



# Island Passages MAY 2015

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	<b>The Seven Whispers:</b> 1) Maintain peace of mind. 2) Move at the pace of guidance. 3) Practice certainty of purpose. 4) Surrender to surprises.				<b>1</b> 10am VAC installation 6pm Family Game Night	<b>2</b> 7pm Guatemala Benefit Dance
<b>3</b> 9:45am OWL <b>10am UU Worship</b> 4pm Quaker Worship	<b>4</b> 8:45am WIN 10am Dance 4pm Meditation	<b>5</b> 1pm Dennis' Office Hours	<b>6</b> 10am UU Men's Group	<b>7</b> 7pm Book Group	<b>8</b> 6:30pm Set up 7:00pm Readers Theater	<b>9</b> 1pm North End Coffee 7:00pm Concert – Anna Fritz
<b>10</b> <b>10am UU Worship</b> 4pm Quaker Worship 5pm Quaker Dinner	<b>11</b> 8:45am WIN 10am Dance 6:30pm PFLAG	<b>12</b> 10am Membership 1pm Dennis' Office Hours 2pm SRC Strg Ctte 7pm Choir	<b>13</b> 7pm Worship Ctte	<b>14</b> 1:30pm Quaker Mtg	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b> <b>9am Work Party sponsored by our RE program</b> 1pm Quaker Program 4pm OWL Graduation
<b>17</b> <b>10am UU Worship</b> 11:30am UU101 4pm Quaker Worship 5pm Quaker Business Mtg	<b>18</b> 8:45am WIN 10am Dance 4pm Meditation	<b>19</b> 1pm Dennis' Office Hours 7pm Choir	<b>20</b> 10am UU Men's Group 4pm MAGIC  <i>Newsletter Deadline</i>	<b>21</b> 4pm Finance Ctte 6pm North End Grp 6pm Adams Road mtg	<b>22</b> 2pm Death Café 7pm Greening Congregations	<b>23</b> 10:30 South End Coffee
<b>24</b> 8:45am Choir <b>10am UU Worship</b> 4pm Quaker Worship	<b>25</b> 8:45am WIN 10am Dance	<b>26</b> 1pm Dennis' Office Hours 3pm Ctte on Ministry 6:30pm Leadership Council	<b>27</b> 6:30pm Guillemot Training	<b>28</b> 1:30pm Quaker Mtg 7pm BOT Mtg	<b>29</b> 6pm Chanteuse Concert	<b>30</b> 3pm Chanteuse Concert
<b>31</b> <b>10am UU Worship</b> 4pm Quaker Worship 6pm North End Dine Out 7pm Dances of Universal Peace	5) Ask for what you need and offer what you can. 6) Love the folks in front of you. 7) Return to the world. ~ Christina Baldwin					

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

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

### **May 3: Worship Stations**

Wisdom from the world's religions inspire us in our ethical and spiritual life. Join in an intergenerational celebration of one of UU's rich sources of inspiration. The service is organized around five worship centers each using a different element of worship: music, service, art, poetry, and silence/meditation. The first three will have appropriate activities for children, though you are welcome to bring or send children to any of the activities. You will be invited to choose two worship centers. RE is organizing a Maypole for us to enjoy after the service!

Worship Leader: Glo Sherman

### **May 17: Reflections**

with Rev Dennis Reynolds

For the past few months many of you have offered your reflections on what Shared Ministry means. How might your thoughts and impressions shape our goals and intentions for the future of UUCWI? We will also honor graduates from our Our Whole Lives (OWL) program.

Worship Leader: Toyan Copeland

### **May 31: Sourcing the Sacred**

with Rev Amy Beltaine

A fire requires fuel, and living whole-heartedly requires spiritual sustenance. Community and Relationships? Nature or Personal Experience? Stories, Myth, or Scripture? Teachers and Leaders? Tradition? What sources do you turn to that comfort you, challenge you, and inspire you? Our shared tradition offers six sources. As we welcome the torch that is traveling to Portland for our UU General Assembly, let us bless it, and each other, with our richest sources.

Rev Beltaine is affiliated with Atkinson Memorial Church in Oregon City. She is endlessly fascinated and excited by the mystical experience of the sacred in nature and relationships. She describes herself as a ... woman, teacher, seeker, and a letter in "lgbtq."

Worship Leader: Nydia Blood

### **May 10: Remembering Who We Are**

with Rev Kit Ketcham

On this Mother's Day Sunday, it can be helpful to think about who we are as a result of our genetic heritage, our place in time, and what we are able to do with our lives. The Rev. Kit Ketcham, minister emerita of UUCWI, will speak about origins and outcomes, the journey of our lives through a beautiful and fierce universe.

A child dedication will be part of this service.

Worship Leader: Gladys Howard

### **May 24: Remembering our Beloveds**

Each year, on the Sunday before Memorial Day, we set aside time to remember departed beloveds. 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 those loved ones to adorn our altar table.

Music: UUCWI Chalice Choir

Worship Leaders: Dennis Reynolds and Terra Anderson

*Today, like every day*

*We wake up hollow and frightened.*

*Don't open the door to the study and begin reading.*

*Reach for a musical instrument.*

*Let the beauty we love be what we do*

*There are hundreds of ways to kneel and kiss the ground. ~ Jalal al-Din Rumi*

## Community Building

### Shared Ministry Task Force: a preliminary "look" at what we are learning

The Shared Ministry Task Force learned much from the eight groups convened to offer experiences of shared ministry here at UUCWI. Seven Chalice Circles and one open-to-all group met, representing approximately 60 voices, about 60% of our congregation. They shared one-word definitions of ministry, experiences of shared ministry at UUCWI, and what they long to give and receive in our shared ministry.

We were humbled and enlightened by what was shared; the range of experiences and emotions were as diverse as the many in our community who offered them. How, then, do we analyze and interpret what we heard? We are guided by suggestions offered by the participants themselves: don't lose the depth and wealth of what was shared by trying to corral it into broad statements; provide a few data points and let the congregation interpret and use the information for themselves. As a first step, here is a "picture" called *word clouds* to ponder. This tool (Wordle), suggested by a participant, simply creates a picture where the words used most frequently in discussion are largest in size. No analysis, no interpretation—simply another way to "see" what folks had to say. Take a look at the "word cloud" for the question—what does shared ministry mean to you at UUCWI? What do these responses evoke in you?

And stay tuned, as our May 17 service will focus on shared ministry in all its richness and diversity.



*May the road rise up to meet you.  
May the wind be always at your back.  
May the warm rays of sun fall upon your home  
And may the hand of a friend always be near.  
May green be the grass you walk on,  
May blue be the skies above you,  
May pure be the joys that surround you,  
May true be the hearts that love you. – Irish blessing*

## Community Building continued



### Caring Connections Update

Thanks to all who were able to help with meals for Margaret's and Roger's families. They were very appreciative of the food and the love and care that came with it.

We have some exciting news! That much desired gift of willingness, experience, and passion has been offered and accepted! Laurie Riley, as of now, is the new Caring Connections coordinator. Laurie, author of the book, Practical Compassion, will work with others to continue to re-vitalize our Caring Connections program.

Laurie has established a database using the information sheets that 35 of you submitted, indicating the many ways you wish to offer care. If you have not completed such a form you will find them on the welcome desk. Please just complete it and return it to the box. If you cannot offer care at this time, just so indicate on the form.

I'm sure there will be lots of helpful information from Laurie in the weeks to come. If you have a need for assistance or know of someone else who does, please contact Laurie and/or Dennis.

~ Glo Sherman

### Good Food in Two Flavors...



### ...take your pick

**2nd Sunday Lunch Bunch...** falls on Mother's Day this month. What fun! For those of you who will not be celebrating with your children please join at the Freeland China City after our service. We order about 4 items for 5 people in attendance, sharing the plates and the cost equally. If we have at least 8 present, China City gives us a 10% discount on the meal.

There is no set topic of discussion and we never run out of things to talk about. Everyone gets a chance to talk and hear what's going on with everyone else at the table.

Please join us for this monthly time to enjoy one another in an informal group setting.

~ Jelcy Romberg

**Dinners for Fun** Potluck, Saturday, May 16, 6:00-?: This last dinner for the 2014-15 church season will be held at John and May-Britt Kron's lovely home in Coupeville. You can phone or email them to get more details and coordinate what you would like to bring. [johnmayb@yahoo.com](mailto:johnmayb@yahoo.com) or (360) 678-6050.

Known formerly as *Circles Dinners*, we decided on a name change last month to lessen the confusion with Chalice Circles.

We will resume the Dinners For Fun Potlucks in September, so this is your last chance to enjoy a lovely evening of good food, good company and a general delightful time. ~ Jelcy

### Benefit Dance with Live Music

by John Leaser and his Triptych band

Sat., May 2<sup>nd</sup> 7-10pm

UUCWI

Come laugh. Come learn to dance Tango and Swing with your friends. Did you know our own Laurie Riley is a belly dancer? She will demonstrate with 3 of her courageous and slightly embarrassed students – Clara, Toyon and Terra. ☺

A small \$10 admission will support *Let's Be Ready*, a program in Guatemala to establish much needed preschools. We will be treated to a Swing lesson with fun Seattle instructors, and then will dance to John Leaser's spectacular music.

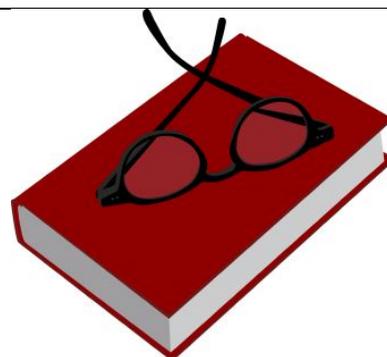
For info or to help, please contact Teri Wright: 206-305-4221.

## And even MORE Community Building

### Who would you pick for YOUR team?

Our UUCWI book discussion group selection for JUNE is *Team of Rivals: The Political Genius of Abraham Lincoln* by Doris Kearns Goodwin. In this book, the author doesn't just tell the story of Abraham Lincoln. It is a multiple biography of the entire team of personal and political competitors that Lincoln put together to lead the country through its greatest crisis. Goodwin profiles five of the key players in her book, four of whom contended for the 1860 Republican presidential nomination and all of whom later worked together in Lincoln's cabinet. This is a biography that is a 'must read'.

The book is available in multiple formats (print, e-book, e-audio, CD) in the Sno-Isle Libraries system. Our book group has also reserved a Book Discussion Kit, and you may pick up a single copy from this kit between May 1<sup>st</sup> and May 15<sup>th</sup> at the Freeland Library. Our June meeting will take place on Thursday the 4<sup>th</sup>, beginning at 7pm, at UUCWI. ~ Joan Gerteis



### Fourth Annual Women's Retreat

July 22-23<sup>rd</sup>

*Mark your calendars!* Details will be available in the June newsletter, but we want to give you a heads-up so you can include this fun event in your summer planning. Our core planning group consists of Christi Shaffer, May-Britt Kron, Lois Anderson and Joan Gerteis. We have many ideas and themes identified that have the potential of making this year's retreat a very rich event. In May we will be reaching out to Women's groups as well as others to help choose not only a theme but to participate in the planning of activities. The retreat will once again be held at the Group camping site at Fort Ebey State Park. One way or another, do plan on being part of this year's Retreat! ~ Joan Gerteis

### Parent Group

Sun. May 17<sup>th</sup>,  
11:20am-12:20pm

Come celebrate your parenting journey with other parents in the congregation! We chat about joys and struggles, about raising children with UU values, and what spirituality looks like for us as parents. New folks are always welcome. Childcare is provided, but bring lunch or extra snacks for your child. ~ Ginger White

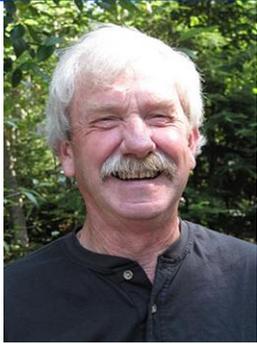


### Abstract Expressions

The art of Shirley Ashenbrenner and Steve Sloan will grace of foyer Art Gallery for the months of May and June, with the exhibit opening on Sunday, May 3<sup>rd</sup>. Shirley's abstract, colorful and vibrant artwork is well known on Whidbey, and we are excited to have our foyer walls totally devoted to it in this exhibit. The art of Steve Sloan, also a Whidbey artist, explores the interplay of color and light through moving sculptures, and is the perfect abstract complement to Shirley's work. ~ Joan Gerteis

## From our Leadership

On Sunday, April 19, John gave a - sort of - "state of the congregation" speech. While some of you heard it in person, many did not. And those who did may be thinking, "what was it he said about ...?" So here it is. ☺



### The Prez Sez...

I'm going to be talking today mostly about the future. That's where we will live and we need to take care of it. We are the stewards of our future. But cast your mind back ten years ago. Where were you? At that point UUCWI met in donated space in the annex of Trinity Lutheran Church about a mile south of here. On Sunday afternoons a small group of folks met there, set up metal folding chairs, brought the chalice out of someone's trunk, greeted friends, and worshipped together. It was a fine group and Camille and I, brand new to the island and knowing one person on Whidbey, two if you count our realtor, were delighted to have found some sort of community.

But what we didn't understand the first Sunday was that sitting around us were some folks who, though fully present on Sundays, had a vision of a very different future than that rather dark and cramped room. They saw a community with powerful music, actively engaged in social justice work and offering its members a range of spiritual activities to help them grow.

We are that future they dreamed of. What if they had thought, "You know, this cramped and dark room is not great, but it's good enough. What we are today is enough." But of course they didn't.

Now picture another group of folks sitting in a beautiful sunlit space with window opening onto trees. Room for music, for concerts and plays, for worship that that moves and challenges them, for a broad array of classes and activities that enrich them, for deep friendships forged in those shared activities. Do they think, "You know, this is enough. What we are today is enough. We have arrived."

I believe that the health of people and organizations depends on vision, not being static. The Board of UUCWI will be forming in the next few weeks a group tasked with developing our vision for the future of this congregation. This group will gather ideas from all of you and chew on them and refine them and present them in the form of a long-range plan for your approval next spring.

So how is this vision of our congregation's future connected to the business of this pledge drive?

Each spring Tom Buxton and the Finance Committee prepare a provisional budget that provides us with targets for our pledge drive and our fundraisers, the two greatest variables on the income side. This provisional budget also projects increases on the expense side – principally salaries and inflation. But this provisional budget is not a real budget until we complete our pledge drive and have a much more accurate idea of real pledge income, pledge income being the single greatest factor in our operations. Following the pledge drive the official budget is then prepared and brought to the congregation for approval in June. But a substantial piece of the official budget contains projections (our best guess) on the income from fundraisers that will not happen until months after we have committed to that budget. This reality makes dependence on that income a bit risky.

Now, last year pledges produced about \$95,000 of our operating income.

And the fundraisers were been critical to filling the gap between pledges and our operating expenses. But there is a very real liability in this dependence on fundraisers.

Last year's budget counted on auction revenue of \$9000. It did more than that. Because it raised more than budgeted, we were able to fund much-needed capital improvements ... the shades already completed and the parking lot lighting we will do this summer. This year the Board wants to further reduce our reliance on auction income to \$5000. This reduction means that pledge income must take the place of that reduction. Last year pledges produced about \$95,000 of our operating income. This year we are projecting a goal of \$101,000 from pledge income. We need an increase in pledge income of about 6%.

But there's another wrinkle with pledge income. Last year we lost several pledging members through death, moving off island or because they no longer were involved. These losses must be replaced with increased pledges of current members and pledges of members who join during the next year.

There is no doubt that we can organize successful fundraisers. After all, last year the fundraisers were so successful that we were able to fund the two capital projects that I have mentioned. Do we really need to increase our pledge goal.

*continued on the following page*

## *From our Leadership continued*

*The Prez says, continued...*

Yes, for two reasons. Fundraiser income is uncertain and is highly dependent on volunteers as leaders and worker bees. Yes, we are HOPING for fundraiser successes, but there is nothing certain about them. Secondly if we have fundraiser success, let's say in the amount of \$8000 above budget, that money can be used the following year to fund our vision, our dreams for the future of UUCWI. Those dreams will be developed by you and the long-range planning group. Maybe they will include new or different programs, not just capital projects. It's those aspirations that make us responsible stewards of our future. Without the funding to realize them the dreaming becomes merely an exercise. The Board believes that more of the burden of operating expenses should be borne by pledges so we create opportunities for the future.

Are we suggesting that having no auction is OK? No, the auction provides us with not only funding but activities which bring us together and strengthen our connections through the year. It's too important to let slip away. But we are more responsible stewards of the future of this congregation when we reduce our reliance on an uncertain source of funding for our operations. And we are more responsible stewards if we use fundraiser income above our budget requirements to support future plans and dreams.

So what are you being asked for today? I am proud to say that the Board is leading the way by increasing its pledges by 7%. We ask that you make or increase your pledge for the sake of the future of this community. We have also contacted a number of folks in leadership positions in the congregation and asked them to pledge early to help us to complete our canvass. In addition we have also contacted a number of folks in leadership positions and asked them to join the board and pledge early. Together these 21 pledges total nearly \$45,000, about 45% of our pledge goal for next year. That leaves it to the other 54 pledgers from last year of the congregation to pledge about 55% percent of our total to finish the drive.

What does that figure mean? It means an average pledge of \$18-20 dollars per week, less than \$1000 for the year. For those of you already pledging that amount or more it means considering an increase of 6% for your pledge. For those of you not pledging that amount, it means considering how you might increase your pledge to help us achieve our goal. ~ John Long, UUCWI Board President

*This is an excerpt from an essay distributed by the leadership of our UU initiative, Commit2Respond*

### **As human beings, we go in and out of our commitments...**

As climate justice UUs who braid the first and seventh principle together, we ask ourselves: Is my next thought, word or deed sustainable *for*, an expression of greater intimacy *with*, a celebration of The Whole (of creation)? Are we in right relationship with The Whole?

We must ask ourselves this because we get out of alignment with our highest principles. While sometimes we miss the mark, sometimes we don't even aim. We get tired, lazy, distracted. Powerful forces are aligned against our effort to be in right relationship, tugging at us, tempting us to turn away from our commitments.

And we do. Day in and day out, we fail. But day in, and day out, we return again. This is why we have spiritual practice. This is why we have spiritual community. This is why we have relationships of accountability. This work is too hard to do alone, too hard to do without a regular practice that returns us to our highest ideals.

For the Earth we love, the people we love, the beings we love, for the running water, and clean air, and warm dirt we love, for our communities and the communities around us, we must make this commitment. And we must know that embedded in our highest ideals is missing the mark.

So we must build into those commitments practices of return: to self, to the commitments, and to our communities of accountability. How will you hold yourself? Who will you talk to? What is the most sustainable process for you to return to this commitment when you break it? Build it in. We are human. And by returning again, we become resilient.

~ Rev. Sofia Betancourt, Rev. Peggy Clarke, Tim DeChristopher, Kat Liu, Jennifer Nordstrom

## The Minister's Corner



### The many faces of worship

I have in recent weeks been taking some worshipful field trips. The first was a Sufi Zikr. This time of ritual movement and sound gave me an opportunity to engage in experiential worship that served me well.

Soon after we were on the road, actually on an airplane, headed to the East Coast for a visit with my youngest son Nick. While there we attended the First Unitarian Church of Providence Rhode Island, just down the hill from Brown University where Nick attends graduate school.

Going to church there was in some ways very different and in some ways a comfortingly similar experience to the worship we share here at UUCWI.

That church traces its origins to 1720 and dedicated the "new" church building, where they still meet, in 1816. We were treated to a tour of the ancient bell tower and were privileged to ring the historic Paul Revere bell to call folks to Sunday worship. It was a very cool to think about liberal religion ringing across New England for hundreds of years.

Last weekend I took the short ferry ride over to Port Townsend and was part of something called the Living Traditions Institute, a collaborative effort by the ministers who serve UU congregations in the area. We offer an annual Saturday of study and reflection. This year's theme was Pathways to Spirit and was led by colleagues Rev. Barbara Ten Hove from Cedars UU on Bainbridge Island and Florence Caplow, who is the ministerial intern in Port Townsend and an ordained Zen Priest. It was a great day filled with exploration and experiences of varied spiritual paths.

The next day I was the guest minister at the Olympic UU Fellowship between Port Angeles and Sequim. That too felt both different and very much like home. After church I drove through Port Townsend to North Beach, a special spot that I know and love from my own time as the intern in Port Townsend. There I took a long walk with my dog Sadie. It was an amazing day with just the right mixture of wind and sun. Sadie ran and swam and I had an intriguing encounter with a sea star and discovered part of an octopus that had washed ashore. I was struck by a mixture of amazement and awe at all I saw.

All these worship-full experiences remind me how important it is for me to intentionally seek them. Regular Sunday worship helps me to be open to what I subsequently experience other moments in the natural world. I hope you will, as you are able, join with us regularly in shared worship and seek with intention those places and practices that feed you deeply. ~ Rev Dennis Reynolds

### DEATH CAFÉ, Whidbey Style

To provide a forum for continuing or beginning conversations about death and dying the Pastoral Associates are organizing a Death Café for our UUCWI community members and friends on May 22 at 2 pm in the sanctuary .

A Death Café is a group-directed discussion of death alongside refreshing drinks and delicious cake. Our cakes will be made by chef extraordinaire, Glo Sherman.

The Death Café's objective is 'to increase awareness of death with a view to helping ourselves make the most of our finite lives'. There is no intention of leading people to any conclusion, product or course of action. There will be no agenda, objectives or themes. It is neither grief support nor a group counseling session. It **will be** enjoyable, easy and life-enhancing.

These Death Cafés have brought people together, in many parts of the world, to bring death out of the closet and to discuss it openly in a safe and respectful environment. Join us and please let us know if you are coming via an e-mail to [minister@uucwi.org](mailto:minister@uucwi.org)



## The Wider World of Unitarian Universalism

Continuing our UU History lessons...

### A TRUE FABLE, BUT WITH NO CLEAR MORAL

In its first decade and a half, UUCWI was a nomadic band. When I served on the board, from 1999 to 2002, calls for a permanent home were growing. Oft cited was the line from “Field of Dreams”: “if you build it, they will come.” As it turned out, the mantra was accurate! But that is not *at all* the way things worked at the last church I served before Gladys and I became Whidbey Island innkeepers and charter members of UUCWI.

The story of Bell Street Chapel, in Providence, RI, has at least a hint of the world of fable about it. The general expectation when it comes to church development is that a congregation might gather, as UUCWI did, meeting in other peoples' spaces until congregants are sufficiently numerous that a building fund is inaugurated. The congregation might keep growing, call a minister, and eventually their building will grow an endowment fund. Not at Bell Street Chapel! There, the building came first, then the endowment, then the minister, and finally the congregation.

The building, a rather grand affair modeled on an ancient temple in the south of France, was erected by one James Eddy, a wealthy 19<sup>th</sup> century Rhode Islander who was too liberal – or eccentric – to be happy with any of the then-established Unitarian congregations in the city. He wanted to make a home for freer-thinkers (like himself) who loved art and nature and found the divine in those places more than in any venerated scrolls. He wanted such a home, so he built it. Building it with his own money, however, inspired his efforts to assure a proper fit between his vision and the building's eventual pew-sitters.

After a few failed efforts at match-making, Mr. Eddy turned to the dynamic Anna Garlin Spencer, who became the first minister of Bell Street Chapel and the first woman ordained in Rhode Island. The Chapel thrived during her decade of ministry. When I was called, in 1984, the building still housed display cases full of Mr. Eddy's seashell collection, and many of the paintings he collected hung from the walls. Providence had been a city in decline since 1940. Bell Street membership had slid likewise, and only the still-solid endowment allowed them to pay their minister. I often felt as if my boss were a benevolent ghost. Providence has revived in recent decades, and the small congregation has grown a little less small. Is there a moral to this fable? I spent seven and a half years as the minister of this unusual church, and I am unable to say what such a moral might be.

~ Rev. Mitch Howard, retired



### UUA General Assembly is coming...

**Register for General Assembly now.** You'll find all the information you need at <http://www.uua.org/ga/registration/index.shtml>.

**Program** information is available at <http://www.uua.org/program/14599.shtml> There are nearly 200 program offerings this year

**Small Group Dinners** will be offered by volunteers. Sign up at the information table to join a small number of GA attendees and be escorted to a reserved local restaurant for dinner, returning to the convention center for evening activities. See details in the program book.

**Zero Waste Goal** - For more than 10 years the UUA has been making progress on greening the event. For example, last year in Providence, we achieved the highest success rate ever, an 86% diversion of waste materials from land fill. This year we need to avoid taking disposable coffee cups into the convention center at all. There will be tables outside the building that will have **reusable coffee cups** for your purchase and use. Local vendors will refill them. Save some money and bring your own!

## *and Justice for All*

### **SRC (soon to be SEJC)...be in the know!**

A quiz: do you know what SEJC stands for? If you guessed Social and Environmental Justice Council, you're a winner! And, if you didn't, you are a winner too because now you know!

Over the past few months, this newsletter space has been devoted to the evolution (exactly the right metaphor!) of the Social Responsibility Council to encompass and embrace both social and environmental issues. They are inextricably linked and our goal as a Council is to help all of us better understand, and act on, the opportunities and consequences of environmental justice for human and civil rights. If you are not already receiving the communiqués from our UUA initiative, Commit2Respond, please take a moment to read this particularly important one.

[http://www.commit2respond.org/day\\_4\\_the\\_common\\_good](http://www.commit2respond.org/day_4_the_common_good)

Another quiz: how, exactly, does environmental justice impact social justice? How would you answer the questions: where are toxic waste facilities most often placed, and why? What living beings in our human community (you and I are included here) are most often the sites for known pollution impacts? From the wisdom of the UU Environmental Justice Collaboratory, "The Environmental Justice movement arose in the 1970s and 1980s in response of the reality that environmental harms (particularly pollution) tend to be concentrated in communities of color and poor. The Environmental Justice movement has fought against plans to locate toxic developments (oil refineries, chemical manufacturers, factory farms, landfills, etc.) in poor communities and communities of color..." <http://www.uucollaboratory.org/ej-history.html>

In April, during Earth and Ocean month, we explored the advocacy of our state's resident Lummi Nation. Last year, they challenged other First Nation peoples along the route of proposed oil pipelines from Canada to the Dakotas to combat the extraction of fossil fuels for transport across sacred land and waters (including the beloved Salish Sea) to nations across the globe. Will we join them in solidarity to protect the land we have the privilege to live on and which provides us food and shelter? Here is an article from our UU World about the Bellingham UU Fellowship's partnership with the Lummi nation. <http://www.uuworld.org/news/articles/301063.shtml>

Yes, environmental and social justice are inextricably linked. Will you join us as we deepen our understanding of ways we can ACT to stop degradation of our planet and support equity among all humans who share the planet? Our next gathering of social and environmental justice "learners and advocates" is Tuesday, May 12, 2-4PM at UUCWI. Please join us! ~ Jean McIntosh

### **Kids Speak for *their* Future!**

Folks at UUCWI have been successful in establishing a chapter of Plant for the Planet (<http://www.plant-for-the-planet.org/en/about-us>) here on our green isle home. On March 31<sup>st</sup> an academy was held at the Pacific Rim Institute. After learning about climate justice, how to give presentations and work together collaboratively planting Garry Oak trees, 16 new Climate Justice Ambassadors emerged. There are now 316 in Washington with more on the way. They join the 340,000 climate justice ambassadors worldwide. Last night two spoke to the Coupeville Town

Council! Two more academies planned in our area for May. Don't you want your child to join, learning to give voice to their dreams for a future worthy of their precious lives? Here is a video from tree planting at the Pacific Rim Institute. <https://drive.google.com/file/d/0B-eTdX2plrDTdnE5T1ZxbUUwZ1U/view>

The narrator is Michael Foster who first brought the Plant for the Planet movement to Seattle. ~ Gary Piazzon



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of Whidbey Island**

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Gladys Howard, Secretary  
Frank Allen, Trustee  
Mary Goolsby, Trustee  
Sarah Richards, 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](mailto:minister@uucwi.org)

**Chaplain:** Sally Elder 360-675-3314  
[chaplain@uucwi.org](mailto:chaplain@uucwi.org)

Our minister and chaplain are available for rites of  
passage ceremonies (including ceremonies of  
commitment or union) and pastoral visits.

**Administrator:** Mavis Cauffman  
[admin@uucwi.org](mailto:admin@uucwi.org)

**Director of Religious Exploration:** Ginger White  
[re\\_dir@uucwi.org](mailto:re_dir@uucwi.org)

**Newsletter Information:**

News, announcements, events, and other items of  
interest to members of the congregation should be  
submitted in writing by the 20<sup>th</sup> of each month to  
editor, Terra Anderson at [newsletter@uucwi.org](mailto:newsletter@uucwi.org).  
Suggestions for articles and information of interest  
to the whole congregation are encouraged.

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

**Communications Committee:**

Terra Anderson, Newsletter Editor  
Mavis Cauffman, Congregational Administrator  
Charlie Knutilla, Website Manager:  
[wwg\\_chair@uucwi.org](mailto:wwg_chair@uucwi.org)

UUCWI's website: [www.uucwi.org](http://www.uucwi.org)  
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