



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

May 2014

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 7pm Book Group-	2 9am Ctte on Ministry 6pm Family Game Night for ALL AGES	3 10am VAC Mtg/Installation
4 10am UU Worship w/ Rabbi Falcon 12 noon Music Ctte 4pm Quaker Worship 5 pm Quaker Business Mtg	5 8:45 WIN 4pm Meditation (Moss) 6:30 pm Witnessing Whiteness	6 10am Membership Ctte 1 pm Dennis' Office Hours 3pm SRC strg Ctte-WiFire	7 10am UU Men's Group Power of Vulnerability	8	9 9am Worship Ctte 6pm Circle Dinner	10 9am Leadership Council 1pm North End Coffee 6pm Set-up 7pm Sing-Along
11 10am UU Worship W/ Rev. Bill Graves 11:30 am Board Board Approves Budget 4 pm Quaker Worship 5pm Quaker Potluck	12 8:45 WIN 6:30 pm PFLAG	13 10am Membership Ctte 10 am Women's Grp 1 pm Dennis' Office Hours 7pm Choir Rehearsal	14 7:20 Evensong Power of Vulnerability	15 6pm North End Grp	16	17 9am Work Party (CRE)
18 10am UU Worship w/ Janine Larsen 4 pm Quaker Worship	19 8:45 WIN 4pm Meditation (Moss) 6:30 pm Witnessing Whiteness	20 1 pm Dennis' Office Hours 7pm Choir Rehearsal Newsletter Deadline	21 10am UU Men's Group 4 pm MAGIC Power of Vulnerability	22	23 6pm "Let It Be A Dance"	24 10:30 am South End Coffee @Living Green
25 8:45 am Choir 10am UU Worship w/ Rev. Reynolds 11:30 am SRC 4 pm Quaker Worship 6pm North End Dine Out	26 8:45 WIN	27 10 am Women's Grp 1 pm Dennis' Office Hours	28 Power of Vulnerability	29	30 6:30 pm SRC Movie	31

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

Worship Services

(Sundays at 10 am unless otherwise noted)

May 4: "While Standing on One Foot: An Introduction to the Kabbalah"

With Rabbi Ted Falcon

The Hebrew word, "Kabbalah," means "that which is received" and points toward an evolving tradition of revelation within Judaism. Spiritual guide, author, teacher and therapist, Rabbi Ted Falcon, PhD, will share with us the wisdom of the "one-footed teaching" of Rabbi Hillel in the first century, and how his teaching framed the core of what became known as Kabbalah. Rabbi Falcon has been a student and teacher of Jewish meditation and Kabbalah for over forty-five years. With gentleness and humor, he offers unique insight into spirituality while deeply affirming the integrity of each individual being. As one of the *Interfaith Amigos*, Rabbi Ted explores the frontiers of interfaith spirituality. Worship Leader: Janella Riegel

May 11: "Mother's Day 2014"

with Rev. Bill Graves

Unitarians were involved in founding Mother's Day and intended on making it more than a day of flowers and greeting cards. With the Unitarian Universalist Association's new commitment to reproductive justice, we look forward to taking this opportunity not only to acknowledge and celebrate moms, but also to advocate for all people who mother.

After retiring as a practicing attorney, Rev. Bill attended theology school at Seattle University, graduated and received fellowship as a UU minister in 2010. He is a past president of and was ordained by UUCWI. He has served as minister to UU congregations in Skagit Valley and Tacoma. This year he is doing itinerant preaching, working on developing a website for the UU Minister's Association on rites of passage, and traveling with his wife, Frances, from their home base on Whidbey Island.

Worship Leader: Mavis Cauffman

Wednesday, May 14, 7:20 pm EvenSong

All are welcome at this candlelit service of readings, silent meditation and songs accompanied by harp

May 18: "Shared Ministry"

With Janine Larsen, Executive of the Pacific Northwest District of the UUA

Unlike most religious denominations, UU congregations are deliberately non-hierarchical and expect ministry to be shared by every member of the congregation. What does this mean for each of us? How do you find and create your ministerial path? How can we collaborate with and minister to each other and to our wider community? Worship leader: Eileen Soskin. Ms. Larsen will lead a circle discussion of shared ministry following the service. Please stay and participate!

May 25: "Remembrances"

with Rev. Dennis Reynolds and Terra Anderson

Each year, on the Sunday before Memorial Day, we set aside time to remember those we have loved who have died and whose absence moves us still. There will be opportunities for shared remembrances and appreciations of those no longer with us in body, but whose love still moves within us.

You are invited to bring photos or meaning-filled talismans that represent loved ones to adorn our altar table.

May Events

May 1 Book Group: 7 pm at UUCWI

Caleb's Crossing, by Geraldine Brooks. A New York Times bestselling tale of passion and belief, magic and adventure from a Pulitzer Prize-winning author.

The June meeting will be on Thursday, the 5th, to discuss *The Big Burn: Teddy Roosevelt and the Fire That Saved America*, by Timothy Egan. The book group meets the first Thursday of every month from September through June.

May 2 – 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 to

Re_dir@uucwi.org

Friday, May 9 – Circle Dinner – 6 – 8 pm

This month's Circle Dinner will be hosted by Dennis and Suzanne Reynolds in the community house in their complex at 130 5th Street, Langley. This is a potluck and they can accommodate about a dozen people. If you would like to attend drop them a line at Dennis' UUCWI email, minister@uucwi.org or call (541) 517-7325.

Sat., May 10 - North End Coffee Klatch – 1 pm

Gather in the cafeteria at Whidbey General Hospital in Coupeville. All are welcome. Contact Kent Vandervelde if you have questions.

Saturday, May 10 – 7 pm at UUCWI

“Wouldn't It Be Lovely”

to Sing Along with Eileen

Join us for this benefit for the Whidbey Veterans Resource Center. You can sing songs from some wonderful musicals (with the lyrics projected for you to see), with the effervescent Eileen Soskin at the piano leading the singing. Enjoy tunes from *My Fair Lady*, *Oklahoma!*, *South Pacific*, *My Fair Lady*, *The King and I*, *The Sound of Music* and other shows.

Admission is free (donations happily accepted). There will also be a free raffle drawing with several very special gifts.

Saturday, May 17 – Work Party – 9 – 11 am

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

Friday, May 23 – 7 pm

“Let It Be a Dance”

Join us at UUCWI for an evening of live swing and Latin music performed by TRIPTYCH (with John Leaser on tenor sax plus piano, double bass, trumpet, drums and vocals). Dance to tunes you know and love. Tickets are \$10 and will be sold in the lobby after services on 5/4, 5/11 and 5/18. This is a benefit for UUCWI. Light refreshments will be available. Bring your friends - everyone will have heaps of fun!

Sat., May 24 - South End Coffee Klatch, 10:30 am

Please join Dennis and other UUs for our monthly informal get together at Living Green in Langley. The topics of discussion are determined by whoever shows up and participates.

How We Help One Another

This month we are launching a new way of assisting the congregation. It is a program called *Pastoral Associates*. We shared information about it at the March 23 Sunday Service. The sermon and some of the story and other elements from that service can be found at the UUCWI website at

<http://www.uucwi.org/ministry/sermons/index.html>

If you were not at church that Sunday, please take a look.

Basically, the Associates are a team of 10 folks who have agreed to be available to provide a little extra support for individuals within our congregation. The 10 people who were invited to serve represent a range of home locations, gender, age and tenure within the congregation. The group includes Sally Elder (who serves as our Chaplain), Suzanne Reynolds (who is trained and has worked as a chaplain) and Nydia Blood (who is a ministerial student). The others who will join this circle of care are Diane Ahuna, Gene Berg, Mark Brown, Sara Heath, Lisa Siders-Kenney, and Gaea Van Breda.

This group is not a substitute for the currently inactive Caring Connections Committee. The needs we hope to meet are not the pragmatic need for rides and meals and such, but rather the companionship and presence that can help us all when things are challenging or difficult.

The first responsibility of the group will be to come together to support each other in offering pastoral care. Some of these folks have already visited congregants who can no longer attend church and are helping in other ways. We will now be doing so in a more planned and intentional way.

We will be sharing training resources and taking turns at being the primary contact to receive information about known needs. The Associates will pay special attention to the needs shared during Joys and Sorrow and be available to hear from any of you as to when you or others you know have need.

Soon there will be an Associate designated as the contact person each month. This is the person you contact to help us identify needs. In the meantime please contact Dennis or Sally if you or

others might benefit from a visit or other assistance.

As we continue to grow our collaborative ministry, may we grow in depth and in our ability to give and to receive the love and support of this beloved community. ~ Dennis

Musings on Stubbing My Toe

This past week, I had three accidents that resulted in very minor injuries that hurt my self confidence and self esteem more than my body.

The first was when I tripped over a root while jogging on a trail in Putney Woods with Sadie, my Labrador and running partner. After I tripped and fell crashing to the muddy ground, I was not sure for a bit what the bleep had just happened or whether or not I had sustained a significant injury. The latter was not the case, as I had only stinging painful scrapes on my right elbow. Later my hip and a muscle in my upper leg were sore, but I am not sure whether they were from the fall or just part of the increasingly more frequent aches that come with the nearly six and half decades of wear and tear on my body.

The second minor injury occurred without my even being aware that it happened. I was at the church work party on Saturday morning. Chris Bell and I spent some time out by the highway working at the seemingly endless task of hacking away at the invasive blackberry vines, which if left at peace would, in time, likely take over our entire property. As we neared the end of our tussle with those thorny brambles, I noticed that Chris had sustained several small scratches on his face. I had apparently escaped unscathed.

When I got home, Suzanne looked at me and asked, “What did you do to your eye?”

At her prompting, I looked in the mirror and noticed that the lower half of the white of my right eye was a bright blood red. It did not hurt, but apparently without my noticing it the vines had “got me.”

Then, Sunday afternoon I was taking out the recycling. While carrying a basket of stuff to sort, I tripped over a piece of lumber that was obscured by the basket of cans and paper, catching the end of my toe. At first, I did not think anything of it, but then looked down at my

sandal-clad foot to see blood beginning to seep out of the base of my obviously partially detached big toe nail and it started to hurt.

“Ouch!”

I hobbled up to the condo and, much to her chagrin, Suzanne was drafted into first aid duty cleaning the wound, applying some Neosporin and taping the nail down to see if it might stay in place.

She asked, “What's with you? First your scrapes, then your eye, and now...?”

It started me to ponder and here's my answer.

- First, I am a bit of a klutz, always have been. Eye/hand coordination or eye/foot coordination have never been my strong suit. As I age, this is certainly not getting any better
- Second, I do stuff. I run in the woods, take on blackberry vines, and I am the recycle guy for the complex.
- The two together increase my risks.

So, might I finally learn to be more careful and not do all this stuff?

Yes, to the former and a resounding NO to the later.

As I offer thanks that the accidents were so minor, I am also deeply aware and appreciative of the simple fact that I can do these things. As long as I am able, I will do what I can do, because doing maximizes my ability to keep doing and perhaps some of what I do makes things just a little better.

What more can any of us do, but do what we can with care and, perhaps, with just a wee bit more attentiveness? With Gratitude ~ Dennis

Thomas Starr King (1824 - 1864) was a Universalist and Unitarian minister who played a pivotal role in keeping California a part of the Union during the Civil War. Starr King described the difference between Unitarians and Universalists this way – “Universalists believe that God is too good to damn people, and the Unitarians believe that people are too good to be damned by God.”

Terra's Tales

.... Report from the Board President

On April 6th we shared the joy of welcoming 8 new members. Membership is a tricky number to count because people are always coming and going, but we hover around 100 these days give or take a few. What's the human capacity to remember 100 names and know something about every one of them? I'm not doing as well as I would prefer so I was particularly tickled that Dennis told us a little something about each person as he introduced them. ☺

Our 2013-14 church fiscal year is nearing its end as a new year beckons. What are you anticipating? What improvements will you be part of making? The worship committee is planning their calendar of speakers; the Greening Congregation team is imagining how to expand their conversation about our environmental crises; the finance committee is trying to balance our budget (always a challenging task); new people are volunteering to lead committees and serve on the Board of Trustees.

Changes are at hand. And I thought you might like to know some of the budgetary picture as we complete this year's pledge campaign. You will recall the Board of Trustees set a goal 2 years ago to *begin* decreasing our dependence upon fund-raisers to cover the basic operating expenses. We thought in an ideal world pledges would cover operations. Then fund-raising could be dedicated to gifting the community with beautiful events and making special purchases like parking lot improvements, trail construction and play areas, furniture, even offering scholarships to major UU events like General Assembly or Leadership training.

Everyone has their special dream and we hope to eventually begin accomplishing some of those dreams through targeted fundraisers. We know fundraisers are a lot of hard work and question the sustainability of a budget so dependent upon our fundraising committees. Slowly, pledge by pledge, we *are* making progress. We did not get there this year, but clearly people are stepping up to the challenge.

Here is what I know so far:

- 32 people increased their pledges for a total of \$7700 growth.
- 11 decreased theirs for a variety of reasons, for a loss of \$1700.
- 26 folks stayed the same.
- 9 new members pledged this spring.
- 7 members are currently non-pledging.
- 2 "friends" pledge.
- 9 pledging members have left the island or the congregation, for a loss of \$6000.
- We don't yet know the pledge intentions of 21 members.

So while we had some gain, we also had losses. Our dream was to raise \$100K in pledges; we now anticipate \$89K. To balance our budget, we must significantly reduce our expenses or once again turn to fund raisers. I hope you will ponder our challenge, talk with people, talk with Board members, share your ideas, volunteer to help. We need your imagination moving forward!

SRC...In the Know!

The Social Responsibility Council expresses deep thanks for your consistently generous contributions to UUCWI's Dedicated Offerings held once monthly in support of local organizations and emergencies (like Oso). Since July 2013, we have collected approximately \$5000 for non-profits such as WIN, Habitat, Senior Services, and Whidbey Veteran's Resource Center as well as over \$700 each for flood-impacted Colorado and the Oso landslide. The monies given are supplemented by volunteer hours donated by over 30 congregation members and friends. Your support enables us to live out our principles on our island and beyond; thank you!

The SRC Planning Team (Camille Long, John Leaser, Libby Roberts, Jean McIntosh) is "hatching" new ideas for translating our values into action. Immigration is a hot topic all around the country, and especially in WA with its privately run detention center in Tacoma. Look for us to partner with other faith-based organizations and advocacy groups around this issue and other concerns like gun control and the

minimum wage. Don't forget, we continue to have thriving Greening Congregations' activities thanks to the hard work of John Leaser, Gary Piazzon, and Judy Kaplan.

Would you like to join the SRC Planning Team and participate both in continuing the work and launching new projects? We encourage interested folks to call/write any of us on the planning team and join one of our Planning Team meetings—the next one is May 13, 2PM, at WiFire Cafe in Freeland. Some of us are rotating off the Planning Team with the launch of the new church year in July, so please consider helping with Dedicated Offerings, projects on immigration, or Greening Congregations. All are welcome and please send any questions our way. ~ Jean McIntosh (730-1495, jeanmc@whidbey.com)

Dedicated Offerings

Thank you all for your generosity with our recent Dedicated Offerings. We raised over \$750 for Oso, which will be greatly appreciated. It feels good to reach out to local charities and to emergencies.

Our May 25th D.O. will be for the Veteran's Resource Center in honor of Memorial Day. We are particularly thinking about veterans' spouses and children and how they are affected by absence and injuries in the family.

May and June Art Show

The UU Gallery Art Show for May and June by Jarina Moss is entitled “Watercolor and Fabric Imaginations”. In her fabric pieces, Jarina creates patchworks using batik fabrics and an unplanned approach. Both her watercolors and fabrics allow her to play with her imagination, moving freely with the unfolding of colors and shapes to discover what will take form. Soon a story appears that shapes the form further. This show will display pillows, framed works and quilted wall hangings. The show will open May 4.

~ Dallas Huth for the Visual Arts Committee

Wanted:

Temporary Lodging and/or House-Sitting

Margaret's eldest son, Marty, and daughter in law, Durenda, from Colorado, are looking for a place to house their six-person family this June (and possibly July and August) while caregiving Margaret Harris, who is terminally ill, in Freeland. Their preferred arrival is around May 25th. They can pay modest rent and/or can trade services for housing. The family is willing to accept even the most modest of accommodations (yurt, army tent, cottage, boat w/cabin, tree house, Hobbit hole, etc.). They are able to offer house and yard maintenance, garden landscaping/tending, sewing, animal/livestock/horse care, tree pruning, hauling, organizing, clean-up, recycling and dump runs, minor home improvements (will build your greenhouse, container garden system, do painting, repairs, etc.).

Marty is an architectural designer, CAD operator, construction engineer & small-time farmer. Durenda is a former CNA, home health aid, aerobic instructor, green-thumb gardener and domestic engineer. Four youngsters are age 10 to 13, possess a good deal of their parents' skills and are very capable helpers. This is a clean, responsible family that's eager to please — just need shelter while helping Margaret Harris and Roger Harrison until Margaret's passing. In November Margaret was given less than six months to live. The family can readily provide references and a security deposit.

Contact Roger Harrison, 360-331-7646;
<rogerh@whidbey.com>

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.



JUNE 20-21 UU SOLSTICE CAMPING TRIP

Fort Ebey State Park - Group Camp Site

Come to celebrate the longest day of the year with our Whidbey Island UU community! Come to camp, or just for the meals or activities. We hope to see you there!

For more information and to reserve your space, contact Susan Janow, RE Committee co-Chair: staylorjanow@yahoo.com or 360-331-2689.

SUMMER
SOLSTICE
CELEBRATION



CAMPFIRE
STORIES,
SONGS &
S'MORES



BIRDWATCHING,
NATURE WALKS &
STARGAZING



CRAFTS & GAMES



ALL ARE WELCOME!

JOIN US!

5:30pm Beach Walk
6:30pm Dinner
7:30pm Solstice Celebration
8:00-10:00pm Campfire
6:30am Bird Watching
8:00am Breakfast

**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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