



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

March 2014

						1
						UU Choir Festival @West Seattle UU
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9:30 Refreshments: Hutton/Ferrier 10am UU Worship 11:30 Board Mtg 4pm Quaker Worship	8:45am WIN 4pm Meditation	1pm Dennis' Office Hours	10am UU Men's Group	2pm Bible for Skeptics 7pm Bible for Skeptics 7pm Book Group-	9am Ctte on Ministry 6pm Game Night for ALL AGES	1pm North End Coffee
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
* Clocks Ahead * 9:30 Refreshments: Long/Weiss/Calhoun 10am UU Worship 4 pm Quaker Worship	8:45am WIN 6:30 pm PFLAG 6:30 Witnessing Whiteness	10 am Women's Grp 10am Mbrshp Ctte 1pm Dennis' Office Hours 2pm SRC Strg Ctte-WiFire 7pm Choir Rehearsal	7:20pm EvenSong	2pm Bible/Skeptics 6pm Audubon 7pm Bible/Skeptics	9am Worship Ctte	9am Work Party (BAG)
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
9:30 Refreshments: Chowen/Heath 10am UU Worship 4 pm Quaker Worship 5 pm Quaker Business Mtg	8:45 WIN 4pm Meditation 6:30 Witnessing Whiteness	1pm Dennis' Office Hours 3pm Poetry/Billy Collins (Grp 1) 7pm Choir Rehearsal	10am UU Men's Group 4 pm MAGIC 6:30 Concert Rehearsal 6:30 Poetry/Billy Collins (Grp 2)	2pm Bible/Skeptics 6pm North End Grp 7pm Bible/Skeptics Newsletter Deadline	4pm Concert Setup 7:30 pm 3Cent Stamp Concert (Gloria Ferry- Brennan, James Hinkley, Levi Burkle)	10:30 pm South End Coffee Klatch 1pm Equinox Service 7:30pm 3Cent Stamp Concert
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
8:45 Choir 9:30 Refreshments: Walker/Durocher 10am UU Worship 4 pm Quaker Worshipp	8:45am WIN 6:30pm Witnessing Whiteness	10am Women's Grp 1pm Dennis' Office Hours 3pm Poetry/ Billy Collins (Grp 1)	6:30 Poetry/Billy Collins (Grp 2)	2pm Bible/Skeptics 7pm Bible/Skeptics	6:30 pm SRC Movie	
30	31					
9:30 Refresh: Ludy 10am UU Worship 4pm Quaker Worship 6pm North Dine Out	8:45am WIN 6:30pm Witnessing Whiteness					

“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

(Sundays at 10 am unless otherwise noted)

March 2: "An Unexpected Opening"

With Rev. Dr. Karen B. Taliesin

Rev. Karen B. Taliesin will speak about her experiences as a Unitarian Universalist attending seminary at a Jesuit university. Thankful for the challenges as well as the joy of attending a predominantly Christian seminary, Karen will relate how she discovered a new perspective on what it means to be open-minded.

The Rev. Dr. Karen B. Taliesin is a chaplain at Seattle Children's Hospital and a Minister Affiliated at East Shore Unitarian Church in Bellevue where she and her husband, Brian, are members.

Worship leader: Linda Good

Guest Musician: Siri Bardarson

March 9: "This Is Our Great Covenant"

With Rev. Dennis Reynolds

Each Sunday we *recite* together our Congregational Affirmation. Many of us know it by heart. And on the back page of each week's order of service is a copy of the Principles and Purposes, which we as a member congregation of the Unitarian Universalist Association "covenant to affirm and promote." Also there is our Congregational Covenant of Right Relationship which includes the affirmation and our shared promises. Let's take time to explore together what the word "covenant" means, individually and collectively.

Effie Brown Worship Leader

Guest Musicians: Under the Radar

Wednesday, March 12, 7:20 pm EvenSong

This month we'll share readings and poetry about spring and renewal. All are welcome at this candlelit service of readings, silent meditation and songs accompanied by harp.

March 16: "The Heart of Christianity"

with Glo Sherman

Just as non-Buddhists find value in the teachings of the Buddha and the Quran speaks to non-Muslims, there are concepts in Christianity that resonate with many non-Christians.

Christians differ from one another as much as those of us who participate in the Unitarian Universalist tradition. Over-generalization and

stereotyping of Christians and Christianity keep us from growing in understanding of concepts that could enrich our spiritual life. The writings of Marcus Borg, Karen Armstrong, and Deepak Chopra, among others, will guide our exploration of Jesus and those who follow him

Guest Musician: Laurie Julian

Saturday, March 22, 1 pm:

"Spring Equinox Service"

With Members of UUCWI

Weather permitting, we will gather outside to honor the moment of balance as we shift towards the light half of the year and ceremonially welcome the advancing spring. Children are welcome for our family friendly celebration and light refreshments will be provided. Please contact Janella Riegel at earthspirit@uucwi.org with any questions.

March 23: "To Help One Another"

With Rev. Dennis Reynolds and Sally Elder

Sometime the help we need is for a ride or a meal. Sometimes our hunger is deeper and we need someone to be present with us as we seek to fill our psycho-spiritual needs. How might we as individuals feel free we to ask to have such a hunger fed? How might our UUCWI congregational community nurture a cadre of people to feed that need? Dennis and Sally will describe a program called *Pastoral Associates* which, we hope, will meet such needs.

Worship Leader: Nydia Blood

Music: UUCWI Chalice Singers

March 30: "The Inner Landscape of Beauty" with Rev. Amanda Aikman

Amanda will share with us a multimedia service of writings by Irish poet and philosopher John O'Donohue accompanied by slides and interspersed with musical interludes. This will give one perspective on Celtic imagination and the interplay between soul and matter, time and eternity.

Worship Leader: Mavis Cauffman

Readers: Sandy Welch and Dave Cauffman

Guest Musician: Gloria Ferry-Brennan

March Events

March 6 - Book Group, 7pm at UUCWI

Kindred, by Octavia E. Butler, is the book to be discussed. Writing in the intensity of the first person, the author mirrors the memoirs of many women slaves who defined themselves as agents rather than mere victims. Butler links the past and present, not only by slipping us--along with the main character--back and forth in time, but by subtly inviting us to consider how these human issues, racial or not, linger on today and are repeated. *Kindred* is “a shattering work of art with much to say about love, hate, slavery and racial dilemmas, then and now.” (Los Angeles Herald Examiner) Come join us!

March 7 – 6 pm at UUCWI

First Friday ALL Ages Game Night

From Elders to Infants and Everyone in Between
A Fun Night of Games, Pizza and Community!

Open to the whole congregation.

Side-dishes and desserts welcome, but not necessary
Suggested donation \$3-5 per person or \$10 for groups
or families

RSVP with your pizza choice re_dir@uucwi.org



March 14 - Circle Dinner

Lois Chowen will host the dinner this month. Please phone (360) 331-2042 or email her at loischowen@msn.com if you wish to participate.

The monthly Circle Dinners are a nice way to get to know fellow members and friends of the church in an informal way. It is potluck, but Lois would like to know what you are bringing and how many are coming. Lois can seat 9 guests, so single or with a partner, please consider sharing good food and conversation in her comfy home.

March 15 – Work Party – 9 – 11 am

Hosted by Building and Grounds (BAG) this month, this is our time to spruce up the building and grounds. All energy levels and ages are welcome.

March 22 - South End Coffee Klatch

10:30 am at Living Green, Langley
Please join Dennis and other "chatters" for our regular informal get together. The topics of discussion are determined by whoever shows up and participates. This month we are going to check out Living Green in Langley. This newly remodeled place (on second street up the hill from downtown) has a new bakery and pleasant ambiance.

Dennis' Musings

By the time this newsletter “goes to press” all the members of the Congregation will have received or will soon receive a joint letter from me, the Board, and the Committee on Ministry inviting you to offer feedback on my work as your minister. I want to add to the collective invitation you were given in that letter my personal request for feedback. Please tell your congregational leadership and me how you honestly think it is going.

Though part of me wants to only hear the good stuff, I truly want and need to hear about areas that you think need more attention or perhaps a different focus. I am deeply committed to listen with an open heart and mind to what is offered and, to the best of my ability, grow as an effective minister to this congregation.

Please offer details as appropriate. For example, if you do not like my sermons, let me know if it is content or style or something else that does not, from your perspective, meet congregational needs. If you think I should spend my time doing more of a thing please help me determine how I might realign my priorities

None of us is perfect and I do not pretend to be able to fully meet, especially as a half time minister, all the wants of 100 diverse people. I do commit to a sincere effort to be responsive to whatever might merge from this exploration.

Just last week, I included in my sermon the advice that the Jedi Master Yoda gave to the

young Luke Skywalker. “Try not. Do or do not. There is no try.”

Many will recall the context of the movie story. Luke has been unsuccessful in his effort to use the Jedi “Force” to levitate a space craft. He half heartedly says he will try again and Yoda answers with the above.

To me such a statement speaks not merely of making an effort, but rather a commitment to do one’s best. I do not merely want to try a little harder, I want to do my best to further our shared goals as we together move towards making our aspirations our reality.

~ Dennis



L-R: Mary Boyd (Langley Methodist), Dennis, Member of Oak Harbor Lutheran, Tom Ewell (Quaker) doing social witness in Olympia

Terra's Tales

My garden seems to think Spring is arriving. My crocus, reticulata iris, primroses and even daffodils are blooming. Although I know another snow storm could well appear, I am enjoying the bits of color and the reminder that no matter how long the winter, spring *always* emerges.

Spring is also a time of renewal for congregations and we ask your commitment to this process. Typically spring is the season when we recommit to this relationship we call a “congregation.” Typically we ask ourselves what this community means to us and thus determine our financial commitment. Typically we are asked to serve on various committees or the Board for the following year. And typically we ask ourselves how we are doing and what we might like to plant, cultivate and/or nurture.

In March if you are a member of UUCWI you will be invited by Dennis, the Committee on Ministry and the Board of Trustees to reflect on the health and well-being of our ministry. We take pride in being a collaborative ministry and this reflective process will allow us to support Dennis and help him become the best minister he can be. Clearly we cannot separate Dennis from our overall ministry any more that we can separate our musicians from our music. He made a huge commitment to become an ordained UU minister. And we have made a corresponding commitment to nurturing his growth and success. So as you contemplate your experience of the ministry of UUCWI, please consider where you are seeing growth, where you see holes that could be filled, and where/how you could contribute to making the positive changes you dream. Every Sunday morning we covenant to dwell together in peace, to seek truth in love and to help one another. Let us articulate some loving truth and help one another create the spiritual community that best nourishes our multitude of needs.

In April we will begin our annual pledge campaign. At the encouragement of Libby Roberts the Board made the unprecedented decision to *be* the pledge committee ourselves. As Libby said, if this is so important to us, shouldn’t we show our commitment by managing the process ourselves? We all took a deep breath and said YES to her challenge. You will be hearing more as April approaches, but I wanted you to know the “ask” will be coming. Meanwhile, please be thinking about what this community means to you. Were it to disappear tomorrow, how would your life be impacted? What do you most appreciate? What form of service has been most gratifying? What would **you** like to plant, cultivate and/or nurture this spring? In love and service - Terra

Why Poetry ? Why Billy Collins ?

Beginning on Tuesday afternoon March 18 or Wednesday evening March 19 at for 6 weeks, Dennis will lead an exploration of the poetry of Billy Collins. Let Dennis know at minister@uucwi.org if you are interested or have questions or sign up at Sunday services March 2 or March 9

Committee on Ministry Invitation

Our UUCWI congregation continues to move through a time of significant transition as we evolve from an extended family congregation in size and style to a larger and more diverse community. Although we now have a one-half time professional minister, we continue to value our strong lay leadership. We have a long tradition of working together, supporting each other in creating meaningful Sunday worship experiences, helping each other on our individual spiritual paths, and in our outreach to the wider community. Our ministry is a shared responsibility.

The Committee on Ministry is a standing committee comprised of three members of the congregation with Rev. Dennis as an ex officio member. Our responsibilities include:

- The Minister and the Committee on Ministry share the responsibility of educating the congregation about ministry in general, about the particular ministry of this congregation, and the partnership of trust necessary to encourage this ministry to deepen and grow.
- Observe and make appropriate recommendations to the Minister and Board of Trustees regarding all aspects of our Congregation's ministry,
- Offer support, feedback, and guidance to the Minister
- Encourage clear communication between the Congregation and the Minister.

Feedback is important to the life of our congregation. Together with the Board of Trustees and Rev. Dennis, we invite each member of the congregation to reflect and relate her/his *personal experience* of "how are we doing – what is working well and what needs attention?" This process will take place in two phases this spring and will invite feedback in letters as well as in facilitated small group conversations.

The first phase will invite your reflection and feedback on your experience of Rev. Dennis as our minister, keeping in mind this is a half-time position. Rev. Dennis genuinely wants and welcomes feedback and it is our recommendation that he be invited to attend facilitated small group conversations as an active listener.

The second phase, later this spring, will ask you to reflect and give feedback on our congregation's mission, the health of our overall ministry, and how each of us can take responsibility to shape this joint ministry.

Please accept this invitation to share from your heart, because your voice and your experience are valued. Each person has a unique perspective that is particular to their experience. Let us choose to welcome and respect our differences, build on common ground, and learn from one another as – together – we build the community and ministry we need and we live our Covenant of Right Relations.

Committee on Ministry
Effie Brown, Dave Cauffman, Toyon Copeland
Rev. Dennis Reynolds

SRC: In the Know

This month we focus on two important social actions you can take, NOW: volunteering in many ways to help with the new Habitat home being built on South Whidbey; and supporting three specific pieces of legislation recommended by our Greening Congregations Committee.

Support Habitat with South Whidbey Build

A site has been selected on East Harbor Road in Freeland, site preparation has begun, and churches throughout South Whidbey are coming together to support ten Air Force Academy cadets from Colorado during a week of heavy lifting and building March 23-28.

UUCWI has committed to:

- Provide bedding for 10 (given or loaned), including sheets/pillowcases, blankets, comforters, bedspreads. If you wish to loan rather than donate, your items will be returned laundered. Trinity Lutheran is providing the space and cots, but we need to keep them warm and comfortable while they sleep!
- Provide breakfast for 10 at Trinity and lunch for 20 at the Habitat Freeland Store on Thursday, March 27. Local churches are each taking one day to provide meals for the cadets, and March 27 is ours!

Please contact John Long (360-331-4094, johnlong45@gmail.com) or Jean McIntosh (360-730-1495, jeanmc@whidbey.com) for additional information AND TO VOLUNTEER!

Social Justice Issues:

Call/write your representatives (especially Sen. Bailey) about:

- HB 2465 to close the Big Oil tax loophole and help fund education. The Washington State Legislature created this "accidental loophole" in 1949, before any oil refineries operated here. Now, Big Oil profits from the system and avoids paying \$59 million of their fair share of taxes.
- ESHB 1294 Toxic Free Kids and Families Act phases out toxic flame-retardants in children's products and home furniture.
- E2SHB 2347 Oil Transportation Safety Act to protect the health of our waterways and improve **safety** in communities across Washington decreasing our risk of **oil** spills and accidents.

It's easy: just call 1-800-562-6000 to express your support!

News from the RE Programs

Thank you so very much for the warm welcome and flowers to celebrate my official title as your RE Director. I am excited to continue to in this role and support the children and families of the congregation.

We are cooking up lots of new things in the RE program!

We now have a teen class four Sundays a month and a small, but growing list of teens who want to participate in the program. Many thanks to our wonderful volunteer teachers Terra Anderson, John Long, Ken Merrell and Dennis for each taking one Sunday a month- thank you! We still have room for one more teacher. Please talk with me if this might interest you.

Other exciting developments are the success of our First Friday ALL Ages Game night. This night is always filled with laughter, fun and community. We are also working towards launching an Earth Club in the Spring and have Summer Camping trip scheduled. Details are below on that and we are looking forward to it!

What do we want from you? JOIN US! Please all of you who don't have children or your children have left home, if you are interested, please come and play with us. Sing by the camp

fire, teach us how to play chess, hold the babies or join us in a way that is special and unique to you. If you are interested we will welcome you! They say it takes a village to raise a child, but maybe it also take a village to have a congregation.

With love,
Ginger - your now official RE Director

Save the Date: Friday, June 20

Our first ***UUCWI Solstice Camp Out*** will be held at Fort Ebey State Park group campground. All campers welcome. Come for dinner, come for breakfast or stay overnight for the whole event! Any questions, contact Susan Janow – staylorjanow@yahoo.com



April 3 Book Group Selection: 7 pm at UUCWI

The Brief Wondrous Life of Oscar Wao
by Junot Diaz, winner of the 2008 Pulitzer Prize and the National Book Critics Circle Award. The titular Oscar is a 300-pound-plus "lovesick ghetto nerd" with zero game (except for Dungeons & Dragons) who cranks out pages of fantasy fiction with the hopes of becoming a Dominican J.R.R. Tolkien. The book is also the story of a multi-generational family curse that courses through their lives, leaving troubles and tragedy in its wake. The rope-a-dope narrative is funny, hip, tragic, soulful, and bursting with desire.

Announcing Adult Programs for the Spring!

The Bible for Skeptics - The New Testament:

starting February 20th for 8 weeks. Contact: Mark Brown

The Poetry of Billie Collins: starting March 18th for 8 weeks. Contact: Rev Dennis Reynolds

The Power of Vulnerability: starting April 16th for 6 weeks. Contact: Ruth Richards

White Privilege: The Other Side of Racism: starting March 4th for 4 weeks Contact: Charlie Knutilla

Look for more details in the weekly e-news.

News from Washington UU Voices for Justice

This session you and UU Voices for Justice have shared our values with the world and acted for justice with some success. Here's the scorecard so far.

Economic Justice

- Raising minimum wage to \$12 over 3 years (HB 2672) was not voted on in the House Appropriations Committee. Some think it may be revived during the budget process.
- Transparency and accountability for corporate tax breaks (EHB 2201) passed the House and is in the Senate
- Narrowing tax breaks for extracted fuel, increase in revenue to education (HB 2465) failed to get out of committee
- OPPOSED SSB 6524 and HB 1303, renewing for 20 years the high tech tax preferences. The Senate bill did not make it to the floor before cutoff. The house bill did not make it out of committee. Possible that Senate bill will be a part of the budget process.

Immigration Justice

- Dream Act was the first bill to make it through both chambers. It goes to the Governor for signature.
- TRUST Act never got a hearing in committee. It is a win on one level,

however. Along with our legislative priorities, our annual meeting determined that we should work directly, wherever possible, with groups most affected by the legislation. As a part of the strategy coalition for the bill we have worked side-by-side with migrant community groups to lobby. We are planning to build for next year. One strategy is to gain the support of local law enforcement while organizing at the county level for a detainer policy in those counties. Please call Voices if your congregation would like to work in your county.

Environment

- The Carbon Tax initiative was withdrawn from consideration this year by its sponsor.
- The Oil Transportation Safety Act (E2SHB 2347) passed the House and is in the Senate Energy, Environment & Telecommunications Committee

Criminal Justice

- Death Penalty. In an unexpected announcement Gov. Inslee announced a moratorium on executions. It's a step forward and very heartening, so it gets colored green.
- Background checks for all gun sales, Initiative 594. Both 594 and 591 received hearings in both chambers and huge publicity. Former Congresswoman Gabrielle Giffords testified in favor of background checks. Ultimately, the legislators took no action and its up to the voters in the fall. We still have a lot of work to do to support it. Consider asking your congregation to endorse it.
- Domestic violence gun ban (EHB 1840) passed the House and is in the Senate Law and Justice Committee

There is a [sample email](#) that you can use to email legislators, if you want to weigh in on these issues.

**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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Mavis Cauffman, Congregational Administrator
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www.uucwi.org

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