



Island Passages

UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CONGREGATION OF WHIDBEY ISLAND

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February 2013

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1 1:30 pm Rehearsal (Soskin) 5:30 Concert Setup 7 pm Waldorf School Concert	2 10am VAC 7 pm Kirtan Event (Good)
3 10am UU Worship 4 pm Quaker Worship Service/Mtg	4 9 am Worship Ctte 9:30 WIN /Kitchen 10am Rehearsal (Soskin) 1 pm Dennis' Office Hours 1 pm Chimes	5 6pm Meditation (Moss)	6 10am UU Men's Group 10am Quaker Mtg (Classroom) 6:30 Resilient Communities	7 8:30am WIN Burrito Team 7 pm Film Series (Merrell)	8 1:30 Rehearsal-Sanctuary (Soskin) 4pm OWL Overnight (Kohlhaas)	9 OWL OVERNIGHT 10am CoM at Effie's
10 10am UU Worship 11:30pm Board Mtg 1pm Island Strings Recital (Good) 4 pm Quaker Worship Service	11 9:30 WIN /Kitchen 10am Rehearsal 10am Membership Committee 1 pm Dennis' Office Hours 6:30pm PFLAG	12 7pm Chalice Singers Rehearsal	13 7:30 Evensong	14 6:30pm Audubon 6:30pm BYOT III-Classroom	15 2pm Waldorf School Event	16 9am UUCWI Work Party-SRC 6pm Circle Dinner 6 pm UU Youth Movie Night
17 10am UU Worship 4 pm Quaker Worship Service 5pm Quaker Business Mtg	18 9:30 WIN /Kitchen 10 am Piano Tuning 1 pm Dennis' Office Hours 1pm Chimes 6:30 pm <i>Josseline</i> Discussion w/Dennis	19 6pm Meditation (Moss) 7pm Chalice Singers Rehearsal	20 10am UU Men's Group 1:30pm Music Lecture 4pm MAGIC 6:30pm Resilient Communities 7pm Rehearsal	21 1:30pm Rehearsal 6pm North End Group Discussion 6:30pm BYOT III-Classroom 7pm Film Series (Merrell)	22 6pm Rehearsal 7pm CONCERT Time Traveling Piano Trio	23 6pm Rehearsal 7pm CONCERT Time Traveling Piano Trio
24 8:45am Choir Rehearsal 10am UU Worship 4 pm Quaker Worship Service 7pm Dances of Universal Peace	25 9:30 WIN /Kitchen 1 pm Dennis' Office Hours	26	27	28 6:30pm BYOT III-Classroom		

February Worship Services:

February 3: *Reflections from the Margins of our Culture with Cynthia Trenshaw*

One of my greatest joys is writing the stories of the people I've served in the social margins of our country: people in hospitals and nursing homes, children in psychiatric wards, homeless men and women, people dying in the isolation of their own darkened homes. I'm certain these people have important things to teach my readers, and I had thought I was writing the manuscript for a book about them.

But the fact is that all along the book has been writing me. Before the people of the margins would allow me to complete the manuscript, I myself had to pay attention to their deepest teachings, and to be transformed by those teachings.

While holding my feet gently but firmly to the fire of truth, they insisted that I answer just a few questions:

What do you have to offer that we truly need? Why would you want to cross the line from the cultural middle to the margins? Do you dare to really see us?

Cynthia Trenshaw served as nationally-certified chaplain to two Midwestern hospitals in oncology, emergency, gerontology, and children's psychiatry. After moving to San Francisco in 1996 she tended to the people of the streets, offering them skilled massage therapy and compassionate presence. Currently she serves as a Certified Professional Guardian and a Guardian ad Litem for the Superior Courts of four counties.

Worship Leader: Effie Brown

February 10: *Still Standing on the Side of Love with Dennis Reynolds*

The battle for marriage equality in Washington State is won. The struggle for civil rights legislation was victorious a half century ago. We elected and re-elected a Black man President of the U.S. Yet, immigrants and sexual minorities are still marginalized. Where do we go from here? Where do we do we take a stand? How might we seek more justice?

Worship Leader: Joann Roomes

Wednesday, February 13 : *EvenSong*, 7:30 pm (Prelude at 7:20)

Let the beauty we love be what we do.

There are hundreds of ways to kneel and kiss the ground. ~ Rumi

Our monthly evening meditation service will focus on our need for various forms of beauty in our lives. *EvenSong* is a quiet, candlelit service including readings, silent meditation, and songs accompanied by harp. All are welcome.

February 17: *Everything is Holy Now with Rev. Bill Graves*

Visiting minister Rev. Bill Graves will focus on religious naturalism and our UU 7th Principle (the interdependent web of existence), weaving his message around the beautiful song "Everything is Holy Now" by Peter Mayer. After retiring from a career as a lawyer working on social justice issues and in private practice, Bill attended Seattle University, earned his MDiv and was granted fellowship as a UU minister in 2010. He is currently serving the Tahoma UU Congregation in Tacoma, WA.

Worship Leader: Frank Allen

February 24: *A Legacy Of Love with Dennis Reynolds*

Universalist history is the ground from where our movement's theology of love has grown. By exploring that history we gain inspiration and growing faith in what is truly possible.

Worship Leader : Sara Heath

March 3: *I Learn from Children- Lessons from Rural Uganda with Jeanne Strong*

Jeanne will share some of the many lessons she has learned of the process of building an Early Childhood Center in rural Uganda - lessons that have renewed her understanding of respect across lines of difference, and her belief that, as Gandhi says, "If we are to reach real peace in the world, we shall have to begin with the children."

Jeanne Strong is a life-long educator; and while she has retired from an administrative position with the Seattle School District, she continues to be active in her commitment to bettering the world

through education. In addition to her work as facilitator for the Center for Courage & Renewal and the Positive Discipline Association, and as Guardian-ad-Litem for youth in foster care in Island County, she has been traveling back and forth to Uganda to help build an Early Learning Center, and is bringing about social change through the education of young children in a remote area of central Uganda. Jeanne is also an active member of the Quaker Meeting on Whidbey Island.

February Events:

Feb. 3, 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, choose 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 a multiple of 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.

Jelcy is away but has reserved the usual large round table, so this will be a "no host" meeting.

Circle Dinner, Saturday, Feb 16, 6:30 pm

Effie and Mark Brown (Freeland) will host this month's potluck dinner. Contact Effie directly if you would like to attend: effieb@whidbey.com 331-7399

Work Party – Sat, Feb 16, 9 – 11 am

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

Adult Program Starting February 18

Margaret Regan's moving book *The Death of Josseline* offers an opportunity to explore the stories behind the current immigration crisis and political debates. Facilitated group discussion offers opportunities to explore and expand our own understandings of this complex issue. This 4-session group begins on Feb 18th and will continue on 1st and 3rd Mondays. 6:30 to 8 PM
Contact: dwreynolds123@gmail.com

~ UUCWI Concert ~

THE TIME TRAVELING TRIO Fri, 22 February and Sat, 23 February 7:30 pm at UUCWI

The TTT are the featured artists on the next concert in UUCWI's Chamber Music Series (Eileen Soskin, piano; Gloria Ferry-Brennan, violin; James Hinkley, 'cello). These Whidbey Island favorites will perform piano trio repertoire from the 19th, 20th and 21st centuries with commentary about each piece by Eileen. As they whisk from century to century, you will be delighted to find hummable melodies and toe-tapping tangos in music written only a few years ago as well as music both familiar and challenging (at least for the performers) from the romantic and post-romantic repertoire.

Tickets are \$20 (\$10 for students) and will be sold after services on 2/3, 2/10 and 2/17, at Moonraker Books in Langley, Habitat for Humanity in Freeland, by email reservation at uucwiconcerts@yahoo.com and at the door. Angel tickets available - if you want to attend, we want you in the audience.

FREE PRE-CONCERT LECTURE

Wed, 20 Feb , 1:30pm - 3:00pm at UUCWI on the music to be performed by THE TIME TRAVELING TRIO

Eileen Soskin will present a free 90-minute lecture on the pieces that will be performed by THE TIME TRAVELING TRIO at the 22 and 23 February concerts. Eileen's commentary can really change the way you hear classical music. This talk will be of interest to all music lovers whether or not you are able to attend the concerts. FREE and open to the community. Please bring your friends. The music discussed will be: Frank Bridge, *Phantasie Piano Trio in C Minor* (1907); Felix Mendelssohn, *Piano Trio No. 1 in D Minor*, Op. 4 (1839); Jennifer Higdon, *Pale Yellow* (2007); Gabriel Fauré, *Piano Trio in D Minor*, Op. 120 (1922-23); and Ástor Pantaleón Piazzolla, "Spring" from *The Four Seasons of Buenos Aires* (1968).

Dennis' February Ministerial Musings

In recent weeks, I saw photos of our church building in two very different publications. The first was in *The UU World*, our Association's in-house journal. Therein were photos of our building's interior. The article was about your careful attention to the aesthetics of the space where we come to socialize, explore and worship together. This congregation is deliberate in careful attention to art, to music, to inclusive process and procedures, and to welcoming all because we know that in doing so we weave the tapestry of love we call community.

The second photo was of our church building in the *South Whidbey Record*. That photo was an exterior shot that showed little of the building, but was rather a shot of the banner that periodically hangs above our entrance that proudly proclaims *Standing on the Side of Love*. Such a proclamation understands that the threads of that tapestry of what we call community go beyond the walls of our building out towards commitment and action, in our small ways, to weave a better world

I hope we can build upon what we have already done and do as wonderful work in our outreach to the larger community as we have done within our congregational community. We have done good work. Our support for equal marriage in Washington is one example. Yet, there is still much work to be done.

Standing on the Side of Love was established nationally as a slogan to affirm our commitment to work together, in our religious communities and in broader coalitions, to seek greater acceptance and inclusion for all, especially those who are all too often forced to be on the margins of society. The work has focused specifically on issues related to inclusion and full rights for lesbians, gays bisexual, transgender and questioning people and on addressing issues related to immigration and the bias and discrimination that swirls around that issue.

The *Standing on the Side of Love* campaign has called for us to look at the month between Martin Luther King's Birthday and Valentine's Day as 30 Days of Love. Though we have not embraced that specific call as a congregation, I hope many of you will, as we see all the red paper hearts and

marketing of ways we might express our love to those we hold dear, keep in mind the broader ways we might express and share love in the world. The writer Cornell West advises that "Justice is nothing more than love made public."

Check out the suggested activities and thoughtful writings about such broad-based love at <http://www.standingonthesideoflove.org>.

Have a wonderful February filled with love both close and in the wider world.

With Love,
Dennis

SAVE THE DATES

March 17 - Potato Potluck Lunch

We are having a potato potluck after church on March 17th for all to participate. More details will come; however we hope that you will save the date. ~ Your new Hospitality Committee: Ann Carlstrom, Camille Long, Dallas Huth, May-Britt Kron and Shirley Ashenbrenner

Join us for our

Annual Stewardship Gala Event

Saturday, April 13th

Good food, good fun and, most importantly,
good company!

Stay tuned for more details, but
PLEASE MARK YOUR CALENDARS now!

Terra's Tales

Your Board of Trustees has been engaged in a "deep dive" into our UUCWI finances these last two months. Many thanks to Mark Brown, our treasurer, and to Tom Buxton, our financial consultant, for their patience and clarity as they walked us through our history: how we have collected funds for operations in the past, how our financial commitments are shifting as we move toward paying our staff *fair* wages, what assumptions they make about pledge/auction income and expenses as they build a budget each year. It has been a fascinating lesson.

As a child and teenager, I paid very little attention to the costs of running a household. My parents gave me an allowance (sometimes I might succeed in negotiating the amount, but not often) and they paid all my expenses – school, doctor's

appointments, clothing, lessons, food, entertainment. What happened with my parents' checkbook was mysterious. Everything was just "taken care of." It was a pretty simple life, and totally naive. It wasn't until I left home and tried to balance my expenses against my first real income that I began to understand the complexities of paying daily expenses, saving for periodic expenses like insurance and for unforeseen expenses like a broken arm.

I've allowed myself to be naïve about the financial picture at UUCWI. *Someone else* has always taken care of ensuring our expenditures were no higher than our income. *Someone else* has always worried about roof repairs, whether we could afford a ¼ or ½ time minister and whether we paid him/her a living wage. And if we had an income shortfall, *someone else* rallied and produced an auction that raised just enough money to fill the void. Now that group of *someone else's* includes me. I wonder – could it include you, too?

In this newsletter, Mark Brown is beginning a series of "did you know?" articles about UUCWI finances. He's being helped by Toyon Copeland who is passionate that we all understand as much as we are able. And he's supported by a new finance committee that includes Paula Keohane, Pat Collins, Conrad Romberg and Bill Carlstrom. The BOT members plan to continue learning more about what it takes to keep our doors open and to be the beacon of hope we aspire to be on Whidbey. I invite you to do the same. Do you know what we pay for our mortgage? Do you know what our utilities, insurance and water costs each month? Do you know how many skills are donated? What do you think a fair living wage should be for the people who serve us? This last year we paid Dennis for only 10 months' service but next year we will pay him for 12. Do you know what that cost difference will be per congregant? Do you know how many members and friends pledge each year? What are **you** curious about? What would **you** like to learn? Please chat with board members and finance committee members. Ask your questions! Would you like a short workshop to explain the financial picture of UUCWI? How can we help you learn just as we are learning? Big hugs.

~ Terra Anderson
President of the Board

From the Treasurer:

It is the time of the year that the finance committee reviews the first half of the fiscal year and begins the process of budget planning for the next fiscal year (July 1, 2103 – June 31, 2014). It is our hope that the process and the resulting budget are fully understood and supported by the congregation. Toward that end, this is the first of a series of articles about the murky area of numbers.

First, at mid fiscal year, we are on budget – a testimony to the fine job that Tom Buxton has done for us recently and to the job that the auction committee has done to help us fund our new minister.

Second, before we even begin to look at numbers, we know that in order to meet our promise to Dennis of a 12 month salary we need to increase the budget by over \$6,000. In order to balance the budget, we contracted with Dennis for only 10 months this year with the promise that our #1 priority would be to make that 12 months next year. This year's budget was for about \$100,000. With a membership of about 100 the basic math is that, to keep the doors open, we need an average pledge of \$1000 per person. Obviously some pledge more and some cannot afford that amount. So far, since we have had a change in Ministers, the congregation has stayed stable in numbers. We have had a few people leaving and have gained a few new members.

Next month I will begin to help us look at the budget piece by piece. In the mean time, if you have any questions or suggestions, please ask either me or one of the members of the Finance Committee. The committee now consists of the treasurer (me) and financial officer (Tom) as well as Conrad Romberg, Paula Keohane, Pat Collins and Bill Carlstrom. We will be meeting regularly for the next 6 months and any and all input is welcomed.

~ Mark Brown

UUCWI is a Scent Free Zone

Please remember and remind visiting friends, too, that UUCWI is a scent-free zone. This means that all are requested to avoid wearing cologne perfume aftershave etc. to services and programs at the church. Please spread the word so all can participate fully.

**WA STATE UU VOICES FOR JUSTICE
ADVOCACY IN OLYMPIA**

Lobby Days during the legislative session are important ways to be part of Washington State Unitarian Universalist Voices for Justice's advocacy on these 2013-14 priority issues:

- Immigration reform
- Death penalty repeal and criminal justice reform
- Coal train prohibition and environmental protection
- Revenue and taxation reform

WA UU Voices invites you to join them at **Safe & Just Alternatives Lobby Day, Tuesday, February 12th**, to urge state legislators to repeal the death penalty in Washington. As a religious organization we believe the costs inflicted by capital punishment – human, financial, spiritual – cannot be justified in modern society.

Safe & Just Alternatives Lobby Day begins at 9 AM, at St. John's Episcopal Church, 114 20th Ave. SE, Olympia 98501, where a light breakfast and background materials for meetings with legislators will be provided. To register for Lobby Day, email coordinator@uuvoiceswa.org
WA UU Voices urges you to join us at other advocacy days as well. Your presence will bring a strong message for justice, equity, and compassion to our elected officials.

We Give Thanks Every Day

The Social Responsibility Council wants UUCWI members to recognize its dedicated volunteers. We have made over 1,000 burrito wraps and using loaves brought from home, we have provided about the same number of banana bread slices for Whidbey Island Nourishes to provide to children, young people and families who need food. Much appreciation goes out for the support and hours of volunteer time contributed by those listed below. We encourage you to contact the "team captains" (names with asterisks) or Libby Roberts to offer your help. We can always use more volunteers!

Burrito Wrap Team #1 (1st & 3rd Mondays):

Lois Chowen*	Gaea Van Breda
Kristy Knickrehm	Shaunna Baganz
Jelcy Romberg	Jill Kotsoglou

Burrito Wrap Team #2 (2nd & 4th Mondays):

Jarina Moss*	Corinne Ludy*
Norma Clark	Sandy Marsh
Dallas Huth	

Banana Bread Team #3 (once a month):

Jelcy Romberg	Jill Kotsoglou
Leah Black	Helene Chandler
John Leaser	Cary Sinnett*

Jean McIntosh and Eileen Soskin have served as substitutes and banana bread bakers.

“Thoreau as Spiritual Guide”

Sat, March 9, 9:30am-3:00pm

**Quimper UU Fellowship, Pt. Townsend
Dr. Barry Andrews, presenter**

Our fourth annual Living Tradition Institute workshop – organized by UU ministers in the area – will consist of presentations and small group conversations on selected essays of Henry David Thoreau. Our presenter this year will be The Rev. Barry Andrews, a retired UU minister and religious educator.

Barry is the author of numerous books, including Thoreau as Spiritual Guide, and Final Harvest, an anthology of passages from the writings of Thoreau, and books about Ralph Waldo Emerson and Margaret Fuller. (Copies will be available for purchase at the workshop.) Most recently, he has taught a course on Transcendentalist Spirituality for the Starr King School for Ministry.

Thoreau described himself as “a mystic, a Transcendentalist and a natural philosopher to boot.” In this workshop, we'll explore these themes in Thoreau's life and writing. Suggested reading (not required) in preparation for the workshop is: chapter 2, “Where I Lived & What I Lived For,” and the final chapter, “Conclusion” of his spiritual classic, Walden, and two essays, “Walking” and “Civil Disobedience.” Digital editions of Thoreau's books and essays are available from the Library of the Thoreau Institute: www.walden.org/Library.

Suggested donation: \$10 at the door. Please bring a brown bag lunch; wholesome snacks for breaks will be provided, as well as coffee and tea.

Please register by Sunday, March 2 – e-mail: quuf@olympus.net – so we can e-mail you the essays (which we encourage you to read in advance of the workshop).

**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

**UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST
CONGREGATION OF WHIDBEY ISLAND**

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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
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

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