



# 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

## November 2013

| Sunday   | Mon   | Tue  | Wed   | Thu  | Fri  | Sat   |
|--|---|--|---|--|--|---|
|  |   |  |   |  | <b>1</b>   | <b>2</b><br><br><b>6 pm<br/>UUCWI<br/>Auction</b>   |
| <b>3</b><br><b>Turn Clocks Back!</b><br>10am UU Worship:<br>"Gratitude<br>Communion"<br>11:15am RE Open Hs<br>12 p Bd Mtg @ Terra's<br>1pm Island Strings<br>4 pm Quaker Worship                     | <b>4</b><br>8:45 am WIN<br>/Kitchen<br><br>4pm<br>Meditation/Moss             | <b>5</b><br>1 pm Dennis'<br>Office Hours<br><br>7pm Choir  | <b>6</b><br>10 am Men's<br>Grp<br><br>1 pm COM                                      | <b>7</b><br>8:45 am WIN<br>10 am Quaker<br>Mtg<br>6:30p Chanteuse<br>Rehearsal<br>(Roomes)<br>6:30p "Bible for<br>Skeptics"<br>7p Book Group | <b>8</b><br>9am Worship<br>Ctte<br>5:30p<br>Chanteuse<br>Rehearsal<br>(Roomes)<br>7pm Chanteuse<br>Concert | <b>9</b><br>9am<br>Leadership<br>Council<br>1pm Chanteuse<br>Rehearsal and<br>Concert<br>5pm Concert<br>Rehearsal<br>(Soskin) |
| <b>10</b><br>10am UU Worship:<br>"Money, Money"<br>11:30 Rhythm Skills<br>4 pm Quaker Worship<br>7pm Concert<br>Rehearsal (Soskin)   | <b>11</b><br>8:45 WIN<br>/Kitchen<br>6:30 pm PFLAG                            | <b>12</b><br>10 am Women's<br>Grp<br>1 pm Dennis'<br>Office Hours<br>1pm SRC ctte<br>7:30 Concert<br>Rehearsal<br>(Soskin) | <b>13</b><br>10am<br>Membership<br>Ctte<br><br>7:20<br>EvenSong                     | <b>14</b><br>1pm Concert<br>Rehearsal<br>(Soskin)<br>6pm Audubon<br>6:30 "Bible for<br>Skeptics"   | <b>15</b><br>5pm Concert<br>Rehearsal<br>7:30pm<br>Concert-<br>Gloria Ferry-<br>Brennen &<br>Friends       | <b>16</b><br>9 am Work<br>Party<br>5pm Rehearsal<br>7:30pm<br>Concert-<br>Gloria Ferry-<br>Brennen &<br>Friends               |
| <b>17</b><br>10am UU Worship:<br>"Blessing the Hands<br>that Feed Us"<br>11:30am CCC Ctte<br>4 pm Quaker Worship<br>6 pm Circle Dinner   | <b>18</b><br>8:45 am WIN<br>12pm "Team<br>Terrific" Debrief<br>4pm Meditation | <b>19</b><br>1 pm Dennis'<br>Office Hours<br><br>7pm Choir   | <b>20</b><br><b>Newsletter<br/>Deadline</b><br>10am UU<br>Men's Group<br>4 pm MAGIC | <b>21</b><br>6pm North End<br>Grp<br>6:30pm "The<br>Bible for<br>Skeptics"-<br>Reynolds  | <b>22</b>  | <b>23</b><br>11am Choir<br>Wkshop<br>3pm UUCWI<br>Movie Series  |
| <b>24</b><br>8:45 Choir<br>10am UU Worship:<br>"A Pilgrim's Journey"<br>11:30 SRC Mtg<br>11:30 Rhythm Skills<br>4 pm Quaker Worship<br>6pm North End Dine<br>Out<br>7pm Dances of<br>Universal Peace | <b>25</b><br>8:45 am WIN<br>/Kitchen  | <b>26</b><br>10am Women's<br>Grp<br><br>1 pm Dennis'<br>Office Hours   | <b>27</b>   | <b>28</b><br><br><b>Thanksgiving</b>   | <b>29</b>  | <b>30</b>   |

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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***

### ***November 3: "A Communion of Gratitude" with Effie and Mark Brown***

This service, inspired by the traditional Eucharist, adapts traditional liturgies and rituals to reflect Unitarian Universalist principles. Members of the congregation will share readings which explore the themes of gratitude for the gift of life, the bounty of the earth, and our renewed commitment to a world of peace, justice and love. Sharing the fruits of the earth with our community both evokes gratitude for the blessings and abundance in our lives and challenges us to care for those less fortunate.

### ***November 10 : "Money, Money, Money" with Rev. Dennis Reynolds***

*This sermon was purchased by Linda Good at our 2012 auction. It was how she chose to use some of her money.*

Some say money has the power to make the world go round. In our contemporary culture, money has incredible influence on our lives. There is little doubt that money and power are intricately intertwined. Money has a powerful impact in politics and in our personal lives. How do our ideas and ideals, our decisions and actions about money shape us and shape the world?

Linda Good, Worship Leader  
Ken Merrell, Special Musician

### ***EvenSong, Wednesday, November 13, 7:20 pm (prelude)***

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

### ***Nov. 17: "Blessing the Hands That Feed Us" with guest speaker Vicki Robin***

We have only a 3-day supply of food in our local grocery stores. And our farms could probably feed us for only another 13 days were we cut off from the mainland. Vicki Robin will share how her experiment in 10-mile eating not only changed how she ate, but also rooted her in our Whidbey Island community, giving her a deep appreciation for our food system and gentle farmers and leading to her newest book, *Blessing*

*The Hands That Feed Us*. She'll share stories, challenges, dreams and a vision for Whidbey Island worthy of our collective efforts.

Vicki is the best-selling author of *Your Money or Your Life*, an improv comedienne, international speaker, a sustainability and simplicity organizer, a visionary and a very good friend to many of us.

Terra Anderson, Worship Leader  
*Sisters* (vocals), Guest Musicians

### ***November 24 : "A Pilgrim's Journey from Conservative to Liberal: 400 years or a Single Lifetime?" with Rev. Dennis Reynolds***

Some of the religious forebears of modern Unitarianism were among those who sailed on the Mayflower and landed on Plymouth Rock. When they came ashore in 1620, they established a covenant and a church, First Parish Plymouth. It is the oldest church in the United States and is a member congregation of the Unitarian Universalist Association.

We will explore how these pious religious conservatives planted the seeds for what became our liberal faith and how each of us might harvest the fruits of religious freedom.

Dave Cauffman, Worship Leader  
*UUCWI Choir* Special Musicians

### ***A Recommended Read***

I recently participated in a book discussion group led by Corinne Ludy and Charlie Knutilla. The book, *The New Jim Crow* by Michelle Alexander, was a revelation to me even though I grew up in the South during the old Jim Crow era. The author begins with a brief synopsis of the Cotton family tree. "Jarvious Cotton cannot vote... His great-grandfather was beaten to death by the Ku Klux Klan for attempting to vote. His grandfather was prevented from voting by Klan intimidation. His father was barred from voting by poll taxes and literacy tests. Today, Jarvious Cotton cannot vote because he, like many black men in the United States, has been labeled a felon and is currently on parole." Drawing from a very large bibliography, Alexander goes on to describe the many ways in which blacks are held back even in our current era of supposed "colorblindness." Our discussion group wishes to encourage others to read this absorbing text. We will be sending out information in the future about workshops and documentary films which relate to this subject. ~ Mary Goolsby

## November Events

### **Auction – November 2, 6 pm at UUCWI!**



Last year: Ken channeling the Blues Bros (Photo: C. Knutla)

### **RE Open House – November 3**

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, November 3rd, immediately after the service. Come learn about this year's program and meet other parents and our new RE Coordinator, Ginger White. Contact Janella Riegel at [janellak@gmail.com](mailto:janellak@gmail.com) if you have questions.

### **First Sunday Lunch - November 3, 11:45 am**

We meet first Sundays at China City in Freeland. We chose several meals and share the cost including tip. All are welcome. The food is good, the price is right (especially after our senior/Sunday discount) and the fellowship is great. Contact Jelcy Romberg for more information: [jelcy@jelcy.com](http://jelcy@jelcy.com)

### **Book Group - November 7, 7 pm at UUCWI**

In *Blink*, Malcolm Gladwell revolutionizes the way we understand the world within. *Blink* is a book about how we think without thinking, about choices that seem to be made in an instant--in the blink of an eye--that actually aren't as simple as they seem. Why are some people brilliant decision makers, while others are consistently inept? Why do some people follow their instincts and end up stumbling into error? How do our brains really work - in the office, in the classroom, in the kitchen, and in the bedroom? Mary Ann Imkamp will be facilitating the discussion this month. Everyone welcome.

### **Music Rhythm Skills**

Interested in improving your rhythm-reading skills? Mavis Cauffman will offer mini-sessions on the 2nd and 4th Sundays of November (the 10<sup>th</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup>) after services from 11:30am - noon in one of the classrooms. We'll start with the basics and go at whatever pace suits those who show up. All are welcome - this is for ANYONE. Contact [admin@uucwi.org](mailto:admin@uucwi.org) for info.

### **Concerts at UUCWI – Nov. 15 and 16, 7:30 pm**

Our second concert this year is **Gloria Ferry-Brennan & Friends**. Whidbey Island's extraordinary young violinist will perform an eclectic mix of music with Teo Benson (violin), Levi Burkle (guitar), James Hinkley ('cello), Nathaniel Talbot (guitar), Eileen Soskin (piano) and Sheila Weidendorf (piano). (Same program both evenings).

Tickets will be on sale in the foyer after services in November. Ticket prices are lower this year: \$15 (\$5 for students). Please tell us if you are in need of an angel ticket or a complimentary ticket.

If you want to hear the music, we want you to be there! ~ Eileen Soskin

### **Work Party - November 16, 9 – 11 am**

Please come join the Board to help give our facilities some TLC.

### **UUCWI Greening Committee Film Series**

On Saturday November 23, 2013 from 3 to 5:30PM, the Greening Congregations of Whidbey Island will hold their third film/dialogue/solutions workshop dealing with the ultimate social justice issue. This time we will examine the current no or low carbon technologies and how to propel the transition to a green economy.

“*Carbon Nation*” is an optimistic, solutions-based, non-preachy, non-partisan, big tent film that shows tackling climate change boosts the economy, increases national and energy security and promotes health and a clean environment. It addresses social, economic and national security issues. Even deniers will find something here. You'll meet a host of entertaining and endearing characters along the way as well.

Following the film an expert panel will answer your questions and there will be time for discussion. We hope you will join us.

### ***Circle Dinner – Sunday, Nov 17 at 6 pm***

NEW date this month! Sarah Richards, of Lavender Wind Farm in Coupeville, will host this month on Sunday evening, Nov 17. Contact Sarah if you would like to attend this potluck and get to know others from UUCWI.

[sarah@lavenderwind.com](mailto:sarah@lavenderwind.com)

### ***Dennis' Musings:***

#### ***A Pilgrimage Through the Fog***

A few weeks ago, back when summer was winding down, I awoke with surprise to see the trees outside the bedroom window draped in a soft blanket of fog. Later that evening, at a PFLAG meeting here at the church, one of the members of that group described how it was for him a preview of what would be coming in the months to follow. He talked of how the fog was both a challenge for driving and was also one of the gifts one receives from living here.

This morning I again woke to see Langley, and perhaps the whole island and much of the Salish Sea, wrapped in fog. It was what my mama used to describe “as thick as pea soup.” The nearby buildings of our complex were shadows and the deck was damp as though with perspiration. I walked within it with the dog and its soft moisture caressed my skin with a sweet chill. It was delicious.

There is something special about fog and, I am beginning to believe, something special about those of us who choose to live in a place where we are so often in the midst of it. The fog offers a softness and seeming warmth, though actually its dampness is chilling. Things are not as they seem in the fog. Clarity is something we both remember and know we will return to in time.

I am no stranger to such weather. The Willamette Valley, where I grew up and lived for most of my life, tended towards winter fog, though its times were briefer and it was less soupy than Whidbey's. The North Coast of California's Humboldt County served up some hearty fog. There is a popular bumper sticker there that reads “Fog Grows Big Trees.” And it is true that the dampness of fog offers an ideal growing habitat for some of the planet's largest plants.

Here on Whidbey the fog is thick, but the trees are a bit scrawny, especially when compared to

those amazing ancient redwoods. Now I know that it is mostly because the island's proximity to Seattle's seaport led to most of the oldest trees being cut down and shipped off long ago. I also know that even the largest cedars and spruces and Doug firs do not measure up to those redwoods and their Sequoia cousins.

Fog does grow trees and, I think, it helps to grow contemplative humans too. That lack of clarity that we are met with so many mornings invites us to imagine what is out there just beyond our sight. It certainly does that for me.

Sometimes the fog burns off to reveal a sunny afternoon. Such a day offers natural evidence that seeing things clearly can take time. Sometimes we just need to be patient and have faith that something more easily identifiable will, in time, emerge.

I recently had an overnight email exchange with a couple of congregants about some theological notions. We reached no clear agreement, though the brief journey we took together was interesting and valuable. Talking together we each had moments of understanding when the how and the why of what we believe was a bit clearer. When I awoke the sky was draped in fog.

Deep spiritual seeking is often a pilgrimage through the fog. Clarity is, at best, a temporary destination for the open-minded.

~ Rev. Dennis Reynolds

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

Fall... a time of color and crisp air. Is this a beginning or an ending season for you? For our children, this is a season of fresh starts as they resume classes another year older. For our congregation, too, this season marks a beginning. But for Mother Nature, this is the season for letting go, preparing for a long winter's rest.

Last month I shared how I have observed more than 70 people participating in various activities at church. Surely that is some sort of UU record. Conventional wisdom suggests a congregation is doing well if even 40% of their membership is active in behind-the-scenes activities.

And yet... so many of our UUCWI leaders are exhausted. I hear a frequent cry, “the same 20 people do all the work!” How can I reconcile the

two different experiences? Twenty people or seventy? I'm quite convinced they are *both* completely true: the majority of us *are* engaged and we *do* burn out members who care about the well-being of this congregation. Many of us try to do everything that is asked. Are we trying to do too much? I appreciated Ken Merrell's comment recently "maybe we need to pare our efforts and not try to do *every* good idea we have." His words are working me. I'm reminded of a central gardening principle – I must *thin* my carrots if I want any crop at all.

What are we doing that we might stop doing or do less? What are we doing inefficiently? What might we do differently so everyone could contribute with ease instead of thinking "if I don't do it, it won't get done"? What is most essential? What could be postponed for the arrival of future members for whom that idea might be a passion? What feeds us and what drains us?

We are in real need of fresh ideas and new leadership. We have critical vacancies in essential areas - a chair for our annual pledge campaign; someone to chair the children's religious exploration committee; someone to create a team of folks to set up the sanctuary for all our Sunday services. We need skilled and able people to do frequent repairs to our building; still others to blitz, scrub and tidy our space regularly. And we need *everyone* to prepare coffee and refreshments one Sunday a year so we present the welcoming face we value. I could go on but surely you understand my concern. Where will these people come from if we are already maxed out?

I don't have any answers, just questions. And I am curious what you think.

~ Terra Anderson, President of the Board



*"The years of all of us are short, our lives precarious  
.... Yet we find time for bitterness, for petty treason  
and evasion. What can we do to stretch our hearts  
enough to lose their littleness? ... each lighted by the  
same precarious, flickering flame of life, how does it  
happen that we are not kindred in all things else?  
How strange and foolish are these walls of separation  
that divide us!"*

~ Rev. A. Powell Davies,  
All Souls Unitarian, Washington, D.C.

**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.

### ***Caregiver Conference:***

***Sponsored by Whidbey General Hospital***

Those who care for the sick or injured, whether they are professional caregivers or not, can learn to improve the care they provide while safeguarding their own well-being. UUCWI has many caregivers, very important people. If you need assistance so you can get away for this conference please call Gene Berg 443-928-2689. Details at [whidbeygen.com](http://whidbeygen.com)

Thursday, Nov. 14, 9:30 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Family Bible Church

2760 Heller Road, Oak Harbor, WA 98277

Registration is just \$10 and includes a healthy box lunch. Advance registration strongly recommended. Call 360-321-1600, ext. 29 No-cost transportation is available from the Bayview Senior Center. Call 360-279-2555

### ***Transylvanian House Blessing:***

Next time you're in the kitchen, stop and take a look at the newly installed "House Blessing" above the stove. The tapestry was donated by Marcia and Peter Sill who visited the Transylvanian UU Church where it was made. The Visual Arts Committee had it framed and placed in the spot possibly most in need of blessing. For those of you who don't read Hungarian, there is a translation on the wall beside the framed tapestry.



A recent Sunday service at UUCWI (Photo: C. Knutilla)

**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  
following month's newsletter if appropriate.

Look for us on Facebook ... search for UUCWI

**Communications Committee:**

Cary Sinnett, Newsletter Editor

Mavis Cauffman, Congregational Administrator

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[wwg\\_chair@uucwi.org](mailto:wwg_chair@uucwi.org)

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