people to have a direct experience of the sacred, without doctrine or dogma. By dancing, we encourage world peace by actively

honoring diversity; promote local peace by dancing in community; practice personal peace by immersing ourselves in simple sacred phrases and movements inspired by the world's spiritual traditions. Hopefully, we catch a glimpse of the one truth where the world's sacred paths converge. If you would like to open your heart, pray with your body and blend your voice with friends, please join us. Children are welcome! Come dance and sing with Bob, Gaea, Linda, Lisa, Ron, Doug, and Halim of the Whidbey Dance Team. For more information about the Dances of Universal Peace, visit their web site [www.whidbeydup.com](http://www.whidbeydup.com).

Worship Leader: Eileen Soskin

### **September 2:**

#### **"Why Do UUs Celebrate Labor Day?"**

Unitarian Universalists and the Labor Movement share many of the same principles including worth, dignity, justice, equity, and respect for every person. We'll sing a variety of songs and consider perspectives on our relationship with work. This service will be facilitated by Linda Good and Effie Brown.

### ***Coming Events:***

#### **August 5: 11:45 am, First Sunday Lunch Bunch**

The monthly First Sunday Lunch Bunch will once again meet at China City to share food and conversation. We meet there after church, 11:45-noonish. We order dishes to share "family style" and then share the bill. All are welcome. There will be food choices for whatever your dietary needs may be. Come join the group to get to know other members and friends of the church better. Conrad and I will not be in town that weekend, but the reservation for the tables has been made.

#### **August 18: 6 pm, Circle Dinner**

Although officially not active during July and August, if you would like more fellowship with other members and friends of the church, the August Circle Dinner will be held at the Romberg's on Saturday, August 18. Please email me at [jelcy@jelcy.com](mailto:jelcy@jelcy.com) to tell us what you would like to bring: soup, salad, veggies, main course, or dessert, for example, and we will fill in the menu with what will be needed for a rounded meal.

## Sept 2: Noon, Choir Potluck/Meeting/Rehearsal

The *UUCWI Chalice Singers* will kick off the new church year with a gathering on Sunday, September 2 after the worship service. We'll have a potluck lunch, talk about ideas for next year and start singing! If you read music and would like to join the choir, contact Mavis Cauffman at [uadmin@whidbey.com](mailto:uadmin@whidbey.com)

## Ministerial News

Dennis Reynolds, who will begin in earnest as our new minister in September, and his wife Suzanne have relocated to their small home in Port Townsend in order to be both near Whidbey Island and Suzanne's sister, Peggy, who is in Poulsbo with a life ending illness.

As they continue to engage in the difficult work of supporting loved one who is dying, they have faced the additional sadness of the death of Suzanne and Peggy's eldest sister Kathy who died peacefully in a care facility in Tennessee. She had along history of health struggles, thus the sadness of her passing is tempered with relief at the end of her struggle.

Peggy's loving community of friends and Suzanne and Dennis' own circles of care have provided loving support. Suzanne and Dennis appreciate the warmth and care they have already received from the loving UUCWI community.

They look forward with joy to the new connections and new life they will be building on Whidbey Island

## Adult Programs Committee

August is the month UUCWI creates the 2012-2013 Adult Programs calendar. We will continue many of the successful programs of the past year and welcome suggestions for additional programs. If you are interested in leading a program or have suggestions for additional programs for 2012-2013 please contact Charlie Knutila by email to obtain an UUCWI Adult Programs proposal form.

The Adult Programs Committee is actively looking for new members. The committee will meet twice in August and quarterly through the balance of the Adult Program year. To express interest in becoming an active member of the Adult Programs Committee please contact Charlie Knutila by email. [cknutila@whidbey.com](mailto:cknutila@whidbey.com)

## From Terra!

By the time you read this, your Board of Trustees will be planning our first retreat of the year, to

reflect upon all our shared accomplishments since taking possession of our new home 4 years ago, and pondering the challenges and to-do's we will undertake this next year.

What does it mean to you that you have a board of *Trustees*? Quite frankly, I'd never given it much thought before last year. "Those people" were the ones who "took care of things" so I didn't need to bother. I could just come to church, enjoy friends, participate in the committees that interested me, and otherwise be confident the bills would be paid, the doors kept open, and the place would run smoothly. I don't paint a very flattering picture of myself, do I? Had I thought about it more, I would have realized that I *entrusted* others with decisions I need not make myself. I *trusted* them to think about the future and determine our operating budget, what we could afford and what we should defer for future years. I *trusted* them to ensure that committees were led by brilliant people and were well run. I *trusted* them to do whatever was needed, and I really had very little idea what that entailed.

So here we are, beginning a milestone year - it's our 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary. What do **you** *trust* your board to do for you? I'm deeply curious what you envision for this coming year. Imagine sitting for the annual meeting 12 months from now. What would **you** like to have accomplished? What would have happened that would lead you to say "this was a very good year"? Please plan to catch any of your board members – Gladys Howard, Ken Merrell, Jean McIntosh, Janis Hummel, Mark Brown, Sara Heath or me – next time you come to church and bend our ears a little bit. Share with us your dreams and concerns. Tell us what you are *trusting* us to do. We will be better board members -better representatives of you and more worthy of your trust – the better we know what's on your minds. Speak and we will listen.

In partnership – Terra



## ***New Art Show at UU Gallery***

The July/August art show “Artists/Teachers” features the works of Jelcy Romberg, jeweler; Judi Nyerges, watercolors; and Pam Winstanley, silk/fiber artist and painter.

Jelcy’s work features complex and colorful techniques that she uses to illustrate how others can design and create jewelry. She has taught beading classes 36-40 weekends a year for over 10 years as well as on a cruise line for 4-6 weeks each year.

Judi, a retired art teacher, paints her world in little vignettes, small scenes bursting with color and filled with humor and joy. She has whimsically captured many familiar Whidbey Island scenes.

Pam’s painted silk banners will line the path to the church on two occasions during the show, and her other works on display include oil and encaustic paintings.

Take a few minutes to enjoy these artists’ works and read their biographies to learn what inspires them.

### **Mark Your Calendar:**

#### ***In-Gathering Salmon Luncheon – Sunday, Sept 9***

Join in after the service for a BBQ salmon luncheon to welcome our new church year. Are you looking for great conversation, new friends, and old friendships renewed? You've got it for \$5 person or \$10 per family. Salmon (and a few hotdogs and burgers), desserts, and drinks will be provided by UUCWI. Please sign up ahead of time to help us plan the day. Bring a dish to share for eight persons (again, please no desserts). Look for sign-up sheets in the foyer starting August 19. A-M bring salad, potato salad, vegetable side dish, etc. N-Z bring bread, chips/salsa, raw vegetables, fruit, dips, etc.

Many thanks!

Gene Berg, Jean McIntosh,  
Gaea Van Breda, Eileen Soskin

## ***Update of Referendum 74:***

Referendum 74 is on the ballot and now the campaign to work for validation of the marriage equality bill, ESSB 6239, is under way.

**What is Ref 74?** It is an attempt to repeal the law passed by the Legislature and signed by the Governor that ends the exclusion of gay and lesbian couples from being able to marry.

### **Why should we vote to Approve an issue brought by marriage equality opponents?**

Voters will be asked whether they APPROVE the law passed by the Legislature, or whether they want to reject it. **You are urged to vote to APPROVE Referendum 74!**

## ***Elevator Speeches***

In a 2003 column in the *UUWorld*, William G. Sinkford, former president of the UUA, wrote, “I always encourage people to work on their elevator speech, what you’d say when you’re going from the sixth floor to the lobby and somebody asks you, ‘What’s a Unitarian Universalist?’”

Here are a few responses from other UUs.

“At its best, Unitarian Universalism is a religion of people who covenant to treat one another well, care for the earth, and protect the beautiful tapestry of cultures and communities that make up the people of the world. Love is the core value from which we build.”

—Sunshine Jeremiah Wolfe

“In our faith, God is not a given, God is a question. God is not defined for us, God is defined by us. Our views are shaped and changed by our experiences. As we grow, our faith grows. We struggle with what it means to be alive and yet have to die. We probe the depths of our own being for little hints of meaning. We create a faith by which we can live and struggle to live up to it. Throughout, each of us is fated to travel his or her own path. In the larger sense, we have chosen to journey together because we find that it is helpful. We find that it is good.”

—Rev. Forrest Church

**Unitarian Universalist Congregation  
of Whidbey Island**

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

**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](mailto: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  
site.

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