



Island Passages

UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CONGREGATION OF WHIDBEY ISLAND

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March 2013

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2 10am VAC
3 10am UU Worship 4 pm Quaker Wrshp Service/Mtg	4 9:30 WIN /Kitchen 1 pm Dennis' Office Hours 1 pm Chimes 6pm Web Group 6:30 pm Josseline	5 6pm Meditation (Moss)	6 10am UU Men's Group 10am Quaker Mtg (Classroom) 6:30 Resilient Communities	7 8:30am WIN Burrito Team 4pm BYOT III 7 pm Film Series 7pm Book Group	8	9 10:30 am Ctte on Ministry
10 Daylight Savings! 10am UU Worship 11am Artists Reception 11:30pm Board Mtg 11:30 CCC 4 pm Quaker Wrshp 5pm Quaker Celebration	11 9:30 WIN /Kitchen 10am Membership Committee 1 pm Dennis' Office Hours 6pm Web Group 6:30pm PFLAG	12	13 7:30 Evensong	14 6:30pm Audubon	15	16 9 am Work Party hosted by Stewardship 6pm UU Youth Movie Night 6pm Circle Dinner at Jean McIntosh's
17 10am UU Worship 11:30 Potato Potluck 11:30 Music Ctte 4 pm Quaker Wrshp 5pm Quaker Business Mtg	18 9:30 WIN /Kitchen 1 pm Dennis' Office Hours 1pm Chimes 6pm Web Grp 6pm Josseline Discussions	19 6pm Meditation (Moss) 7pm Chalice Singers @ Soskin	20 10am UU Men's Group 4pm MAGIC 6:30pm Resilient Communities Newsletter Deadline	21 6pm North End Group Discussion 7pm Film Series	22 4pm Rehearsal	23 1pm PFLAG in Classroom 6pm Rehearsal 7:30 pm Concert: A Song Recital
24 10am UU Worship 4 pm Quaker Worship Service	25 9:30 WIN /Kitchen 10am Dances of Universal Peace 1 pm Dennis' Office Hours 6 pm Web Grp	26 7pm Chalice Singers @Soskin	27 10 am Quaker Mtg/classroom	28	29 6pm Whidbey Watersheds Fundraiser	30
31 Easter 8:45am Choir Rehearsal 10am UU Worship 4 pm Quaker Wrshp Service/Mtg 7pm Dances of Universal Peace						

March Worship Services:

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

Jeanne will share some of the many lessons she has learned from 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. Worship Leader: Linda Good
Special Music: Sarungano

March 10: *From Guilt and Obligation to Gratitude and Generosity* with Dennis Reynolds

Who, what, and where are important questions that emerge when we make decisions about the organizations, including this Congregation, to which we give our time and treasure. Exploring "why" we give can be an important part of such a process and how it relates to our deepest values and life's commitments.

Worship Leader: Judy Kaplan

Wednesday, February 13 :

EvenSong, 7:30 pm (Prelude at 7:20)

At this month's evening service we will celebrate spring and the vernal equinox. EvenSong is a quiet candlelit service including readings, silent meditation, and songs accompanied by harp. All are welcome.

March 17: *Looking Back, Looking Forward* with Jim Spraker

How do experiences from the past help to shape our future? Rev. Jim Spraker will share key lessons learned from his 50 years of ministry as we collectively reflect on our 20-year history as a congregation and discern the future we want to create. As we look forward it is also an opportunity to reflect on what we have learned from the past.

Jim served as a parish minister in the United Methodist Church, the United Church of Christ, and 30 years as a hospital Chaplain at Highline Medical Center in Burien where he helped to establish the hospital's first ethics committee. He received his M. Div. from Drew University, Th.M. from Princeton Seminary and a Certificate in Medical Ethics from UW Medical School.

Mark Brown, who has worked with Jim for many years, will be the Worship Leader.

March 24: *Vernal Equinox – A Still Point of Balance*

UU sources of inspiration include the "spiritual teachings of earth-centered traditions, which celebrate the sacred circle of life and instruct us to live in harmony with the rhythms of nature."

What does ancient Pagan wisdom teach us about living in balance in our relationships with others, with ourselves, and with the natural world?

Through story, poetry, music, and Butoh dance, we will explore the Vernal Equinox as a celebration of balance between darkness and light, coldness and warmth, resignation and hope.

Worship Leaders: Toyon Copeland, Effie Brown, with Maureen Freehill, Butoh dancer.

March 31: *It's About More than Chocolate Bunnies* with Dennis Reynolds

Easter has become a celebration of many things to people of various beliefs. To some it is a celebration of what they believe was a literal "Resurrection." Others reject that and buy chocolates, dye eggs, and eat ham with family and friend. How might those who describe themselves as religious skeptics capture meaning from stories of endings and new beginnings?

Worship Leader: Dave Cauffman

Special Music: UUCWI Chalice Singers

March Events:

March 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.

Book Group News - March 7

We are reading "Their Eyes Were Watching God" by Zora Neale Hurston and meeting at UUCWI for a discussion on Thursday, March 7th at 6:30 p.m. Copies of this book are available at the Langley Library.

Artist's Reception - March 10

Artist's Reception following the March 10 Sunday Service. Work by artists Barbara Mearing, Judith Burns, and Michael Scott will be on display during March and April. Please join us for a reception to meet them and discuss their works. Alex Bonesteel will grace the event with violin music, and light refreshments will be served.

Caring Connections Meeting – Thurs, Mar 10

The Caring Connections Committee will meet right after the Sunday service. We will catch up with one another, learn about the future of this committee, and learn about the "super hospitality and stewardship" effort. All are welcome.

Work Party- Sat, March 16, 9 – 11 am

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

Circle Dinner - Sat, Mar 16, 6:00 pm

Jean McIntosh will host the Circle Dinner this month at her home in Freeland. Join her for great conversation and lively fellowship. Contact Jean directly to reserve a spot at the table! 730-1495 or jeanmc@whidbey.com

March 17 - Potato Potluck

It's time to sign up for the March 17th after-church Potato Potluck. The Hospitality Committee is providing baked potatoes, coffee and tea. Participants please bring a ready-to-serve potato topping or a salad. R.S.V.P. forms are in the foyer. Please r.s.v.p. with the number of people in your party so we will have an estimate of how many potatoes to bake. If you would like to sign up by email, or have a question email Camille Long at CCLong@whidbey.net

March 23, 7:30 pm - Concert: Wings, Find Air!

A song recital celebrating French and American poets and composers. Laurie Hungerford-Flint, Soprano and Rodney Menn, Pianist

Stewardship

You are a "steward" of UUCWI. (Did you know that?) In that past we have primarily used that word to refer to the financial care of our congregation, to our annual canvass pledge campaign. But the word is so much richer than just dollars. It also encompasses the care and nurture of one another. Just as we speak in our weekly affirmation - *love is the spirit of this congregation, and service is its practice. This is our great covenant: to dwell together in peace, to seek truth in love, and to help one another* – we are committed to the well being of everyone who walks through our doors. And we are committed to the well being of the building and grounds that house this great congregation. We do this in a number of ways: through our committee work, our variety of programs and our financial support.

In past years our canvass *campaign* has focused on our annual pledge drive. This year we are experimenting with a new and broader approach to this whole thing we call stewardship. Our annual canvass will be just one aspect of our new culture of stewardship. As one element of this new approach we are recommending the formation of neighborhood "stewardship circles" to encourage and facilitate our ability to live up to our affirmation. Our hope and our belief is that by turning to our mission statement and our affirmation to lay the foundation of our stewardship culture we will build a stronger congregational community.

We have begun the creation of these small neighborhood stewardship circles, but we need about 10 more individuals or couples who would be willing to host gatherings in their homes. The focus of these gatherings is relationship building! This is a way to share ideas about UUCWI, to make new friends, learn about what's going on with each other and the larger community, and ultimately strengthen our congregation. If you would be willing to host such gatherings OR if you want more information about this please contact Lois Chownen. loischowen@msn.com

This is an experiment, so your ideas and suggestions are welcome. What would enable you to feel more fully supported by UUCWI? How might you like to support others in a small geographic circle of folks? Ultimately whatever we create together will be a reflection of our caring and love for one another. I hope you will be as excited about this idea as I am. It has been years gestating and I especially appreciate the membership committee for helping me formulate a plan.

I love this line from a Kaleidoscope Institute Northwest stewardship event of a couple of years ago. It really captures where we want to go with our stewardship program. "I would identify the *currency of relationship* as the most important to explore and understand if the church is to move toward missional sustainability. If your church has a stewardship program for building relationships, not only will you **not** have any financial trouble, but the network of relationships can become a platform for other essential currencies such as wellness, truth, and leadership."

We each have made a commitment to support our congregation because we believe in what it stands for. Scattered throughout this newsletter you will find testimonial statements from a few of our fellow members regarding what UUCWI means to them and why they support us.

Lois Chownen



Dennis' March Ministerial Musings - *Bulbs and Buds*

This season of change, when winter is still wrapping up and the emerging crocuses and rhubarb and the buds on the trees are just hinting at what is to come, is my favorite times of the year. It a time filled with possibility.

Last year at this time, I had almost no connection to this congregation. I had met one of you at Eliot, our district summer camp, and knew Kit, your former minister from collegial gatherings, as well as Eliot. I had only been on Whidbey Island once.

All that began to change when I sent my application materials to the Search Committee and began to "check you out." I carefully studied materials prepared for the Search, perused your Congregational web page, and district and UUA data. I also began to explore the Island virtually through Wikipedia, on-line history and natural history postings, tourist promotional sites, census data and I began to check out real estate information.

I liked what I saw of this place and its people. When the Search Committee called I was thrilled to know that I was at least "in the running."

Our first contact was via Skype, an increasingly frequent means of communicating with more depth than when we just hear disembodied phone voices. I remember how that first interview had to be delayed a bit as we worked out some technical glitches. My first view of one of you was a face very close to the screen trying to figure out the technology while others were fuzzy images moving in the background. We soon were able to have a meaningful conversation and my liking grew.

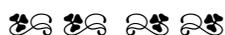
When I came to meet with the folks you had empowered to find your next minister, my growing "like" became more affectionate. I had shared in our Skype interview the painful reality of my sister-in-law Peggy's terminal illness that motivated me to leave my prior and seek to return to the Puget Sound. When I met the committee, the first questions I was asked by those loving caring people were about Peggy and how my family was doing

Wow, might I get to be a minister with these people?

That was then. This is now.

The reality of actualizing a shared ministry with you this past year has only deepened that sense of “wow” as possibilities have blossomed into reality. Who knows what this season and those that follow may to bring to us all.

Peace and Love,
Dennis



“Years ago, while I was happily raising my children to be good little atheists, a Mormon neighbor remarked, in some context I now forget, that I was clearly a “spiritual person.” I was confused by that remark until several years later when I became acquainted with a UU Fellowship. Finally I had to confront my “anti-religion” prejudices and begin to look at my humanity in a different way. So, 10 years ago when I moved to Whidbey, the first thing I did was search in the phone book for a UU congregation. Within this container, I have found the comfort of a loving community as well as a nourishing space within which to explore and examine my own beliefs.”

Mary Goolsby



Terra's Tales

I recently read these words: “Our models of God are ultimately our models of what is sacred. And what is sacred tells us our most important values – what we’re supposed to work for, not compromise, take a stand for... to call something sacred means it has value beyond its usefulness for my personal ends.”

These words have been working me ever since. I ask my beloved friends and family – what do you hold most sacred? And I wonder if there would be a common theme among us members of UUCWI – what would emerge as a shared truth were all 100+ of us to answer that question?

You will be reading a note from Lois in this issue, launching what she calls a “culture of stewardship” I hope as you read her words your primary reaction will be “well, duh!” simply because I believe we hold our *community* as

something sacred. How we work for this community, care for one another, stand *with* and *for* one another, reflects that sacredness. In the months ahead we will all be asking and answering one another – what do you hold most sacred about this congregation? What are you willing to do/give for its continued health and vitality?

Twenty years ago a small group of folks had a dream that liberal religion was needed on this island. Some of those folks are still here – watching their dream manifest, morph, grow – Linda Good, Christy Shaffer, Carrie Carpenter, Wendy Ferrier. I encourage you to have coffee with them and ask them what they imagined back then and what they have observed during the intervening years. What did they birth, watch grow and die and then possibly re-birth? Then ask yourself – what do YOU envision for the next 20 years? What are *we* creating today that will be vital in 20 years?

It is time for us to renew our contract with our minister, Dennis Reynolds – another treasured (perhaps sacred?) relationship. After only 6 months it is the consensus of the Board of Trustees that more time and learning is necessary for us to fully develop the best relationship we can have between the congregation and our minister. Accordingly, before we renew his contract at the end of March, we will engage the congregation in conversations about how we can strengthen this partnership. We will be asking committees to discuss two questions at their next meeting. And we invite all of you who are not involved in a committee at this time to think about these questions as well. Then share your thinking either directly with Dennis, or with any member of the Committee on Ministry - Effie Brown, Sandy Welch, Dave Cauffman, or with any member of the Board of Trustees - Sara Heath, Gladys Howard, Ken Merrell, Mark Brown, Jean McIntosh, Janis Hummel, Terra Anderson. In the spirit of our covenant of right relations, we are committed to the growth and success of everyone. Thank you!

- 1) What do you most appreciate about Dennis' presence here these past 6 months?
- 2) What requests would you make of Dennis, as your minister, to deepen your relationship with him?

Terra Anderson

From the Treasurer:

One of the questions I often hear is “what do you (the treasurer and the BOT) do with “our” money?” The problem with this question for me is that there is no *you* and *us*, only *us*. Members of the Board are your elected representatives. We do our best to listen to your priorities and act appropriately on your behalf. As we get ready for the next canvass campaign my job is to try to help us all better understand our finances. In this article I'll try to define the expenditure categories by percentage so we have a better idea what portion of our money goes to what. Some people see things more easily visually so I am including some graphics. The main categories as defined in our financial statement are: administration, facilities, ministry, music and worship, religious education, and our “fair share” to the UUA. The raw numbers and percent of the budget follow:

Category	Budget	% of budget
Administration *	\$22,980	19%
Facilities	29,712	24%
Ministry	27,500	23%
Music and Worship *	16,115	13%
CRE	13,000	11%
UUA Dues	7,387	6%
Committee and Misc	4,150	4%
Total **	\$ 120,894	100%

*Much of the music and some administrative expenses are not cash but in-kind donations entered at near fair market value (what it would cost to hire the work done.)

**This number includes about \$6,000 of in-kind donations of time and talent.

Administration includes:

Administrator, insurance, bookkeeping, phone and office expenses, printing costs, advertising, etc.

Facilities includes:

The mortgage, (about \$20,000/yr.) maintenance of the building (cleaning & repairs, and utilities.

Ministry is the salary we pay Dennis. Vanessa is included in the CRE budget.

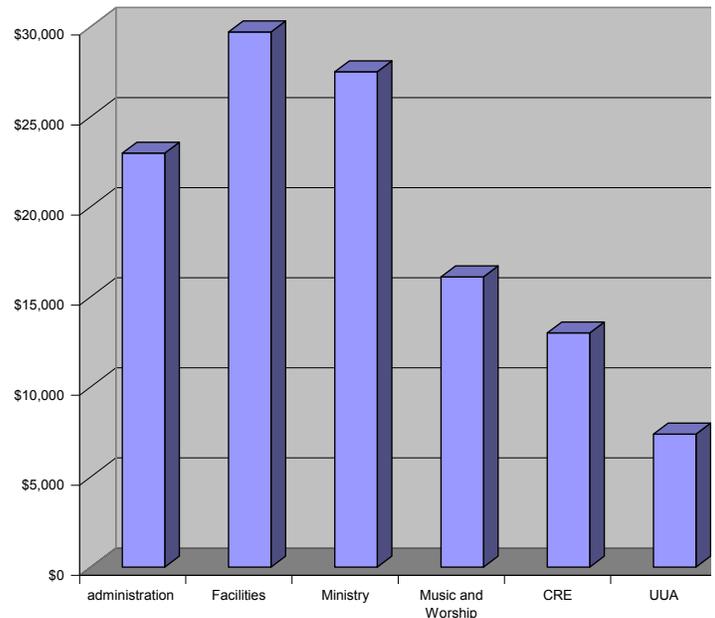
Music and Worship includes the gifts of Mavis,

Nola, Eileen, Linda and the cost of guest speakers and musicians.

CRE includes the Director and teacher salaries other CRE expenses.

UUA is the annual “fair share” dues we pay to the association – currently about \$87 per member

Committee Discretionary and Misc. is the rest of the budget, including the amount each committee spends.



This is a summary only. More details are available and any BOT member would be happy to provide you with all the details you want. Please ask any questions that come to mind. For example, what surprises you? Our intent is to have as much information about the budget as possible to aid in your understanding.

Next month we will take a look at the other side of the budget: our categories of income.

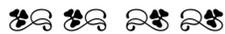
Mark Brown, Treasurer

You can still join the Chime Choir...

We meet in the sanctuary from 1 - 2 pm on 1st and 3rd Mondays. You're welcome to come give the group a try - you can join in or just observe. Our emphasis is on having fun and building musical skills as we learn together. If you have questions, please contact Mavis Cauffman at uuadmin@whidbey.com. Or talk to one of our current chimers: Chris Bell, Lois Chowen, Toyon Copeland, Corinne Ludy, Libby Roberts, Eileen Soskin, Gaea van Breda, or Frances Wood.

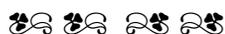
"I first came to the UUCWI in October of 2010. I was curious about what sort of a church it was. I was pleasantly surprised and after attending couple of months, I realized that I liked the community of people in this congregation. I took my time to decide before I became a member in May 2012. My life has been enriched by the community. I appreciate the seven principles this congregation lives by. I appreciate all the different ways the congregation offers opportunities for education and exploration of various topics. I love how things get done in a spirit of cooperation. I love the feeling of belonging to a group of people who are concerned about the wellbeing of the greater whole."

Jarina Moss



"For many years I wished there could be a non-dogmatic religion, a place where thinking people could discuss and support each other in whatever spiritual (or non-spiritual) path they were taking, a place where social issues were addressed and a sense of community flourished. For too many years I never knew this place existed. Finally I visited UUCWI. I immediately felt a kinship, a sense of belonging. At UU I feel supported by friends with common intentions and interests. I feel lucky to have found a home here. I'll proudly be a UU forever."

Vicky Pitt



"Participating in the UUCWI community and programs for more than 2 years has helped me clarify and strengthen my personal spiritual perspective, allowed me to open to more meaningful personal friendships, and supercharged my curiosity about life in general. I especially appreciate the growing variety of musical programs which demonstrate a high level of proficiency. I can't imagine not having UUCWI in my life."

Charlie Knutila

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

A hearty thank you, Eileen, for sharing your love and deep understanding of music with all of us who enjoy listening but don't always know what we are hearing. Your class on Feb 20th was enlightening and entertaining. I can hardly wait for the concert to practice listening for those elements you described, to hear the balance and coherence each composer intended. ~ Terra

Thank you to all who helped at the work party on Saturday, Feb 16. Thanks to you the building looked beautiful for our concerts the following weekend. ~ Libby, Jean, and Chris

Thank you to *all* who helped with the Trio Concerts: designing the poster, publicizing, handling tickets, setting up, ushering, providing refreshments, and the inevitable cleanup ... and more. Thank you! What a beautiful event to offer to the Whidbey Community!

"Thoreau as Spiritual Guide"

Sat, March 9, 9:30 am - 3 pm at Quimper

Unitarian Fellowship in Port Townsend

Sat, March 23, 9:30 am - 3 pm at the Tahoma

Unitarian Universalist Congregation in Tacoma

Our fourth annual Living Tradition Institute workshop, organized by Unitarian Universalist ministers in the area, will be on Henry David Thoreau, led by The Rev. Barry Andrews, author of Thoreau as Spiritual Guide, and Final Harvest, an anthology of passages from the writings of Thoreau. Thoreau described himself as "a mystic, a Transcendentalist and a natural philosopher to boot." This workshop will explore these themes in Thoreau's life and writing, focusing on two chapters in Thoreau's Walden, and his essays, "Walking" and "Civil Disobedience."

For Quimper, please sign up at quuf@olympus.net
For Tacoma, please sign up with Susie Maharry at smaharry@hotmail.com

We will e-mail you these essays, which we encourage you to read in advance of the workshop. 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.

**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.

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dwreynolds123@gmail.com

Chaplain: Sally Elder 360-675-3314
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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

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CONGREGATION OF WHIDBEY ISLAND**
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Newsletter Information:

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Items submitted after press time will appear in the
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Time-sensitive late items will be posted with the
announcements and/or on the calendar on our web
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Look for us on Facebook ... search for UUCWI

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