



# Island Passages

UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CONGREGATION OF WHIDBEY ISLAND

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## April 2013

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	<b>1</b> 9 Worship Ctte 9:30 WIN /Kitchen 1 pm Dennis' Office Hours 1pm Chimes 6pm Josseline Discussions (Dennis)	<b>2</b> 6pm Meditation (Moss)	<b>10</b> 10am UU Men's Group 6:30 Resilient Communities	<b>4</b> 8:30am WIN Burrito Team 7 pm Film Series (Merrell) 6:30 pm Book Group	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b> 10 am Mtg for Visiting Stewards 10 VAC
<b>7</b> 10am UU Worship 4 pm Quaker Worship Service	<b>8</b> 9:30 WIN /Kitchen 10am Membership Committee 1 pm Dennis' Office Hours 6:30pm PFLAG	<b>9</b> 7pm Chalice Singers	<b>10</b> 7:20 EvenSong	<b>11</b> 6:30 Intro to Meditation (Moss)	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b> 6pm Stewardship Dinner
<b>14</b> 10am UU Worship  4 pm Quaker Worship 5pm Quaker Program	<b>15</b> 9:30 WIN /Kitchen 1 pm Dennis' Office Hours 1 pm Chimes	<b>16</b> 6pm Meditation (Moss)  7pm Chalice Singers	<b>17</b> 10am UU Men's Group 4pm MAGIC 6:30pm Resilient Communities	<b>18</b> 5:30 pm Sno-Isle Setup 6pm North End Group 7 pm Sno-Isle "Whidbey Reads"	<b>19</b> 10 am in office Ministers' Group	<b>20</b> 9 am Work Party - CCC  6pm Circle Dinner  <b>Newsletter Deadline</b>
<b>21</b> 8:45am Choir Rehearsal 10am UU Worship 4 pm Quaker Worship 5pm Quaker Business Mtg	<b>22</b> 9:30 WIN /Kitchen 1 pm Dennis' Office Hours	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b> 6:30 Intro to Meditation (Moss)	<b>26</b> UU Western In San Jose,	<b>27</b> Regional Assembly CA
<b>28</b> 10am UU Worship 11:30 SRC Mtg 4 pm Quaker Worship 7pm Dances of Universal Peace	<b>29</b> 9:30 WIN /Kitchen 1 pm Dennis' Office Hours	<b>30</b>				

## **April Worship Services:**

### **April 7: *Wisdom with Larry Daloz***

*Wisdom.* We hear the word often. It is used almost as an incantation and sometime accolade: "she radiates a kind of wisdom," "he is one of the wisest people I know," "thank you for sharing your wisdom." We speak of the wisdom of the ages, of wise leaders, of Nature's wisdom, even of the wisdom of a child. What would it mean, we wonder, to be wise—to possess such wisdom? Is it something we can acquire, learn from others, experience, find by accident? Join our great friend, Larry Daloz, in an exploration of what wisdom *might* be and how it *might* occur in people.

Larry is a senior fellow at the Whidbey Institute, author of several books, raised a UU and now a practicing Quaker, a student of Thoreau and a masterful observer of the world of mosses. Every time he has graced our pulpit we have discovered new insights, curiosity, inspiration and a touch of humor. Worship Leader: Terra Anderson

### **Wed., April 10 : *EvenSong*, 7:20 pm**

At this month's evening service we will explore ideas of Prayer. *EvenSong* is a quiet candlelit service including readings, silent meditation, and songs accompanied by harp. All are welcome.

### **April 14:**

#### ***Celebrating Community with Dennis Reynolds***

As we recommit to continuing membership in and support for this religious community, let us look at what engagement in such a community is all about.

How do we do it? Why do we do it? How do the parts fit together? How do we walk and talk and sing and dance together as a community?

Worship Leader: Mary Goolsby

### **April 21: *Green Economy, an Earth Day Celebration with Dennis Reynolds***

Earth Day was established way back in 1970 as a day to pause and study and to speak out about the compelling need to take action to preserve and protect the environment. Forty three years later, as environmental degradation and climate change continue, we must again pause to seek seeds for hope, to assess our own actions, and to explore

how we might best work for a better and brighter future. Worship Leader: Gladys Howard  
Music: The UUCWI Chalice Singers

### **April 28:**

#### ***Welcome and Hospitality with John Long***

We call ourselves a welcoming congregation. How does real welcoming feel to the visitor and how does it feel to the host? How are we doing? Is welcoming a spiritual practice?  
Worship Leader: Sandy Welch

## **April Events:**

### **Book Group News – Thursday, April 4**

We will be discussing Little Bee by Chris Cleave, from 6:30 to 8:00. The New York Times Book Review described this book as "Immensely readable and moving... an affecting story of human triumph". Everyone is welcome.

### **April 7, 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.

### **Work Party - Sat, April 20, 9 – 11 am**

Our monthly gathering to maintain our building and grounds. Coffee, goodies and camaraderie provided! The Caring Connections Committee (CCC) is hosting this month.

### **Circle Dinner - Sat, April 20, 6:00 pm**

Gladys and Mitchell Howard will host the April Circle Dinner at their home just south of Oak Harbor. Contact them directly to reserve a spot at the table!  
1837 Schooner Lane, O.H.  
360-682-5737

**Save the Date: Sunday, May 19th  
Celebration of Ordination**

Join UUCWI members and friends for a joyful celebration of the ordination of our minister, Dennis Reynolds. Plans are being made for a special recognition during the worship service to be followed by a potluck lunch and Celebration Ceremony. Other ministers and members of the wider community will be invited.

The formal Service of Ordination will be held May 5<sup>th</sup> in the Eugene, Oregon UU church where Dennis was very active for many years.

**Dennis' April Ministerial Musings -  
*From Bud to Blossoms –  
Connections to Commitment***

As I write this, the daffodils in my yard are beginning to open. In yards with more fully south facing locations, these golden trumpets of spring are already in full bloom. The flowering trees are likewise moving from budding to blooming.

As an extra spring bonus, I am enjoying the new website that offers to both our congregation and the wider community a fresh and lovely first look at our special place, the special activities that happen here, and the special people who call this our spiritual home. I know that, not unlike with those now emerging blossoms, much took place out of sight over the winter to make this blossoming possible.

Out on the roadways, I drive past fields with frolicking lambs and young calves. In the sky, the rains are growing a wee bit warmer. Silently the earth shifts, turning our hemispheres toward the light and warmth of the sun.

This is the season of renewal and rebirth and recommitment.

On a more pragmatic level, this season of renewal includes the renewal of my contract with this Congregation. That happy prospect, along with the flowers and babies in the meadows, makes me smile. The short six months I have been serving this community have been a time of deepening connections and putting down new roots. Now I

see and feel the blossoming of countless new friendships and affiliations.

My annual spring ritual of renewal, garden planning and digging, is taking in several gardens. It includes efforts to get the wee house we lived in for many years in Eugene and our current abode in Port Townsend ready to go on the market. I am concurrently part of a group that is planning for new community garden near our future home in Langley.

Here on the Island is where our future lies. The new contract at UUCWI affirms what we all trust will be an enduring relationship that will last for years. That Langley garden is also something I look at for the long haul, building new planting beds and planting seedlings and building relationships with new neighbors.

Contacts here have led to new connections. Connections led to commitment. I hear that sequence described, in different words, by many of you who connected with and subsequently committed to be part of this vibrant congregational community.

This is a season of renewal for all of us in the broader world and here at UUCWI. As you renew your membership and plan for your financial commitment to the Congregation, may we all remember the advice of poet and songwriter, Ric Masten, “To reap the harvest plant the seed. Let it be a dance.”

Peace and Love,  
*Dennis*

***Our beloved Director of Religious Exploration  
has determined it is time to resign.***

She will continue through June, after which time she will move onto a role of full-time mom and perhaps a citizen of our RE program instead of its leader. We will surely miss her. Through her dedicated vision and leadership we have RE materials and direction for which to be proud. The Our Whole Lives, OWL, program is well under way. She was here week after week reflecting our dedication to a children and youth program and our unwavering commitment to offering a liberal RE presence on the island. Please join me in thanking her.

*Terra Anderson*

## Terra's Tales

As you are reading this month's newsletter and the last, you are no doubt noticing a major focus is the growing fiscal health of our congregation. If you read Chris' Bell's article already, you know that we will need to spend considerable money to restore the health of our forest. Last month you learned from Mark how we spend money; this month he is examining our various sources of income. Lois is sharing how her own decisions about pledging to her spiritual community have evolved over the years. And of course, just a couple weeks ago we were regaled by Ken Merrell with the song, *Money, Money, Money*.

The good news is that we *are* financially healthy. We are paying our bills each month. People graciously and generously contribute their skills where we do not have budget allocated to purchase those skills. The Quakers love our building so much they recently *volunteered* to increase their rental payment to us by 20%! And, as always, there is more to be done. We dream big. We want our money to support our values. If we had more money, how would **you** want it spent? Here are some of the priorities of your Board of Trustees. Please talk with us about them – share your ideas and suggestions! Your voice matters.

\* Position ourselves to be capable of paying for all our *professional* positions within 3 years. By *professional* we mean those jobs that are required week after week, accomplished by full-time employees in larger churches. While many of these services are donated, and may continue to be, we should conduct our affairs so that there is no financial crisis precipitated if we needed to pay for these essential parts of our operations.

\* Move toward paying (or valuing, in the case of donated services) all professional positions at *UUA mid-level guidelines* within 5 years. This compensation is by no means munificent, but it does reflect our 2<sup>nd</sup> principle to be just, equitable and compassionate. That could be achieved if we raised their compensation just 5% per year for the next 5 years.

\* Build a **capital reserve** at the rate of \$3000 per year.

\* Increase the amount of our operating budget that is covered by pledges by 5% each year (we are at 65% now). This would enable us to reduce our *reliance* on fundraising. We now depend upon this small but brilliant auction committee to raise 20% of our operating budget. Wouldn't it be wonderful if our fundraiser became more of a *gift* to the congregation and less of a *necessity* simply to pay our basic bills?

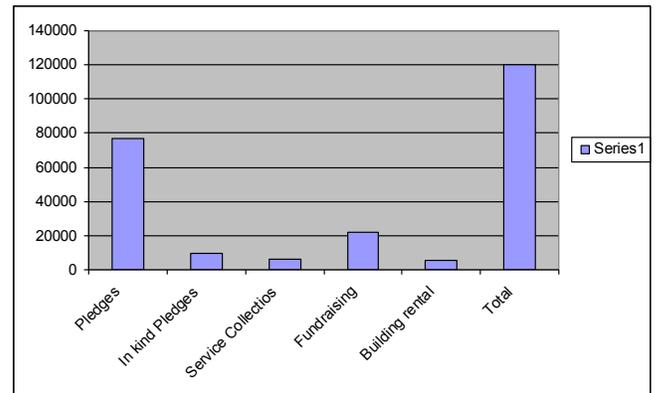
\* Have adequate funds available (maybe as much as \$10,000) to manage our forest so it is healthy.

*Terra Anderson, President of the Board*

## From the Treasurer:

Last Month I wrote about the places our money goes. This month I will detail its sources. It is easier because there are only four primary sources of income (taken from anticipated actual final statement for this year.)

In kind pledges represent volunteer work (primarily musical) that we would have to pay for if we did not have such generous and loyal members in our congregation.



### Pledges

Regular	\$76,880	= 64%
In Kind	9,700	= 8%
Service collections	6,000	= 5 %
Fundraising	22,300	= 21%
Building Rental	<u>5,500</u>	= 5%
Total	\$120,380	

As you can see, the majority of our income comes from pledges. The board's hope is to raise pledged income over the next few years to the point that we are not dependant on fundraising to carry such a large portion of our budget. If you have questions about income or expenses you can learn more at the upcoming house meetings proposed by the stewardship committee. *Mark Brown, Treas.*

## **April is Our Annual Pledge Month**

As we prepare for our new fiscal year (beginning July 1), one of the most critical elements is budget! And our finance team can't put the finishing touches on next year's budget until they know what our expected income will be.

So . . . each year during April we conduct our pledge drive.

I have worked on the pledge drive at UUCWI and my previous congregation for many years, and one question I often hear is, "How much should I give?" People ask that in a variety of ways: What is appropriate? What is typical? What is expected? What is fair? What is average? Etc. All are questions that indicate to me that the inquirer is unsure how to make this decision.

In my early years of church involvement I really didn't give this question much thought. When the basket was passed, I put in a few dollars and/or loose change and thought nothing more about it. When I began to get more involved in my church community, I became more aware of the issue of financial support! I still didn't have a clear idea about how to decide how much I would contribute financially. Finally I came across the notion that giving a percent of one's income was a sound and fair way to determine one's fair share. I began pledging 2%. That continued for a few years, and I eventually increased that to 3%. I felt quite comfortable with that. Then, a few years ago, the UUA suggested a "5 in 5" campaign: i.e. work toward a pledge of 5% of income within 5 years of membership. Hmmmm. I had been a UU for a lot longer than 5 years at that point! So I challenged myself to give this a genuine try. I think I increased my pledge to 4% of income that next year and then to 5% the following year. This was a stretch, but it really felt solid. I would love to someday achieve a full tithe of 10%. That may not be too realistic for me, but I will keep it in view as an ultimate goal.

I've just completed my IRS forms for 2012, and [given my adjusted gross income and my current pledge level] find that I am now pledging at 6%. That is a level I feel good about for now.

Will you join me in pledging 3% to 5% or more? I find it exciting to think about all that is possible for us if we give ourselves a solid financial base.

*Lois Chowen, Stewardship Chair*

## **Stewardship Dinner, Sat, April 13**

**6 pm at UUCWI**

All members and friends invited and encouraged to attend!

## **Honoring the Earth, Committing to a "Greening Partnership"**

April is Earth and Ocean Month on Whidbey. What formerly was known as Earth Day has expanded to a month of activities centered around both land and sea. UUCWI as a congregation and as individuals have long committed to reducing our impact upon our precious earth. Now, with the support of the Social Responsibility Council (SRC), we are stepping up our efforts in two meaningful ways.

During Earth and Ocean Monday, we will conduct a "walkabout" of the forest surrounding the UUCWI building to help folks understand what we are learning about maintenance and sustainability of our treed property. We are fortunate that Chris Bell and others on the Building and Grounds Committee are concerned that we are good stewards of our land. Please see Chris' article in this Newsletter explaining what we are learning. And, if you would like to know more first hand, please put March 14 on your calendar to go on a Walkabout on the land with Chris as he explores how we can best protect our forest.

We are also pleased the UUCWI will be partnering with St. Augustine's Episcopal Church and Langley United Methodist Church on Earth Ministry's Greening Congregations program. This small "coalition" will learn from and support one another to develop actionable plans for "greening" our congregations. Our efforts will not be an "event" but rather a process of learning and implementation supported by Earth Ministry staff. We invite all who are interested to join these efforts; keep an eye out for additional information about next steps.

*Jean McIntosh*

## **Peace Through Pieces - Sun, April 14, 5:30 pm**

The Whidbey Friends (Quakers) invite you to a slideshow about a quilting project in Africa that is healing hatred among the Hutu, Tutsi, and Twa tribes. You are also invited to Quaker worship at 4 pm and a potluck dinner at 6:30.

## **A Tree Crashes Across UUCWI Driveway .... How Many More?**

A few months ago a hemlock tree fell across the northern part of the church driveway. Fortunately no damage was done. What caused it to fall? Upon examination it was apparent the tree simply broke apart from its roots.

I have often wondered about the health of the church woodlot. The trees are so tall and yet so skinny. There are few lower branches. The trees are crowded together. A few are askew, leaning at odd angles. My hunch was that this is not a particularly healthy woodlot. But I wanted my hunch confirmed.

Recently Jason Heggenes, a certified arborist, walked the property with Tom Buxton and me. He poked the stump of the broken hemlock with his knife. His diagnosis - root rot, a fungus. He examined another hemlock nearby, one even bigger than the hemlock that fell. He believes it is also infected with this same disease. If it fell, this tree could significantly damage the church building.

With respect to the woodlot generally, Jason concluded that it has not been managed since it was last logged, some years ago. He confirmed my observations, noting that the trees are all competing for light, and never had the opportunity to fully develop. An appropriate thinning would allow the healthy, mature, evergreens to both develop a stronger root system and achieve greater girth.

Retaining the condition of the property in a natural state has always been a priority of the church membership. Preserving trees, retaining a healthy understory, removing invasive species, is paramount. With that in mind, what needs to be done? ... because doing nothing is not an option.

First and foremost, the trees most at risk of damaging the church need to be removed. There are at least two of these, the big hemlock and a cedar. Then a selective thinning would allow the woodlot to develop in a way that is both healthy and aesthetically pleasing. The kicker, however, is the cost. Jason does not believe that any of the trees that need to be removed have commercial value. The cost of removal will exceed any value that can be gained from the wood. The Board and Finance Committee will be working with me to

determine how much money we need to allocate. Meanwhile, I hope you will join me as you pledge this year, in a personal commitment to helping grow the *maintenance fund for our building and grounds* as well as our other priorities.

*In partnership – Chris Bell*

## **New UUCWI website: [UUCWI.org](http://UUCWI.org)**

For nearly a year a team has been working to design and implement a new UUCWI website. Members of the team include Charlie Knutilla, chair, Shaunna Baganz, Dave Cauffman, and Terra Anderson, with assistance and advice also from Dean Enell, Mavis Cauffman, and Joan Gerteis.

Our web presence is an increasingly important part of our image to the world, and a portal for many, if not most, of our visitors. A great deal of careful thought has gone into the organization, presentation, and design of the new site. You will find it lighter and brighter, with an uncluttered look, many photos, and intuitive, modern navigation. As before, it contains the church master calendar and links to sermons, newsletters and key documents, but there are also a host of new pages aimed especially at helping visitors understand us and feel welcome. The new design also should help members and renters more easily access needed information. The new site will benefit from a constant supply of fresh photos; please send candidates to [wwg\\_chair@uucwi.org](mailto:wwg_chair@uucwi.org).

Sarah Richards created the first UUCWI website in the 1990s. It received its first major overhaul and the familiar dark green look when Nancy Snow completely rewrote it about a decade ago. Dave Cauffman subsequently served as webmaster for several years. We are grateful to Dean Enell for all his work over recent years in maintaining and improving the site. In a few months the old website, <http://www.whidbey.net/uucwi/>, will be retired, so you should change your bookmarks to [www.uucwi.org](http://www.uucwi.org). We now own the [uucwi.org](http://uucwi.org) domain name.

[UUCWI.org](http://UUCWI.org) "went live" on Sunday March 17 for you to see, enjoy, and use. Check it out!

*The UUCWI Website Working Group*

**Unitarian Universalist Congregation  
of Whidbey Island**

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**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 [re\\_dir@uucwi.org](mailto:re_dir@uucwi.org)

**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  
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Cary Sinnett [newsletter@uucwi.org](mailto:newsletter@uucwi.org)  
Items submitted after press time will appear in the  
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Look for us on Facebook ... search for UUCWI

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