



Island Passages

UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CONGREGATION OF WHIDBEY ISLAND

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July 2012

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 10 am UU Worship 4 pm Quaker Worship Sve	2 9 am SRC/WIN Kitchen 9 am Worship Ctte 6 pm WWG	3	4 10 am UU Men's Grp	5	6	7 10 am VAC Mtg and Installation
8 10 am UU Worship 4 pm Quaker Sve	9 6 pm WWG	10	11 7:30 Evensong	12	13	14 Guthrie Celebration/Sing In (Linda Good)
15 10 am UU Worship 4 pm Quaker Worship Svc 6 pm Quaker Potluck	16 9 am SRC/WIN Kitchen 6 pm WWG	17	18 10 am UU Men's Group 4 pm MAGIC	19 6 pm North End Discussion 7 pm League of Women Voters Forum	20 Newsletter Deadline	21 9 am Work Party
22 10 am UU Worship 4 pm Quaker Worship Svc	23 6 pm WWG	24	25 7 pm Healing Democracy Circle	26 Island Strings Summer Camp at UUCWI	27 Island Strings Summer Camp	28
29 10 am UU Worship 11:15 CCC in Classroom 4 pm Quaker Worship Sve 7 pm Dances of Universal Peace	30 6 pm WWG	31				

Worship Services:

July 1, 10 am: "Our Journey from Independence to Interdependence"

Once again, we celebrate the privilege of living in these United States of America and honor the values of our founders who dedicated their lives to assure our freedom and independence. At this time of great challenge for our country and for the Earth, we are called to move beyond national and personal independence to choices for the good of all life. We invite you to join in a Declaration of Interdependence on behalf of all peoples, all living beings, and of the Earth herself.

Worship leader: Effie Brown

July 8, 10 am: "Hope for the Children"

It is often said that children are our hope for the future, and, the reality is, these are challenging times in which to be born. "Harry and the Angel" is a short play that uses humor as a vehicle to reflect on Harry's desire *and* reluctance to be born. The play prompts us to renew our commitment to create families, villages, and a world that are safe and nurturing for all the children in our midst and for those yet to be born.

Worship Leader: Joann Roomes

July 11: 7:30 pm, EvenSong at UUCWI (Prelude at 7:20)

On the second Wednesday of each month we hold a quiet, contemplative evening service of readings, songs accompanied by harp, and silent meditation. All are welcome. This month's service will focus on poetry from **Swan: Poems and Prose Poems**, by Mary Oliver

July 15, 10 am: "The Happiness Muscle"

What would make me happy? It's a question we've asked ourselves throughout our lives. Sometimes we can even answer it, even if only fleetingly. The question comes from an assumption that our happiness is determined by our external reality. If my life is great, if I'm successful, if I achieve, if I'm wealthy, if I'm loved, if I'm admired, if I'm respected, if I had that car or guy or house, then I'll be happy. What if it was the other way around? What if your happiness was not determined by your external reality, but external reality was determined by your happiness. Ken Merrell will explore the idea

of happiness as a muscle, something you can learn to flex and strengthen, that you can develop, that can use to reshape your reality.

Worship Leader: Dave Sweetwood

July 22, 10 am: "Human Migrations — The Undocumented, the Deportees, Our Neighbors"

Rev. Dennis Reynolds, our minister elect, will be delivering this important and timely message. Immigration was a key issue at this year's "Social Justice" General Assembly of the Unitarian Universalist Association. Dennis will reflect on the GA experience and how issues on our southern border impact those of us who live so close to Canada. Worship Leader: Sandy Welch

July 29, 10 am: "Humanism vs. Spirituality"

Humanism and Spirituality are two strong themes in Unitarian Universalism. Yet the former rejects "the supernatural" and the latter embraces "the sacred". Indeed, some UU churches have split over this issue. Are they inherently polar opposites or can they be compatible? Dave Cauffman and Mark Brown will explore these themes in a dialogue sermon.

July Events:

July 21, 9 am – noon: Work Party

Our building and grounds need occasional TLC. Come join our monthly work "party" to keep things shipshape. Coffee and goodies provided. The Caring Connections Committee will be the host for this month.



Dennis Reynolds greeting one of our children

From Our Minister:

Dear Whidbey Friends,
We are coming to the end of nine wonderful years together in ministry to Whidbey Island and its larger community. We have grown together in many ways; we have endured some challenging losses and we have learned to cope using new ways of being together. We've been a good team.



Now it's time to change our relationship. You have voted to honor me as your Minister Emerita, a designation which recognizes my long service with you and, at the same time, makes it clear that I am in service to you in a different way. You will have a new minister and I hope you will make room in your hearts for him too, welcoming him as your pastor, preacher, teacher, leader.

He will have new ideas for you to consider. He will bring a wealth of experience that is different from mine and will offer you ways of reaching out into the community that you might not have thought of before. He has a great deal to offer you and I hope that he will have as wonderful an experience as I have had.

My status as Minister Emerita means that I will have a covenant with your new minister to support his work with you, to be a good colleague to him, to encourage you all to think of him as your minister. It means that when we see each other in the future, I will be mindful of our new relationship and remind myself that I am your former minister, that he is now the minister at UUCWI. It's important that I do this, for all our sakes.

On down the road, I may be invited back to speak for some special occasion. Or perhaps I will help him with a memorial service or two. These are the kinds of things that a Minister Emerita can do.

What I can't do is to provide the kind of care that I have provided during my nine years here. That will become his job and I am happy to let go of it.

Ministry is a tough job and though I've enjoyed nearly every moment of it, I am pretty tired of working so hard! I am thrilled for the shining prospect of your future and I am looking forward to getting some much-needed rest!

Much love, Kit

From Terra!

At a gathering for Dennis recently I was moved by Dave

Cauffman's

toast: *here's to a great past and a greater future.*

We start a new year. We bid farewell to our very good friend Kit and in so doing wish her a future full of adventure, more love, and a community that will serve her every bit as well as she has served us these past 9 years. And we begin a new era with Dennis and Suzanne, learning together, growing in love, compassion and wisdom together. What will it be like? How will we choose to be together during this year of transitional leadership? What will we be thinking about and remembering this time next year?

I'm reminded of many years ago when Tom and I first married. Living together was a much bigger adjustment than I had anticipated. I needed to learn to listen to *his* meaning behind familiar words. I needed to learn *his* patterns around morning routines, kitchen and household duties. We needed to learn together how to be partners. There were no shortcuts. We had to wrestle with our own individual issues, remind ourselves daily that we *choose* to be in loving partnership together, forgive ourselves our many mistakes and misspoken hurts. The work of partnership continues, and I expect it will for the entirety of our lives. Isn't this true for the relationship of a minister and congregation as well?

Entering relationship with Dennis and Suzanne may not be *easy*, but it will certainly be an adventure worthy of our best attention. Last Sunday our speaker, Victoria Castle, suggested rituals can become meaningless unless we are continually awake to our *attention* and *intentions*. Which of our rituals are sacred and which are open for examination? What new intentions will Dennis and Suzanne invite us to bring to our services? And what new attention will we discover with their ministry? I'm looking forward to this year. How about you?

Terra Anderson, President of the Board



The Gift of Music!

Greetings UUCWI members and friends. Below you will find a letter from our music committee, advising us of the opportunity to purchase a fine piano of our own. While the Board's highest priority continues to be fully funding the operations of UUCWI, supported by your annual pledges, we endorse this request for your additional contributions.

While we maintain that official priority we honor that committees sometimes recognize additional needs and, with BOT endorsement, solicit partnership in those purchases. Two big examples since occupying this building were the acquisition of a dishwasher and the gorgeous tapestries in the sanctuary. In each case passionate and committed members of our church family had a dream, deemed it important, and asked some fellow members to help them realize it. Those who cared enough to judge these purchases a high personal priority took action but not everyone in the congregation was expected to pay.

If the idea of a new piano excites you and you would like to contribute, please do so. This is a good opportunity to put your passions for musical excellence at UUCWI into action.

~ Board of Trustees

20 June 2012

Dear UUCWI members and friends,

Music is a gift of beauty to those who hear it and those who perform it. Kit has spoken eloquently this year about the sacredness of beauty - natural beauty, musical beauty, the beauty of visual art. Beauty is a spiritual gift that nourishes and inspires.

Our building and grounds were intended to benefit our congregation as well as the greater community of Whidbey Island. The many activities and groups that use our sanctuary testify to the success of that vision. Our sanctuary is a fantastic space for music making and for music listening as is evident every Sunday and whenever there is a concert at UUCWI. We are already inviting the community-at-large to special concerts (the 2012-2013 season will be our third concert series) and they are coming in record numbers to each of our concerts.

Currently UUCWI has the use of a grand piano that was generously loaned to us by a friend of the congregation. We have been raising money for more than two years for the Piano Fund, hoping to be able to purchase a really fine instrument for the benefit of our congregation as well as the entire Whidbey community. We have recently found the piano of our dreams, living in a home here on the island and the owner is anxious to sell it to us.

We have already raised 80% of the funding we need from concerts, miscellaneous donations, and contributions from members of our congregation who believe that a new piano will have a big impact on UUCWI's music ministry. The donations of individual members have been made in addition to their annual pledges as we are all aware of the critical funding needs in many areas within our congregation.

Our new piano will make great music available to us and to our community. We need to raise an additional \$4,000 to cover the cost of the piano plus moving expenses and the purchase of necessary equipment (a cover, a lock, a temperature regulation system).

If you believe this is a worthwhile endeavor, and if you are able to make a contribution at this time, please write a check payable to UUCWI Piano Fund. You can put it in the collection basket at any Sunday service, mail it in or give it to anyone on the Board of Trustees. Contributions of any size are welcomed and appreciated. Donations qualify as charitable contributions according to the IRS.

We are always indebted to you for appreciating our music; we will be further indebted by your generous contributions to our Piano Fund. We will strive to repay our debt by making beautiful music for you often.

With gratitude for your support,

The Members of the Music Committee:

Frank Allen, Chair

Mark Brown

Mavis Cauffman

Blaine England

Linda Good

Eileen Soskin

RE: Calling all UUCWI Artists!

Our Spirit Play Religious Exploration class for grade school students will be working with an exciting new curriculum next year (starting in September) that focuses on Spirituality through Fine Arts. I am looking for volunteers to share their talents with our students in the following mediums:

Painting, Quilting, Pottery, Jewelry-making, Block printing, Drawing, Batiking, Fabric dying, and Photography

If you are willing to volunteer for a block next year to share your craft, please email Vanessa at: uucwi.re@gmail.com

Thanks so much!!!

An Informal UUCWI Photo Gallery:



Dennis Reynolds greeting people before the service



Suzanne Reynolds

Thanks to Joan Gerteis and Charlie Knutilla for taking and sharing these photos.

The Caring Connections Committee (CCC) WILL NOW MEET BI-MONTHLY

The CCC will be meeting every other last Sunday from now on. Previously we met yearly. Our next meeting is July 22nd at 11:15am after the service at UUWCI. All are welcome.

WHIDBEY ISLAND PEACE GROUP

Whidbey Island Peace Group meets every Saturday at the Bayview Park and Ride from 10 to 11 am. We have extra peace signs.

Women in Black meet the first Friday of each month from 3 to 4 pm on the grass just above Bayview Park and Ride.



Congregational Meeting, June 2012



Children at Play!



Men at Work –
the UUCWI Habitat for Humanity Movers

**Unitarian Universalist Congregation
of Whidbey Island
2012 - 2013 Board of Trustees**

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Ken Merrell, Trustee

If you wish to contact any of the Board members,
call UUCWI voice mail at 360-321-8656.

Chaplain: Sally Elder 360-675-3314

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

Director of Religious Exploration:

Vanessa Kohlhaas uucwi.re@gmail.com

Newsletter Information:

News, announcements, events, and other items of
interest to members of the congregation should be
submitted in writing by the deadline to editor

Cary Sinnett scattolina2@hotmail.com

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

Time-sensitive late items will be posted with the
announcements and/or on the calendar on our web
site.

Current and past issues of this newsletter are
available online at:

www.whidbey.com/uucwi/newsletter.html

Look for us on Facebook ... search for UUCWI

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