



# Island Passages

UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CONGREGATION OF WHIDBEY ISLAND

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## January 2013

| Sun   | Mon   | Tue                                | Wed   | Thu   | Fri  | Sat   |
|---|---|------------------------------------|---|---|--|---|
|   |   | 1                                  | 2<br>10 am UU Men's Group<br>3 pm Meditation (Jarina Moss)            | 3<br>8:30 am WIN Burrito Grp<br>6:30 pm Book Group - <i>Grapes of Wrath</i>         | 4  | 5<br>10 am VAC Install new show   |
| 6<br>10 am UU Worship<br>11 Reception for new gallery exhibit<br><br>4 pm Quaker Worship  | 7<br>9 am Worship Ctte<br>9:30 WIN/kitchen<br>12:30 Quakers/Classroom<br>1pm Dennis' Office hours<br>6:30 BYOTIII/Classroom | 8                                  | 9   | 10<br>6:30 Audubon  | 11   | 12<br><b>Memorial Service for Nancy Simpson</b>   |
| 13<br>10 am UU Worship<br>11:30 Board Mtg<br><br>4 pm Quaker Worship  | 14<br>9:30 WIN/kitchen<br>10 am Membership Ctte<br>1pm Dennis' Office hours<br>6:30 BYOTIII/Classroom<br>6:30 PFLAG         | 15<br>6pm Meditation (Jarina Moss) | 16<br>10 am UU Men's Group<br>4pm MAGIC<br>6:30 Resilient Communities | 17<br>10 am Rehearsal in Sanctuary<br>6 pm North End Discussion<br>7 pm Film Series | 18<br>1:30 Rehearsal in Sanctuary<br><br>6:30 pm Circle Dinner | 19<br>9 am UUCWI Work Party (Music Ctte)<br>1 pm Concert Rehearsal<br><br><b>7:30 pm Concert: Jazz a la Carte</b> |
| 20<br>10 am UU Worship<br>11:30 CCC in Classroom<br>4 pm Quaker Worship<br>5 pm Quaker Business Mtg<br><b>NEWSLETTER DEADLINE</b> | 21<br>9:30 WIN/kitchen<br>10 am Rehearsal in Sanctuary<br>1pm Dennis' Office hours<br>6:30 BYOTIII/Classroom                | 22                                 | 23  | 24<br>6:30 BYOTIII/Classroom  | 25<br>1:30 Rehearsal in Sanctuary                              | 26<br>10 am Library Ctte  |
| 27<br>10 am UU Worship<br><br>4 pm Quaker Worship<br><br>7 pm Dances of Universal Peace   | 28<br>9:30 WIN/kitchen<br>10 am Rehearsal in Sanctuary<br>1pm Dennis' Office hours<br>Time TBD: Compassionate Listening     | 29                                 | 30  | 31<br>6 pm Waldorf Rehearsal  |  |   |

## **January Worship Services:**

### **January 6: *We Resolve Peace***

Dennis Reynolds, Minister

We create New Year's resolutions for ourselves and more formal resolutions within organizations of which we are a part. In 2010 the Unitarian Universalist Association approved a document called *Creating Peace*. It offers guidelines to aid us in our personal lives and suggests how we might act to create the kind of world we dream might be. Let us explore together how we might participate in such a creative process.

Gladys Howard, Worship Leader

### **No EvenSong in Jan – will resume Feb 13**

### **January 13: *Cultivating a Forgiving Heart***

Rev. Karen B. Taliesin

Forgiveness may be one of the hardest tasks set before us. We sometimes continue to feel hurt or angry as our hearts struggle to catch up with our intellectual notion of forgiving someone who has wronged us. Lessons learned along the journey toward a forgiving heart will be shared.

With many years of hospice experience, the Rev. Karen B. Taliesin received her M.Div. from the School of Theology and Ministry, Seattle University, and is currently a Doctoral Candidate at San Francisco Theological Seminary. Before her call to ministry, Karen taught HIV/AIDS education to middle school and high school students throughout the state of Iowa. Karen is in her tenth year as a full-time chaplain at Seattle Children's Hospital and is Minister Affiliated at East Shore Unitarian Church in Bellevue where she and her husband, Brian, are members.

Sandy Welch, Worship Leader

### **January 20: *Beloved Community; A Martin Luther King Day Service and Beginning of A Month of Love***

Dennis Reynolds, Minister

The Reverend Dr. King through word and deed stood on the side of love. May we draw inspiration from his life as we identify our own stand place to stand and our own beloved community in which to dwell.

Mary Goolsby, Worship Leader

### **January 27: *Whirling Dervishes***

Jamal Rahman

Probably the most frequent connection one makes with Sufism is that of Rumi or whirling dervishes. At this service, we will expand our understanding of Sufism by exploring one of its defining characteristics, the Sufi's desire to personally experience the Divine. We'll participate in an intergenerational exercise of translation ... translating the name of God to fit our individual beliefs, so we can explore fearlessly. There will be Sufi music and, of course, poetry. Perhaps we will find that it is possible to be both a Sufi and a UU, Jew, Buddhist, Christian or Hindu. We will be joined by Jamal Rahman, Muslim Sufi minister at Seattle's Interfaith Community Sanctuary.

Gloria Sherman, Worship Leader

## **January Events:**

### **Book Group, Jan 3 at 6:30 pm:**

*The Grapes of Wrath* by John Steinbeck. Our discussion will be led by Mary Ann Imkamp.

### **Reception for New Gallery Display – *Nature in Close-Up***

Following the worship service on January 6, the VAC will host a reception in honor of the artists whose work is in the new display: Sandi Rubini, Louie Rochon, Christi Shaffer, Diane Tompkinson and Helène Chandler. These artists see the wonders of Nature through the Details.

Light sandwiches, cookies, lemonade and coffee will be served.

### **Jan. 6, 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.

### **Circle Dinner, Friday, Jan 18, 6:30 pm**

Camille and John Long (Langley) will host and can seat 8. Contact Camille directly if you would like to attend: c.long.wi@gmail.com 221-4094

### **Work Party – Sat, Jan 19, 9 – 11 am**

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

**UUCWI Concert: Jazz à La Carte:  
Saturday, January 19 at 7:30 pm  
Seattle Fusion and Swing**

This lively concert will feature two musical groups and room for dancing!

**Stop, Thief!**, the popular “fusion” quartet, will offer their original compositions of jazz/blues/funk/rock/swing. Whidbey native Teo Benson (violin), Dylan Rieck (cello), Bren Plummer (double bass) and Joseph Shultz (drums) will showcase their creative energy and many talents.

**Mouce Manouche** will perform French pop and gypsy jazz music. Highly educated in the art of jazz and early swing music, much of their extensive repertoire is original. The group features three Seattle artists: Carol Weber (vocalist), Jared Borkowski (guitar) and Abbey Blackwell (bass).

Advance ticket purchases are encouraged and will be available following upcoming Sunday services as well as at Moonraker and other ticket outlets. Tickets: \$20/adult, \$10/student. Angel tickets are available. Information: [uucwiconcerts@yahoo.com](mailto:uucwiconcerts@yahoo.com)

***Dennis' January Ministerial Musings***

Winter weather makes me feel vulnerable. Snowy roads may disrupt my driving. High winds may cause a cancellation of the Coupeville/Port Townsend ferry that links me to the Island. High winds may disrupt power to my electricity heated home. The news includes reports of violence that further feed my sense of vulnerability. This year as I spend time sitting with my beloved sister-in-law, I am increasingly aware of my vulnerability to disease.

Some of us are particularly vulnerable to seemingly small disturbance to the norm. Allergens (for me microscopic dust mites) or chemicals and odors or even sound frequencies that cause no problems for most of us can be significant to those of us who are sensitive.

We are all vulnerable.

We are all resilient.

There is something about the human spirit that keeps us going. Sometimes difficult times can inspire us to be at our best, to do things that we

neglected in earlier, easier times. New Year's resolutions are part of our deliberate efforts to do what we can to reduce vulnerability our own and others.

The recent shootings in Connecticut caused many of us to hold our children closer as we realized anew their vulnerability. In response we could choose to retreat further and isolate ourselves. Yet because of the human capacity for resilience and our belief in the human capacity for change many are seeking ways through legislative action to move towards reduced risks and greater safety. We seek not isolation, but deeper connections with community. Knowing that when we work together our capacity grows and our vulnerability is lessened.

Such connections, for some, mean overcoming social vulnerabilities. I know that to be truly welcoming to all requires setting aside and sometimes deconstructing all to often unexamined prior notions and judgments.

In 2012 we passed legislation in Washington that reduces the isolation and vulnerability of some and as 2013 begins, we are seeing signs of potential changes to legislation around to dangerous weapons.

Change is hard work, yet each year at this time I resolve to do what I can and each year I see signs of progress within myself and all around.

~ Dennis Reynolds

***Terra's Tales***

I'm just home from Dennis' memorial service, dedicated to remembering the 27 people who died violently last Friday in Connecticut. It was a meaningful service – both comforting and disturbing. But isn't that the goal of ministry – to comfort the afflicted and afflict the comfortable? He invited us to light candles and proclaim our commitments to **change**, declaring “we can and must change.” My question is, what will it take for us to collectively effect significant and lasting change?

I'm alternately hopeful, angry, overwhelmed, committed, discouraged and determined by the “interesting” times we live in. I don't recall the last time I read a newspaper or watched a news program that was not fully focused on death or violence, disaster or mayhem. When was the last

time you saw a child playing a video game that demonstrated peaceful love and compassion instead of violence and killing? What fraction of big box-office hits sell violence as entertainment?

We've been asked to change before. There have been violent mass shootings before. What did we change? We've witnessed rioting and looting by people who believed justice was not served. What did we change? We've watched escalating expenditures on the machinations of war and corresponding dwindling expenditures on services for our most vulnerable. What did we change?

We know about global warming and that our own behaviors contribute. What do we change?

~ Terra Anderson  
President of the Board

### **We Give Thanks Every Day**

*As we express our gratitude, we must never forget that the highest appreciation is not to utter words, but to live by them. ~ John Fitzgerald Kennedy*

As sponsor of the December work party, the Membership Committee thanks you for coming out and helping us clean and landscape. One of my great pleasures at UUCWI is the opportunity to work alongside folks whom I respect and enjoy. We got a good deal of work done, in spite of challenging weather. We appreciate your generosity in giving of your time on a Saturday during a busy time of year to help build and support the community that is UUCWI. We had a good turnout and I got to know a couple of new folks. My only disappointment was that none of you sampled the maple bars with bacon strips on top. I can assure you that although they looked pretty disgusting, they were tasty. Fortunately the folks at the Sunday service had fewer scruples than you.

~ John Long, with great appreciation on behalf of the Membership Committee

### **UUCWI is a Scent Free Zone**

Please avoid wearing cologne, perfume, aftershave etc. to services and programs at the church.

### **New Adult Programs beginning in 2013 (contact facilitator to sign up or ask questions):**

\* Margaret Harris and Roger Harrison present a program in *Compassionate Listening*. This experiential book study group will begin on January 28th and meet on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Mondays at Margaret's and Roger's home in Freeland. Participants will learn to end conditioned patterns of thinking in order to reduce conflict, communicate in non-blaming ways, and resolve conflicts peacefully.

\* *Resilient Communities*: Tom Buxton, Gary Vallat, and Charlie Knutilla introduce the first in a series of programs focused on building resilient communities. This first installment "A Sense of Place," is designed to build a knowledge base of our local bioregion: our geology, climate, native peoples, regional economy, and natural history. 1st and 3rd Wednesdays beginning on the 16th of January.

\* *Movie Nights*: Ken Merrell will present a film series entitled: "A Different Drummer". This series will focus on lesser-known films which will challenge your expectations, play with your sensibilities, and surprise your senses. Some examples are: "The Invention of Lying", "Brazil", "Northfork", and "They Might Be Giants." 1st and 3rd Thursdays starting on January 17th.

\* *The Death of Josseline*: More details will follow on Dennis Reynolds' book discussion group beginning in February focusing on immigration stories on the Arizona/Mexico border.

\* *Introduction to Meditation*, a 4-session course, by Jarina Moss starting in April.

### **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.

## What Does Membership Mean?

Anyone in agreement with our Unitarian Universalist principles is welcome to be a **friend** of the congregation and to participate in most of our activities. If you wish to more fully support and participate in church life, you might consider becoming a **member** of UUCWI.

Choosing membership opens the door for you to call UUCWI your spiritual home, to fully participate in its community, and to reap the benefits of truly being part of such a community. Members take an active role in church life, volunteering for and participating in various duties and projects.

To become a member, you must be at least 16 years of age, be in sympathy with the Unitarian Universalist Principles, attend a new member orientation program (UU101), be committed to participating in the life of the congregation, have a signed pledge card on file, and sign the membership book. There are no creedal requirements for membership. Members are eligible to vote at congregational meetings 60 days after signing the membership book.

Only members can hold significant leadership positions and participate in congregational decision-making, such as voting at annual meetings. Membership involves the contribution of your time and talent to projects, programs, committees, and other activities of the church.

All members are encouraged to attend services as often as possible. Members receive a subscription to UUWorld, the thought-provoking magazine of the UUA.

Church bylaws require a current pledge card be filled out each year to maintain active membership. The financial contributions of members make up the primary source of income to support the operation of the church. Other income, such as from Sunday offerings, defrays only a small portion of those expenses. (A portion of our Sunday collections is contributed to other organizations.) There is no required level of giving, but we hope members view their contributions as investments in the community.

Pledging is a way to show generosity and responsibility and reflects the importance of UUCWI in members' lives. Pledges vary widely, dependent on individual circumstances. Many in the congregation follow a suggested level of annual giving that is 2.5% to 5% of their yearly budget.

UUCWI contributes **\$83. per member per year** to the Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA) and the Pacific Northwest District (PNWD) to further the UU mission on a larger scale.

Other implications of membership are that a quorum of at least 30% of our members is required at annual meetings in order to hold votes on important issues, and at least 30% of our members must be Chalice Lighters in order for us to be eligible to apply for Chalice Lighter grants. So membership does assume participation! Members can also be chairs of committees and are eligible to be members of the Board of Trustees.

UUCWI holds an annual stewardship drive each spring. During that time each member will have an opportunity for a conversation with a visiting steward about their experience of congregational life. Members are encouraged to discuss what is working well and in what ways we might consider making changes. Members also renew their membership and fill out a new pledge card for the coming fiscal year. Pledging totals are an important consideration in developing the budget for the coming year.

This congregation belongs to each of us. We pledge to fund the daily operations and to ensure that our congregation and its resources are here for us and for others now and in the future.

If you are interested in pursuing membership, contact one of the following people:

|                                  |              |
|----------------------------------|--------------|
| John Long, Membership Chair:     | 221-4094     |
| Dennis Reynolds, Minister:       | 541-517-7325 |
| Terra Anderson, Board President: | 221-2071     |
| Mavis Cauffman, Administrator:   | 579-4053     |

**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](mailto:uucwi.re@gmail.com)

**UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST  
CONGREGATION OF WHIDBEY ISLAND**

P.O. Box 1076  
Freeland, WA 98249

**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.

Look for us on Facebook ... search for UUCWI

**Communications Committee:**

Cary Sinnett, Newsletter Editor

Mavis Cauffman, Congregational Administrator  
[uuadmin@whidbey.com](mailto:uuadmin@whidbey.com)

Dean Enell, Webmaster