



# Island Passages *January 2015*

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p><i>"Try to be a rainbow in someone's cloud."</i> ~ Maya Angelou</p>				<p><b>1</b> 7pm Book Group</p>	<p><b>2</b> 11:45am TWOG 6pm Family Game Night</p>	<p><b>3</b> 10am VAC Installation</p>
<p><b>4</b> <b>10am UU Worship</b> 4pm Quaker Worship 5:45pm OWL in sanctuary</p>	<p><b>5</b> 8:45am WIN 10am Bellydancing 4pm Meditaton 6:30pm Witnessing Whiteness</p>	<p><b>6</b> 1pm Dennis' Office Hours 7pm Choir rehearsal</p>	<p><b>7</b> 10am UU Men's Group</p>	<p><b>8</b> 1:30pm Quaker Mtg 6pm Audubon</p>	<p><b>9</b> 11:45am TWOG</p>	<p><b>10</b> 11am set up 1pm Holtby memorial 1pm North End Coffee</p>
<p><b>11</b> <b>10am UU Worship</b> 11:30am Music Ctte 4pm Quaker Worship 5pm Quaker dinner</p>	<p><b>12</b> 8:45 WIN 10am Bellydancing 6:30 PFLAG</p>	<p><b>13</b> 10am Women's Group 1pm Dennis' Office Hours 2pm SRC 7pm Choir rehearsal</p>	<p><b>14</b> 10am Membership Ctte 7pm Worship Ctte</p>	<p><b>15</b> 3pm Ctte on Ministry 4pm Finance Ctte 6pm North End Grp</p>	<p><b>16</b> 11:45am TWOG</p>	<p><b>17</b> <b>9am Work Party</b> <b>Please come and help care for our shared home</b> 6pm Circle Dinner at Ken &amp; Sandy's</p>
<p><b>18</b> 8:45am Choir 9:45 OWL <b>10am UU Worship</b> 11:20am Parent Group 4pm Quaker Worship 5pm Quaker Business Mtg</p>	<p><b>19</b> 8:45am WIN 10am Bellydancing 4pm Meditation 6:30pm Witnessing Whiteness</p>	<p><b>20</b> 1pm Dennis' Office Hours 6:30 Leadership Council <b>Newsletter Deadline</b></p>	<p><b>21</b> 10am UU Men's Group 4pm MAGIC</p>	<p><b>22</b> 1:30pm Quaker Mtg 7pm Board of Trustees Mtg</p>	<p><b>23</b> 11:45am TWOG 5pm OWL Sleepover</p>	<p><b>24</b> overnight through 12pm OWL Sleepover 10:30 South End Coffee</p>
<p><b>25</b> <b>10am UU Worship</b> 4 pm Quaker Worship 6pm Northend Dine Out 7pm Dances of Universal Peace</p>	<p><b>26</b> 8:45 WIN 10am Bellydancing</p>	<p><b>27</b> 10am Women's Group 1 pm Dennis' Office Hours</p>	<p><b>28</b></p>	<p><b>29</b></p>	<p><b>30</b> 11:45am TWOG 6:30pm Greening Congregations Movie – "Now the Youth Speak"</p>	<p><b>31</b></p>

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

## January Worship Services (Sundays at 10 am unless otherwise noted)

### **Jan 4: *Renewal and New Beginnings***

with Rev. Dennis Reynolds

The New Year begins with football games that are important to many. It's a holiday that for many others is a time to recover from holiday partying. But the beginning of a new year can be so much more. The traditional New Year's resolutions and an invitation to deep reflection can offer each of us an opportunity to shift some aspect of our life. How might we use our new fresh calendars to truly start anew?

Worship Leader: Terra Anderson

### **Jan 18: *Let Justice Flow?***

with Rev. Dennis Reynolds

The Rev Martin Luther King looked to ancient prophets as inspiration for Justice work in the 20<sup>th</sup> Century. How might his words and deeds inspire us to seek greater justice in our century for all life? Let's explore together what that elusive word *justice* might mean in our time and how we might truly "let justice flow."

Music: UUCWI Chalice Choir

Worship Leader: Linda Good

### **Jan 11: *Riding the Waves***

with Florence Caplow

Sometimes we are living our daily lives, with their small joys and sorrows, and in a moment, everything changes. One of the infinite forms of the shockingly unexpected breaks over us like a great wave. At that moment, while being tumbled – and humbled – what resources can we draw upon? What are our personal sources of courage, inspiration, and strength?

Ms Caplow is the ministerial intern at Quimper Unitarian Universalist Fellowship in Port Townsend, a Soto Zen priest, and a writer and essayist. Her most recent book is *The Hidden Lamp: Stories from Twenty-Five Centuries of Awakened Women*.

Worship Leader: Nydia Blood

### **Jan 25: *Heavens, a play***

The glade is in deep twilight. A series of sounds comes from offstage: "MEOWR!... the screech of brakes and tires... a loud crash, with shattering glass and crunch of metal..." Come and find out what happens; all is not as it first appears... This service will explore UU principles and values through the medium of reader's theatre, featuring a play written and directed by UUCWI's Dave Cauffman.

Worship Leader: Sandy Welch



New Members were welcomed to our congregational family in December. From left to right: Meg Gluckman, Mary Anne Radmacher, Mollyshannon Neel, Laurie Riley, Aaron Taggart  
Photo kindly taken by Teri Wright

## Community Building the UUCWI Way...

### The UUCWI Library LIVES!

**FACTOID:** *UU members are readers!* There is a wealth of reading material on our UUCWI bookshelves, located in the hallway off the foyer of our church. Search for some interesting titles the next time you are in our building. There are books relating to our service topics on the book cart *in* the foyer. This month we feature Ralph Waldo Emerson, poetry collections, as well as some books relating to our own root sources in Christianity. So, take **another** look!

Sign out sheets are located on the rolling book cart. You can read more about the library on our UUCWI web site. Note that this is under the "Facility" tab.

The library committee wants you to know of our progress: we've recently reorganized the books as well as cupboards beneath. You will note color coding stickers on the spines, and labeling on shelves, to help you to choose categories you most want to explore.

The catalog is online at <http://uucwilibrary.com/>.

There will be a link to the catalog from the library page on the UUCWI web site in January. We have over 200 books still to be cataloged and included, so it is a work in progress. That means the wealth of topics is ever-growing! And watch for changes in the books on that rolling cart. Don't forget to sign out on the clipboard – we want you to enjoy the books so richly covering our roots, traditions, and UU life. ~ Joann Roomes

### Book Discussion Group news

Once again this month, at 7pm January 1<sup>st</sup>, the UUCWI Book Discussion Group will be doing something a little out-of-the-norm.

A few weeks after Maya Angelou passed away in May 2014, when we were choosing books to read for 2015, those present decided that we would devote an evening commemorating this *phenomenal* woman. Poet, author, essayist, civil rights activist, actress, dancer, singer, Maya Angelou was a woman of indomitable spirit.

All present the evening of the 1st will share some of what they've enjoyed and perhaps cherished of Maya's many contributions to our world. If you'd like to begin your new year in a similar way, consider joining us.

The UUCWI book discussion group meets the first Thursday of every month at UUCWI beginning at 7pm. Books to be read – and special activities like the above - are chosen once a year, usually at the May meeting. All wishing to participate are welcome. – Joan Gerteis

### Circle Dinners

The first of the 2015 series of Circle Dinners (read potluck) will be held at Sandy Welch and Ken Merrell's home on Saturday, January 17 beginning 6:00 pm. They can seat 6 guests. Be the first one to contact [sandy.welch3@gmail.com](mailto:sandy.welch3@gmail.com) and let her know what you would like to bring (main course, salad, veggies, dessert, wines and bread, as examples). You know that this is going to be a popular night.

These are informal, casual dinners where new and long time members and new friends of the church get together, learn about one another, enjoy a good meal and leave with a happy smile.

If you would like to open your home for a Circles Dinner, please let [jelcy@jelcy.com](mailto:jelcy@jelcy.com) know and I will find a month. ~ Jelcy Romberg

### PHASE II SHARED MINISTRY

Individual Chalice Circles have begun to meet to explore their individual meanings of *ministry* and to describe their experiences of *shared ministry* in our congregation. Feedback from all Circles is being compiled by the Phase II Task Force in order to learn what is working well at UUCWI and ways we can grow and improve the health and vitality of our community.

The Task Force hopes to have received all feedback by the end of February. If you are a Chalice Circle Convener, please contact [toyan\\_copeland@yahoo.com](mailto:toyan_copeland@yahoo.com) at your early convenience to let her know when your Circle will meet for what is sure to be a rich sharing of thoughts. A member of the Task Force will attend each such meeting to facilitate the discussion, so advance scheduling is needed. ~ Toyan Copeland

## From the Minister's Corner...

### Dennis' Ministerial Musings: Clearer Vision

Suzanne ended 2014 with cataract surgery on one eye; early in the New Year she will have the procedure done on the other. As we drove home from the Mount Vernon facility where the surgery was performed, she already noted significant improvement. She looked towards the horizon and marveled at the details that her declining vision had not been able to discern. Just hours after surgery her vision, without glasses, was clearer than she had ever remembered.

As we drove along in the soft grey light of a winter day we spoke with gratitude about how amazing and almost miraculous this transformation had been. We shared our amazement at this medical miracle that we are privileged to have available to us.

We also finally acknowledged the anxiety that each of us had not voiced fully before the procedure. She kept quiet, because she did not want me to worry too much and I did the same because I did not want her to worry too much. We *did* worry, just in private.

In this situation the actions and intervention that would make clearer vision possible came with risks. We were both all too aware of the reality of those possibilities. We have a Eugene friend who has been struggling for months with complications from such a seemingly "routine" procedure.

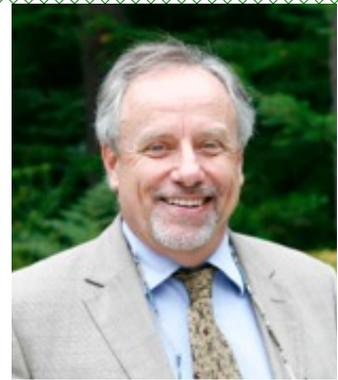
Suzanne's successful procedure and the real risks she chose to take set me to pondering more broadly about what has been called rather critically "the vision thing." Seeking to shift our way of looking at the world and choosing to consider ways that we might see things more clearly involves risk, especially risk to our sense of comfort and internal well being. Genuine effort to seek truth involves recognizing the risk and embracing the courage to face it.

My daughter, an anthropologist and would be change agent, shared with me a notion of cultivating a "ethic of discomfort." Such an ethic invites us to engage in exploring truths that might make us uncomfortable and rather than avoiding such discomfort, to be fully present to it.

When I acknowledge the reality of climate change I become deeply uncomfortable. When I look honestly at the facts of our planet's slow and steady warming, I recognize that my current life style is not yet truly sustainable. I am uncomfortable because I am neither willing nor able to make all the changes needed to truly shape the future I dream of. I know too that others with fewer resources than I may have even fewer options for real change.

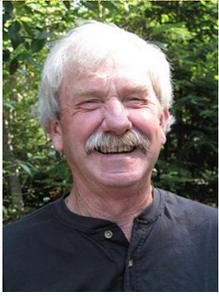
I know that when I look at all the privileges that my race, gender, social class and sexual orientation have granted to me, I am deeply uncomfortable. Yet if I want to truly see the truth of our stratified society, I need to risk and be fully present to the discomfort that comes with looking honestly at all that. The members of our congregation who have been engaged in an exploration of white privilege know how uncomfortable choosing to *not* look away can be.

In this New Year I resolve to try to be more intentional about not looking away from inconvenient truths and to strive to sit with the discomfort that accompanies such honest assessments. I invite you to consider doing the same.



**Pastoral Support** The January Pastoral Associates Coordinator is Diane Ahuna. If you have need of a visit or an ear, please contact her at [dbahuna@whidbey.com](mailto:dbahuna@whidbey.com) or at 360 678-6903 Reverend Dennis at [minister@uucwi.org](mailto:minister@uucwi.org) or 542 517-7325.

## From our Leadership...



### The President's Pen

If a President's column is read in the forest, does it make a sound? A new koan.

In keeping with my stated purpose last month, I will continue to use this column as a means of keeping you informed about what your UUCWI Board is doing.

Here's this month's work:

All UU congregations have been invited by the UUA to give input on what should be on the General Assembly agenda this June in Portland. **Specifically, congregations are asked if they wish a "Statement of Conscience (SOC)"**

**regarding reproductive rights to be on the agenda for action.** You will be informed through our electronic town criers about the scope of the issue and then invited to give your feedback. So look for a piece in the e-news and Newsletter. We want our response about including this issue on the agenda to accurately reflect opinions in our community.

The Board has established a personnel committee to deal with issues of feedback, support and compensation for our employees. We are starting to meet twice a year with each employee to see that we are meeting their needs and that they have feedback on their work on behalf of the congregation. This is a new committee and we are feeling our way, but we believe this is a good procedural step for both our employees and the congregation.

Speaking of feedback, as president of the Board I occasionally receive feedback on how we are doing as a congregation and how some individual leaders in the church are doing. My first response is usually, "Have you shared your thoughts with the person involved?" And often I hear back, "Oh, no, I couldn't say that to her face (or his face). I just thought you should know. And please don't say anything about it." Or, "Please don't use my name." This puts me in an awkward spot. If this feedback contains useful insights, but it can't be shared, what am I to do with it? How is the person criticized supposed to address a perceived shortcoming if the only recipient is a third party?

Our Covenant of Right Relations calls us to deal with disagreements directly and openly, and to see conflict through to an authentic resolution. This is not easy for lots of us to do, but it's what we say we expect of ourselves and of each other. Do we fall short? Of course, but as the Covenant also says, "When we fall short, we forgive ourselves and others, and begin again in love."

Feedback is important, but if it is not delivered, it's not *feedback*, it's just *complaint*. I'd hate to think that people were dissatisfied with my work as board president, but were not letting me know for fear that I would be resentful or deeply hurt. Give me the chance to improve and learn from your observations.

The Board and the Finance Committee (with the help of Toyon Copeland, our Big Picture Coordinator) are working on a couple of projects that have been on the drawing board for quite a while – lighting for the parking lot and black-out curtains for the sanctuary. In the next two months we will be calling a congregational meeting to give you a chance to ask questions and finally tell us if you wish us to proceed. Our by-laws require congregational approval for any major change to our budget. Neither of these projects were funded in our budget for this year, but funds from the Chalice Lighters grant and a surplus from fundraisers make it possible to do these projects. And you as a congregation will be asked for a decision.

In February we will have a workshop on pledge drives from a member of the Hood River UU Fellowship. The Board will attend and we will be inviting interested others to take part. If you'd like to learn more about how we can best achieve our financial goals as a congregation, please let me know and I'll see that you are invited.

**Short Website Tutorial:** If you've been hesitant to use our congregational website and its online calendar facility, perhaps this little 3-minute tutorial <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bQ-oTlx0m98> will break the ice! Please let me know if this is helpful, and perhaps offer suggestions for any future tutorials that might be useful. ~ Mavis Cauffman, UUCWI Administrator

## Member Activities

### Introducing Mary Goolsby, member of the Board of Trustees...

I am one of a small hand full of UUCWI members who were born and raised in the South. Gainesville Florida was then a small town, so I find comfort living in the village of Langley. So many people one sees at the movies or the grocery store look familiar even though I don't know (or don't remember) their names.

Going to the U of Florida in my hometown lacked the adventure I craved so I dropped out for nine years, moving to Ohio where I worked in a psychology lab for five years. I learned a bit about animal research and met my future husband. Eventually returning to school, my major was special education, and over the next twenty-five years my time was divided between teaching and staying at home to raise my own two children.

My first teaching job was in a Connecticut rehabilitation center pre-school for physically handicapped children. Years later, after moving back to Florida to care for my mother, I found myself a teacher of deaf and blind adults within a state institution for developmentally delayed people. I have been the primary learner in all of the jobs I've held over the years, including Administrative Assistant to the State Climatologist in Arizona where I lived for 12 years and where my two children grew up. During those years I worked on developing skills using a variety of media including stained glass and clay.

Because my daughter Jodie eventually settled in the Northwest, I chose to attend graduate school in Oregon where I majored in art therapy. After working as a mental health professional for several years, I retired and moved to the Island where Jodie and her family also live.

One of my first priorities after moving here was to find a UU community. Although long considering myself an atheist, I discovered my affinity for UUism while living with my mother and young son in Florida. After signing Jason up for a youth program at the Gainesville UU Fellowship, I quickly felt very much at home among its members. Between Baird Bardarson and Malcolm Ferrier there was no way I could have escaped becoming a member of UUCWI after my move to the Island in 2003.



### Gene's puzzler:

Can you circle six of the following digits that add up to 21?

1	1	1
3	3	3
5	5	5
9	9	9

Post your answers to Gene Berg at [gaberg678@gmail.com](mailto:gaberg678@gmail.com)

### Parents' Group

Join us for an hour of getting to know other parents in the congregation. We'll chat about parenting



joys and challenges, the spiritual life of children and our experiences answering the hard questions kids raise. Visitors, friends & members welcome. Next meeting: January 18th, 11:20 to 12:30, in the Office. For more info please e-mail Meg Gluckman at [meg.gluckman@gmail.com](mailto:meg.gluckman@gmail.com) or call 206-679-0996. Childcare will be provided, but please bring a lunch or snack for your child.



For our dedicated offering in December we collected \$518 for the HUB in Langley, an after-school program for youth.



*Thank you for your generosity, UUCWI!*

## Committee Activities

*I have asked each of our UUCWI committees to consider writing something about how they serve this congregation. Here are my first two responses – one from Membership and a second from Building and Grounds. If you like reading their articles, please speak up. And if you have other ideas for newsletter content, by all means make suggestions! - Terra at [newsletter@uucwi.org](mailto:newsletter@uucwi.org)*



### **From Visiting to Belonging: The Role of the Membership Committee**

Seventeen new members joined UUCWI during 2014! It is encouraging to embrace so many people, in large part due to the welcoming atmosphere created by all who attend this church. Taking into account members who have moved or passed away, membership is now 96.

The Membership Committee works behind the scenes to ensure that visitors begin to develop a sense of belonging. This includes greeting visitors, tracking who returns, and providing visitors with information on the pathway to membership. Members include Frances Wood, Lois Chowen, Gene Berg, Suzanne Reynolds, Mavis Cauffman, Gaye Simpson, Dennis Reynolds and co-chairs Corinne Ludy and Clara Beier.

**Welcoming Visitors** Each Sunday, a member of the committee greets new visitors and gathers their contact information. Mavis sends them a welcoming postcard. Those who return are personally contacted by Dennis or a committee member. They are invited to a Newcomers' dinner and/or UU101 which are offered several times a year and provide the opportunity for visitors to learn about Unitarian Universalism and consider membership.

**Pathway to Membership** According to UUCWI by-laws, members must be at least 16 years old, agree with UU principles, attend an orientation program (UU101), sign the membership book, and demonstrate a commitment to the congregation by signing a pledge card. Those who are unable to make a financial contribution can still become members by indicating alternative ways of contributing to the church. Also, we welcome anyone who prefers to be a Friend rather than a Member. Those who have been Members for at least 60 days may then vote at congregational meetings, serve on the Board of Trustees, chair a committee, or serve on nominating and search committees.

**Retaining Membership** By-laws state that signing a pledge card before the start of the fiscal year ensures membership for an additional year. Membership renewal is not automatic.

**Creating a Sense of Belonging** The Membership Committee assists and encourages members and friends to join activities such as committees, Religious Exploration classes, the choir, Saturday work parties, informal dinner groups, and either the men's or women's groups. Each person is also invited to a Chalice Circle in which people can develop deeper connections.

**It Takes A Village** We wish to thank everyone for meeting new visitors, inviting them to participate, and making them feel welcome. It is because of you that we have so many new people attending our congregation! ~ Clara Beier & Corinne Ludy

### **Save the Date!!**

*Seminary for a Day* will be returning to First Unitarian Church in Portland on January 24<sup>th</sup>. The keynote presenter will be Rev. Dr. Rebecca Parker, the recently retired President of Starr King School for the Ministry. Her keynote presentation "Entering the Sanctuary of Openness" will explore how emerging theologies deal with these questions in surprising ways that can inform, intrigue and inspire us to new expressions of reverence and devotion.

Look for details and registration information the first week of January. Other workshops on spirituality, justice, and theology offered by local clergy will make this a rich and rewarding day.

~ Rev. Bill Sinkford, Senior Minister, First Unitarian Church, Portland OR

## Committee Activities continued...

### Landscaping our UUCWI Property

Nine years ago our UUCWI property was a neglected and undeveloped woodlot. The five acres were covered with conifers, alder, salal and ferns. Unfortunately invasive plants such as blackberry and holly thrived in open spaces.

While constructing our sanctuary, the Board of Trustees and a gardening committee decided to retain the property in a native, or *natural* state, leading to the design and planting of the entry beds. Except for the elimination of pesky weeds little maintenance is required.

Today's principal issue is implementing that vision for the remainder of the church property. Reclaiming the land from the blackberry and holly is hard work. The effort of volunteers over the last few years has resulted in a significant progress but there is more to do - invasive species still thrive amongst the native vegetation we want to keep. As invasive plants are removed we are infilling with fir, hemlock and cedar, Indian plum, snowberry, red currant, salal, ferns, huckleberry and ground covers such as twin flower. It will be beautiful.

Of immediate and pressing concern is the health of the existing trees. The major species - Douglas firs, hemlock, cedars, (too many) alder - represent a second or third growth and have not been managed. They are too closely spaced, especially given the rather poor soil conditions. They are too tall with minimal girth. Several trees were diagnosed by a certified arborist as diseased and have been removed. However, the arborist believes that root rot may affect a large percentage of the Douglas firs on the property and expects that in the future many will die, toppling in storms. They will need to be removed and replaced with other species not prone to that root rot.

To accomplish all this work, volunteers gather for a couple of hours monthly. We work on the tasks mentioned above and occasional special projects such as repairing drainage systems or fixing potholes in the drive. And when there are extra hands, we extend the hiking trail through the woods that may eventually encircle the property.

There is lots of work to be done, and a need for as many helping hands as possible. There is a task for everyone, regardless of age or sex. And there is the additional bonus of coffee and goodies. We look forward to seeing you at our next work party, January 17th. ~ Chris Bell



### UUCWI Heroes and Heroines

*Do you want to tell someone thank you in the newsletter? What a nice way to acknowledge all the hard work that occurs every day and every week at UUCWI! Here are kudos from Chris Bell to the volunteers of the December 20<sup>th</sup> work party.*

“Hey, what a terrific work party. The grounds look great. Gene Berg risked his life cleaning the gutters. John Long and Pat Collins risked their lives cutting out all of the downfall on the trail. Tom Buxton risked his reputation as a truck driver while delivering truck loads of branches to the dump, and came out just fine. Joann Roomes, Judy Kaplan, John Leaser and Dennis Reynolds demonstrated their skill in collecting all of the downed branches, leaves and other debris. Inside the building Mary Goolsby re-alphabetized all the nametags and put some overflow tags on the side of the refrigerator. Joan Gerteis swept, vacuumed and dusted. Corinne Ludy scrubbed chairs and cleaned the refrigerator. Terra Anderson repaired the grout in our foyer. The Library Committee provided delicious goodies and even served the workers outside! Without your help we would have a pretty messy church property.”

## Unitarian Universalism Around the World

**A UU History Lesson.** Many of you know that our congregation is rich in divinity degrees and pastoral skills. One of those members is Mitch Howard, partner to BOT member Gladys Howard. Mitch spent most of his adult life as a UU minister in several congregations on the East Coast. He has agreed to write some words about our UU history. If you like this, please encourage him to keep writing by thanking him at [penncovebb@earthlink.net](mailto:penncovebb@earthlink.net). ☺

### MORE THAN JUST VAMPIRES

Transylvania, when I was a boy, was known to Americans as the home of Count Dracula; end of story. So it was a revelation to me when I met my first real live Transylvanian. Her name was Vilma Szantho Harrington. She was the first woman ordained to the ministry in the four-century history of the Unitarian Church in Transylvania. I met Vilma in New York City, where she served as a minister-at-large to college students in that sizable village. How we came to meet is a story for another time. It was through her that I first learned of the fascinating history of her church tradition.

The year was 1568. Transylvania was borderland country, between the Catholic power of Austria and the Muslim Ottoman empire. The young King John was under pressure not only from Catholics, but Lutherans and even Calvinists, to take their side in the religious turmoil in Europe. But he was an unusual King, deciding to hold an open debate among these three religions and a fourth one, which then was called only “the followers of Ferencz David”. Members of this fourth group were Unitarian in belief.

The King, in the end, was convinced by the argument of Ferencz David, who urged freedom of religion (at least for Christians). The King proclaimed that in his realm there would be toleration of all four of these flavors of Christians! There were lots of twists and turns in the story of King John and Bishop Ferencz; I've often thought it could make a great movie! So I will restrain myself from any spoilers about how these various players ended up. By now you're probably thinking of googling it anyway.

But think about it: 1568! Toleration in religion was not standard practice much of anywhere. Rhode Island's Roger Williams was a century in the future; our First Amendment was two centuries away. We can be proud that it was a preacher of the Unitarian persuasion who convinced a thoughtful young King to issue that very early proclamation of toleration. We can be sad that even now there are so many egregious examples of the most stifling and brutal intolerance running loose in the world. For us to consider: how, amid the relative freedom and comfort of this evergreen isle, might we direct our energies so as to grow the space of mutual tolerance and dialogue and starve the source of fanatical extremism here and abroad? King John and Ferencz David managed it 446 years ago; surely we can do it now.



**UUs Take On Global Warming...** 2015 looks like the year Washington State and the world will take significant steps to combat the Climate Crisis and UUs are taking a leadership role. In June a divestment resolution was passed at the GA. In September 1500 UUs marched in the People's Climate March in New York City demanding UN action. This Fall UUA President Morales asked for UUs to make the climate crisis the priority issue. Comitt2Respond has answered that call. Locally, UU Voices established their top three lobbying priorities. Support for a carbon tax topped the list, while fighting fossil fuel transport through our state (coal from Wyoming and Bakken crude from North Dakota) came in a close second. Third was support for a living wage. For the first time in history UN talks, recently concluded in Lima, Peru, have been successful in laying the groundwork for a meaningful action. They will meet again in Paris in 2015 to seal the deal. This is the first time all 200 nations have agreed to take action and the first time the USA was applauded for its leadership role. ~ Gary Piazzon

# Social Responsibility Council

## SRC...Be In the Know!

As we begin 2015, many opportunities to learn and act are just ahead. **Let Justice Roll Forum, Sunday, January 18, 11:30-12:30** Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., spoke of “justice” as a moral principle. What do we really mean when we talk about environmental, economic, and social justice—in the context of a religious, a principle-centered community like UUCWI? How would our actions change if informed by learning, compassion, and insight? What does “social responsibility” at UUCWI mean to you? Join Jolinda Stephens, Coordinator for Washington UU Voices for Justice for a lively discussion. Bring your questions; share your insights.

**Request for Comments: Statement of Conscience on Reproductive Justice.** As a member congregation of the Unitarian Universality Association, we are invited to vote in Congregational Polls, this year to determine whether a Statement of Conscience on Reproductive Justice will be on the Final Agenda for the 2015 General Assembly. At least 25% of all certified congregations must vote, and a majority of those must be in favor of putting the statement of conscience on the agenda. Once on the agenda, delegates at General Assembly (in Portland this year) will be able to amend, debate and vote on whether to approve the Statement of conscience. Do we want this to be debated at GA? Reproductive Justice is vital to all, so please review the SOC and bring forward comments to the Social Responsibility Council via Jean McIntosh at [jeanmc@whidbey.com](mailto:jeanmc@whidbey.com) **Your comments are needed by January 16, 2015**, for consideration by our Board of Trustees.

**Quaker Peace Initiative & Community Forum, Jan 10, 1PM, Bayview Hall: If War is Not the Answer, What Is?**

Join an open community forum on alternatives to violence in Syria and Iraq with keynote address by Matt Southworth, an Iraq war veteran who will offer concrete suggestions for actions that we can take as citizens. Their message calls us to oppose U.S. military actions in Iraq and Syria, and will include letters to Patty Murray, Maria Cantwell, Rick Larsen and President Obama. Many of us have signed their petition and offered financial donations in support of this effort

**Stop Torture Banner Returns** With the recent release of the US Senate Select Committee’s *Study of the CIA’s Detention and Interrogation Program*, UUCWI’s “**Stop Torture**” banner returns to its place near the highway. SRC thanks Dave Cauffman for his initiative to make UUCWI’s statement of principle visible once again...this time, with the addition of “forever” to the banner to signal our concern that torture by the U.S. is only stopped by executive order, which a future president could reverse. On behalf of the Social Responsibility Council ~ Jean McIntosh



## Statement of Conscience on Reproductive Justice

*As Unitarian Universalists, we embrace the reproductive justice framework, which espouses the right to have children, not have children, and parent children in safe and healthy environments. To this we add that all people have the right to bodily autonomy and self expression with regards to their gender and sexuality...*

*...With open minds, helping hands, and loving hearts, we work toward reproductive justice, and commit to replacing shame with compassion, fear with acceptance, judgment with love, and insecurity with safety.*

The full statement is on the UUA web site.

**Greening Congregations Movie Night: "Now The Youth Speak"** Friday, January 30<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 in the UUCWI sanctuary we will launch the Greening Congregation’s film series, *Moral Ground: Ethics for a Planet in Peril*. Featured this night are four 15-minute presentations from young people who have recognized the threat to their future by our continued use of fossil fuels and have decided to take action: 10-14 year-olds from "Plant for the Planet" are planting 1 trillion trees; Alec Looz at the age of just 15 founded iMatter and initiated a lawsuit against the USA government “to secure climate recovery plans that will restore the balance of Earth's climate systems”; UW student Sara Tekola is leading the Fossil Free Divestment Campaign for 350.org. Q&A time will follow ~ Gary Piazzon

