



Island Passages

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June 2010

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
		1	2 10 am Mens' Group	3	4	5
6 10 am Service: "Sacred Texts" 11:20 am Annual Congrega- tional Meeting 12:30 pm South End Brunch	7 9-11 am Worship Committee	8	9 7:30 pm EvenSong: "Sabbath - Time for Rest and Renewal"	10	11 9-11 am Board Mtg	12 1-3 pm North End Koffee Klatch 6-9 pm Jewish Gathering: Rosh Chodesh
13 10 am Service: "What the Bible Can Mean to Unitarian Univer- salists"	14	15	16 10 am Mens' Group 10 am Membership Ctte	17	18 7:30 pm Benefit Con- cert: Romantic Music	19 9-Noon Work Party at UUCWI Newsletter Deadline
20 10 am Service: "Celebrating the Summer Solstice"	21	22	23	24 4-5:30 pm South End Koffee Klatch	25	26 11 am Fun on Whidbey
27 10 am Service: "Four Movements Into Peace and Joy" 6 pm North End Dine Out 7-9 pm Dances of Universal Peace	28	29	30			

For More Information on Listings - see pages 2 and 3

From Our Minister



Dear Whidbey Friends,

What a great year it has been! I'm so pleased by the growth we have experienced this year, the wonderful new members we've welcomed, the host of visitors who come through our doors every Sunday and the many who return again and again, enjoying the spiritual uplift and stimulation of our worship community.

I'd like to share with you part of my recent report to the board, about my delight with what's been happening at UUCWI this year.

As I look back over the past several months at UUCWI, I am pleased by a number of steps that signal (to me, anyhow) real progress in the spiritual and community life of the congregation.

Our worship life is strong and of high quality; we offer stimulating and reflective worship services every Sunday and at EvenSong once a month. We are contributing financially to community agencies which are in the business of improving the lives of those who struggle for justice, for economic stability, for education, for emotional health.

We have successful, delightful social events, such as auction parties that bring us together in myriad combinations of personality; we have dine-outs and lunch bunches and coffee klatches that offer opportunities for deep and enriching conversation. We co-sponsor worthwhile events that are open to the public, in interfaith collaboration. Our conversations when we are together are meaningful and helpful to many.

Our music is outstanding; our choir grows in its size and in its skills and gives lay conductors a chance to lead the music they love with an eager group. The musicians who serve us are excellent and varied; those who volunteer their musical skills are faithful and highly skilled.

Our building is being utilized widely by the community. By our rentals to tenants like the Sufis, Jewish group, and Quakers, we are informally creating an interfaith community center, a prospect which delights me personally and professionally. Our co-sponsorship of workshops and other events, with other congregations on the island, is another step of outreach to the

larger community.

We are taking steps to create a Covenant of Right Relations which will give us a framework for encouraging our members and friends to be their best selves. Our Religious Education department is stable and growing in what it offers to our families.

The excitement surrounding the development of our future Science, Ethics, and Meaning symposium has reached into the community, with the involvement of community leaders Fred McCarthy and Johnny Palka, as well as MK Sandford, who was our first experiment with offering such a program. Signs are good that this will be a successful, well-received program that will do its part to elevate the use of reason and critical thinking, in contrast to the anti-intellect, anti-education, anti-science rhetoric we often hear."

I hope you're as pleased with the year as I am!

I'll be taking my July break next month, planning a few excursions to visit family and friends and beloved places (Oregon Coast? Olympic Peninsula? North Cascades?). I'll return in August to take up my responsibilities again, though I will be available for emergencies in July as necessary.

Remember to save a little water from your summer experiences and think about any spiritual lesson your summer may have provided. Let's enjoy the month of June together at UUCWI and look forward to some quiet moments of relaxation this summer.

Much love,

Kit

Calendar Listings

June 6:

"Sacred Texts: Stories that Illustrate Great Truths"
Speaker: Rev. Kit Ketcham

During June we are considering some of the beautiful, poetic and meaningful literature of the religious sphere. Rev. Kit Ketcham will speak about the many sacred texts of Unitarian Universalism.
Worship Leader: Thomas Kelly

June 9, 7:30: EvenSong –

"Sabbath - Time for Rest and Renewal"

On the second Wednesday of each month UUCWI holds a quiet, contemplative candlelight gathering of song, meditation and readings. This month we'll consider the benefits of including Sabbath time in our lives. *(No EvenSong in July.)*

June 13:

"What the Bible Can Mean to Unitarian Universalists"

Speaker: Rev. Kit Ketcham

Many UUs have struggled to understand the variety of meanings expressed in this sacred text which is important to Christians and Jews. Rev. Kit Ketcham will speak about the meanings this ancient text can have for Unitarian Universalists.

Worship Leader: Vicky Pitt

June 20: "Celebrating the Summer Solstice"

Co-facilitators: Effie Brown and Carrie Carpenter

The Summer Solstice, the point when the sun exerts its maximum power upon our part of the earth, has been celebrated since ancient times. Warmed by the life giving energy of Father Sun, the seeds of winter, and the flowers of spring are transforming into the ripening fruit of summer, both in our gardens and in our personal lives. It is time for us to look at the abundance that has grown up within us and ask, "Whom is this meant to feed? Where am I called to give my gifts? Through song, story, ceremony, and without a sermon, we will honor Fathers and celebrate the fullness of life and Earth's many blessings.

June 27: "Four Movements Into Peace and Joy"

Speaker: Rev. Amanda Aikman

Even with our distress about world events held compassionately in our hearts, we can find joy and peace in any circumstances. Let's learn and practice together four simple spiritual and physical movements that can take us into joy and peace, wherever we are. *Worship Leader: Bill Graves*

June 6, 11:20 am: Annual Congregational Meeting

UUCWI members are encouraged to attend and participate in the discussion. We need a quorum to elect officers and approve next year's budget. Members of 60 days or more may vote. Members should have received information (agenda, budget, etc) in the mail. Childcare will be provided.

June 6, 12:30: South End Brunch Bunch

at China City. We gather around one of the big tables, eat family-style, and split the cost. It's a great gathering, open to all. Let Kit know if you plan to attend: 331-2163 or kitketcham@comcast.net *(SEBB will be on hiatus in July and August; we'll resume in September.)*

June 12, 1-3 pm: North End Koffee Klatch

at Whidbey General Hospital cafeteria. Good coffee, delicious, inexpensive cuisine, and fabulous conversation! *(No NEKK in July or August; we will resume in September.)*

June 18, 7:30: An Evening of Romantic Music

Peggy Bardarson, violin; Nola Allen, piano; and Kathryn Vinson, Mezzo-soprano will perform pieces by Brahms, Mendelssohn, Strauss and others.

Tickets at the door: \$15 - single, \$25 - family
All proceeds from this concert will benefit UUCWI.

June 19, 9 am - Noon : Work Party at UUCWI

Please come help with property maintenance. Frances Wood and the landscape crew will be working on improvements. Coffee and goodies provided!

June 24, 4-5:30 pm: South End Koffee Klatch

Mike's Place in Langley. Delicious coffee drinks and ice cream, plus great conversation. *(No SEKK in July or August; we will resume in September.)*

June 26, 11 am: Fun on Whidbey

Coupeville is throwing a huge party on Front Street and we're invited. It's the Wharf Festival on June 26th, a Saturday. We'll meet at Local Grown which is 26 Front Street in Coupeville at 11:00. It's a coffee shop which features local products.

There is something for everyone at this festival - dragon boat races, whale watching, arts and crafts, restaurant dining, children's activities, etc. Please join us and bring the little ones.

June 27, 6 pm: North End Dine Out

at China City in Oak Harbor. We'll meet in one of the beautiful banquet rooms, order separately from the menu, and pay our own way, because of dietary restrictions of a few folks. Please let Kit know if you plan to attend: 331-2163 or kitketcham@comcast.net *(NEDO will be on hiatus in July and August; we'll resume in September.)*

From the Pres



As our church year draws to a close it is very rewarding to look back over our growth of these past 12 months. While the number of members is holding fairly steady, I think our congregational “growth” can be observed in other significant ways. Most notably, our visibility! We have hosted and/or sponsored a few community events that have drawn substantial audiences. We have seen a healthy increase in the number of renters who use our building on a regular basis. Our involvement in and with the larger community has grown. All of these strengthen our presence here on Whidbey.

Another way we are growing is in the number of *new* friends and members who are becoming very actively involved in the life of our congregation. We all know that many hands are needed to keep any organization running smoothly – and thriving. And I am so appreciative of the many folks who are stepping forward to participate on committees, help out at work parties, and volunteer their time and talent in other ways. This is what “being in community” is all about.

I eagerly look forward to our coming year and anticipate more growth in new directions.

Warmest regards,
Lois

Committee News

Music News

Mavis has graciously organized special music by the choir for June 6, with songs also used for Even-song. Thanks to everyone who has led and sung in choir this year, and we'll be planning a choir retreat in September, tentatively on the 18th.

Other special music in June: Peggy Bardarson and Nola Allen will play on June 13. Kat Fritz will play viola on June 20th for the Summer Solstice service
~ Linda Good

Visual Arts News

For several weeks now our Sanctuary has been graced by “The Ancestors” – 3 tall ‘frescoed’ panels painted in oil by Paul McClintock, a local artist. They are on loan from the artist until mid-summer.

Stewardship 2010

The Stewardship Drive is over and we ended up well ahead of our position one year ago. A more detailed report will be provided at the Annual Meeting. Many thanks to all who participated.

~ Baird Bardarson, *Canvass Chair 2009-2010*

Social Responsibility Council Update:

Earlier this year our church signed a covenant with Habitat for Humanity of Island County to join the Apostle Build program in which 11 churches from Whidbey Island joined together to sponsor a habitat home. The covenant asks that we raise \$2500 toward the cost of the home and that we provide volunteers to help build it. We got started this past week when John Long and Dave Cauffman hosted a fund-raiser for leadership gifts for our congregation's financial commitment to the Apostle Build. Over \$2000 was raised in one evening and we thank all those who made leadership gifts. The balance we plan to raise with a dedicated offering at our in-gathering in the fall.

In the meantime, we can begin to assemble our volunteers. We anticipate starting Dede's home in mid to late June and finishing by late September. There are many ways to volunteer besides swinging a hammer. Meals are needed for work crews. Site clean-up is an on-going job – keeping the site tidy and safe for volunteers. Every day we build we will need a site host who welcomes volunteers and makes sure that they get signed in properly. Volunteers are also needed at Habitat's used furniture store in Oak Harbor and at various events where we recruit volunteers. Finally, John Long is looking for someone from our congregation who would be a member of the church relations committee for Island County Habitat, helping keep communications clear between Habitat and us.

Libby Roberts has graciously agreed to be our liaison to a group of UU churches in the area who will network and share information about their Social Justice activities, events, successes, and ideas. A

web site is under construction at www.trunity.net/UUsConnect. This group, which includes Woodinville, East Shore, Bellingham, Shoreline, and others will provide an opportunity for us to share ideas, extend our reach, and be a part of a larger Social Justice network in our area.

The SRC has also started to plan our activities for our next year's calendar. The SRC will host three services over the course of the year, with tentative plans to address Housing on the Island, Torture and Human Rights issues, and school violence and bullying. We are also continuing to plan our dedicated offerings for next year. So if you know of a worthy cause, talk to a member of the committee and get it into the queue for consideration. These work best when a spokesperson for the organization can appear at the service on the day of the offering and speak briefly about their cause. We are still developing the criteria for choosing the causes we will support with a dedicated offering, but that shouldn't stop anyone from nominating an organization. The squeaky wheel gets the grease, so start squeaking.

Communications Committee - Ad Policy

We have had an unwritten policy of not running advertisements in the newsletter. We have now clarified that policy.

Island Passages will not accept any advertisements – business or personal. We will continue to run blurbs for performances by UUCWI members. The blurbs should give only minimal information.

In the face of this economy, we want to help our members and friends. To that end, we want to try compiling a separate roster of businesses. If all goes well, the roster will be published quarterly. More information will follow.

UUCWI Nuts and Bolts

An ongoing peek at the workings of UUCWI

Religious Education (RE)

UUCWI RE takes place every Sunday during church service from September through June. RE programs include Wonder Play for infants through kindergarten age children; Spirit Play for 1st through 5th graders; and Youth program for 6th - 12th graders. RE programs promote respect for all people and all spiritual paths, working for a better world, growing in spirit and mind, learning more about oneself,

and making new friends and enjoying new activities.

The success of our program is dependent on the participation of the members of our church community. We have an amazing volunteer staff that offers their many gifts to the students in our program. Our volunteer teachers commit to regularly leading or assisting in classes. In addition, there are other volunteers who work behind the scenes serving on the RE committee, making crafts, providing snack, and other support. And, of course, the heart of our program consists of the parents and students in our classes.

We strive to have a familiar and predictable structure to our classes so the students know what to expect. This can be very comforting, particularly for younger children. We have excellent teachers who are committed to creating a community of support for our students. Our stories, lessons, and message to the RE students are consistent with our UU principles and are shared with our preschool and grade school children as the "Rainbow Principles" – Respect all people (Red), Offer fair and kind treatment (Orange), Yearn to learn (Yellow), Grow by exploring ideas (Green), Believe in our ideas and act on them (Blue), Insist on peace, freedom and justice (Indigo), and Value nature's web of life (Violet).

~ Vanessa Kohlhaas, DRE

UU Who's Who

Meet Heléne Chandler:

Heléne is a third generation Californian, raised in Los Angeles. She attended college in D.C. and then returned to California to raise a family. She worked in real estate, both in sales and in rehabilitating properties in the inner city. She moved to Whidbey about 5 years ago to be close to children and grandchildren in Issaquah. Heléne joined UUCWI because of the people and our non-creedal tradition. She would love to see us experience "team building" as a way to foster connectedness. And perhaps have cooking classes! She's a photographer and a gardener and loves eating other people's cooking. She says, "My outsides don't match my insides. People think I'm formal, but really I'm light-hearted and full of spunk! I love to be silly and laugh."



UUCWI 2009-2010 Board of Trustees

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

Minister: Rev. Kit Ketcham 360-331-2163

Chaplain: Sally Elder 360-675-3314

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

Director of Religious Education: Vanessa Kohlhaas

Newsletter Information:

News, announcements, events, and other items
concerning the UUCWI Congregation or the UU
principles are welcome. Please submit to the editor:
Celia Bartram: celia@bartramrecorders.com

Submissions may be edited at the editor's discretion.
Ads will not be printed.

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

Last names, phone numbers, and addresses are
deleted from the online version for members'
privacy.

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**UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CONGREGATION
OF WHIDBEY ISLAND**

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