



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

August 2013

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 8:30 am WIN /Kitchen 12 pm MAGIC class	2 12pm MAGIC class	3 VRC Stand Down
4 10am UU Worship: <i>Remembering Hiroshima</i> 4 pm Quaker Worship Service	5 9:30 WIN /Kitchen 10 am VAC 1 pm Dennis' Office Hours	6	7 10am UU Men's Group	8	9 9 am Worship Ctte	10 1pm Whidbey Writers' Program Graduation
11 10am UU Worship: <i>Hymn Sing</i> 11:30 am Brd Mtg 4 pm Quaker Worship	12 9:30 WIN /Kitchen 10am Membership Mtg 10am Quaker Mtg 12pm SRC Planning 1 pm Dennis' Office Hours 6:30pm PFLAG	13	14 (No EvenSong this month)	15 6pm North End Group	16	17 9 - 11 am Work Party
18 10am UU Worship: <i>A Church for All Ages</i> 4 pm Quaker Worship 5pm Quaker Business Meeting	19 9:30 WIN/Kitchen 1 pm Dennis' Office Hours	20 Newsletter Deadline 2nd Annual UUCWI Women's Retreat/ Ft. Ebey	21 10am UU Men's Group 4pm MAGIC	22	23 6pm Choir Retreat	24
25 10am UU Worship: <i>Blessing the Animals</i> 11:30 SRC Mtg 4 pm Quaker Worship 7pm Dances of Universal Peace	26 9:30 WIN /Kitchen 1 pm Dennis' Office Hours	27	28	29	30 2pm Wedding Rehearsal	31 1 pm Wedding

Worship Services

August 4: "Remembering Hiroshima"

Sixty eight years ago this week, the United States dropped two atomic bombs on the Island of Japan. Let us pause to remember and to reflect on how the shadow of that day still shades our days.

Reverend Dennis Reynolds and Suzanne Reynolds

**EvenSong will not be held in August
The next EvenSong will be Sept 11**

August 11: Singing Our Favorite Hymns

We are a congregation that loves music and this is an opportunity to sing your favorite hymns interspersed with a few favorite readings. Please let Frank Allen know what you would like to sing from our UU hymnal. One of our greatest joys is singing together.

Worship Leader: Frank Allen

August 18: A Church for All Ages

Unitarian Universalist churches are proud to be known as "Welcoming Congregations" for gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgendered people. As we seek to expand the age diversity of our congregation, and embrace more families with children, what would it look like for UUCWI to be a "Welcoming Congregation" for all ages? Join us for something a little different as we explore church through the perspective of youth and families and look more deeply into the connections that make us truly inclusive.

Worship Leaders: Lori Taylor and Effie Brown



"Twenty years from now you will be more disappointed by the things that you didn't do than by the ones you did do. So throw off the bowlines. Sail away from the safe harbor. Catch the trade winds in your sails. Explore. Dream. Discover."

~ Mark Twain (1835 – 1910)

August 25: "Blessing the Animals"

As we have for many years, we take time this day to honor the animals, especially those who share their lives with us as companions and work mates. On this Sunday your pets and other critters are welcome at church. Leased dogs and restrained cats and small critters in cages are invited to join us in the Sanctuary. Larger animals are welcome to wait outside to receive their blessing.

Rev Dennis Reynolds and Terra Anderson

September 1: Labor Day... For UUs who believe in the need for Justice and Equality

For Unitarians who believe in the need for justice and equity for all, but especially for the working poor who are so often taken for granted and taken advantage of, Labor Day is an important day for reflection. Today, using the voices of four members of the congregation, we will also explore what is my work in the world, what was I or am I called to do with "this one wild and precious life."

Worship Leader: Mark Brown



Chris Bell, Juliana Larson-Wickman & Toyon Copeland share the tale of Ymir the potter at our July 21st service: *The Power of Story*

August & September Events:

August Book Group News

On August 1, from 6:30 to 8:30, the book group is discussing The Greater Journey: Americans in Paris by the Pulitzer Prize-winning author, David McCullough. He sheds some much-needed light on those Americans who resided in that magical city from the 1830s through the turn of the century, doing a masterful job of synthesizing a great deal of information and telling the story of that time period in a compelling and engaging manner. Although most of the action takes place in Paris, Mr McCullough sets the stage by quoting extensively from the letters and journals of those who made the often arduous journey across the Atlantic to get there. Mary Goolsby is our host. All are welcome. Delicious refreshments will be served.

August 4: 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, chose 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 multiple 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.

August 20 – 21: Women's Retreat

It's hard to believe that August is here already, but it is and our 2nd annual women's retreat is just a few weeks away! Hope you are looking forward to it as much as I am. There will be 15-20 of us, including some women who are newer to the Congregation. If you haven't let me know yet that you want to come to this event, please call me ASAP at 360-221-2189!

Basics: We will enjoy Ft. Ebey State Park during the afternoon, share a pot luck dinner at our beautiful, reserved, bluff-side site beginning about 5:30pm, and then gather around a campfire to tell stories, sing, whatever seems to call us at that time! Camping overnight is optional, but encouraged. I need to know who does plan on staying overnight though, so that possible sharing

of tent space can be arranged.

Other details like *what* to bring, cost-share for the site, directions, car-pooling suggestions and what we'll do if it rains will be sent by email two weeks in advance to all those who have indicated they will be coming. ~ Joan Gerteis

August 23: Choir Retreat

Gather for a potluck dinner and planning session for this year's choir. **New singers welcome!**

6 pm at the Cauffman home in Clinton.

Contact Mavis if you have questions, need directions, etc. ~ admin@uucwi.org

September 8: Save the Date! In-Gathering Salmon Potluck

Join us after the service for a pot-luck salmon luncheon to welcome our new church year. Are you looking for great conversation, new friends, and old friendships renewed? Looking for the best meal in town? You'll find it here, for only \$5 per person or \$10 per family.

Salmon, desserts, and drinks will be provided by UUCWI. Please sign up ahead of time to help us plan the day. Bring a dish to share for eight persons (again, please no desserts). Look for sign-up sheets in the foyer starting August 19.

A-H bring salad and bread.

I-Z bring veggies, casseroles and side dishes

Many thanks! ~ Jean McIntosh, Donita Crosby, Eileen Soskin, Gene Berg

September 15: New Women's Groups Forming!

Put this date on your calendars: September 15 (Sunday) at 11:30. We'll meet in the Sanctuary following the Service to talk about forming new Women's Groups. Please come if you're interested, or might be, or if you're in a group already and would like to assist others in forming their own. Be thinking about what kind of group you'd like: open/closed, topic focused/free floating. You don't need to be a member of UUCWI, just friendly. If you're interested but cannot come at this time, please contact Mary Goolsby (goolsbyonwhidbey@yahoo.com).

Dennis' Musings:

It has happened! Suzanne and I now live on Whidbey Island, thanks to help from Libby Roberts, Dave, Sweetwood and Chris Bell. It is very thrilling.

I currently call our little apartment in Langley a B and B, for bed and boxes. Though our life is a bit chaotic, it is very cool to finally be here.

Our homes in Eugene and Port Townsend are on the market, while this is already beginning to feel like home. The dog and I begin each day with a walk in OUR neighborhood. As we greet new neighbors I realize we will be saying good morning to some of them for years to come. When I returned to church after my vacation, I was met by warm greetings and smiling faces. It truly felt like coming home. As we move towards the dawning of a new church year for our spiritual home I appreciate the deepened sense of connection I have with so many of you and look forward to greeting you again and again.

On my first full day living on the Island I had coffee on our veranda, spent the morning with you at church, met with a soon to be married couple on the bluff at Fort Ebey, and had a barbecue dinner with a special friend at Maxwelton Beach where we lingered to watch the sunset. Ah, Island living. Awesome natural beauty and community, too!

Meanwhile, Suzanne is settling into her new job at Whidbey General. We are both already liking this place and its residents a lot. As I settle in, I seek to not become too accepting of the new routines. To not let it become humdrum and every day even when it includes events and people I will encounter and experience again and again and again. For each misty morning, each awesome sunset is not merely “a” morning or “a” sunset. It is that particular sunset, that unique morning.

Similarly, each “hello, how are you?” is a unique and special event and an opportunity for new possibilities. Each conversation, each meeting, each social gathering, even those that may begin under less than ideal conditions, just might unfold as part of something uniquely wondrous and special.

May our lives be filled with new dawns and breath-taking beauty. May we pause, breathe deeply and appreciate them fully.

Blessings, Dennis

SRC Committee: In the Know

This month, we want you to know about the generosity of the congregation to local programs through Dedicated Offerings. In the church year ending in June, 2013, we contributed approximately \$5000 to nine local organizations and to the Red Cross for Hurricane Sandy relief. Thank you!

July's Dedicated Offering supported our now-18 month commitment to Whidbey Island Nourishes (WIN), providing weekend backpack lunches and free vending machine food to the hungry children and teens of South Whidbey. Thanks also to the teams of folks meeting Mondays to make sure that burritos and trail mix make it to the backpacks and vending machines.

In August, we support Senior Services of Island County which offers Meals on Wheels, Medicare system help, Time Together—a social opportunity for those with cognitive difficulties and respite for their care givers, nutrition services including lunch every weekday at the south Whidbey centers, Coupeville, Oak Harbor and Camano Island. There are also community classes in the arts, field trips and so much more!

We are continuing our special focus on Habitat for Humanity and WIN through December, 2013. Each organization will receive one more dedicated offering through the end of the year.

Moving forward, Camille Long has agreed to coordinate SRC Local Outreach and our Dedicated Offering program. She would love to hear from you about other local non-profits that need our help. Please call her at 360-221-4094 or email her at cclong@whidbey.net.

New UUCWI Directory

A new directory is being compiled and should be ready by September 8 . If you would like to be included or have new information, please send it to our administrator as soon as possible. Thanks!

~ admin@uucwi.org

Terra's Tales

When I first joined UUCWI, the congregation was small enough that I quickly learned everyone's name and could anticipate greeting them during trips to PayLess. Now I look across the room on a Sunday morning and cannot name many of those smiling faces! This gives me both joy and sorrow - joy that so many new people are walking through our doors, sorrow that I no longer know everyone by name.

Several years ago Dave Cauffman and Ken Merrell shared their learning about congregational growth dynamics with the Board of Trustees in anticipation of our own impending changes: having our own building should invite growth - how would we be structured to respond? Kit would retire - what would we need from a new minister? Our sanctuary was filled to 70% capacity on Sunday mornings - when might we require multiple services?

I think about what I learned from them as I ponder a frequent question heard by Board members: how do we make decisions around here?!?

At its beginning, with fewer than 50 members, most churches are described as an *extended family* with a patriarch or matriarch as "head of the clan." New members are assimilated by "adoption;" they all know one another and have a high sense of ownership. Very little planning is required because things just happen - conversations occur everywhere and decisions are made spontaneously wherever several folks happen to gather.

Typically, the next phase is *pastoral*, with the minister becoming the hub of information flow. With a sanctuary full of members, the minister may be the only one who knows everyone. The organizing is still very low-key and flexible with the minister conveying most of the important information.

The third stage is characterized as an *organization* rather than a family. Lay leadership is vital to getting anything done. Work is mostly accomplished through teams, with the minister acting as an agent for consensus. Activities and programs are established to incorporate new members into the organization. Friendships enable a sense of "belonging." While memories of that extended family abound, a sense of multiple families emerges.

Does any of this sound familiar? I suspect we skipped the 2nd stage (perhaps because we have never had a full-time minister?) and are experimenting with how to thrive in the 3rd stage.

So how *do* we make decisions? We are not a corporation - there is no one paid big money to shoulder the responsibility. We are pretty much an all-volunteer group (while we do pay nominal salaries to a few folks, we have not abdicated full decision-making to them.) At the end of the day we cannot walk away, saying "that's someone else's problem" because any decision one of us makes impacts all of us. For now we have a structure of committees, a Leadership Council and a Board of Trustees. Please visit our web site to read roles & responsibilities.

<http://www.uucwi.org/members/documents/index.html>

Next month I'll share with you how I believe this works well for the benefit of our entire community.

CCC News

Beginning in August, the Caring Connections Committee will be without a chair. This is a large committee that meets once every six months. All connections to short-term emergency help are made by e-mail. All members are invited to speak with Judy Kaplan, get the brief information about the role of chair, as well as her email lists of caring members and friends.



Nurturing our budding photographers ☺

A Deposit from the Treasurer:

I am honored to serve as our new Treasurer and hope that with the help of the Finance Committee and other volunteers to improving our reporting system for UUCWI finances. My background, aside from twenty-five years of specializing in working with learning disabled psychotic children in an in-patient mental hospital facility, has been in private philanthropy (since 1970) and 20 years of owning my own consulting business dealing with small business and non-profit organizations. The latter was built from nothing and subsequently franchised up and down the west coast, prior to my selling the company. I then started a business to help school districts develop experiential and distance learning in French, Spanish, Biology, History, Mathematics, and music. It is my hope that my combined experience will contribute to your better understanding of church finances.

Tom Buxton and I have already met and should have last year's books closed by August 1. The report will serve as the baseline for our new reporting system. We have received some requests for some more specific information. As a result Tom, Ken and I will be working with the bookkeeper so that she will be able to generate the kinds of information that you and we want.

In the meantime, I want to thank Mark for his dedication and long commitment to this position. I hope he will feel free to continue to come to the Finance Committee meetings and provide his experience and expertise. He has done a yeoman's job in keeping the church on track financially and we all owe him a great debt of gratitude.
~ Bill Carlstrom

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. All are requested to avoid wearing cologne, perfume, aftershave, any scented lotions, etc. to services and programs at the church.

The Greening Congregations of Whidbey Island

The Greening Congregations of Whidbey Island will begin a film and discussion series entitled, "Moral Ground: Our Earth in Crisis" on Friday, September 27 at 7 pm in the UUCWI sanctuary. The first film, "Bidder 70," features the efforts and subsequent trial of University of Utah student and UU Tim DeChrispher, who put his liberty on the line to challenge an illegal sale of public land for gas and petroleum exploitation by bidding on it himself. We will follow Tim's odyssey as he takes a stand against the Federal Government on ethical grounds and inspires a movement of civil disobedience. Tim was released from jail on April 21, 2013 and will continue his education at Harvard Divinity School in September. The film will be followed by a panel discussion.

"If you want to shift the balance, if you want to tilt that scale, you have to go to the edge and push. You have to go beyond what people consider reasonable and push." Tim DeChristopher
Other films planned for this series include: "Do the Math," "Carbon Nation" and "Gasland II." This series is co-sponsored by 350.org, The Citizen's Climate Lobby, The Climate Reality Project, and the Climate Reality Education and Advocacy Team. ~ John Leaser

Together we'll do it, we'll help save the Earth, Our emerald home, the place of our birth. Come now, rhyme with me, Let's turn our hearts loose, And fly 'round the world With Green Mother Goose.

Whidbey Island Peace Groups

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

Women in Black meet the first Friday of each month from 4 to 5 pm on the grass just above Bayview Park and Ride.

**Unitarian Universalist Congregation
of Whidbey Island**

2013 - 2014 Board of Trustees

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Sara Heath, Vice President
Bill Carlstrom, Treasurer
Gladys Howard, Secretary
Jean McIntosh, Trustee
Ken Merrell, Trustee
Libby Roberts, Trustee

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.

Administrator:
Mavis Cauffman admin@uucwi.org

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P.O. Box 1076
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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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