



Island Passages

UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CONGREGATION OF WHIDBEY ISLAND

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June 2013

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1 9am Worship Leader Wkshop 10am VAC
2 10am UU Worship 4 pm Quaker Worship Service	3 9:30 WIN /Kitchen 1 pm Dennis' Office Hours 1 pm Chimes	4 7pm Chalice Singers	5 10am Quaker Mtg(classroom) 6pm Meditation (Moss)	6 8:30 am WIN Burritos 6:30 pm Book Group	7	8 9 am Spirituality of Children (pg 3) 10:30 am Ctte on Ministry
9 10am UU Worship 11:30 am Annual Cong Mtg 4 pm Quaker Worship	10 9:30 WIN /Kitchen 10am Membership Mtg 1 pm Dennis' Office Hours 6:30pm PFLAG	11 7pm Chalice Singers	12 7:20pm EvenSong	13	14 5-9pm- Workshop: Listening	15 9am- Workshop: Listening
16 8:45am Choir Rehearsal 10am UU Worship 11:30 Music Ctte 4 pm Quaker Worship 5pm Quaker Business Meeting	17 9:30 WIN/Kitchen 1 pm Dennis' Office Hours 1pm Chimes	18 6pm Meditation (Moss)	19 10am UU Men's Group 4pm MAGIC	20 Newsletter Deadline 6pm North End Group	21 6pm Summer Solstice Service	22 9 am Work Party -VAC
23 10am UU Worship 11:30 SRC Mtg 4 pm Quaker Worship	24 9:30 WIN /Kitchen 1 pm Dennis' Office Hours Math Camp 1 – 5 pm	25 Math Camp 1 – 5 pm	26 Math Camp 1 – 5 pm	27 Math Camp 1 – 5 pm	28 Math Camp 1 – 5 pm	29
30 10am UU Worship 4pm Quaker Worship 7pm Dances of Universal Peace						

June Worship Services:

June 2: This I Believe

with Members of UUCWI

In this popular annual tradition, several members of UUCWI will each share a brief reflection on their spiritual journey.

Worship Leader: Ken Merrell

Special Music: Dan Anderson, nyckelharpa

Wed., June 12: EvenSong, 7:20 pm

In honor of our 7th principle, we'll share readings and poems about Summer and the Summer Solstice. EvenSong is a quiet candlelit service of readings, silent meditation and songs accompanied by harp. It is the second Wednesday evening of every month. All are welcome.

June 9: Seasons of Our Life

with Vanessa Kohlhaas (DRE)

Rev. Dennis Reynolds

Join us for a Flower Communion and a Celebration of the Religious Explorations Program. With song and story we will celebrate the beauty of the season and the life passages of our young ones. We will celebrate a special "Bridging" into adulthood of our youngest member. We will also honor the staff and volunteers who have taught and nurtured and companioned the Religious Explorations of the children in our congregational community. Please bring blossoms from your garden (or local markets) to share with all. This is an Intergenerational Service; there will be no separate RE program.

Worship Leader: Linda Good

June 9: Annual Congregational Meeting

June 16: EvenSong Sunday:

Poetry as Spiritual Practice

This service will bring to Sunday morning a little of the content and feel of an EvenSong service. There will be poems and readings about poetry along with simple singing meditations and a short silent meditation. Readers: Mavis Cauffman and Sandy Welch Special Music: The UUCWI Chalice Singers

Friday, June 21, 6 pm: Summer Solstice Ritual

with Alex Bonesteel, Janella Riegel and

Rev. Dennis Reynolds

Join with us in the early evening of the longest day of the year, the Summer Solstice. This day, when the movement of the sun's path, as seen from the earth, briefly stops, has been acknowledged and honored since before recorded time. Join with fellow seekers as we gather together to ritually acknowledge this significant time in the cycle of the seasons.

All ages are welcome to join us.

June 23: Rock the Solstice

with Rev. Dennis Reynolds and the Faery Kings Rock Band

Here comes summer. Join us as we celebrate this season of sunshine and warmth, growth and renewal in a high energy and rocking way. Fish are jumping and the cotton is high and school's out and it's time to welcome Summer's arrival. We may not be "Dancing in the Street," but perhaps in the aisles in this dynamic and rocking worship experience. This service, which Ken Stephens sold at our annual auction, will include music from the band that he and other parents from the Waldorf school have formed

June 30: Honoring Embodiment

with Judy Zimmerman

Our relationships with our bodies are often marked by ambivalence. Revising our connections with our bodies can add a new foundation to moral and spiritual life. What might this revising have to offer us in the march towards justice?

Judy Zimmerman is a founding member and current coordinator of Oregon UU Voices for Justice, a statewide advocacy network. She served as Intern Minister at the UU Congregation of Salem. Before pursuing ministry she worked as a college professor of psychology & women's studies and as a sexuality educator. Judy graduated in May from Meadville Lombard Theological School, one of our two Unitarian Universalist seminaries, and was recently granted fellowship as a UU minister.

Worship Leader: Toyon Copeland

June Events:

June 2, 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 order and eat family style and split the bill. Members, friends and guests are all invited to participate. This is a nice opportunity to get to know one another and there is lively conversation. The food is good, the price is right and the fellowship is great. Contact Jelcy Romberg if you have questions.

Book Group News – Thursday, June 6, 6:30 pm

Join us for a discussion of Freedom by Jonathan Franzen. Dave Cauffman will lead the discussion. Everyone is welcome.

On the Spirituality of Children - June 8

Join us for an open conversation, facilitated by Dr. Sharon Daloz Parks on the *The Spirituality of Children* during the first decade of life, (with a future session on adolescent development.) The session is sponsored by the Whidbey Quakers and will be held Saturday June 8 from 9:30 am to 12:30 pm at UUCWI. Childcare available.

**June 9 – Annual Congregational Meeting
Immediately following the worship service.
Voting members of UUCWI are encouraged to
attend so we achieve a quorum.**

Betsy McGregor Book Launch - June 9

Many of you will recall the talk given by Betsy McGregor, MD, in our sanctuary last October 28, entitled *In Awe of Being Human*. Her stories of the lessons and gifts of her dying patients moved those in attendance. The launch and celebration of her book by the same title, *In Awe of Being Human: A Doctor's Stories from the Edge of Life and Death*, will be held on June 9, at the Whidbey Institute, starting at 4:00pm.

Saturday June 22: Work Party, 9 – 11 am

Note – change of weekend. Due to another workshop on the usual 3rd Sat, the work party has been moved to the 4th Sat for this month only. Our monthly gathering to maintain our building and grounds. Coffee, goodies and camaraderie provided! The Visual Arts Committee will host.

Dennis' Ministerial Musings: Ordination, Affirmation, and Contemplation

This has been a very, very rich and rewarding and very, very full month.

On May 5, after weeks of preparation and planning for the event not to mention the years of study and personal preparation to get me ready for ministry, my Ordination was held at my home church in Eugene, Oregon. That ordination was joyfully affirmed here on at UUCWI on May 19. Deep thanks to all who participated.

Between these celebrations, Suzanne interviewed for and was offered a new job with Whidbey General Hospital Hospice. Earlier in the month, we signed an agreement with a realtor to list our Port Townsend home on June 1. This has meant we have had just a few weeks to paint the interior and to finish rescuing the yard from 3 years of renter neglect. Last week, we also confirmed our plans to move to Langley in July.

Meanwhile, my work with the congregation and Suzanne's time with her sister have continued. It has been so busy that I have actually appreciated my recent trips to the dentist. These visits have offered time to rest a bit in their comfy reclining dental chairs. We are "whelmed," not yet overwhelmed, but getting close.

I definitely need to have a conversation with the guy who sets my calendar. Oh ya, I just remembered, that guy is me. This is admittedly not the first time I have put too much on my "to do list" and probably not the last time either. I am, like many in our culture, what I call a "doist." I am not good at slowing down. Assuring quiet contemplative time is seldom a top priority.

I have taken the first steps, though, towards changing this pattern of behavior. First I admit it is not in my best interest nor necessarily the best way for me to give most deeply to the world to continue to be so very busy. I recognize quantity of doing is often trumped by quality of experiencing.

Second, I have devised and begun to implement a strategy that helps. I put things that feed my soul and nurture my right brain on my calendar. My exemplar in this, and a number of other wise

notions, is Suzanne. She has a regular meditation practice and makes time for it every morning right after breakfast. She doesn't write it down, but she does it.

I am tougher and more ingrained in my old habits of "doism" so I need to write down times when I do not have to do something or be somewhere to do and can just "be." For example, I am beginning to schedule taking the dog and myself for a run in the woods or on the beach (a form of spiritual practice for me).

Such intentional down time should soon become a little easier to plan, as we will be beyond this extra busy time. We have made choices that will help in the long run. Moving into a condo in Langley will help. Though it is not a cabin on Walden Pond, this change will help me to live more simply and a bit more intentionally.

I am taking steps to be more truly how and who I want to be. In truth, all any of us can really do is to head in the direction of where we want to be.

Peace and Love, Dennis



Terra's Tales

By the time you read this newsletter, a new task force to assess and revitalize our religious exploration program will be underway. This group of motivated and inspired people will be examining the needs of our families, children and youth. Our existing program clearly has served people well. And... there may be additional opportunities to finesse our approach, thus improving everyone's experience.

Did you know that over that past four years we have had 146 different children and youth attend our programs? As many as 22 attended one day although the normal is closer to 5. What keeps some families returning week after week? What causes others **not** to return? By our previous measure of success – the number of families with young children who become members – we have failed miserably. But what if that is the wrong measure? What if success simply meant that children became UU youths and eventually UU parents? Then our objective would be to create an environment that supported families and helped nurture their young. What would that look like? I hope our Task Force will provide us some wisdom. Currently members are Shannon Arndt, Gene Berg, Nydia Blood, Carrie Carpenter, Susan Janow, Ken Merrell, Janella Riegel and Lori Taylor. Others may join; all are invited to contribute. Please talk with these folks. And even more important, listen to them.

My own listening to them has provided me new questions to ponder. What does it mean to be truly *intergenerational*? How do we greet children and youth at the door? How do we engage them in conversation? How do we treat them during the social time after the service? What conversations do you have during your committee meetings about how to engage our younger members in meaningful ways? Are they full citizens of UUCWI or just a sidethought?

In a parent education class many years ago we were asked: "If you treated your friends as you treat your children at the dining room table, would they come back?" That question continues to haunt me today. What makes our children and youth *want* to be part of this community, and on more than just Sunday mornings? I cherish the opportunity to help this next generation grow into the values represented by this UU membership. On the *Our Values* page of our website are the words: "We strive for an inner grace that finds completion in working to make a better world." What do we need to do to make this sanctuary a home for the children, a place where they choose to stay, learn, grow and partner with us striving for inner grace? And how would you like to help? ~ Terra Anderson, President

From the Treasurer:

As we prepare for the upcoming congregational meeting to present and approve a budget for the next fiscal year, July 2013-June 2014, the Finance Committee has been hard at work with Tom Buxton developing a budget that works for all of us.

Members should already have received budget notes from Terra in the form of FAQ's. Please READ THEM, and many of your budget questions will be answered.

Here are just a few thoughts about the budget and the process:

-Tom has worked hard and we are again indebted to his knowledge, expertise, and commitment to this congregation.

-In spite of significant losses of income due to deaths and moves, we have kept our heads well above water financially, and are able to again present a balanced budget that meets most of our needs.

-We have been able to fund a new minister for a full year and even propose a small raise (both for the minister and the administrator.)

-The line item for Religious Educator is lower, not because we want to reduce the program but because of Vanessa's decision to spend more time with three growing children we will not have that position filled immediately. When the RE task force has done its work and made its recommendations there is money in reserve to fund the position at what ever amount we deem appropriate.

-Finally, we were not able to produce a line item for maintenance reserve. One of these days there will be a significant repair or maintenance expense (roof or heat pump for example) and we will not have the reserve to pay for it. This is true of most churches and home owners, but our goal is to build a reserve for capital maintenance so we do not have to do an "emergency fund raiser" in such a situation.

By and large, though, we have done a good job and I have enjoyed my term as Treasurer.

~Mark Brown, Treasurer

Washington UU Voices for Justice will be at 2013 General Assembly!

Planning to be in Louisville? We welcome volunteers to join us at the State Advocacy Networks booth in the Exhibition Hall, where we let UUs around the country know about justice advocacy in our states. It's a great opportunity to meet UUs who share your passion for justice rooted in our faith!

Contact Rev. Carol McKinley, coordinator@uuvoiceswa.org, about helping at our GA booth, or if you would like to get together in Louisville! Learn more about WA UU Voices for Justice and find advocacy resources at our website, www.uuvoiceswa.org

Circle Dinners Planning

The monthly Circles Dinner will be taking a summer vacation but will return in September. If you would like to volunteer your home for a dinner next church year, be it for four or more guests, please let me know, especially if one month works better than another. Traditionally, the Circles Dinner is the third Saturday night of the month.

For more information, contact jelcy@jelcy.com

Adult Programs Planning Cycle

The Adult Programs Committee announces the start of the planning cycle for the 2013-2014 Adult Programs. Last year's stimulating and thought provoking Adult Programs line-up was a great success as a result of unwavering commitments by UUCWI members, both as program facilitators and participants. It's time now for you or your team to start thinking about the next great new ideas for Adult Programs for the 2013-2014.

To submit proposals for next years AP line-up please download the Adult Programs proposal form located on the UUWCI website at:

http://www.uucwi.org/activities/ACTIVITIES_AdultProgramsProposalForm.pdf

Please provide the completed proposal form to cknutila@whidbey.com by **June 30th**. Please be sure to include preferred time and dates for your program and a working title.

Adult programs are successful as a result of membership participation.

Check out the books in our UUCWI Library!

On most Sundays after Services beginning in late May you will see, either in the foyer or at the back of the Sanctuary, a mobile book cart filled with items from our UUCWI library collection. Be sure to take a look at the titles being 'highlighted' on this book cart each Sunday. Check one of them out if you wish, using the form on the clipboard provided for this purpose. Your Library Committee is providing this new 'book cart' service to help make you more aware of the fabulous items in our unique library collection. An online catalog of all items will hopefully be available by end of the summer. Want a preview of the catalog? Go to: <http://uucwilibrary.com>

UUCWI 2nd Annual Women's Retreat Aug 20-21 : Mark your calendar!

At the request of many who attended last year, a 2nd UUCWI Women's Retreat has been scheduled. It will be held in the same location – the lovely secluded group campsite on the bluff at Fort Ebey State Park, a few miles north of Coupeville.

The 'program' this year will be similar to last year's – time for enjoying this fabulous State Park in the afternoon beginning at 2:30pm, a pot-luck dinner starting between 5:30-6:00pm, singing and other fun around a campfire in the later evening. New this year – hopefully – will be a couple of 'special' guests– and the 'program' will certainly reflect their presence! More details will be in the July and August newsletters.

Camping overnight on a grassy site next to the shelter is enthusiastically encouraged by those who did so last year! (The mid-August nighttime temperature last year didn't drop below 60 and the sky was full of stars (some 'shooting') and satellites.)

Don't let the lack of a tent or sleeping bag deter you! A few of us have tents that sleep 4-6 people and you are invited to 'bunk up' with others. Just bring a comfy pad from your chaise lounge, a couple of blankets and a pillow. There are places for a limited number of RVs.

We'll split the cost for reserving this Group Campsite. The site fee (\$75) has been paid in advance, but participants will be asked to remit their share when we have a total count. (If there are 15 of us, it will be \$5 each; if 25, \$3 each, etc.

If more than 25 the math changes and will be figured out when and if that happens)

Questions? Just ask me, or someone else who attended last year. Send me an email letting me know that you plan to participate. Or tell me in person and I will add you to the list. I do need to know by SUNDAY JULY 14 however whether or not you'll be coming so that if there are too few of you actually interested, I can cancel the reservation and get a refund. The event will be a go if there are at least 10 of us. Individual cost share will be determined on July 14th. Start thinking summer!

~ Joan Gerteis jgerteis@whidbey.net

Math Camp at UUCWI

Math Camp at UUCWI. Fun and engaging. Afternoons, June 24-28 at UUCWI. Ages 11-15. Free for students enrolled in RE in the UUCWI 2012-2013 academic year. Led by Gene Berg, a 35-year career mathematician for the Department of Defense. Consider this challenge: Behind my home I have a barn with cows and chickens in it. There are 10 heads and 24 feet. How many chickens live in my barn? For more camp details email uucwiMathCamp@gmail.com or call Gene 443-928-2689.

Greening Congregations

UUWCI is joining a partnership of local congregations and Earth Ministry in a program called "Greening Congregations" to promote environmental protection. Our efforts will be led by a new SRC team, the Greening Congregation team, with the following Mission Statement: "As a Greening Congregation, we seek to express our respect for the interconnected web of existence by showing reverence for the Earth and all of its creatures. Toward this end, we will seek a greater understanding of our right relationship with our natural world, steward Earth's resources more justly and sustainably, and partner with neighboring congregations to advocate for the personal and public practices which advance these aims." More information on the new team's activities will come later. ~ John Leaser

Whidbey Island Peace Group meets every Saturday at the Bayview Park and Ride from 10 to 11 am. We have extra peace signs.

**Unitarian Universalist Congregation
of Whidbey Island**

2012 - 2013 Board of Trustees

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Sara Heath, Vice President
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Jean McIntosh, Trustee
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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.

Director of Religious Exploration:

Vanessa Kohlhaas re_dir@uucwi.org

Administrator:

Mavis Cauffman admin@uucwi.org

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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 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

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