



# 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

## April 2014

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		<b>1</b>	<b>2</b> 10am Men's Group	<b>3</b> 2pm Bible for Skeptics 7pm Bible for Skeptics 7pm Book Group	<b>4</b> 9am Ctte on Ministry 6pm Game Night for ALL AGES	<b>5</b> 10am VAC Mtg 2pm Rehearsal for Concert
<b>6</b> 9:30 Refresh: Ken&Sandy <b>10am UU Worship</b> 11:30 Board Mtg 12pm Rehearsal for Concert 4pm Quaker Worship	<b>7</b> 8:45 WIN 4pm Meditation (Moss)	<b>8</b> 10am Women's Grp 10am Membership Ctte 1 pm Dennis' Office Hours 3pm SRC strg Ctte-WiFire 7pm Choir Rehearsal	<b>9</b> <b>7:20 EvenSong</b>	<b>10</b> 2pm Bible for Skeptics 7pm Bible for Skeptics	<b>11</b> 9am Worship Ctte 1pm Rehearsal	<b>12</b> 1pm North End Coffee 5pm Concert Set-Up <b>7:30pm Concert: Spring Rhapsody</b>
<b>13</b> 9:30 Refresh: <b>10am UU Worship</b> 11:30 Canvass Info Meeting 4 pm Quaker Worship 5pm Quaker Potluck	<b>14</b> 8:45 WIN 6:30pm PFLAG 6:30pm Witnessing Whiteness	<b>15</b> 1pm Dennis' Office Hours 7pm Choir Rehearsal	<b>16</b> 10am Men's Group 4 pm MAGIC 6pm Sno-Isle Setup 7pm Whidbey Reads	<b>17</b> 5pm Jewish Gathering 6pm North End Grp	<b>18</b> 6:30pm Auction Event	<b>19</b> 9am Work Party (Finance) 1pm So. End Coffee Klatch 6pm Circle Dinner
<b>20</b> 8:45am Choir 9:30 Refresh: Tom/Terra <b>10am UU Worship</b> 4 pm Quaker Worship 5 pm Quaker Business Mtg <b>Newsletter Deadline</b>	<b>21</b> 8:45 WIN 4pm Meditation (Moss) 6:30pm Witnessing Whiteness	<b>22</b> 10am Women's Grp 1pm Dennis' Office Hours	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b> 6:30pm SRC Movie "Growthbusters"	<b>26</b> 8am UU Voices for Justice – Board Mtg 2pm VAC Installation
<b>27</b> 9:30 Refresh: Bill&Frances <b>10am UU Worship</b> 4 pm Quaker Worship 6pm North End Dine Out 7pm Dances of Universal Peace	<b>28</b> 8:45 WIN	<b>29</b> 1pm Dennis' Office Hours	<b>30</b>			

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 And always check the most current version of our calendar online at [www.uucwi.org](http://www.uucwi.org)

## ***Worship Services***

***(Sundays at 10 am unless otherwise noted)***

### ***April 6: "Small Sacrifices"***

***With Rev. Dennis Reynolds and Ken Merrell***

There are many ways of giving and of receiving. Sometimes the smallest gifts, when shared with others, expand and grow. Let us celebrate all that we have been given and explore how the gifts we share enrich us all - for in giving we receive.

Worship leader: Mark Brown

Guest Musician: The Alder Trio -

Sue Baer and Maggie Storer (violin), Buell Niedlinger (cello)

### ***Wednesday, April 9, 7:20 pm EvenSong***

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

### ***April 13: "Considering the Wonders of Nature" with Barbara Bennett***

Our speaker, Barbara Bennett is the Program Coordinator of the Island County Beach Watchers. She comes to us from a deep background in her Lutheran faith of earth stewardship and an academic background in social work, community development, and adult education. She holds a Masters Degree in Marine Affairs from the University of Washington.

Worship leader: Gladys Howard.

Special music, Recorder Quartet

### ***April 20: "I'll Rise"***

***With Rev. Dennis Reynolds***

How many times has our culture tried to deny that love is more powerful than money, or hierarchy, or war? We may have killed the messengers but their message will endure. Easter is a time for letting old stories fall away and choosing unconditional love.

Worship Leader: Terra Anderson

Music: UUCWI Chalice Singers

### ***April 27: "When Love Comes to Town" with Jolinda Stephens***

Four years ago Rev. Peter Morales indicated that immigration was the civil rights issue for our time. It seems to be proving true. Much of the most innovative and egalitarian leadership is coming from immigrants. What can we learn from them about standing on the side of love and how can we best serve the cause of upholding the

dignity of each person and live the reality that we are each interdependent and interconnected?

Jolinda Stephens is a newly retired religious educator who now serves as the coordinator for Washington UU Voices for Justice, our legislative advocacy ministry. In 2010 she answered Rev. Susan Frederick-Gray's call to come to Phoenix to engage in civil disobedience to oppose the anti-immigrant law SB1070. She joined nearly 100 protestors, about 30 of whom were UUs, in being arrested and held for 24 hours in jail. Recently, as the count of those deported by President Obama reaches 2 million, she has served as the communications coordinator for the action that stopped deportation buses on Feb. 24th and is now supporting the hunger strike of detainees within the detention center.

Worship Leader: Ken Merrell



## ***April Events***

### ***April 3 Book Group: 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.

### ***April 4 – 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 or desserts welcome, but not necessary

Suggested donation \$3-5/person or \$10/family

RSVP your pizza choice

tostaylorjanow@yahoo.com



UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CONGREGATION OF WHIDBEY ISLAND  
*2013-2014 Chamber Music Series*

*Presents*  
**Springtime Rhapsody  
& Romance**

Music of Beethoven, Brahms,  
Schubert, Mendelssohn  
& more.

Performed by Nola Allen (piano)  
Teo Benson (violin),  
Frances Kenney (oboe),  
and Susan Strick  
(soprano)

**Saturday,  
April 12, 2014  
7:30pm**

**UUCWI - 20103 Highway 525, Freeland, WA**

Advance tickets by email reservation: [concerts@uucwi.org](mailto:concerts@uucwi.org)

Tickets on sale at Moonraker Bookstore (Langley), Habitat for Humanity (Freeland) and  
Lavender Wind (Coupeville). Tickets also be available at the door unless we are sold out.

\$15/\$5 for students

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### ***April 19 - Circle Dinner***

This month the Circle Dinner goes to Tim and Paula Keohane's home in Coupeville. They have been gone a lot and will have many a tall tale to tell. Perhaps you, too, will have some stories to share. They have room for 6 people. First come, first served.

Please contact Paula at [pkeohane@frontier.com](mailto:pkeohane@frontier.com) or 360.678.2112 to tell her what you want to bring for the meal.

There have been great reports from the hosts the past few months on what a great time the dinners have been. This is a great venue, especially for you newer members, to get to know others in our UU extended family. One never knows what the next topic of conversation will be, but it is always stimulating. Join in for a small group dinner with big- and warm-hearted people at the table.

Next month's dinner will be at the Reynolds' home in Langley.

### ***April 19 – Work Party – 9 – 11 am***

Hosted by the finance folk this month, this is our time to spruce up the building and grounds. All energy levels and ages are welcome.

### ***April 19 - South End Coffee Klatch***

1pm at Living Green, Langley

Please join Dennis and other UUs for our monthly informal get together. The topics of discussion are determined by whoever shows up and participates. Living Green is on second street up the hill from downtown.

### ***Dennis' Musings***

A friend sent me link to a blog that advised “get yee to a garden”. It is advice I pass on and advice I plan to heed. Fortunately, the ongoing development of our housing complex includes starting a new orchard and community garden, thus creating space for what is, to me, an important form of spiritual practice.

This time of the year the earth and sky offers us many reminders of the abundance of life. Faith in the goodness and beauty of all existence is readily available. As I look out on bright sunny day, the dark and difficult times of this winter seem far way. Yet, they are right there, just behind me, right over my shoulder.

It was, for many, a difficult winter.

In this Spring season, the season of change, we need the learning gleaned from hard times to nurture and feed that which we hope to grow. We need to find ways to make compost out of past experiences.

The bumper sticker on my old truck read “compost happens”. Yet, rich usable compost doesn't really just “happen.” What just “happens” is decay. The best compost is made when the old stuff, including the yucky stuff, is tended, turned over and layered, and sheltered from too much rain. Worms and small microbes break things down and leave behind that which will nourish and enrich the soil.

I am in the midst of breaking down and digesting the input that I received during the recent evaluation of my service as your minister. I offer sincere thanks to all who shared your thoughts and emotions. Thanks for accepting our invitation to comment. Some of what was said was good to hear and other parts hard. All of it will, in time, be valuable. As I turn it over and break it down, I am deeply committed to using the feedback from that process to aid my continuing growth.

There are things that could use some pruning, (like too much talking) and other places (like some sermon topics) where I need to dig deeper. There are also things that are working for many of you that may grow even more abundantly in a new container.

I have faith that our shared ministry will continue to grow and bloom and bear an abundance of fruit. It won't just happen, but I am ready to dig in.

With Gratitude

~ Dennis



*"You want to support a Unitarian Universalist Church because it is more concerned with human beings than with dogmas. Because it searches for the holy, rather than dwells upon the depraved. Because it calls no one a sinner, yet knows how deep is the struggle and how great is the hunger for what is good."*

~ author unknown,  
from a collection of statements  
during an annual canvass

## *Terra's Tales*

### *.... Report from the Board President*

Thank you all who participated recently in our invitation to provide feedback on the first year and a half of Reverend Dennis Reynolds' service to this congregation. We had 25 letters and e-mails written by individuals and another 18 voices in our Sunday afternoon conversations. Some people who wrote letters also attended those conversations. All in all, over 40 people gave voice to what they appreciate and where they see opportunity for change. Since we have over 100 members I am left with assumptions about the rest of you. For now I am going to assume the best.

Board members, Dennis and members of the Committee on Ministry met on March 17th to read all the letters and comments recorded from the conversations. Generally we heard lots of support and appreciation. And most every respondent had something to suggest that would help Dennis serve us better. There was also some critique of the congregational leadership that merit some deep consideration. All of your suggestions were received with the same intention with which they were sent – that by our working together we can grow, learn and be the best we can be.

At our second meeting, on March 25th, we discussed what we learned and where we go from here. You can anticipate two more letters, one from the BOT and COM describing what we heard and what actions we think we can take in response. And you will hear from Dennis what he heard and how that will influence his future with us.

Thank you, again, for caring about the health and well being of this congregation.

~ Terra Anderson

### *Congregation Financial Letter*

~ Tom Buxton, UUCWI Financial Consultant

Recently I was asked “how can it cost so much to run this congregation?” I am also often asked “how much of the money we spend is discretionary?” Although I produce a budget every year, and we talk about it a few times, I realize there continues to be confusion and perhaps some bewilderment among congregants.

For the purpose of our official bookkeeping, our annual income is \$140K and our expenses the same. Some of this income is not really cash available to pay expenses. Some examples: We collect and simply pass through our bank nearly \$6K in dedicated offerings annually. While we gross \$10K on concerts, we pay \$6K of that for advertising, programs, lighting, and a small honoraria to some of the artists, so the net income is only \$4K. Similarly we record donated professional services by members – called “in-kind pledges” – which create both higher income and higher expense. The reality is they are “zero sum”. So for the purposes of this explanation of our budget I am removing the “accountant speak” and will present the simplified **net cash income** and **cash expenses** we incur.

Other than our mortgage and utilities, we could probably label most of our expenses *discretionary*, in the sense that our collective decisions determine how much we spend and where. For instance, we *could* decide not to have a minister and instead provide pastoral care to one another and assume all the responsibilities of presenting an official UU face to the island. We *could* decide not to have guest musicians at our services. We *could* clean the church every week ourselves. In short, the major discretion we have is to do this work ourselves instead of paying others for these services.

There are 5 categories of income for our congregation. From ourselves we collect pledges and participate in an annual auction. Our concerts, Sunday offerings and rental income reflect a broader community-wide donation base. Our **net cash income** this year is predicted to be close to \$110K.

Now, let's look at how we spend that money. As members in good standing with the national Unitarian Universalist Association and the Pacific Northwest District, we pay \$88/member/year.

When we decided to build our sanctuary we took a mortgage from the UUA in the amount of \$250K which we expect to pay over 15 years. Add to that cleaning services, pest control, utilities, repairs, roof and septic system care, driveway and landscaping maintenance, etc .

We *choose* to hire professionals to accomplish many of the ministerial and administrative tasks

and to pay at least the minimum recommended salaries. In January we hired a ¼ time director, 10 months/year for the RE program. We have a worship budget to pay guest speakers in our pulpit and a music budget to purchase music for the choir, tune our piano and modestly pay the guest musicians who grace our hall.

Our administrative expenses include printing, payroll taxes, insurance, bookkeeping, postage, supplies, telephone & web, advertising, etc.

Net Income:		Expenses:	
Pledges	\$81,800	Building mortgage	\$19,900
Service collections	\$5,750	Building care & repair	\$9,200
Auction (net)	\$9,600	UUA/PNWD Fair Share	\$8,160
Concerts (net)	\$4,400	½ time minister	\$35,000
Rental	\$7,700	¼ time administrator	\$10,130
Misc	\$150	¼ RE director	\$5,400
		Worship Committee	\$3,900
		Music Committee	\$3,750
Total:	\$109,400	RE Program	\$4,000
		Admin costs	\$10,635
		Total	\$110,075

### ***Expressing Our Values: How We Spend***

~ *Ken Merrell, Trustee*

It's that time of year again. Well, Spring, yes, but more to the point, this is the time of year we ask our committees, program coordinators, facilities managers, minister, teachers, everyone who cares about UUCWI to tell us how much money they will need to do what they need to do, what they are called to do, and what we will ask of them in the coming year. Whether these people, who make UUCWI happen for all of us, are paid staff, in-kind contributors, or volunteers, they do this as an act of love and service to this congregation. They are expressing their values. They are saying, "I choose to expend my precious energies and resources in service to this organization in spite of the fact that I will be underpaid or not paid at all, that I will receive little or no recognition or appreciation, and that as much as I am willing to give, I will be asked for more. Why? Because I believe in what we are trying to do. It speaks to my values."

With that in mind, the question becomes, "How are we going pay for that?" This is also a question of values. And supporting the mission and vision of UUCWI is an expression of those values. What is that mission and vision? Most of it is contained in our affirmation, which is also our official Mission Statement: Love is the spirit of this congregation

and service is its practice. This is our great covenant, to dwell together in peace, to seek truth in love, and to help one another.

We are called by love and we express that love in service. We live our values and aspire to apply them to what we do (covenant). We "dwell" together in peace. Notice we don't say "live" together or "take up the same space" together. We say "dwell," which connotes both our place and our choice to remain in it, to stick together; it is a deeper sharing. We "seek truth in love," meaning we explore and experiment, trying to make sense of this mysterious experience of life, and, whether we find joy, discovery, frustration, confusion, or conflict, we try to remember that we do this in love and give each other the benefit of the doubt. Finally, we "help one another." We recognize our connection to each other and know that there is little difference between helping someone and receiving help from someone when given in love. In every act of help and support, love is given and received, enriching both sides of the equation.

Now, I want to connect this to giving. We are going to try very hard to have some frank conversations about UUCWI finances this year. We are going to break out the costs of things and talk about our various revenue streams. We are doing this to provide as clear a picture as possible of what we do with the hard-earned resources you provide to this organization. Some of these costs are fixed, while others are discretionary. We can choose to spend less or nothing at all on programs like Children's Religious Exploration, music, guest speakers, outreach, and social issues. And, if we can't raise the money necessary to fund the budget we will propose, it is these programs that will necessarily feel the pain. This is not a threat. It is a frank assessment of the reality of our finances and where in the budget we will be able adjust to accommodate less than adequate revenue.

You will no doubt, in the coming weeks, hear this assessment in a variety of ways. You will be asked for incremental increases in your giving, for percentages, for dollar figures. These efforts to communicate our needs will speak to you or not. Most of us base our giving not on what is being asked of us or the stated need, but on what we think we can afford and how much pain and discomfort around the end of the month we are willing to endure. I'm asking you to base your giving on something completely different — as an expression of your values.

What is it worth to you to help make a place in the world for this organization that affirms diversity of thought and belief, that presents progressive ideas and novel approaches to a troubled world, that not just tolerates difference but embraces it, that welcomes those who are ostracized elsewhere, that acknowledges its responsibility to foster the spiritual growth of our children without indoctrinating them, that promotes a search for truth and meaning, that provides opportunity for personal growth and learning, that offers inspiring music, art, and literature, that cares about its community and the people in it, that actively works for justice and equity, that advocates for the environment, for veterans, for the LGBTQ community, for immigrants, for the homeless, for the impoverished, for those with no voice, a place where love, service, seeking, and connection are our highest aspirations? What is that worth to you? That's what I'm asking you to base your giving on, and what will continue to inform my giving. It's more than I can afford, so I have to find many ways to give—some more successful than others. But I invite you to dig deep, to give in keeping with the worth you find, and to make your values count. Thanks, Ken Merrell

### ***SRC...In the Know!***

***Earth Month:*** The Whidbey Earth and Ocean Month Committee celebrates April with a wide variety of activities. See <http://www.whidbeyearthday.org/> for details. For our part, we have our monthly environmental movie, *Growthbusters*, about the effects of population growth on the land and environment, Friday, April 25, 7:00 pm.

[www.growthbusters.org](http://www.growthbusters.org)

The Greening Congregations Churches are hosting a work party with the Whidbey Camano Land Trust Saturday, April 26 in the morning. All are welcome. They have also prepared a special "9 Days of Prayer Booklet" for the days leading up to Earth day. If you would like one, talk to Rev. Dennis or John Leaser.

***Social Justice and Immigration:*** The SRC-sponsored service on April 27 will focus on immigration and feature Jolinda Stephens, Coordinator of UU Voice for Justice. Learn more about this important issue making headlines in our state.

***Gratitude from Habitat for Humanity:*** Thanks to so many of you who provided bedding and food to support the ten cadets from the Air Force Academy in Colorado who spent a week on Whidbey helping to build the latest Habitat home in Freeland. The SRC is deeply appreciative of your efforts and support. ~ Jean McIntosh

### ***UUs Dig It, Plant It, Green It: A Gift to the Future ~ Gary Piazzon***



"In nature man returns to faith and reason."

RW Emerson

On Saturday, 3/8/2014, an intrepid group, including a number of members of the UUCWI, gathered on a wind whipped bluff to reforest part of the Whidbey Camano Land Trust's newest acquisition, the Admiralty Inlet Reserve.

Nature was benevolent in holding a predicted downpour until we had accomplished this gratifying task. A coastal old growth forest, the Admiralty Inlet Reserve was a donation of the Naas' to Seattle Pacific University in the 70s. It is a recognized Natural Heritage site and one of the rarest ecosystems in western Washington. In all, we felt quite like gods and poets as we planted 600 Douglas fir saplings.

In related news, a recent study surprised the biological community by dashing a preconceived notion about tree growth. The longitudinal study, conducted over 80 years, involving 770,000 trees of 403 species on 6 continents, demonstrated in each species that older trees grow more than younger trees. The take home message is -- while planting trees is good, preserving trees is better. The Lorax knew this.

<http://www.npr.org/2014/01/16/262479807/old-trees-grow-faster-with-every-year>

## ***Get Your "Let it be a Dance" T-Shirts***

Sales of these fabulous shirts will continue through April. You will have opportunities to order long and short-sleeved shirts in both blue and black. They come in sizes from Small all the way up to XXX Large, and are priced for the modest budget: \$20 for short and \$25 for long-sleeves. Profits come to UUCWI so buy them for your friends and family. The Visual Arts Committee is providing this opportunity to dress smart, and the Music Committee will give us all an opportunity to dance in our new clothes on May 23rd.

## ***"Wouldn't It Be Lovely"***

***...To Sing Along with Eileen?***

***May 10, 2014, 7:00pm at UUCWI***

Join us for a benefit concert for the WHIDBEY VETERANS RESOURCE CENTER. Free admission (donations happily accepted) and free raffle. With Eileen Soskin at the piano and lyrics projected on the wall so everyone can see them and sing them.

Songs from Broadway and film musicals (including *My Fair Lady*, *South Pacific*, *The King and I*, *The Sound of Music* and *Oklahoma!*)

## ***April 13 UUCWI Community Canvass Information Meeting***

As you will see elsewhere in this newsletter, in the words of Ken Merrell, now is the season for us members of UUCWI to reflect on how much this community means to us and how it extends our values into the world. This month begins our annual pledge drive. In past years we have started the campaign with a big dinner and speeches to rally your spirits and ask you to dig into your pockets. Then we returned to you in June with a proposed budget that responded to our collective pledges.

This year we thought a different approach merited consideration - that you should have *visibility* of how much money we were raising **as we were raising it**.

You can expect a visit from a canvasser within the next two weeks, asking for what you are

## ***Upcoming UUCWI Book Discussion Group Selections***

Have you been thinking of coming to our book discussion group, but perhaps haven't because you didn't know what book we were reading until shortly before our meeting?

Here's a heads up regarding our May and June 2014 selections :

May - *Caleb's Crossing* by Geraldine Brooks

June - *The Big Burn: Teddy Roosevelt and the Fire that Saved America* by Timothy Egan

The UUCWI Book Discussion group meets the first Thursday of every month from September-June at 7pm at UUCWI. At our Thursday April 3<sup>rd</sup> meeting we'll be discussing *The Brief Wondrous Life of Oscar Wao* by Junot Diaz.

## ***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](mailto:staylorjanow@yahoo.com)

*considering* as your pledge amount. After the service on April 13, we will gather together to hear the *total* of those preliminary pledges. You will learn how well the pledges match the proposed expenditures. Then... you can determine your final pledge amount, write it on the card in ink, check the "renewing membership" box, and be confident you know *exactly* how your pledge is contributing to the whole. On June 1, following our annual congregational meeting, we'll have a meal together as a **celebration** of our canvass.

After we conclude the pledge drive, please let us know what you think of the process. We are always trying to learn how to serve one another in the best ways possible. Your participation and ideas make that possible.

**Unitarian Universalist Congregation  
of Whidbey Island**

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If you wish to contact any of the Board members, call  
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**Minister:** Dennis Reynolds 541-517-7325  
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**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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News, announcements, events, and other items of  
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P.O. Box 1076  
Freeland, WA 98249