



# Island Passages

UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CONGREGATION OF WHIDBEY ISLAND  
 20103 State Route 525 • P.O. Box 1076, Freeland, WA 98249 • 360-321-8656 • www.uucwi.org

## October 2013

Sunday	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		<b>1</b> 1 pm Dennis' Office Hours	<b>2</b> 10am UU Men's Group	<b>3</b> 8:30 am WIN 10 am Quaker Mtg 6 pm Concert Rehearsal 6:30 Book Grp	<b>4</b> 10 am Ctte on Ministry 7:30pm Concert: Island Consort	<b>5</b> 10 am VAC 7:30pm Concert: Island Consort
<b>6</b> 10am UU Worship 11:45 am UU 101 4 pm Quaker Worship	<b>7</b> 9:30 WIN /Kitchen  4pm Meditation/Moss  6:30 "The New Jim Crow"	<b>8</b> 10 am Women's Grp 1 pm Office Hours 2pm SRC 6pm Guillemot Mtg 7pm Choir	<b>9</b> 10 am Membership Ctte  7:20 pm EvenSong	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b> 9am Worship Ctte	<b>12</b> 9am Worship Leaders Workshop
<b>13</b> 8:45 Choir 10 am UU Worship 11:30 Board Mtg 11:45 Women's Grp 4 pm Quaker Worship	<b>14</b> 9:30 WIN /Kitchen 6:30 pm PFLAG 6:30 "The New Jim Crow"	<b>15</b> 1 pm Dennis' Office Hours 7pm Choir	<b>16</b> 10am UU Men's Group 4 pm MAGIC	<b>17</b> 6pm North End Group	<b>18</b> 6pm Family Game Night	<b>19</b> 9 am Work Party 1 pm Water District Mtg. 6pm Circle Dinner- Cauffman
<b>20</b> <b>Newsletter Deadline</b> 10am UU Worship 11:30 am Music Ctte 4 pm Quaker Worship	<b>21</b> 9:30 WIN/Kitchen 4pm Meditation/Moss 6:30 "The New Jim Crow"	<b>22</b> 1 pm Dennis' Office Hours	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b> 6:30pm "The Bible for Skeptics"- Reynolds	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b> 3pm UUCWI Movie Series - <i>Moral Ground</i>
<b>27</b> 10am UU Worship 11:15 RE Open House 11:30 SRC Mtg 11:45 Women's Grp North 4 pm Quaker Worship 7pm Dances of Universal Peace	<b>28</b> 9:30 WIN /Kitchen	<b>29</b> 1 pm Dennis' Office Hours	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b> 6:30pm "The Bible for Skeptics"- Reynolds		

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 And always check the most current version of our calendar online at [www.uucwi.org](http://www.uucwi.org)

## **Worship Services**

### **October 6: Religion and Spirituality:**

#### ***Is There a Difference? with Rev. Sue Ayer***

When people say "I'm not religious -- but I'm spiritual," what are they trying to say? What is the distinction they're making -- and what does that have to do with being a Unitarian Universalist? Rev. Sue Ayer will explore the connection between religion and spirituality -- and the disconnect that is felt by so many, whether inside or outside of church."

The Reverend Sue Ayer is the Affiliated Community Minister at our UU Congregation in Hillsboro, Oregon. After retiring from parish ministry she still enjoys visiting other congregations and officiating ceremonies and rites of passage. Her spiritual practices include poetry, gardening, Soul Collage and nature walks. Worship Leader: Effie Brown

### ***Evensong, Wednesday, October 9, 7:20 pm (prelude)***

EvenSong is a quiet, candlelit service of readings, silent meditation and simple songs accompanied by harp. It is the second Wednesday evening of the month. This month's theme is *Wisdom*. All are welcome

### **October 13 : "A Gospel of Justice"**

Gospel means, literally, "the good news." And the good news is, you can join Rev. Dennis, Ken Merrell, and the UUCWI choir in an exploration of this uniquely American approach to spirituality. This tradition, which grew out of slavery, became the backdrop of the civil rights movement, forever changed our attitudes about church services, and inspired American culture in innumerable ways from Blues and Jazz to women's hats. Join us for what we hope will be an uplifting and memorable experience.

The UUCWI Choir will perform and there will be opportunities for you to join in the celebration. Gospel is nothing if not interactive, so be ready to jump in.



*"My heart is moved by all I cannot save: So much has been destroyed I have to cast my lot with those who, age after age, perversely, with no extraordinary power, reconstitute the world."*

~ Adrienne Rich

### **October 20: "Dances of Universal Peace"**

The Dances of Universal Peace were founded by Sufi Murshid Samuel Lewis to facilitate an embodied experience of the sacred. Please join us if you would like to open your heart, pray with your body and blend your voice with friends. Children are welcome! Come sing and dance with Bob, Doug, Gaea, Halim, Linda, Lisa, and Ron of the Whidbey Dance Team. For more information about the Dances of Universal Peace, visit our web site @ [www.whidbeydup.com](http://www.whidbeydup.com).  
Worship leader: Eileen Soskin.

### **October 27 : Day of the Dead"**

#### ***with Rev. Dennis Reynolds***

The Latino cultural celebration of Día de Muertos offers to us a different way to look at, and perhaps respond to, the undeniable truth of death. Can we, by choosing to not look away and metaphorically and, perhaps, literally communicating with those who have died gain insights that might aid us in living more fully? Worship Leaders: Janella Riegel and Nydia Blood

### ***An Ethical Conundrum: Music Committee***

Every Sunday we sing our children to their classes with *Go Now in Peace*. But most of us do not sing the words exactly as they are printed in the hymnal. For the third line we sing "May the spirit of love surround you." The words in the hymnal are "May the love of God surround you." Natalie Sleeth, the composer and lyricist, was not a UU and she made it very clear that she did not approve of any changes to her words. In fact, she specified that her estate vigilantly maintain her position. We believe it is important to respect her wishes.

The Music Committee has pondered this issue and believes it is time to introduce some new songs to sing our children to class. We invite you to enjoy these new traditions-in-the-making.

Over the next few months we will introduce some songs that we hope you and the children will learn and love. We welcome your understanding and comments.

~ The Music Committee



*"Be ours a religion which, like sunshine, goes everywhere."*

~ Theodore Parker

## **October Events**

### **Book Group - October 3**

On October 3rd, from 6:30 to 8:30, the book group will be discussing Michael Pollan's *The Botany of Desire: a Plant's Eye View of the World*. This New York Times Notable Book demonstrates the ways in which the apple, the tulip, marijuana and the potato have gotten humans to spread their seeds and cultivate them, due to our desires for sweetness, beauty, intoxication and control, respectively. Who is really domesticating whom? Judy Kaplan is our host. Everyone welcome.

### **Concerts at UUCWI - October 4 and 5, 7:30 pm**

The first concerts of the year feature *Island Consort*, Whidbey's new Renaissance and Baroque instrumental and vocal ensembles. \$15 (\$5 student) at the door. ~ Eileen Soskin

### **UU101 - October 6, 11:45 am - 3 pm**

Are you curious about Unitarian Universalism (UU) and this congregation? Perhaps you are considering membership and want to know who and what U and U and UU have been and currently are. You are invited to join our minister, Rev. Dennis Reynolds, and other members of the congregation in "UU101". This is an informal, fun discussion of a bit of history and a touch of theology and some details specific to our congregation. A light lunch will be provided. To RSVP, contact Dennis at [minister@uucwi.org](mailto:minister@uucwi.org) so we can prepare food and handouts. Let us know if you will need child care.

### **First Sunday Lunch Bunch – Oct. 6, 11:45 am**

We meet first Sundays at China City in Freeland, at about 11:45. We chose several meals and share the cost including tip. Members, friends and guests are all invited to participate. 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. Contact Jelcy Romberg for more information: [jelcy@jelcy.com](mailto:jelcy@jelcy.com)

### **Meditation Day/Time Change**

We will be meeting on first and third Mondays of the month at 4 pm to 5.30 pm, beginning October 7 in the Sanctuary. Please contact [jarinam@whidbey.com](mailto:jarinam@whidbey.com) for any questions.

### **New Women's Group, Oct 8**

A circle of women interested in sharing deeply and with trust in confidentiality. Open to any woman at UUCWI. New members welcome.

We plan to meet once each month at UUCWI from 10am-noon on second Tuesday mornings.

The first meeting will be October 8. ~ Eileen Soskin [esoskin1@gmail.com](mailto:esoskin1@gmail.com)

### **Interfaith Vigil of Peace and Hope – Oct 12**

The 10th annual Whidbey Interfaith Vigil of Peace and Hope will again be held at St. Augustine's Episcopal Church. The event will begin at

3:00 on the afternoon of October 12 and the speaker will be a Seattle Mennonite pastor, Weldon Nisly.

### **UU Family Game Night – Fri, Oct 18 at 6 pm For kids of all ages!**

Bring your family for a fun evening of dinner and games! Card games, board games, and puzzles for all ages. Bring your favorite game with you to share if you wish. A pizza dinner will be provided.

Contact Susan Janow to RSVP so that we have enough pizza for everyone:  
[staylorjanow@yahoo.com](mailto:staylorjanow@yahoo.com)

### **Work Party - October 19**

Come join the Worship Cttee to give our facilities some TLC.

### **Circle Dinner – Oct 19 at 6 pm**

This month's potluck dinner is at Dave and Mavis Cauffman's. Contact Mavis if you would like to attend – vegetarian lasagne is the main dish. If you would like to host a Circle Dinner, held the third Saturday of each month, please contact Jelcy Romberg at [jelcy@jelcy.com](mailto:jelcy@jelcy.com)

### **RE Open House - October**

It's back to school time and that means - open house! All parents, grandparents, and other family members of children in our Religious Exploration program are invited to "meet the teacher" on Sunday, October 27th, immediately after the service. Come learn about this year's program and meet our other parents. The RE Task Force will also host a brief roundtable discussion regarding current RE plans following the Open House. Contact Janella Riegel at [janellak@gmail.com](mailto:janellak@gmail.com) if you have questions.

## ***Dennis' Musings on History, The Personal and The Cultural***

To be twenty years old is an exciting and a challenging thing to be. The third decade is often time of setting aside earlier beliefs and ways of being and embracing new possibilities.

As I recall that time in my own life, I remember it as time of many changes taking place all around me and, sometimes, abrupt changes in my life's direction. The changes swirling all around our American culture were unfolding particularly rapidly back in 1970. It was time of protest and conflict and a time of hopes and dreams and yet ... perhaps that is always true.

It at least seemed to be so in the last American century.

- In the 1910s the dreams were particularly hope filled for thousands of immigrants who had come to this continent seeking new possibilities.
- In the 1920s more were included in decision-making and such audacious notions as voting rights for women became a reality.
- Hard times followed in the 1930s when America experienced an economic downturn that was greater in depth and in breadth than our recent great recession. In the midst of it all, greater security and a whole new deal, for many who had been vulnerable, emerged.
- The 1940s saw the greatest conflict of all time, yet ended with a partial actualization of the dream of all nations united.
- Some say the 1950s were a quiet time where conformity ruled the day, yet expanded educational possibilities broke down forever a rigidly stratified hierarchical social system.
- In the famous - and infamous - 1960s, inclusion and the rights of many expanded.
- Then came those afore mentioned notorious 1970s.
- The 1980s were criticized as a time that mostly benefited a few and yet fear-fueled worldwide tensions were reduced.
- The 1990s have been described as a time of cocooning, of isolating within one's

own small circle of home, family, and friends.

- This first decade of this new century is just beginning to find its way. It is still too early to tell what might emerge.

The constants have been the continual unfolding of new possibilities and repeated evidence of the fact that people have the capacity to shape what will come. This has been true throughout the history of the larger culture and it has been and will be true again in the yet to be lived futures of each of us.

So, in the here and now, let's explore together, as our Congregation moves through its 20s, how we might lovingly embrace our shared times of change and conflict and create new possibilities.

Believing that we can truly do so is a thing called Faith. ~ Rev. Dennis Reynolds

### ***Annual UUCWI Auction - November 2***

This is the major fundraiser of the year! It's always a fun evening for all.

*Donations are needed for the auction....*

No price too high, no price too low. Donate what you can so we can benefit from what you can share with us to the benefit of the church.



*Theme: The Phantom of the Auction....*

No need for fancy costumes, just a fun mask.

The unveiling will be before we eat. Tickets are \$25/person – including \$10 credit towards winning bids and substantial hors d'oeuvres. Tickets will go on sale in October.

*Help Needed....*

If you would like to help out with any portion of the auction, we have team leaders who can always use an extra hand in an area where you would like to help. Contact [Jelcy@jelcy.com](mailto:Jelcy@jelcy.com) for more info.

### ***A Letter to the UUCWI Membership***

As some of you may have heard ... I'm back! That is, I'm back in residence on Whidbey Island and I, along with Frances, will re-join as members of UUCWI. I have fond memories of my ordination at UUCWI in January of 2011. I've returned to Whidbey after having completed 2 1/2 years as full-time minister of the Tahoma UU Congregation in Tacoma, two years as half-time intern minister at Skagit UU in Mount Vernon, and one year as chaplain at Island Hospital in Anacortes. It's been a wild and wondrous ride. I am not sure what my future holds other than a number of pulpit supply/workshop engagements at other churches in the area and plenty of grandchildren time.

There are a few peculiarities about my involvement at UUCWI that I might touch upon. These are informed by generally accepted best clergy practices, my own covenant as a UU minister and my covenant with Rev. Dennis, our current minister. My primary ministry at UUCWI must be to support his ministry. If I occasionally perform more traditional ministerial roles such as preaching, teaching or officiating at rites of passage, it will be as a result of his invitation. I do not expect to be involved in church governance. If I have a role as counselor or confidant regarding church matters I expect it will be with Rev. Dennis.

I look forward to renewing old friendships and forming new ones, to being a part of this beloved community that nourishes my soul, and to join with others in helping to repair the world. It's good to be back.

In faith, Rev. Bill Graves

### ***Terra's Tales***

A term being used by the Membership committee this year is "radical hospitality" I'm intrigued by the idea and its implications. We make a conscious effort to get to know every person who walks through our doors on a Sunday morning. That's part of what Membership coaches us to do – ensure we know *why* people came, *what* interests them, *how* we can support them, and that the visitor knows we really appreciate their presence in our hall. The goal is to get people *involved*.

We must be doing a pretty good job. I had occasion recently to wonder how many members and friends are actually "active" in our congregation – serving on committees, singing in the choir, helping with services, helping with our monthly work parties... Imagine my amazement when I counted over 70 individuals! I invite you to do the same experiment some time. Go through the directory and put a check mark beside every name of a member or friend whom you have observed help with a church function. You might even identify more people than I did. It's really quite amazing.

One place we make those lovely connections is the refreshment period after services. Because it was getting so hard last spring to solicit volunteers for refreshments, our Hospitality committee conducted an experiment during the summer, offering no refreshments for several weeks, just to see if anyone cared. We observed that when coffee and nibbles were available, people lingered a full 45 minutes and the building was abuzz with conversations. On those days where nothing was served the building was empty within 15 minutes after the postlude. John Long recently reflected that inviting visitors to introduce themselves so we can get to know them better is a pretty hollow promise in the absence of refreshments.

What has been your experience on days with or without refreshments? What causes you to linger and visit? Are you willing to help enable that after-service buzz? Personally, I like doing the refreshments. I never fail to receive help from some kind soul during the clean up and a conversation invariably ensues that warms my heart. I make connections in the kitchen that are different from every other aspect of my church life. With more than 70 of us, divided between 52 weeks each year, 2 people volunteering each Sunday, most of us would only draw one weekend. A few who are willing could cover the balance. What do you think? Are you willing to extend a small piece of radical hospitality to our visitors and friends?

~ Terra Anderson, President of the Board



*"When the rain of compassion falls, even a desert becomes an immense, green ocean."*

~ Thich Nhat Hanh

### ***UU Teens RE Group -***

This year, Lori Taylor and Judy Kaplan will be organizing the UU Teens RE group. With at least 9 eligible teens, it looks like we'll have a nice-sized group. Teens will have the opportunity to choose an individual mentor from the congregation, and are invited to stay in service on Sunday mornings they attend. During the year, teens will have the chance to work on the UU Religion in Life award with their mentor if they so desire.

The exciting news is that we will be planning a monthly youth gathering - a movie or game night for everyone to get together, perhaps we'll organize a couple of times during the year for a chosen service project - it will be up to the youth to decide. Our first gathering will be in early October. Parents look for details by email.

Mentors are needed - if you would like to volunteer please email Lori at [lbtaylor@mac.com](mailto:lbtaylor@mac.com) or Judy at [peacefuljudyone@gmail.com](mailto:peacefuljudyone@gmail.com) Good times ahead!!!

### ***Dennis On Site at UUCWI***

Now that Dennis and Suzanne reside on the island, he is spending more time working in the newly reconfigured office and conference room. Dennis has set aside time on Tuesday afternoons for those who would like to schedule time to meet with him to discuss congregational business, explore theological notions or to find a sympathetic ear.

In addition to his regular 1:00 to 3:00 office hours, he is also available by appointment at other times that might better meet your needs. Do not hesitate to give him a call at (541) 517- 7325 or drop him an email at [minister@uucwi.org](mailto:minister@uucwi.org) to arrange a time to talk.

**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 4 to 5 pm on the grass just above Bayview Park and Ride.



*“Since what we choose is what we are, and what we love we yet shall be, the goal may ever shine afar – the will to win it makes us.” ~ William DeWitt Hyde*

### ***SRC Committee: In the Know***

The Social Responsibility Committee (SRC) is about to invade your...mind! No, we don't have sophisticated secret tools like other organizations we've heard about lately...we have Survey Monkey! Soon, you will receive email surveys requesting your help to determine the scope of the committee's work. Please don't flip to the next email or "trash" our desire to know *if you think we should expand our projects and donations BEYOND Whidbey Island.*

Traditionally, SRC has focused on local projects (WIN, Habitat for Humanity) and dedicated offerings to organizations serving Whidbey Island (e.g., Hearts and Hammers, Senior Services of Whidbey Island, etc.). We will continue that focus, but the question before us is: do we want to learn more about, and partner with, others to support national and international projects aligning with our UU Principles? The American Friends Service Committee and the UU Service Committee come to mind — with such initiatives as promoting a living wage, ensuring access to adequate and clean water, supporting education of girls in third world countries, and so many other worthy causes.

Please help us determine next steps. When Survey Monkey finds its way to your inbox, click "open" and give us your opinions. Thanks!

PS Have you noticed the Wayside Pulpit sign post as you enter the parking lot?? Thanks to John Leaser for reviving this tradition, giving us words to ponder as we enter our UU home. And, watch out for a survey from John about our Greening Congregations project.



Fabulous Food at our Ingathering/Salmon Bake  
(photo by C. Knutila)

## **"Who Am I?" by Alex Bonesteel**

(an original song)

Walking on the path of our ignorance and deception,  
passing over each and every sign along the way -  
these lines we've known to follow all these years  
without a question.

I know I'm not the only one out there who wants  
to say ....

Who am I?  
What am I?  
Where am I?

I can finally see the writing on the wall.

Looking to the sky to help support your fantasies,  
let your mind rise up to a higher elevation.  
Using these illusions to keep your mind at ease  
offer me no god nor a part in your salvation.

Who am I?  
What am I?  
Where am I?

I'm waiting for an answer to it all.

I've been holding on to this for so long  
but I think it might be time to let it go.  
I couldn't tell you just what I've become  
but I don't think that I'm the only one.

Maybe finally seeing what's really in our way  
will help us find answer to the truth of our  
salvation.

The answer's in your heart as only it can say,  
"Tear down your old beliefs and build a new  
foundation."

Who am I?  
What am I?  
Where am I?

I can finally read the writing on the wall.

I also just finished the complete version of this song.  
You can hear it here:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8Imox4wYFHc&feature=youtu.be>

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

Please remember that UUCWI is a scent free zone. This is an important part of assuring that our sanctuary is fully accessible to those with significant chemical sensitivities. This means that all are requested to avoid wearing cologne perfume aftershave etc. to services and programs at the church.



Rev. Dennis and Lori T. congratulate one of the recent OWL graduates (photo by C. Knutila)

## ***Northwest UU Justice Summit***

Join with Dennis and other UUCWI members and friends at the Northwest UU Justice Network's 2013 Justice Summit on October 5.

The Northwest UU Justice Summit is a vital new tradition for NW Unitarian Universalists. At each year's summit, UUs working for justice come together to share their justice visions, knowledge, projects and expertise. At the end of the day, participants leave with new insights, renewed inspiration, and vital new partners and tools to support their justice work.

This year gathering will be at the Northlake UU Church in Kirkland. It runs from 8:45 to 5:00 and includes organizing and advocacy advice and break out sessions on a variety of issues selected by the participants. It is a wonderful opportunity to find out what is happening in other UU congregations and to seek opportunities where we might work together to make a difference in the world.

You can get more information and register online at [www.uunwjn.org](http://www.uunwjn.org). Let Dennis know if you want to be part of the Whidbey delegation, so we can explore car pool options.



*"The great end in religious instruction is not to stamp our minds upon the young, but to stir up their own ...Not to impose religion upon them in the form of arbitrary rules, but to awaken the conscience, the moral discernment." ~ William Ellery Channing*

**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  
minister@uucwi.org

**Chaplain:** Sally Elder 360-675-3314  
chaplain@uucwi.org

Our minister and chaplains are available for rites of  
passage ceremonies (including ceremonies of  
commitment or union) and pastoral visits.

**Administrator:**  
Mavis Cauffman admin@uucwi.org

**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 [newsletter@uucwi.org](mailto:newsletter@uucwi.org)  
Items submitted after press time will appear in the  
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