



Island Passages *JULY* 2015

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 10am UU Men's Group	2	3	4 Happy 4th! 
5 10am UU Worship 11:30 Auction Planning Mtg 4pm Quaker Worship	6 8:45am WIN 10am Dance 4pm Meditation	7 9am Worship Ctte 1pm Dennis' Office Hours 3pm Rehearsal 7pm Weidendorf Recital	8	9 1:30pm Quaker Mtg 5:30 Caring Connections Potluck 7pm Board of Trustees	10 6pm Family Game Night	11 1pm North End Coffee
12 10am UU Worship 11:45 Lunch Bunch 4pm Quaker Worship 5pm Quaker Dinner	13 8:45am WIN 10am Dance 6:30pm PFLAG	14 10am Membership 1pm Dennis' Office Hours 2pm SRC Strg Ctte	15 10am UU Men's Group 4pm MAGIC	16 3pm Ctte on Ministry 6pm North End Grp	17	18 9am Work Party
19 10am UU Worship 4pm Quaker Worship 5pm Quaker Business Mtg	20 8:45am WIN 10am Dance 4pm Meditation Newsletter Deadline	21 1pm Dennis' Office Hours	22 <i>Women's Retreat</i>	23 <i>Women's Retreat</i> 1:30pm Quaker Mtg	24	25 1:00 South End Coffee
26 10am UU Worship 4pm Quaker Worship 6pm North End Dine Out 7pm Dances of Universal Peace	27 8:45am WIN 10am Dance	28 1pm Dennis' Office Hours	29	30	31	

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

July Worship Services (Sundays at 10 am unless otherwise noted)

July 5: Hymn Sing

Have you ever noticed how much our congregation loves music? Have you observed the smiles when we sing *Spirit of Life* or other familiar tunes? Or perhaps you have caught yourself tapping your toes or even clapping in time to the frolicking music of a guest musician? This is an opportunity to sing some of your favorite hymns and focus on their message and meaning. *Please advise Linda Good, lgood@langleywa.com, of your beloved choice, from our either of our hymnals, no later than July 1st.*

Worship Leaders: Linda Good

July 19: Soap Box Sunday

Join us for a Homespun Summer Service today. Soapbox Sunday is an opportunity to experience the unique talents and perspectives of some of our members and friends. Come out and support your fellow UUs.

Special Music: Frank Allen

Worship Leaders: Ken Merrell & Sandy Welch

July 12: Draw the Circle Wide

In spite of our culture's frequent emphasis on "me, myself and I", we know the importance of community. We know that we need each other and that we are richer when we work, learn and play together. You are warmly invited to this service of readings, stories and music confirming the importance of our spiritual community.

Special Music: Nola Allen, Mavis Cauffman, Laurie Riley, Eileen Soskin and many voices from the congregation, including yours

Worship Leaders: Terra Anderson & Mavis Cauffman

July 26: Reflections from General Assembly with Rev Dennis Reynolds

During the last week of June sixteen members our congregation attended the General Assembly of the Unitarian Universalist Association in Portland. This annual gathering offers opportunities to participate in the governance of the UUA, hear inspiring speakers, participate in workshops, to be immersed with a couple thousand UUs in worship, and so much more. We will share reflections and impressions of this unique experience.

Dedicated Offering to the UUSC College of Justice



What *inspires* you? What *intrigues* you? What *frustrates* you?
Are you inspired by a remembered childhood kindness? Are you intrigued by the perennial wisdom of another faith tradition? Are you frustrated in conversations with people who hold political or religious views different from your own? What topic, theme or question would YOU like to explore in a Sunday service? Perhaps you know a speaker you would like to invite into our pulpit. Perhaps you have experienced a service elsewhere you would like to share with this congregation.

Your worship committee continues its commitment to craft Sunday services that are meaningful and relevant to our diverse congregation. This year we are excited to invite those of you who are so inspired to participate in designing a worship service, working with our various worship leaders to create what you imagine. What would be your perfect service, and how might you help it happen?

Please contact Terra Anderson, chair of the worship committee, terria@whidbey.com with your thoughts.



Community Building



Art Gallery News

Our Art Gallery exhibitors during the months of July and August are local artists Danielle Olivyea Christian and Susanne Newbold.

Danielle is an oil painter – with an eye for life-like portraits and capturing

dynamic light. In love with nature's vibrant colors, she feels flowers and trees calling her to paint them -- and she answers that call as often as she is able! Danielle is also a musician, writer and transformational healer – and a Friend of our UUCWI Congregation.

Susanne creates unique, colorful vessels with gourds, leather dyes, acrylic paint, fiber, found objects, sea grass and pine needles – utilizing woodcarving, woodturning, pyrography and weaving techniques. As a former chef and culinary instructor, many of the unique designs and embellishments that are inherent in food presentation translate well into her art form.

Plan on meeting and talking with our two artists at a reception following our July 12th service.

~ Joan Gerties



Lunch Bunch

Sunday, July 12 will be the next *Second Sunday Lunch Bunch* at the Freeland China City at 11:45. As always, it's open to all

members and friends of the Congregation for informal talk and getting to know one another better. We choose several plates to share with one another and split the cost between us. We invite you to be a part of the group for this month. If you enjoy being with us, then perhaps you, too, will become a regular of the Lunch Bunch.

For more information, please contact Jelcy Romberg at Jelcy@jelcy.com or call 360 222-3355

Auction Planning!

On July 5, after the Sunday service at 11:30, we will begin imagining another wonderful auction for sometime this Fall. *Anyone* wishing to help with planning is encouraged to attend. Our auctions have a reputation for being fun as well as raising valuable funds for the congregation. What ideas do you have? We will approve date, theme, appoint subcommittee/task leaders, identify additional volunteers, and identify other essential coordination items. Potluck food or snacks for the meeting are encouraged.

~ Laurie Riley, Auction Chair

If you send out goodness from yourself, or if you share that which is happy or good within you, it will all come back to you multiplied ten thousand times. In the kingdom of love there is no competition; there is no possessiveness or control. The more love you give away, the more love you will have. ~ John O'Donohue



Community Building (continued)

Fourth Annual UUCWI Women's Retreat

Fort Ebey State Park July 22-23rd

Registrations for our annual retreat are now being accepted. Please stop at the retreat display table in the foyer and either fill out your registration form there or pick up one that you can mail in. A registration fee of \$5 is due with your registration. If you have any questions, please ask any member of the planning committee!

The retreat theme will be *Spirituality as related to Nature*. (Thanks to all of you who took the time to submit your preference to our planning committee!) Facilitated discussion/conversation around this theme will take place during the late afternoon of July 22nd (4-6pm) and then, after dinner, there will be opportunity to continue those discussions/conversations in smaller groups or engage in other interesting activities. As we mentioned in last month's newsletter, facilitated conversation focused on a *theme* is something new for our Retreat. We believe that this annual gathering offers tremendous opportunity to explore a specific topic from a *female perspective* - in a setting conducive to intimate, thoughtful conversation and discussion - and we're going to do it!



When you first arrive at the Park at 2:30pm on the 22nd, you can simply engage in relaxed conversation with others, take a walk on one of the many park trails, or challenge someone at one of the lawn games that will be available. As noted above, the theme-focused group discussion will begin about 4pm. A pot-luck dinner will follow the group discussion and the day will be brought to a close around a campfire with singing and storytelling. Those who will be camping overnight will arrange separately for breakfast & morning activities. Overnight camping is encouraged but not required. You'll find a handout with the complete schedule on the retreat display table in the foyer on Sundays, or you can request one by email from any of the planning team.

Detailed information – including directions to the site and suggestions on what to bring with you – will be sent to all those registered beginning 7-10 days in advance of July 22nd. Registration will remain open until about one week before that, but we encourage you to register as soon as possible. Information about the retreat will also continue to be available in our Friday E-news and on the UUCWI Facebook site.

We look forward to your participation – and to enjoying with you the incredible beauty of our retreat site!. ~ Joan Gerteis, Christi Shaffer, May-Britt Kron, Lois Anderson, your retreat planning team.

Member's gifts: Do you have a poem or a bit of prose, maybe a special photo you would like to share with the congregation? If so, please send to newsletter@uucwi.org I would love to have this newsletter become a better reflection of the whole congregation. ☺

It's Always There

When I immersed myself in It
Poems poured forth.
A dam breached.
All the beauty and pain
Boiled and sang,
As happens upon
A return to the Source.

Announcements

Combination Change!

The front door combination will be changed on **1 July 2015** to help protect the security of our building. Members who need key access may request the new combination from Gene Berg [443-928-2689 or gaberg678@gmail.com] All users must agree to follow the new security procedure each and every time when opening or locking the building:

1. Open the lock box, remove the key, unlock or lock the door, immediately return the key to the lock box, close up the lock box, spin the combination, close the shutter.
2. Never leave the lock box combination exposed. Protect it. Always spin the dials.
3. Complete the check list on the kitchen wall itemizing responsibilities for ensuring the building is properly closed and *sign* prior to departure. ~ Gene Berg, Chair, Building and Grounds

Help Wanted! Extravagant Salary!

Would you love keeping in touch with the committees, hearing their latest news and big dreams? Maybe you would enjoy playing super sleuth so you can learn about why folks become UUs and what they most enjoy about our congregation? Are you feeling artistic and newsy? Terra has accepted the role as chair of the Worship Committee and needs to step down from serving as the newsletter editor. This is your chance to craft the newsletter you have always imagined but no one has ever produced! Please contact Terra at terria@whidbey.com to learn more about this fun role.



Gratitude Corner: *Whom would you like to thank at UUCWI? Has someone given you a ride? Or called you when you were feeling down? Perhaps someone gave you a cookie. Or maybe they gave you a smile that lifted your spirits? In his column later in this newsletter, Rev. Dennis shares his growing practice of expressing gratitude – saying thank you – to his friends. How is your practice of gratitude doing? If it's thriving, perhaps you would like to share this newsletter format to make your thank-yous more publicly visible. Or if your practice is just getting started, what better place to practice than among our UUCWI family. The newsletter is a nice place to make your thank-yous -public. And you can sign them or send them from a secret admirer. ☺*



Thank you choir! I look forward to the gift of your voices every month and almost never miss a service when you are singing. I especially appreciate when you teach us songs. Your voices carry mine and I can pretend I sing well when I sing with you. You lift my heart and spirits. Thank you! ~ a secret fan

The Minister's Corner



Gratitude... is something I often feel and, yet, less frequently express. Even when I feel it deeply, I simply do not say it often enough. I do not *always* remember to say thank you. I am seeking to do so more often.

High on my gratitude list are those people who make this Congregation function, who make this truly a *shared* ministry. So I will thank some of the folks who make it all work, those whom the poet Marge Piercy would describe as “people who submerge in the task.”

They are many who do the work and I hesitate to list them because I know that I will inevitably leave someone out. Nonetheless, here is an incomplete list. First I offer deep thanks to the Board of Directors for their commitment

and their productivity.

- John Long persevered with grace in a year filled with family and personal challenges. He led us well.
- Libby Roberts, as Vice President, brought her enthusiasm and her commitment to innovation.
- Sarah Richards brought both business savvy and a recognition that we are so much more than just a business.
- Charlie Knutilla, though unfortunately called away for months, always brought focus.
- Mary Goolsby gifted all with her calm presence and her thoughtful reflections.
- Gladys Howard could be counted on to get us to the core of an issue.
- Frank Allen anchored us with his deep compassion and commitment to our common goals.

Next come the *committees*, both the folks who participate in the meetings to plan and review, and the *worker bees* who get stuff done.

- The Worship Team assures amazing experiences week after week and helps us grow and deepen our shared experience.
- The Music Committee brings us concerts and Sunday music and more.
- The choir practices and polishes and then gifts us monthly with song
- Membership assures that all are welcomed here.
- The Social and Environmental Justice Council helps us put our values into action
- The Visual Arts Committee feeds our eyes and the Library Committee feeds our minds .
- The Religious Exploration Committee feeds the spirits of our children and offered the OWL program to the community.
- The Committee on Ministry keeps me and all of us focused on how we might best implement the shared ministry of this beloved community.
- The Pastoral Associates reach out and touch those of us in pain.
- The Shared Ministry Task Force, the Chalice Circle Conveners, the Nominating Committee all keep us connected.
- The Auction Committee brought fun and funds.

Then there are the one-person committees: Gene Berg who coordinates caring for our building; Chris Bell along with Dave Sweetwood and his riding mower and other volunteers, nurtures and beautifies our grounds; Glo Sherman and now Laurie Riley have reactivated our Caring Connections process of truly helping one another; this newsletter is Terra Anderson's special contribution.

Vital to all are the worker bees who feed us and make coffee, care for the kids, help those in need, clean up and repair things, run sound, facilitate classes and help keep us connected socially and spiritually. Some wrap burritos for strangers, some buy basic supplies, and others keep our vital financial and important records current. Then each one of you gives of your treasure. Your pledges and contributions to the Sunday offering provide the funds that make the gift of UUCWI possible.

Last, but not least, I offer special thanks to Mavis Cauffman, who in her role as the Administrator, has for years given immeasurable and necessary support to all we do here. I am thrilled to know she continues as choir director and an active worker bee so we all will continue to receive her gifts.

To all the above and to all of you, thank you, thank you, thank you. ~ Rev Dennis Reynolds

From Our Leadership

As you no doubt know, a new Board of Trustees was elected at our Congregational Meeting, June 7. It consists of President Sarah Richards, Vice President Libby Roberts, Treasurer Nick Fowler, Secretary Mary Goolsby as well as members at large John Long, Teri Wright and Clara Beier. Please be sure to thank each of these folks when next you see them, for serving in this challenging role. Be sure, too, to thank the out-going members who served us so well these past years: Charlie Knutilla, Sara Heath and Gladys Howard. What a gift to this congregation each of them is! ~ Terra

Board Going's On

While I have been a member of the congregation since 1998 and have served on the board quite a few years ago, many of you don't know me. So, I thought I would briefly introduce myself first, and then get down to the business of the board. But, there was an article on me in the [December 2014 newsletter](#) (Thank you, Terra) so click on that to read about my history and I don't have to repeat it here. ☺
Meanwhile, I'm excited to be starting out the year with the stellar people we have on the board.

This has been a rather frantic start to our terms mostly because we are in transition from Mavis Cauffman as administrator to Meri McCormick. Both are quick studies and hard workers, so I expect that most of you won't notice much. Oh, I take that back, you will notice things, because we are also changing the function of the office to being a real office that will be shared by Meri, Dennis, and Ginger. It is our hope that you will find people at the church when you come by during the week, at least some of the time.

Another big change is the combination of the Religious Education (Children's RE) and Adult Programs into a new program called Lifelong Spiritual Development. It is our hope that our resources will be more effectively used to support the wide spiritual development and educational needs of different generations. While our children's program will continue to be an important part of our community's life, we hope to address the needs of our older members as well. To that end we have formed a task force to discern the functions of this new entity, and how to manage it.

In a related move we have formed a long range planning committee who will take this year to look ahead for at least five years and make some recommendations based on changes they see coming along that we don't notice when we are working on projects in the here and now.

Your board is made up of people in the congregation who are willing to serve in this way. You can discuss concerns you have with any of them and they will bring them to our meetings. You can attend the meetings, too. The regular meetings are scheduled for the second Thursday of the month at 7:00 pm at the church. Keep in touch! ~ Sarah Richards, President Board of Trustees



An impression from the 2015 General Assembly: A consultant on the art of "branding" suggested that young adults are more interested in supporting a *cause* than joining a *club*. As you consider our UUCWI promise to Whidbey Island, do we appear to a first time visitor to be a cause or a club? Something to ponder as we think about our long range plan, serving our island community well, thriving in the years ahead, and nourishing ourselves. ~ Terra

The Wider World of Unitarian Universalism

Continuing our UU History lessons...

Ghost Churches in the Burnt-Over District

Earlier this spring, I received a note from a lady who was a stalwart of the Barneveld Unitarian Church when I was their minister four decades ago. She is still a stalwart; that's how small country churches survive! The occasion for her note was an enclosed clipping, an obituary notice for an intriguing, eccentric fellow whom she thought I'd remember fondly. Actually I did, though I was unsure of his name until I read the clipping she sent.

Merrick Smith, formerly of Russia Road in the Town of Russia in Herkimer County, was memorable to me because he was a fount of a certain sad and chastening knowledge. Mr. Smith did not drive and so, from time to time, I would give him a ride home after church.

These journeys live in my memory because of the generous and boundless sharing of local history he bestowed on me, his volunteer driver. We drove through a countryside dotted with small villages. What remains most vivid in my memory, four decades later, of these rolling lessons in locality was how often he would point out a building and say, "that used to be a Universalist Church". Libraries, Grange Halls, private residences: there were all sorts of things which had in common the descriptor "that used to be a Universalist Church".

Upstate New York in the 19th century came to be known as the "burnt-over district" because of all the religious revivals and other passionate spiritual upheavals that swept through the region. Nor was it all hellfire-and-brimstone preaching that caught fire there. As Universalists expanded out of New England they indeed built many churches in towns small and large throughout that upstate New York region and beyond. By some reckonings, the Universalist Church was the fifth-largest U.S. denomination by 1850. As I learned from Merrick Smith forty years ago, the district is now littered with ghost churches whose buildings still stand, but have been re-purposed. Some of the old Universalist spirit has worked its way into other religious channels, but in this age of hyper-fundamentalisms at home and abroad, afire with judgmental ideologies and hate-fueled violence, we must hope that the gentler hopefulness that once upon a time in the "burnt-over district" built all those village buildings that are now ghost churches is able to rise again to meet the harsh challenges of our time.



~ Rev. Mitch Howard, retired

"A human being is a part of a whole, called by us 'universe', a part limited in time and space. We experience ourselves, our thoughts and feelings, as something separated from the rest... a kind of optical delusion of consciousness. This delusion is a kind of prison for us, restricting us to our personal desires and to affection for a few persons nearest to us. Our task must be to free ourselves from this prison by widening our circle of compassion to embrace all living creatures and the whole of nature in all of its beauty." ~ Albert Einstein

and Justice for All

Social and Environmental Justice Council...*be in the know!*

We celebrate our new name...and our new leaders! Diana and Gary Piazzon are the new co-leaders of the SEJC. Sandy Shipley will assume responsibility for Dedicated Offerings following the good work of Linda Good. Be on the lookout for new ways to become involved in SEJC! Thanks to all who contributed over this past church year and to those who will add their wisdom and energy to the work ahead! ~ Jean McIntosh

Commit2Respond? And We Did!

When UUs are challenged to confront injustice we stand up and step forward. It happened again for Commit2Respond's Month of Climate Action. All together UUs from six different countries and 46 states participated. More than 85,000 people were reached. Fifty eight percent made new commitments to climate justice. We raised \$16,000 for young adult climate justice activism and \$17,000 for communities in California and Kenya that need help protecting their human right to water. There were a number of innovated strategies planned for or implemented. You can mine this infographic for details:

http://www.commit2respond.org/success?utm_campaign=cjm_report_out&utm_medium=email&utm_source=c2r

Meanwhile we at UUCWI also "showed up." It began with a service, The (Im)morality of Climate Change lead by Jean McIntosh and Terra Anderson. A forum followed in which we attempted to breach the emotional abyss separating us from our *knowing* and our taking appropriate *action*. We then hosted 5 events of critical importance to this Age of Consequences. Two related to the water crisis, examining how we manage (or not) water from the global to local level. We experienced the Lummi Totem Pole Journey of 2014 connecting communities along the coal and oil train routes. Yoram Bauman explained CarbonWA's carbon tax initiative and how that differs from the Governor's Cap 'n Trade proposal. Libby Roberts led an analysis and group discussion of Elizabeth Kolbert's book The Sixth Extinction. And Orcas Island's Sharon Abreu performed her very moving Climate Monologues to complete our series. We are grateful for all who participated. We estimate almost 300 attendees and several thousand contacts through advertising and social media. Meanwhile, Terra posed weekly questions for discussion and introspection in the weekly e-news. I hope many of you pondered those questions with your family, neighbors and friends.



We will be building on this initiative, focusing on personal, congregational and cultural strategies. There are several ways to get connected. For instance, you could be a signature gatherer for I-732 and I-735. See the sidebar that follows for information. Support of these initiatives demonstrates Washington State's leadership in growing a robust, healthy and clean economy. You might also consider taking Earth Ministry's Interfaith Power and Light **Paris Pledge**.

<http://www.interfaithpowerandlight.org/2014/10/take-the-paris-pledge/>

It calls for individuals and congregations to commit to a 50% reduction in green house gas emissions by 2030 and carbon neutrality by 2050. Ambitious? Yes! But it's only part of what we need to do to correct the path we are on. For the sake of our unborn grandchildren we must do no less (and ideally a whole lot more ☺)

Lao Tsu said, "A journey of a thousand miles begins with but a single step." What single step are you willing to take? Van Jones observed that, "When we *think* we sit down. When we *feel* we stand up." How are you feeling? Ready to stand up and step out? ~

and Justice for All ... (continued)

SEJC encourages you to consider these political actions:

Two proposed ballot initiatives—one about climate change and another about money in politics--are seeking signatures by 11/30/15 to qualify for the ballot next year. Here's the information you need to better understand the two proposed initiatives. Look for a signature table in the foyer on 7/19 and 8/23 to add you "voice" to bring these initiatives before the people of Washington for a vote. ~ Jean

Initiative 732

Proposal to Tax Pollution, Not People

This measure would impose a carbon emission tax on the sale or use of certain fossil fuels and fossil-fuel-generated electricity, reduce the sales tax by one percentage point, and increase a low-income exemption, and reduce certain manufacturing taxes. This initiative would make polluting more expensive while mitigating expenses for low income families in our state. It would make our tax code fairer and replicate the success of a similar program in British Columbia.

www.carbonWA.org

Initiative 735

Proposal to Get Big Money Out of Elections

This measure would support amending The Constitution of the United States to eliminate the undue influence of concentrated money and political power on elections and governmental policy. It would overturn decisions by the Supreme Court of the US extending constitutional rights to corporation and other artificial legal entities as well as those decisions equating the spending of money with free speech. It also provides for the regulation and disclosure of political contributions and spending.

www.wamend.org

Take the "Chalice Circle Carpool" Challenge

One of the down-sides of a rural lifestyle is our dependence on fossil-fueled locomotion to get around. One of the disadvantages of UUCWI is our distance from where we all live. We cannot get there by bus. If you can't walk or take the bus, unless you are Lance Armstrong and can bike in all weather for miles and miles ☺ you have to drive. That means putting more CO2 pollution into an already overburdened atmosphere. Therefore your only option is carpooling. But, you've thought of that. So why haven't you done it? It *is* inconvenient. But you are a UU and want to live your values. What to do? Take the Chalice Circle Challenge. *They* are the members of your carpool. You'll just need to work out place and time.

A life saving suggestion from your SEJC. ~ Gary Piazzon

BE COOL



USE CARPOOL



Our recent dedicated offerings have been amazing! In May we gave twice: \$258 to the Northwest Help House in Oak Harbor and then \$792 to the UU Service Committee for our UU Nepal Earthquake Relief Fund. In June we collected \$458 for Senior Services.

Thank you for your generosity, UUCWI!

**Unitarian Universalist Congregation
of Whidbey Island**

2015 - 2016 Board of Trustees

Sarah Richards, President
Libby Roberts, Vice President
Nick Fowler, Treasurer
Mary Goolsby, Secretary
Clara Beier, Trustee
John Long, Trustee
Teri Wright, 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 chaplain are available for rites of
passage ceremonies (including ceremonies of
commitment or union) and pastoral visits.

Administrator: Meri McCormick
admin@uucwi.org

Lifelong Spiritual Development: Ginger White
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Newsletter Information:

News, announcements, events, and other items of
interest to members of the congregation should be
submitted in writing by the 20th of each month to
editor, Terra Anderson at 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.

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wwg_chair@uucwi.org

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