



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

January 2014

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 10am UU Men's Group	2 6:30 pm Book Group - <i>Broken For You</i> by Kallos	3 6pm Family Game Night	4
5 9:30 Hospitality: Lois 9:30 Refresh- Ann & Bill 10am UU Worship 11:30 Gallery Reception 11:30 Board Mtg 4 pm Quaker Worship	6 8:45 WIN 4pm Meditation	7 7pm Choir Rehearsal (Cauffman)	8 7:20 Even Song	9 10 am Quaker Gathering 6pm Audubon	10 9am Worship Ctte	11 1pm North End Coffee
12 9:30 Hosp.: Gene B 9:30 Refresh: Norma 10am UU Worship 11:30 SRC/POC Mtg 4 pm Quaker Wrshp 5pm Quaker Potluck	13 8:45 WIN 6:30 pm PFLAG	14 10 am Women's Grp 2pm SRC Strg Ctte 7pm Choir Rehearsal (Cauffman)	15 10am UU Men's Group 4 pm MAGIC	16 6pm North End Grp	17	18 1pm Rehearsal (Soskin)
19 8:45 Choir 9:30 Hosp.: John 9:30 Refresh: Judy K and Michelle S 10am UU Worship 4 pm Quaker Wrshp 5 pm Quaker Business Mtg.	20 8:45 WIN 4pm Meditation Newsletter Deadline	21 1 pm Dennis' Office Hours	22 1pm Concert Rehearsal (Soskin)	23	24 11am Piano Tuning 6:30 pm SRC Movie: <i>Journey of the Universe</i>	25 1pm Rehearsal (Soskin)
26 9:30 Greeter: John 9:30 Refresh: Terra and Tom 10am UU Worship 11:15 UU 101 11:30 SRC 4 pm Quaker Wrshp 6pm North End Dine Out	27 8:45 WIN 7pm Rehearsal (Soskin)	28 10 am Women's Grp 1 pm Dennis' Office Hours 7pm Rehearsal (Soskin)	29 7pm Rehearsal (Soskin)	30 7pm Rehearsal (Soskin)	31	

“Like” us on Facebook Search for Whidbey Unitarian or UUCWI
 And always check the most current version of our calendar online at www.uucwi.org

Worship Services

January 5: "Soap Box Sunday"

We continue our popular Soap Box tradition with a new twist this year. Inspired by the UU first principle of the worth and dignity of every person, we are inviting our young ones of various ages to "speak up" on a subject about which they are excited or concerned. Come and be inspired by the wisdom of our children.

Worship Leader: Effie Brown

January 12:

with guest speaker Reverend Michael Walker

Reverend Michael Walker joins us from The Kitsap UU Fellowship in Bremerton. Reverend Walker is an outspoken advocate for the LGBT community, a peace activist, and authority on paganism and spirituality within the Unitarian Universalist faith community. A diverse and dynamic speaker, Reverend Walker will bring a unique perspective to our worship.

Worship Leader: Ken Merrell

EvenSong, Wednesday, January 8, 7:20 pm (prelude)

As we welcome the new year, the EvenSong theme this month will be ***Hope***. All are welcome at this candlelit service of readings, silent meditation and songs accompanied by harp. EvenSong is the second Wednesday evening of each month.

January 19:

"Mandela and King: Dreamers and Doers"

With Rev. Dennis Reynolds

These two iconic seekers of freedom and justice never met, yet each drew inspiration from the other. What they said and what they stood for became real through their deeds. They still offer undying inspiration for us all. Choir Sunday
Worship Leader: Linda Good



Christmas Eve, 2013

January 26:

"Re-Weaving the Web" with Rev. Joy Atkinson

The Seventh principle of our Association calls upon us to affirm the "interdependent web of all existence of which we are a part." As a species, we have been responsible for tearing at the strands of the delicate web of life that sustains us on our planet, through such phenomena as global warming, extinction of species, oil spills, ozone depletion. What has been done and what can we do to repair some of the damage? Ordained in 1974, Rev. Atkinson has served as Interim Minister at numerous congregations.

Worship Leader: Gladys Howard



Board of Trustee Changes

It is with sadness that we are bidding Ann and Bill Carlstrom adieu. They have sold their Whidbey house and will be moving to the mainland where they will be closer to both adult children and medical support. Not only will we miss their smiling faces on Sundays, the board will especially miss Bill's wit and wisdom. He has only served as treasurer for 6 months but we have come to rely upon his financial experience, perspectives and the passion he brings to UUCWI around the topic of financial stability. Ken Merrell has graciously agreed to serve the balance of this year as treasurer and Dave Holte will equally graciously join our ranks until June.

If that isn't enough change and turmoil, Jean McIntosh has resigned effectively immediately. She has discovered that this administrative role is far from her passion and would prefer to spend her energy doing what she most loves - leading some of our social responsibility activities. Jean will be especially missed because she brought such great questions, curiosity and reflection to our BOT teams. We could always count on Jean to hear the myriad of opinions, reveal the common thread and suggest a solution that transcended all those ideas. To our delight, Eileen Soskin has volunteered to complete Jean's term and the board has overwhelmingly said yes. Please express your appreciation to these wonderful folks who have served our community well. Jean and Bill will be missed! Eileen and Dave will be welcomed with open arms.

Terra Anderson

January Events

Book Group – Thursday, January 2, 6:30 pm

Our Book Discussion group will meet at UUCWI to discuss *Broken For You* by Stephanie Kallos.

First Friday Family Game Night – Jan 3, 6 pm

Bring your Family, your Friends, your Games, Eat Pizza and have Fun! Scheduled every month and open to the whole community.



Side-dishes and desserts welcome, but not necessary. \$10 suggested donation/family

RSVP with your pizza preference to Ginger White, RE Coordinator at re_dir@uucwi.org Last month we filled the sanctuary with over 40 people of all ages playing games and sharing food. Spread the word, bring a friends and come join in!

Work Party - Cancelled for January

We'll take a break this month and resume work parties on Feb 15.

Exploring Who We Are – “UU101”, Jan 26

After the service, Rev. Dennis and members of the Membership Committee will host an open-ended discussion and presentation about Unitarian Universalism, its history, its contemporary reality and how it offers a home for seekers who follow sometimes differing paths.

The session is called “UU101” and anyone who might be considering becoming a member of our congregation or who wants to know more about UUism and this congregation is invited to attend. Current members who would like an opportunity for a bit of review and who want to welcome new folks are also welcome.

We will offer a simple lunch so please let us know if you plan to attend. RSVP to: Corinne Ludy at corinneludy@aol.com or John Long at johnlong45@gmail.com



“Darkness cannot drive out darkness; only light can do that. Hate cannot drive out hate; only love can do that.”

~ Martin Luther King, Jr.

“Blessed Are the Peace Makers” Celebrate the Witness of Martin Luther King, Jr. – Jan 20

On Monday, January 20, the day set aside to honor the nonviolent witness of Martin Luther King, Jr., the St. Augustine’s Episcopal Peace Fellowship will sponsor the ninth annual Whidbey Island “Blessed Are the Peace Makers” Martin Luther King community event. The service will be held at St. Augustine’s at 1:00 pm, with salads and beverages served from 12 to 12:45 in the church parish hall.



Dennis' Musings on New Beginnings

It has always seemed a bit odd to me that we celebrate the New Year in the middle of winter. As a gardener it seems spring would be a better fit. As a former educator and as a minister the “new year” always began in the fall. Yet our calendar begins anew each January 1, so we have established this as time for celebration, reflection and resolutions.

We, like the two-faced Greek god Janus for whom the month is named, look forward as we look back. I know it is certainly a time when I am looking in both directions.

When this column is published, my wife Suzanne and I will be far away from Whidbey Island. We will be in South Africa where the New Year begins in the summer. After a few days in Cape Town and a bit of sightseeing, we will be living in a rural community with a Zulu family and helping to complete and dedicate a new preschool there.

The impetus for the journey is the work of my daughter Lindsey, who is a postdoctoral health researcher at Stellenbosch University in Cape Town and is co-founder of the non-profit that is assisting the local community in launching the new children’s program.

As a former early education professional, I will spend some time as a teacher trainer. As a minister, I will help to dedicate the new center. We will have amazing opportunities to learn much about the land of South Africa, the culture and the people. The opportunities to see amazing country and wildlife will be an extra gift.

At this time of transition in Suzanne's and my life, such an audacious journey will offer opportunities for reflection, renewal, and growth.

Living in the midst of rural South Africa, in an area wounded by the AIDS pandemic and with people seeking ways out of deep poverty, will make it easier to follow through on New Year's Resolutions to live more simply, to appreciate all we have, to be generous, and to be open to new experiences and new and different ways of seeing and being in the world.

We sincerely hope our resolve travels home with us and aids us as we deepen our connection to this Congregational community and begin to fully settle in to the New Year as Whidbey Islanders. May each of us, in our own ways, resolve to live out our highest aspirations in our families, in our communities and in the world.

Dennis

Terra's Tales

An annual responsibility of your Board of Trustees is to renew our covenant between our minister and the congregation. The UUA suggests that a covenant reflects "*the promises and commitments people make to one another in the context of a religious community ... The covenant grows from an affirmation of shared needs, values, purposes, and principles. It is rooted in the past and reflects the promises that people make into the future.*" Notice the emphasis on mutuality. In the UU tradition, ministry is created by *everyone* in the congregation, not a priest who claims a direct line to God and thus ultimate wisdom and authority.

Unlike the experience most of us have in our working lives of setting annual performance goals with our single manager, our *covenant* is between the minister and the whole congregation. That's a LOT of relationships to manage – imagine being married to 100 other people! ☺ And being the typical UUs that we are, we probably have as

many different expectations of our minister as we have people in the congregation. Let me share some examples from the survey 74 of us answered two springs ago as we began our ministerial search.

When asked the **priorities** for our minister, 23 of us wanted emphasis on growing the congregation, 25 wanted personal/pastoral ministry, 31 wanted social activism, 29 wanted a facilitator, 42 wanted a spiritual leader, 27 wanted an intellectual and scholar, a few wanted a dynamic/motivational speaker and some wanted a minister who did it all. (Please note that the numbers do not add to 74 votes because we were invited to check multiple boxes.)

Our opinions on the **function** of the minister had more coherence: 82% for "building community" and 61% for leading UUCWI on its mission. Other votes were uniformly split between social action, adult religious exploration, expanding membership and making pastoral calls.

For the **qualities** we expected of our minister, 72% declared leadership style, 67% wanted skill in developing a diverse membership. The remaining votes split between a strong theological background, compassion, warmth, a sense of humor, and good communications skills.

We don't want much, do we? In my business experience I was accountable to only my manager for my performance. We do not have that seemingly simple luxury in our church. Here we try to navigate those myriad expectations listed above as well as probably many more yet unspoken. It's messy and yet in those moments we align we may experience what's called heaven on earth. ☺

How do you think we are doing? How can **you** help build what you want? Members will be receiving a survey in the next six weeks. Please plan to respond thoughtfully, as together we build our future.

Terra Anderson, President of the Board



"I have a dream that my four little children will one day live in a nation where they will not be judged by the color of their skin, but by the content of their character."

~ Martin Luther King, Jr.

SRC: In the Know

Updates from Social Responsibility Committee; lots of opportunities ahead!

Help Others Know More About Your Favorite UU Charity

Are you interested in being a “Point of Contact” (POC) for a charitable organization? These are individuals passionate about a particular charity, who are willing to do “due diligence” on the organization, and write a newsletter article to introduce the charity to members of the congregation. Ten of you who responded to the recent SRC Passion survey expressed interest in doing so; even if you didn’t, here’s an opportunity to get in on the ground floor.

We particularly encourage youth to consider taking on this role. Except for youth, to whom we will give more latitude, the SRC steering committee has decided to begin this first year with charitable (not lobbying) organizations that are local, environmental, or have a UU connection (such as UUSC, WA UU Voices for Justice, UU-United Nations Office, etc.).

You are invited to a meeting January 12 after church to discuss what is involved in being a POC and how the effort will be organized. Put it on your calendar!

Dave Cauffman for the SRC

Greening Congregations: Moral Ground Series

The Greening Congregations of Whidbey Island successfully completed the first part of the series “Moral Ground: Our Earth in Crisis” on November 23, 2013 with the showing of Carbon Nation and a presentation by Melody Kushnereit of the Sustainable Whidbey Coalition. The series began in September with the film Bidder 70, the story of University of Utah UU Tim DeChristopher who ignited imaginations and the civil disobedience campaign now sanctioned by many NGOs including the Sierra Club. The second film featured Bill McKibben in Do the Math, which documents the rationale for the launch of the fossil fuel divestment campaign in 2012 and is seriously tarnishing the brand of these corporations bent on exploiting short term profit in spite of the clear threat to our future. Both events included an opportunity to quiz representatives of the various organizations active in this historic challenge.

The series will resume Friday, January 24 at 6:30 PM with the film Journey of the Universe (as seen on PBS) which, “narrates the 14 billion year story of the universe's development, from the great flaring forth at the universe's inception to the emergence of simple molecules and atoms to the evolution of galaxies, stars, solar systems, and planetary life of greater complexity and consciousness. This is a story that inspires wonder as we begin to understand such complexity through science and appreciate such beauty through poetry, art, history, religion, and philosophy. It also awakens us to the dynamic processes of evolution that are chaotic and destructive, as well as creative and life-generating.”

2014 will continue to feature films, both celebratory and sobering, such as: Climate Refugees, Green Fire, Gasland II and Chasing Ice. This season will also have presentations on: ethics and social justice; regional and local impacts of climate disruption including sea level rise and workshops on advocacy and civil disobedience. We hope you will join us and advocate as well for the changes necessary to preserve a viable future.

The Greening Congregations of Whidbey Island currently consist of the UUCWI, St Augustine’s Episcopal, Langley Methodist and St Hubert’s Catholic.

Gary Piazzon

Doing Our Part for Whidbey’s Roads

Have you noticed a sign on Bush Point Road between Hwy 525 and where the road bends to the North that indicates that UUCWI is the “road steward”? Well, it’s there...but we haven’t been! All it takes is a crew of folks with provided tools and vests picking up trash 3-4 times annually to keep our commitment. We’ve had team leaders in the past who have called together a few folks to get the job done.

So the question is: do we want to continue this contribution to our community? If you are interested in participating and perhaps leading this team effort, please write Jean McIntosh at jeanmc@whidbey.com. If we can’t muster participants, we’ll advise the county to remove the sign with our name on it. Thanks for your consideration.

SRC Dedicated Offering:

Our dedicated offering on January 19th will benefit Habitat for Humanity of Island County. We return to Habitat in order to support the wonderful work they do in building homes for working people who need help getting into home ownership. We committed to giving them two of our dedicated offerings per year so they can depend on regular pledge income.

This offering is on the ML King weekend and if you will not be there, you can give your donation to a friend or to Camille or John Long ahead of time, marked for Habitat. Thank you!

Religious Exploration Program

This year's RE program has been off to a great start and our families are excited! Our devoted teachers, Joann, Gene, Kathy, and Angie are leading the children in their explorations of UU values and principles while Lori is helping our teens grow in their connections to one another and their own explorations of spirituality. Many activities are in the works to follow on the heels of a lovely holiday pageant and the very popular game nights. Ginger, our fabulous interim RE Coordinator is keeping it all humming and has enjoyed getting to know the familiar faces and all the new families who have been participating in our programs this fall.

Next up: We will begin advertising in January for a Director of Religious Exploration and will be reforming an active Religious Exploration Committee to continue our program development. You should also soon see a colorful display in the lobby outlining our vision and activities. This is a great time to join us! If you would like to participate in furthering the blossoming of our children, there is no better way than being a member of the RE Committee. Just let Janella Riegel know of your interest: janellak@gmail.com and we'll be glad to bring you on board.



"We must accept finite disappointment, but never lost infinite hope."

~ Martin Luther King, Jr.

UUCWI Art Gallery Show

The UU Art Gallery features "A Tribute to Esme, a Journey of Grief and Healing", by Lisa Siders-Kenney, in the January/February exhibit. Lisa is a well-known Cincinnati artist and quilt maker, now living in Greenbank. The current exhibit sprang from a deep well of grief as she returned to her artistic work in the wake of the murder of her beloved daughter, Esme.

On March 7, 2009, just weeks after her 13th birthday, Esme Louise Kenney was abducted and killed while jogging near her home by a known murderer and sex offender.

Shortly after Esme's murder, a call went out to Lisa's friends for entries for "The Esme Kenney Memorial Quilt." Outraged by this crime against a vibrant young woman, friends, family and community resoundingly responded with over one hundred participants submitting squares depicting memories of Esme or paying tribute to her joyful spirit. The resulting 20' x 7' quilt is the focus for this exhibit. The textile work explores themes of loss, grief, healing, the need to protect our children, as well as reactions to violence against girls and women.

Other works in the show include "Creation Dream" and "She who raised me, may she be strong whatever comes. For she who raised me should be strong."

The Visual Arts Committee will host a reception for the artist Sunday, January 5 from 11:30 to 12:30.



**Unitarian Universalist Congregation
of Whidbey Island**

2013 - 2014 Board of Trustees

Terra Anderson, President
Sara Heath, Vice President
Ken Merrell, Treasurer
Gladys Howard, Secretary
Dave Holte, Trustee
Libby Roberts, Trustee
Eileen Soskin, 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

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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