



Island Passages November 2014

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	<p style="text-align: center;">Our annual action is November 1st. This is one of our most entertaining activities of the year, something you definitely do not want to miss! Hopefully you have already signed up and provided your clever donations to our hard-working auction team. Thank you all for your commitments to the health and vitality of UUCWI</p>					<p>AUCTION! 5 - 8 pm</p> <p style="color: orange;">TURN Clocks Back!</p>
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
8:45am Choir 10am UU Worship 11:30 RE Mtg 4pm Quaker Worship 5:45 OWL	8:45 WIN 4pm Meditation 5:30pm TWOG	1pm Dennis' Office Hours 6:30 Leadership Council	10am UU Men's Group 6:30pm Billy Collins' Poetry	7pm Book Group 7pm Film "Harvest of Empire"	6pm Family Game Night	10am VAC Mtg 1pm North End Coffee
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
10am UU Worship 4pm Quaker Worship 5pm Quaker dinner	8:45 WIN 5:30pm TWOG 6:30pm PFLAG 6:30pm Witnessing Whiteness	10am Women's Group 10am Mem Ctte 1pm Dennis' Office Hours 2pm SRC strg Ctte WiFire 7pm <i>Prophetic Witness</i>	2pm Concert Rehearsal 6:30pm Billy Collins' Poetry 7pm Worship Ctte	1:30pm Quaker Mtg 3:30 Pastoral Assoc. Mtg 6pm Audubon	6pm concert setup 7:30 PianoTrio concert	9am Work Party Please come and help care for our shared home 6pm concert setup 7:30 PianoTrio concert
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
10am UU Worship 4pm Quaker Worship 5pm Quaker Business Mtg	8:45am WIN 4pm Meditation 5:30pm TWOG	1pm Dennis' Office Hours	10am UU Men's Group 4pm MAGIC 6:30pm Billy Collins' Poetry 7pm <i>Prophetic Witness</i>	3pm Ctte on Ministry 4pm Finance Ctte 6pm North End Grp 7pm BOT mtg Newsletter Deadline	4pm Quaker Workshop	8am-8pm Quaker Workshop 10:30 South End Coffee
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
10am UU Worship 4pm Quaker Worship	8:45 WIN 5:30pm TWOG	10am Women's Group 1 pm Dennis' Office Hours		Thanksgiving 1:30pm Quaker Mtg	7pm Greening Congregation Movie: Plant for the Planet	
30	<p><i>Don't ever save anything for a special occasion. Every day you're alive is a special occasion.</i></p>					
10am UU Worship 4pm Quaker Worship 6pm Northend Dine Out 7pm Dances of Universal Peace						

And always check the most current version of our calendar online at www.uucwi.org

November Worship Services (Sundays at 10 am unless otherwise noted)

Nov. 2: Gratitudes, Large and Small with Rev Dennis (*Turn your clocks back!*)

This is the season of bounty and thankfulness. The Canadians have already celebrated their Thanksgiving Day and those of us who live a wee bit further south will be having our own feast of giving thanks soon. That holiday weekend is the busiest travel time of the year, as families and friends come together in love and gratitude.

As we busily plan and pack, shop and cook and clean to be ready, let us take time to be truly grateful for all we have, including both the little sometimes ignored small blessings that almost go unnoticed, as well as the challenges that life offers for learning, growth, and transformation.

Music: UUCWI Chalice Choir
Worship Leader: Nydia Blood

Nov. 16: Robert Frost's 'Mending Wall' with the Rev. Dr. Peter Luton

Do fences make good neighbors? Do they establish important borders? Do they protect or exclude? Do they separate and divide? Poet Robert Frost wrote a famous poem on the topic, but even his opinion is ambiguous. ☺

The Rev. Dr. Peter Luton is senior minister at Bellevue's East Shore UU. A lifelong UU himself, he is a graduate of Princeton and Meadville/Lombard Theological School where he serves on the board. He is also adjunct faculty for Seattle UU's school of theology.

Worship Leader: Terra Anderson

Nov. 30: Meditative Judaism: An Exploration of Non-Dualism with Rabbi Olivier BenHaim

Rabbi Olivier reframes the mystery of God from being a dualistic relationship to being a non-dual experience where God is the essence of life itself. We can access that essence within the intimacy of our own pure awareness. In his words: "We have to move past an exclusive conceptualizing of God as 'out there' and awaken to the fact that God is also inside of us, and manifests as us; that God is also manifesting and being all that surrounds us, all the universe."

Affiliated with Bet Alef Meditative Synagogue in Seattle, Rabbi Olivier leads his congregation in rediscovering ancient Jewish mystical practices that have close analogs within Eastern spiritual practices and philosophies found in Buddhism and Hinduism. He came to Meditative Judaism through studies with Rabbi Ted Falcon.

Worship Leader: Eileen Soskin

Nov. 9: Seeking Spirit with Glo Sherman

Public opinion polls show that Americans are a very spiritual people, even those who consider themselves to be unreligious. In our gathering we will explore what motivates us to seek spirit, the activities or practices with which we seek, and how we evaluate the process. We will share what we see as characteristics of spirit, hear of some personal experiences with it, and have time for contemplation of what we have heard.

Music: Mike & Annie Center

Nov. 23: Musings: Poets & Artists

For their next exhibition, the VAC teamed up a poet and artist and gave them an assignment: Choose a theme and explore it from your unique perspective in your chosen media. The results of these pairings will grace our gallery this winter. But we could not pass up an opportunity to get a sneak peak. Join us for an experiment in expression: Original work by local artists in paint and poetry presented by their creators.

Music: Sarungano

Worship Leaders: Ken Merrell & Sandy Welch

November Activities & News for your Enjoyment...

News about our UUCWI Foyer Gallery...

Ekphrasis

When poets find a piece of visual artwork that truly captures their imagination, they often engage in a literary practice known as **ekphrastic poetry**, which is poetry that verbally describes a visual work of art.

Examine the current UU exhibit of art and read the poems to see how paintings, photographs and sculptures have been vividly described through poetry.

The participating artists are Linda Beeman and Buffy Cribbs, Dallas Huth and Michelle Schmidtke, Mary Goolsby, Janice O'Mahoney and Deb Short, Joan Gerteis, Jane Klassen, Shera Abrams, Nola Allen, John Long, Sandy Welch and Ken Merrell, Emily Day and John Braun, and Gene Berg and Jim Bartram.

The exhibit will begin November 9 and there will be an **artist's reception on November 23**.

Your social responsibility council presents...

HARVEST of EMPIRE

This award-winning film examines the political events, social conditions, and U.S. government actions that led millions of Latino families to leave their homelands in an unprecedented wave of migration over the past six decades.

At a time of heated and divisive debate over federal immigration policy, producers Eduardo López and Wendy Thompson Marquez felt it was important to offer a rare and powerful glimpse into the enormous sacrifices and rarely-noted triumphs of the millions of Latino immigrants who are transforming the cultural and economic landscape of the nation.

A discussion following the film will be facilitated by Libby Roberts.

November 6th, at 7pm in our sanctuary



BOOK DISCUSSION GROUP - NOV 6

Our UUCWI book group participants will be sharing their favorite poetry at its November 6th meeting, rather than discussing a book. If this interests you as well, please join us!



In December, we'll have a potluck and book exchange. In January we will discuss the work of Maya Angelou. Books to be discussed in the following months are as follows:

February: The Unlikely Pilgrimage of Harold Fry

March: Don't let's go to the dogs tonight

April: End of Your Life Book Club

May: Mountains Beyond Mountains

June: Team of Rivals

Book group meetings begin at 7pm, at UUCWI, the first Thursday of every month.

UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CONGREGATION OF WHIDBEY ISLAND
Concert Series 2014-2015

Chamber Music

TRIO CASCADIA
Nola Allen, piano
Dave Beck, cello
Bob Winger, clarinet

Special guest artist
Teo Benson, violin

performing:
Bach
Beethoven
Brahms
Stravinsky

Friday and Saturday
November 14-15, 7:30pm

20103 Highway 525, Freeland, WA

Information and Reservations: concerts@uucwi.org

Even More November News...

You and your skills are needed!



November Work Party

Come one, come all. We need your help! Have a little time to dust? Or sort name tags? Or clean the refrigerator? Maybe you would enjoy filling holes in the driveway. Don't you love coming to UUCWI and appreciating

how beautiful our building is? That is accomplished only by the loving care of members just like you. And it's fun! Really. ☺ Please come and bring a friend.

November 15th from 9 - 11 am



After-Service Refreshments

Have you noticed how people linger after a service, chatting with one another, some sipping coffee, others enjoying tasty tidbits? We ran an experiment last year and observed that on those days we did not offer refreshments, the church was empty of people 15 minutes after the postlude concluded. However, on those days when refreshments *were* available, people lingered a full 40 minutes visiting and connecting. Would you like to help facilitate that neighborly interaction? Please sign up! We need people for November and all of December. There is a calendar posted on the back of the door into the kitchen from the sanctuary. Or contact Corinne Ludy or Clara Beier.

First Friday Family Game Night -- November 6, 6 pm

Bring your family, your friends, your games and have pizza and fun!

Open to the whole community.

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

RSVP with your pizza preference to Ginger White, RE Coordinator at re_dir@uucwi.org

Elections Season – from Rev Dennis

It's that time again. The roadsides are blooming with signs for initiatives and candidates for office.

There are even some **Yes on 594** signs in front of UUCWI. Those signs are an expression of the Congregational Endorsement of that initiative which resulted from an open and inclusive process soliciting input from all. With that process in place we likely will explore other opportunities to collectively stand together on an issue.

Meanwhile, many of us are active individually on behalf of the causes and candidates we support. That important work is ours to do and to celebrate. Yet we also need to remember that though we love alike we do not all think alike. Our advocacy passions are not always the same.

Direct advocacy of candidates is not what we as a congregation are officially organized to do. IRS Code states that a 501(c)(3) organization "may not participate in, or intervene in (including the publishing or distributing of statements), any political campaign on behalf of (or in opposition to) any candidate for public office." If you want to better understand what this means in practice, check the [UUA guidelines](#).

We need to be cautious and consistently considerate and deeply committed here to the work of inner transformation that feeds our commitment to do what we can to help to heal a wounded world.

From the Minister's Corner

Dennis' Musings: *gratitude for what we have*

Back in September John Long, your Board President, and I shared the stage on a Sunday morning to talk about *Shared Ministry*. We used a mantra from the UU minister and theologian Forrest Church as a way of looking at who we are as a congregational community and where we might be headed. Church said:

Want what you have

Be who you are

Do what you can



I have continued to reflect on the questions of *what we have* and *who we are* as a UUCWI community and how that shapes what we can or might *choose to do*. I have invited the Board and now all of you to share in such pondering.

In addition to basic demographic characteristics like age and address I have noticed some unique things about us. We are an exceptionally warm and welcoming community. And we are a transient group. Only a relatively small cadre of members attend Sunday services more than 1 or 2 times each month. Some of you who attend regularly only do so seasonally because you travel south or in other directions in the winter or spring. A number of you have places other than Whidbey Island that you call home.

Some miss more Sundays in the summer, perhaps because you are more deeply moved by being in the woods or in the garden than by being inside a building, even one as lovely as ours. I have to admit that was my reality when I lived in Eugene, even though I was very active at church. That octagonal church in the woods was also lovely and I considered it my spiritual home, but in the summer I did not stay in that home.

These attendance patterns can make it hard for me to elaborate on a sermon topic over multiple Sundays. For committees and the Board, it requires some juggling of who will help with on-going tasks that keep this place humming.

Yet, along with the challenges come some bonuses. Homecomings are repeated often and with deep warmth. The comings and goings keep things fresh and renewals are frequent. Your genuine joy in seeing each other is deepened.

It requires some planning to make everything work and we are doing a good job of that. Some meetings shift based on who is on-island and others fluctuate in who is able to attend. Some of us are beginning to talk about how we might be even better at welcoming you and keeping you better connected. For myself that means doing a better job helping to make sermons available on the website so you can read what was said while you were away. We are also exploring the how and who of getting sermons recorded and edited so they can also be posted. The Newsletter, the weekly E-News, and our [website](#) are your links to your UU home.

When you are here you do what you can. When you are away you recognize that UUCWI's financial needs continue so you give what you can. You give of time and you give of treasure to sustain and nurture this place, even when you are away, because you want to be sure that we are able to keep the home fires burning all year long. Sometimes it's a lot of work, but it is also deeply enjoyable and deeply rewarding. All this is just part of being who we are.

Please join me in the pondering and in continuing these conversations. As the year progresses we will be assessing our shared ministry as we seek together to more fully understand *what we have*, *who we are*, and *what we seek to do*.

This island is a unique and wonderful place and its people are equally unique. Together, as we explore the world "out there" may we continue to sustain, nurture, and grow this community where we seek within. ~ Dennis

Pastoral Support The November Pastoral Associates Coordinator is [Sara Heath](#). If you have need of a visit or an ear, please contact her via e-mail or at 360-675-7487 or [Rev Dennis](#).

Meet Your Leadership

Please meet Charlie Knutila. You have probably seen him around the sanctuary, camera in hand, taking many of the candid photos we use on Facebook, our website, and in the newsletter, or doing a variety of tasks around our building and property. He manages our website, and just this year agreed to serve as Treasurer on our Board of Trustees...



Life started for me in suburban northern New Jersey. I was born, went to high school, and Sunday School in the N.J. foothills about 30 miles west of New York City. My mother taught Sunday school in the Summit, NJ, Unitarian Church, so I attended Sunday School on a regular basis! I didn't finish college in 4 years, but I wanted to go on to graduate school so I decided to join the Army Reserves.

During this period, I began working in a local cable television company. I rose through the ranks quickly and became operations manager. My company then asked me to move out West to supervise franchising and construction of cable TV systems in Arizona and Southern California. While living in Arizona I joined a MASH unit in Albuquerque, New Mexico and was trained as a surgical technician. I remained in the medical side of the Army for the balance of my career .

After I stopped working in the cable TV business I moved successively to Santa Fe New Mexico, Marin County California and finally to Port Townsend, WA. After arriving in Seattle, I performed a series of several medical support missions in places such as Panama, and Peru. We were involved in building roads, schools, medical clinics and providing veterinary, dental and medical care to local populations.

The one thing I missed throughout all those years of moving around was community. I discovered that about 4 years ago when I began attending programs at UUCWI. Since joining, I feel my life has been enriched through adult programs, men's group, and leadership positions here at UUCWI. I'm glad to be a part of this dynamic community!

I'm married to Jarina (also a member), have two adult children in the Seattle area and enjoy hiking, canoeing, photography, and amateur radio.

Gene's puzzler:

Each letter stands for a digit, 0,1,2,...,9.

Different letters stand for different digits.

Decode the addition problem:

$$\begin{array}{r} \text{ME} \\ +\text{MY} \\ \text{EYE} \end{array}$$

Post your answers to

[Gene](#)

Want the church calendar on your computer, tablet, or smartphone?

Here's how: In your calendar app, find the "new calendar subscription" or something to that effect. (On a Mac, it's under the file menu. On an iPhone or iPad it's at Settings->Mail, Contacts, Calendars->Add Account->Other->Add subscribed calendar.) You'll be asked for a calendar URL or server. Enter: <https://www.google.com/calendar/ical/whidbeyunitarian%40gmail.com/public/basic.ics> and click Subscribe.

You'll be able to toggle entries on or off by clicking whidbeyunitarian in your list of calendars.

If you have trouble, Google offers detailed instructions; for example, search for "Sync Google Calendar with a mobile device". ~ Dave Cauffman

Social Responsibility Council News

SRC...Be In the Know!

Have you heard about **Commit2Respond**....more importantly, have you signed up? Here's what UUA President Morales and UUSC President Bill Schultz have challenged us to initiate:

In the face of this historic threat to our existence on the planet, the UUA and UUSC are joining with the Unitarian Universalist Ministry for Earth, the Unitarian Universalist College of Social Justice, and the Unitarian Universalist Ministers Association in [Commit2Respond, a religious response to the crisis of climate change](#). Commit2Respond is an initiative for climate justice awareness and action. We invite UUs and all people of faith and conscience to commit to respond in these three action areas:

- Grow the climate justice movement
- Advance the human rights of marginalized communities
- Shift to clean and renewable energy

Advocates for environmental justice and social justice in our congregation are in dialogue about how best to focus education and action within the UUCWI community and together with others in our community. Climate change, immigration reform (with focus on the Tacoma Detention Center), successfully securing congregational endorsement of I-594 to limit gun violence, and our continued outreach to local community agencies are SRC's priorities for the current church year.

Sign up to [Commit2Respond](#), and join the SRC! **Energetic advocates needed!**

UUs March for Action to Mitigate Climate Change!

On September 20, 2014 more than 400,000 people gathered in New York City calling our leaders, our captains of industry and government, to hear the cry of the people, the demand for climate justice. Participants represented 1,524 organizations, all points on the globe across a diversity of ethnic, cultural and religious backgrounds, and 1,500 UUs. The following day Leonardo DiCaprio addressed the UN conferees with these opening words,

"I play fictional characters solving fictional problems. I believe the world has seen climate change the same way. As if it was a fiction. As if pretending it wasn't real would somehow make it go away. But I think we all know better than that now."

UU minister Rev Peggy Clarke, Minister from the First Unitarian Society of Westchester in Hastings-on-Hudson, NY was there, inspired, and defines our challenge:

"Dismantling paradigms isn't the work of one group, but the work of a generation... If we fight racism, classism or sexism but don't extend the models of oppression to Earth, we are continuing the degradation of the planet. If we work for environmental sustainability but not socially sustainable models, we are supporting the paradigm which will ultimately terminate Earth's ability to maintain human life. The fight for justice is the fight for life in every form."

UUA President Reverend Peter Morales has called for a change of heart:

"We must speak truth to power. But more importantly, we must persuade the frightened and uninformed.... The great challenge of the coming generations is preservation of sustainable human life on earth. Climate change looms as a threat to all of us. The potential effects are devastating, especially to hundreds of millions of the world's poorest people.... We face a historic threat. We know what needs to be done. We know we have the capacity to do it, yet we do not. We see stunning levels of willful denial. Again, the real threats are fear and ignorance... Speaking truth to power is important. And speaking truth to power is not sufficient. It never has been. Let us bear witness to love and truth. Let us help people overcome their fears. We have done it before, and we must do it again. This is our great religious challenge."

And from the Rev Sally Bingham, executive director of Interfaith Power & Light,

"I honestly believe that there's not been a single cultural change or big movement that didn't have the voice of the religious community, It's crucial."

**Unitarian Universalist Congregation
of Whidbey Island**

2014 - 2015 Board of Trustees

John Long, President
Libby Roberts, Vice President
Charlie Knutla, Treasurer
Gladys Howard, Secretary
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Mary Goolsby, 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 chaplain are available for rites of
passage ceremonies (including ceremonies of
commitment or union) and pastoral visits.

Administrator: Mavis Cauffman

admin@uucwi.org

Director of Religious Exploration: Ginger White

re_dir@uucwi.org

Newsletter Information:

News, announcements, events, and other items of
interest to members of the congregation should be
submitted in writing by the 20th of each month to
editor, Terra Anderson at newsletter@uucwi.org.
Suggestions for articles and information of interest
to the whole congregation are encouraged.

Items submitted after press time will appear in the
following month's newsletter if appropriate.

Communications Committee:

Terra Anderson, Newsletter Editor
Mavis Cauffman, Congregational Administrator
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UUCWI's website: www.uucwi.org

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**UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST
CONGREGATION OF WHIDBEY ISLAND**

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