



# Island Passages

UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CONGREGATION OF WHIDBEY ISLAND  
 20103 State Route 525 • P.O. Box 1076, Freeland, WA 98249 • 360-321-8656 • www.uucwi.org

## July 2013

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>
	9:30 WIN /Kitchen	6pm Meditation (Moss)	10am UU Men's Group 10am Quaker Mtg(classroom)		10am VAC 11am <i>Sing for the Climate</i> rehearsal-Linda Good's home	9 am Leadership Council  10:30 <i>Sing For the Climate</i> at Choochokam
<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>
10am UU Worship: <i>Patriots</i> with Ken Merrell 4 pm Quaker Worship	9:30 WIN /Kitchen 6:30pm PFLAG		7:20pm EvenSong		9 am Worship Ctte	
<b>14</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>
10am UU Worship: <i>With a Song in My Heart</i> with Eileen Soskin and friends 11:30 am Brd Mtg 4 pm Quaker Worship	9:30 WIN /Kitchen	6pm Meditation (Moss)	10am UU Men's Group  4pm MAGIC	6pm North End Group		<b>Newsletter Deadline</b>  9 am Work Party
<b>21</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>
10am UU Worship: <i>The Power of Story</i> 11:30 CCC Ctte 4 pm Quaker Worship 5pm Quaker Business Meeting	9:30 WIN/Kitchen 1 pm Dennis' Office Hours		9am – 4 pm Art Class in sanctuary with Nola Allen	9am – 4 pm Art Class in sanctuary with Nola Allen		
<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>August 1</b>	<b>2</b>	
10am UU Worship: <b>Haitian Poetry</b> w/Dennis Reynolds 11:30 SRC Mtg 4 pm Quaker Worship 7pm Dances of Universal Peace	9:30 WIN /Kitchen 12pm MAGIC class in sanctuary 1 pm Dennis' Office Hours	12pm MAGIC class	12pm MAGIC class	12pm MAGIC class	12pm MAGIC class	

## ***July Worship Services:***

### ***July 7 - Ultimate Patriots***

Every year on July 4th, we celebrate America.

We all become patriots for a day. But what are we celebrating, and what does it mean to be a patriot in these confusing times? The founding fathers are held up as the ultimate patriots and every faction imaginable (including Unitarian-Universalists) tries to claim the framers as their own. We will explore the roots of our democracy, law, money, and religion in America and why the founding fathers were radicals and liberals but not patriots.

Worship Leader: Eileen Soskin

Guest Musician: Marena Solerno Collins

Speaker: Ken Merrell

### ***Wed., July 10: EvenSong, 7:20 pm (Prelude)***

This month we'll share poems from Mary Oliver's newest book, *A Thousand Mornings*. 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.

### ***July 14 : With A Song In My Heart***

What songs have a special place in your life? What songs intensify your experiences? Words set to music often have the ability to make us feel things more deeply than words alone or music alone. This service explores this statement through the lens of music with words and the individual experiences of several members of our congregation. Come listen, sing, think and feel with us!

Worship leaders Eileen Soskin and Mavis Cauffman with special guests Ken Merrell and Ken Stephens

### ***July 21: The Power of Story***

Our diverse summer services continue as we explore the power of story as told through the music of Bach (played by Eileen Soskin); through theater in a colorful fable by Norman Dietz entitled "Old Ymir's Clay Pot", read by Chris Bell, Toyon Copeland, and Juliana Larson-Wickman; and through reflection on the power of our personal stories. Dietz describes the play as a fable about creation, destruction, transformation, and reconciliation, told with a touch of magic.

Worship Leaders: Effie Brown and Joann Roomes with Eileen Soskin, Piano

### ***July 28 : Open Gate: Poetry and Insights with Rev. Dennis Reynolds***

In May of 2011, I spent a month in Haiti. In studies associated with my journey there I encountered *Open Gate, an Anthology Of Creole America Poetry*. Therein are Haitian and Haitian American poets' lyrical reflections on that land and its beauty and its pain. Poets are often the most profound of prophets. Let us reflect upon their insights into the realities of their homeland and the glimpse they offer into the common human experience.

Special Musician, Susan Debnkoff, violinist



Don't ask yourself what the world needs, ask yourself what makes you come alive, and do that. Because what the world needs is people who have come alive.

~ Howard Thurman



## ***July Events:***

### ***July 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 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. [jelcy@jelcy.com](mailto:jelcy@jelcy.com)

### ***Sing for the Climate at Choochokam***

Several folk are planning a *Sing for the Climate* flash dance at Choochokam on July 6 at 10:30AM. There will be a practice at Linda Good's home on July 5 at 11 am.

You are invited to join the fun!

Linda Good and Margaret Moore are coordinating this effort. Have you seen it? You can see clips and learn the song here ....

<http://youtu.be/XGgBtHoIO4g>

### ***UU Gallery Art Show***

*Funky and Fab* features the works of Mary Goolsby, Debbie Zick and Sara Primrose in the UU Gallery in July and August. The show opens July 7 with a reception to follow the service at 11:30.

Mary Goolsby quilts much as she creates stained glass, designing a project and finding materials she then fuses into the finished piece.

Debbie Zick is influenced by pictographs the world over which she expresses in works reflecting dreams, animals, symbolism and transcendent experiences.

Sara Primrose enjoys the thrill of repurposing, whether it is found in rusted bottle caps, beach glass or other discarded items. She teases out a story and sees art in items foraged.

These artists bring their talents together in a show that is indeed Funky and Fab.

~ Dallas Huth, Visual Arts Committee



## ***Dennis' Ministerial Musings: July***

Summer is a time to savor. In the garden, we savor the delicious produce and the equally delectable visual beauty of the flowers that others' or our earlier labor and patience and providence have provided.

In the backyard and parks, families and friends gather to savor sweet caring connections. Sometimes we make new friends and sometimes we reinforce and deepen bonds that have lasted for years. Family reunions reinforce connections across generations. Grilling those fresh veggies and fish or meat makes it all the more delicious.

This month, I will have a bit of time away for a North California wedding with friends who have often been closer than family. A quick visit with some family while in the region will follow. Then it's back to work, here on the Island for Suzanne, and a week in Eugene for me doing needed labor to get the house there on the market. It will be bittersweet getting ready to let go of a house that was home for 2 decades. When I return, we will then move into our new place in the sweet Village of Langley

Afterwards I'll get a bit of real vacation at Eliot, the UU summer camp at Seabeck, on the Hood Canal. There I will spend my mornings assisting with the preschoolers morning program. I relish such times, just being with the kids. They will tutor me in how to be present to each amazing moment and remind me what it is like to taste life's experiences for the first time.

Near the end of the month I get to officiate at a same sex wedding at Fort Ebey Park. That will be a time to savor the passage of Measure 74.

While I am at a distance, Sally Elder, our skilled chaplain, will be available if need an ear to listen to whatever bitter or sweet realities are moving in your life.

I hope all of you take time in the summer season to do what best feeds you, whether that's to hike or kayak or road trip or dig in the dirt or to sit

quietly in the dappled sun of a fruit tree or on the beach with a really good book.

We need time to savor, to smell the roses, to remember in the good time and the bad times too just how sweet it all truly is.

Blessings  
Dennis

### *Terra's Tales*

I've been eating strawberries from our garden this past week, redder on the inside than the grocery store berries are on the outside, so sweet someone unfamiliar with field-ripened fruit might think they had been soaked in sugar. Yum.

As many of you know, I am an avid gardener. I love growing things. And I so enjoy planting, nurturing and watching things grow that sometimes I forget to harvest and eat them. Sow – grow, sow - grow. When one plant expires, I always have something waiting to replace it. I noticed a similar behavior at Boeing during my years of working. As soon as one project was completed, there were always 3 others awaiting our attention. Where was the harvest? When did we sit and savor what we have accomplished? Seldom if ever. Our eyes were always on the *next* report to be written, meeting to attend or phone call to return.

I wonder if we at UUCWI might fall into that same trap of always looking ahead and forgetting to pause and appreciate where we are? Does the *next* project always overshadow the one we just completed? How might we be sure we remember to celebrate each accomplishment? *Every* Sunday there is a service – music is prepared, readings are selected and a sermon is written, an order of service is printed, chairs are arranged, hymnals distributed, coffee percolated, tasty treats prepared, materials collected for the children, someone greets us at the door with a great big welcome and a hug... *Every* Monday morning a crew of caring individuals assemble burritos for hungry children. *Every* Tuesday an ambitious (and very strong) group of our men pick up furniture donations for Habitat for Humanity while another group fixes lunch for them! *Every* Friday an e-news is compiled and mailed. Once a month

an Evensong is prepared and delivered and a newsletter is written and formatted. Have you benefited from the hard work of a fellow congregant who put together a particularly inspiring adult class? We've enjoyed 6 awesome concerts. A whole new Web site was developed. Think of all the hands that make our church a home – cleaning the floors and windows, roof and gutters, fixing faucets, pulling weeds and removing blackberries, spreading gravel after a particularly wet and muddy winter, cataloging books, hanging art in our foyer...

There isn't room in this newsletter to write it all, but clearly what we have accomplished is nothing short of amazing. What have you appreciated and whom have *you* thanked lately?

~ Terra Anderson, President

### ***SRC "In the Know"***

The Social Responsibility Council (SRC) planning team aspires to offer a monthly article highlighting the social issues of concern and the actions we are taking to promote social justice. We want all of us to better understand what's happening on the global and national fronts, in our state, and on our precious island.

First, a fact (that surprised us): did you know that over 30% (3+ out of every ten members of UUCWI) is currently working on an SRC project?

WIN, Habitat (both the Movers and a Quaker and the Habitat for Lunch Bunch), Greening Congregations, and outreach for dedicated offerings—all are concrete projects which contribute to sustaining our community. Thanks everyone!

This month, we want to make sure you know about websites that provide both informational and up-to-the-minute guidance about social justice issues like immigration, water sufficiency, climate change, and marriage equality. At the national/global levels, check out the Social Justice tab at [www.uua.org](http://www.uua.org); explore the UU Service Committee's excellent work devoted solely to equity issues (living wages and health benefits for food service workers, for example) at [www.uusc.org](http://www.uusc.org); and learn more about the UN United Nations Office Climate Change Initiative

at [www.unitednations@uua.org](mailto:www.unitednations@uua.org) . In our own state, the Washington State *UU Voices for Justice* (our minister Dennis Reynolds serves on the Board) is an excellent source of local news at [www.nwjjun.org](http://www.nwjjun.org) and you can learn more about Greening Congregations at [www.earthministry.org](http://www.earthministry.org).

### ***Action Needed Now: Stand Down, August 3, Volunteers Needed***

The SRC has pledged to support Gene Berg and the Veteran's Resource Center in its efforts on August 3 to help homeless veterans and their families on Whidbey Island. Gene needs help in the family care center, parking cars, serving food, and other tasks to be determined. For those interested in helping care for children in the family care center, you must have a background check so Gene needs to know of your interest NOW so that the paperwork can be completed. Please contact Gene Berg at [gaberg678@gmail.com](mailto:gaberg678@gmail.com). Thank you!

Each month, we will offer SRC news; if you would like to contribute or offer suggestions, please contact Jean McIntosh at [jeanmc@whidbey.com](mailto:jeanmc@whidbey.com)

### ***Summer CRE Program***

Although UUCWI's CRE program year has come to an end, and our fabulous CRE Director, Vanessa Kohlhaas, is leaving us to give her full attention to her wonderful family, we have not given up on CRE for the summer. We just need your help.

Vanessa and her team of dedicated teachers and volunteers put together a great curriculum for our kids this year, which was no small task for a small program with a lot of age diversity. We did not want to lose that momentum when Vanessa left, so a task force of parents, educators, and UUCWI leadership was formed to put together a summer program and carry the momentum into the fall.

The Summer Program:  
The theme for the summer is our seventh principle: Respect for the interdependent web of all existence of which we are a part. To explore that, we are planning a series of outdoor activities on and around our property with a goal of beginning the design and implementation phase

for a play area on the grounds. By teaching the kids (and letting them teach us) about our church property, the plants and ecosystems, the wildlife habitat, and how we can be good stewards to the land, we hope to connect our children to UUCWI and help them know it is their habitat too. We will begin on Sunday, June 30<sup>th</sup> with Chris Bell and the kids mapping the property. This will be a tour of the grounds with the kids showing us all their secret places and Chris pointing out various plants, habitats, and teaching us how our little patch of forest works. We will plan other weeks as we go. Janella Riegel has put together a notebook full of outdoor activities we can draw from. The kids will also have lots ideas. So, what are we asking for? We need one adult volunteer for each of the nine Sundays this summer to partner with a parent and provide the CRE service for that Sunday. We also need one volunteer to bring some really special snacks for the kids. We want this to be a fun and memorable summer and for the kids to be the ones dragging their parents to church.

See a member of the task force to sign up. You will get lots of support, gratitude, and good karma if you do. I am confident it will be one of your best Sundays this summer.

The RE Task Force is made up of Lori Taylor, Janella Riegel, Shannon Arndt, Carrie Carpenter, Susan Janow, Nydia Blood, Gene Berg, Dennis Reynolds, and Ken Merrell.



Humanity is like an enormous spider web, so that if you touch it anywhere, you set the whole thing trembling... As we move around this world and as we act with kindness, perhaps, or with indifference, or with hostility, toward the people we meet, we too are setting the great spider web a-tremble. The life that I touch for good or ill will touch another life, and that in turn another, until who knows where the trembling stops or in what far place and time my touch will be felt. Our lives are linked together. No one is an island.

~ Frederick Buechner



## ***UUCWI 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Women's Retreat set for Aug 20-21 : Mark your calendar!***

At the request of many of those who attended last year, a 2<sup>nd</sup> UUCWI Women's Retreat has now been scheduled. It will be held in the same location as last year – 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 August newsletter.

Camping out 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 that comfy pad from your chaise lounge or borrow an air mattress, grab a couple of blankets, a pillow – and you'll be just fine. Places for a limited number of RVs are also available.

The cost for reserving this Group Campsite will be split between those participating. The site fee (\$75) has been paid in advance, but individuals will be asked to remit their share when we have a total count of participants (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. *Send me an email if you plan to participate.* Or tell me in person. I do need to know by **SUNDAY JULY 14** if you'll be coming. The event will be a go if there are at least 10 of us. Individual cost share will be determined on July 14<sup>th</sup>.

Start thinking *summer!*

~ Joan Gerteis [jgerteis@whidbey.net](mailto:jgerteis@whidbey.net)

## ***Searching for a Women's Group?***

If you are not affiliated with a Women's Group and think you might like to be, please consider joining us for a meeting next September. Some of us who are already "grouped" would like to assist in the creation of new groups, or perhaps in planning an on-going open group. Please keep watching for more news and we will plan a get-together early in September.

~ Mary Goolsby (for all UU women and friends)

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

## ***UUCWI is a Scent Free Zone***

Please remember, and remind visiting friends too, that UUCWI is a scent free zone. This is an important part of assuring that our sanctuary is fully accessible to those with significant chemical sensitivities. This means that all are requested to avoid wearing cologne perfume aftershave etc. to services and programs at the church.

## ***General Assembly Highlights***

General Assembly (GA) is the annual national conference of the UUA. It was our privilege to represent UUCWI as your delegates. This year it took place in Louisville, KY on the banks of the Ohio River, home of Churchill Downs and the Kentucky Derby. The first thing we had to learn is the proper way to pronounce the host city (this sign in the tourist bureau was helpful - all except sounding the "s" are correct).



About 3400 UUs were in attendance – most from the US, but some from as far as the Phillipines, the Czech Republic, and Africa. Highlights were the Ware Lecture by Eboo Patel and the sermons given by the Rev. Vanessa Southern at the “Service of the Living Tradition” and by the Rev. Dr. William F. Schulz at the Sunday Morning Worship service. They were outstanding – and you can view them – and more - online (video and transcripts) at <https://www.uua.org/ga/2013/>.

Patel’s lecture on interfaith work was very enlightening and presented us all with some challenges to our perspectives.



In addition, we participated with thousands of UUs in a march through downtown Louisville to witness for the need for clean energy. There were wonderful giant puppets (shown) depicting solar and wind energy as well as music and speeches.



We elected a new moderator, Jim Key, to replace outgoing Gini Courter. Delegates also approved Actions of Immediate Witness (AIWs) calling for UUs to “begin a denomination-wide conversation within our congregations about divesting from fossil fuels or exercising shareholder influence”, condemning racist mistreatment of young people of color by police, and encouraging UUs to join efforts to amend the U.S. Constitution to overturn the Citizens United Supreme Court decision, asserting that “corporations are not people and money is not free speech”. The assembly also adopted a Statement of Conscience regarding “Immigration as a Moral Issue”. You can read more about these at the UUA and UUWorld sites, including <http://blogs.uuworld.org/ga/?s=soc>.

An album of photos from GA can be perused at <http://www.flickr.com/photos/uuworld/sets/72157634048906904/>

And Mavis had a great time singing in the GA choir! Here’s proof she was there ...



General Assembly (GA) is just one of the ways to connect with and be aware of what is happening in the UU movement beyond Whidbey, and doing so can be inspiring. We are not alone! Next June GA will be in Providence, RI, and in 2015 it comes to Portland, OR.

~ Dave and Mavis Cauffman

### Macintosh User Classes at UUCWI

The local Macintosh group will be holding an “essentials” class the last week in July and an iMovie class August 5-9. Details:

<http://www.whidbey.com/magicmug/data/classes.html>

<http://www.whidbey.com/magicmug/data/classimovie.html>

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of Whidbey Island**

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If you wish to contact any of the Board members,  
call UUCWI voice mail at 360-321-8656.

**Minister:** Dennis Reynolds 541-517-7325  
minister@uucwi.org

**Chaplain:** Sally Elder 360-675-3314  
chaplain@uucwi.org

Our minister and chaplains are available for rites  
of passage ceremonies (including ceremonies of  
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**Director of Religious Exploration:**

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**Administrator:**

Mavis Cauffman admin@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  
submitted in writing by the deadline to editor  
Cary Sinnett [newsletter@uucwi.org](mailto:newsletter@uucwi.org)  
Items submitted after press time will appear in the  
following month's newsletter if appropriate.

Look for us on Facebook ... search for UUCWI

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