



# Island Passages

UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CONGREGATION OF WHIDBEY ISLAND

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## September 2012

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<b>2</b> 10 am UU Worship 4 pm Quaker Worship	<b>3</b> 6 pm Auditions for Broadway Cabaret	<b>4</b> 6pm Auditions for Broadway Cabaret	<b>5</b> 10 am UU Men's Group  7 pm Auction Ctte Mtg	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b> 9am VAC Mtg and installation	<b>8</b>
<b>9</b> 10 am UU Ingathering/Worship 11:30 Salmon Potluck Luncheon 4 pm Quaker Worship	<b>10</b> 9am WIN in Kitchen 6pm PFLAG	<b>11</b> 7pm Chalice Singers @ Eileen's  7pm Meditation (Jarina Moss)	<b>12</b> 7:30 EvenSong	<b>13</b> 7pm Book Grp- <u>To the End of the Land</u> by David Grossman	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b> 9 am Work Party  1 -9 pm Sufi Event
<b>16</b> 10 am UU Worship 11:30 UUCWI Brd Meeting 4 pm Quaker Worship 5pm Quaker Business Mtg 7 pm Sufi Event	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b> 7pm Chalice Singers @ Eileen's  7pm Meditation (Jarina Moss)	<b>19</b> 10am UU Men's Group  4 pm MAGIC	<b>20</b> Newsletter Deadline  6pm North End Group - contact Sally Elder	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b> 9am Leadership Council
<b>23</b> 8:45 Choir Rehearsal 9:45 Morning Sing 10 am UU Worship  4 pm Quaker Worship	<b>24</b> 9 am WIN in Kitchen	<b>25</b> 1 pm Yom Kippur Service	<b>26</b> Yom Kippur Gathering - all day	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>
<b>30</b> 10 am UU Worship 11:15 CCC in Classroom  4 pm Quaker Worship  7 pm Dances of Universal Peace						

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

### **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.

### **September 9:**

#### ***In Gathering***

**Dennis Reynolds**

We begin our new church year and a new shared ministry with a traditional ritual of the Gathering of the Waters.

You are invited to bring to church a small vessel of water that, either literally or symbolically, comes from your summer journeys. It may be from some far away river or bay, a sculptured fountain, a puddles after a cleansing rain, dipped from Puget Sound, or a couple teaspoons full from the tap of an old or brand new home. We also will have water available that can represent any thing you imagine it to be.

Join us we reflect on the recent past and prepare for our shared futures.

### **Wed, September 12: 7:30 pm (prelude at 7:20)**

#### ***EvenSong***

Our monthly evening meditation service resumes Sept 12. The readings this month will reflect on the coming equinox and change of seasons.

*EvenSong* is a quiet, candlelit service of readings, silent meditation, and songs accompanied by harp. All are welcome.

### **September 16:**

#### ***Our Faith in the Public Square***

**Reverend Carol McKinley**

Unitarian Universalism “lives under a prophetic imperative, a religious mandate for the corporate address of the church to the systemic problems of society.” How are we responding to that mandate in our congregations and in the political sphere? By bringing our voices to the public square and

acting for the greater good, we live our Unitarian Universalist values.

### **September 23:**

#### ***We Affirm and Promote***

**Dennis Reynolds**

Unitarian Universalism is a non-creedal faith. We have no prescribed doctrine of believe.

We have collectively, however, established set of shared principles and a listing of sources to which we might look as we seek answers to life questions or question seemingly simple answers. Let's explore how these Principles and Sources shape our views and our actions.

### **September 30:**

#### ***Blessing of the Animals***

**Dennis Reynolds**

Many of us are blessed with animal companions, who live with us, comfort us, entertain us, and perhaps enlighten us. In this special annual gathering we take to time to both playfully and seriously honor the gifts we receive from "the critters" and our daily reminders of our deep connection to all life.

Children and adults are invited to bring the animals who share our lives to this special intergenerational and interspecies service. Please only bring pets that are comfortable with other people and friendly to other pets. For safety, dogs should be on a leash, cats in carriers, horses and goats and camels should be haltered, alligators in harness, etc.

As weather allows, we will spend at least a portion of our time out on the lawn.

### **Whidbey Island Peace Gatherings:**

**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 afternoon of each month from on the grass just above Bayview Park and Ride. The time is seasonal. Contact Barb Hutton for details: 221-7022

## ***September Events:***

**September 2 , 11:45 am:**

### **First Sunday Lunch Bunch**

The monthly First Sunday After Church Lunch will once again be held at China City in Freeland, at 11:45, give or take.

We, as group, chose several meals that will suit our palates and then share the cost including tip.

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)

### **September 9 - Salmon Luncheon/Potluck**

Join in after the service for a BBQ salmon potluck 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 plus bringing a dish to share. 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. Look for sign-up sheets in the foyer on September 1. Bring a dish to share for eight persons (again, please no desserts). Thank you!

### **Circle Dinners Resume September 15**

The first Circle Dinner of the season will be on Saturday, September 15. Conrad and Jelcy Romberg will host the "kick off" of the season. Please contact Jelcy ([jelcy@jelcy.com](mailto:jelcy@jelcy.com)) if you wish to attend the Circle Dinner this month.

On the third Saturday of each month one or two households volunteer to open his/her/their home(s) for a potluck type of dinner open to members and friends of UCCWI. It is usually 6 guests who attend but not limited to that many, and it can be fewer if you only have space for smaller number of guests, larger, if you can host more.

If you wish to offer your home for one of the dinners any month of the season, Sept.-May, please contact Jelcy. You will be listed in the monthly newsletter as the host(s) for the month.

What to bring to the dinner? Depending upon the number of guests, someone will bring a salad or soup, another person or couple will bring a veggie or some sort of side dish. Someone will volunteer a main course and someone will bring a dessert. The host home will have libations, such as wine, tea, coffee and anything else that has not been brought by the guests. And that is not an etched in stone means of bringing meals, but a baseline. If you have a special serving of something that you really want to bring, by all means, do so.

Jelcy will coordinate who goes to which home. If you have a preference for one home because of location or friendship, let Jelcy know so she can fill the homes with the right number of guests that the host prefers to have.

Questions? Contact Jelcy ([jelcy@jelcy.com](mailto:jelcy@jelcy.com))

Thank you

### **September 16 –**

#### **Interested in Womens' Group(s)?**

Women's groups form for different reasons and with different organizational structures. They can be "affinity" groups, support groups, ministry groups; they can be structured/unstructured, scheduled/as needed, open/closed. No matter their differences, such groups strengthen our relationships, our sense of community, and our affirmation's commitment: to seek truth in love and to help one another. As our congregation grows, coming together in small groups to support each other and our mission will serve as a foundation for the future.

On September 16 after the Sunday service facilitators (see below) will meet with all women interested in participating in the formation of a women's group (or groups) with fellow UUCWI members. This will be an initial, exploratory meeting. Various approaches to group formation and functioning will be discussed. Those present will be encouraged to share their past experiences with such groups. The facilitators will provide support regarding communication and organization, as desired.

Facilitators: Joann Roomes, Lois Chowen, Sandy Welch, Mary Goolsby, Vicky Pitt, Corinne Ludy, Toyon Copeland, Libby Roberts, Jean McIntosh  
*Contact (with questions): Mary Goolsby*  
[goolsbyonwhidbey@yahoo.com](mailto:goolsbyonwhidbey@yahoo.com)

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

My summer has been a much-travelled time. Little of my journeying has been for pleasure. This season, typically filled with vacations jaunts and camping and floating down rivers, has been very different.

Our move, via U-Haul from Northern California, back to the shores of the Salish Sea, while filled with good portents for the future, was motivated by Suzanne's sister Peggy's life ending illness. We have spent much of the summer companionship her on the last leg of her life journey. That traverse from here into an unknown eternity has been a slow process, with little physical pain and much soft aching for all of us who love her.

I have come over to the island a couple of times. On those weekends, I got the opportunity to engage in the work I love and to hang out with you sweet folks. Brief jaunts to Eugene to deal with upkeep and preparations for future sale of a now rented property, that once was our home, are filled with work and memories.

By the time you read this, we will have flown to Tennessee and back to attend Peggy and Suzanne's older sister Kathie's memorial service. That journey is tinged with sadness and with love. My most profound journeys have been within. The most far reaching I take when I am with Peggy. Sometimes, I sit at her bedside quietly reading. Occasionally, I read to her. Other times we engage in somewhat one-sided conversations during which my speculative phrases elicit a hard to find one word thought from Peggy. Other times we just sit together. Frequently she, and occasionally I, drift off to sleep.

At such times, I slow down and move and think and act at a pace more measured and calm than the hectic hurley burley dashing about, that is often my norm. The slow pace of being one of Peggy's traveling companions, though often arduous, is deeply rewarding. I am honored and humbled to be invited to come along.

As I begin to plan for the professional and personal and spiritual journey we shall share this fall and beyond, I am moved and inspired by the sentiments of the Brazilian writer Paulo Coelho, who gifts us with the following. May it guide our shared journey.

“We are travelers on a cosmic journey, stardust swirling and dancing in the eddies and whirlpools of infinity. Life is eternal. We have stopped for a moment to encounter each other, to meet, to love, to share. This is a precious moment. It is a little parenthesis in eternity.”

~ Dennis Reynolds

## ***Chalice Singers***

Our adult choir resumes in September. If you read music and love to sing, you are welcome to join us! We find great joy in singing and our goal is to enhance our worship services as we build community and increase our choir skills. We normally sing at our worship service on the 4th Sunday of the month and rehearse the prior two Tuesday evenings. (Always check the online calendar at on our website to be sure since the schedule depends on how weeks fall in the month.) Contact Mavis Cauffman if you have any questions. [uadmin@whidbey.com](mailto:uadmin@whidbey.com)

## ***The Importance of Congregational Singing – Join us at “Morning Sing”***

“What we sing is what we are.” ~ Jason Shelton

At the annual conference of the UU Musicians Network took place in Tulsa, OK, in July, I experienced a beautiful example of the importance of music in our congregations. The way the conference works is this .... in addition to attending workshops and concerts, the 160+ people who attend (all of them musicians, most of them music or choir directors) participate in the conference choir, which rehearses and then sings at the Sunday morning service at the host church. The joy and power of that experience was stunning. Then imagine the congregation of 200 joining the choir in singing hymns!

As Peter Morales, President of the UUA, told us at the conference, music is not just a pause between words. It is not just decoration and fluff. Music crosses class and culture borders and has the power to move us to action.

Music is important to our own congregation, and congregational singing is part of that. It is a shared experience – we participate, we don't just listen. It expresses our values in a way that words alone do not. It gets us out of our heads and

connects us at the heart – it is our congregational “heartbeat”.

The more we sing together, the better! So we are initiating “Morning Sing”, a once/month, 10-minute opportunity before our worship service to learn a new hymn or in some way enhance our group singing skills. ***On the 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of each month you are invited to come into the sanctuary at 9:45 and spend 10 minutes with the choir.*** The first Morning Sing will be on September 23. Come join us! ~ Mavis Cauffman

### ***Chime In!***

UUCWI has been granted use of a 3-octave set of hand chimes for the coming year (Sept – June). These are on loan from the local region of The Handbell Musicians of America. If you are interested in being a charter member of a beginning chime choir, please contact Mavis Cauffman. There are no prerequisites beyond a commitment to the group. The emphasis will be on fun, fellowship and building musical skills as we learn together. We will likely meet a couple of times each month during the day – but our schedule will depend on the availability of the majority of the participants. (Right now this will be an adult group. If there is enough interest, we can then think about how to share the fun with the children.)



**Oct 12, 7:30 pm at UUCWI**

### ***Singing for Marriage Equality***

UUCWI, with the endorsement of PFLAG, The Giving Circle, Open Circle Singers, the Whidbey Quakers and other local organizations, is organizing a community-sing and gathering to encourage APPROVAL of Referendum 74 – which will ensure marriage equality in Washington State. Our new minister, Dennis Reynolds will welcome the community and Siri Bardarson will perform a few songs.

### ***SOS From UUCWI Auction Committee!***

The season is once again upon us! The 2012 UUCWI Annual Auction and Fundraiser is scheduled for Saturday, November 3, 2012, and promises to be rollicking good time once again. Tickets will go on sale at the end of September. Stay tuned for the announcement of this year's theme and please begin thinking about what/how you can contribute. In addition, we need volunteers to help produce this major fundraising event for our congregation. Many hands make less work, and besides, working together on such a worthy project is a lot of fun!

This year we would like to enhance our auction offerings with more gift subscriptions, gift certificates, tickets for travel, shows, museums, etc. Now that our congregation is big enough to merit attention, maybe you know a business owner who would like to "advertise" by donating items or services? For example, the two season subscriptions to the 2012 Outcast Productions raised over \$200 at last year's auction. Be creative. Be resourceful. The UUCWI Auction needs your support! Please contact Libby Roberts ([libbyroberts10@gmail.com](mailto:libbyroberts10@gmail.com)) with questions or suggestions. *Thanks!*

### ***UU Traveling Companions Wanted – Trip to China Anyone? Two for one price!***

Bill, Ann and Trina Carlstrom have happened upon a 17 day group trip on Viking Cruises to China beginning 2 November and going thru 18 November of 2013. It is a two for the price of one trip which includes an 11 day cruise on the Yangtze River. It leaves Shanghai and ends up in Beijing. The trip includes visits to the Terra Cotta Army, Tiananmen Square, the Forbidden City, The Summer Palace as well as the Great Wall. The cost of the trip is \$5,070 or \$5,270 per person, depending upon the floor of the stateroom on the boat. All staterooms are double and have verandas. There are two staterooms at each price remaining and you can get the two for one special up until December 15, 2012 by contacting Bill at either his email or on his cell phone a.s.a.p. Email: [rwcarlst@whidbey.com](mailto:rwcarlst@whidbey.com) Cell Phone 206-200-4219. If you are interested please contact him as soon as possible to be sure the staterooms are still available.

**Unitarian Universalist Congregation  
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](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  
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