



Island Passages

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August 2010

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
1 10 am Service: "The Poetry of Mary Oliver"	2 9-11 am Worship Committee	3	4 10 am Men's Group	5	6	7
8 10 am Service: "Nature: Spirit Made Visible"	9	10 7-9 pm Sufi Dances	11 7:30 pm EvenSong "A Buddhist Perspective on Happiness"	12	13	14
15 10 am Service: "Quaker Wor- ship Practice"	16	17	18 10 am Men's Group	19	20 Newsletter Deadline	21 9 am – noon Work Party at UUCWI <i>11 am</i> <i>Fun on Whidbey</i> 1-4 pm UU101 Session
22 10 am Service: "All God's Critters Have a Place in the Choir"	23	24	25	26	27	28
29 10 am Service: "Mark Twain: Conscience of a Humanist" 7-9 pm Dances of Universal Peace	30	31				

For More Information on Listings - see pages 2 and 3

From Our Minister



Dear Whidbey Friends,

I'm writing this after returning from a hot weekend in eastern Washington and Oregon, with family and high school friends. 107 degrees in Walla Walla while I was there! Whew! But I did bring back a bag of Walla Walla Sweets, which flourish in that hot weather. If you need to borrow an onion, let me know!

It was interesting to be there among my very conservative family members; I felt, as a liberal political and religious person, like the one who is known to be "different", maybe "that way". There's an elephant of progressive religion and politics in the room and nobody is eager to talk about it. And I always have to ask myself "is our relationship or a debate about issues more important right now?" It's a hard question to answer.

Needless to say, I'm glad to be back on Whidbey Island, where progressive thinking is a constant presence, even as conservatism also is present. And I'm looking ahead to the new year at UUCWI.

The Worship Committee has chosen "Sources of Inspiration" for our yearlong theme and the inspirational source for August will be "Nature". I'll be speaking on Aug. 8 about how nature-based values have long been important to Unitarian Universalism. And on Aug. 22, we'll conduct our first Animal Blessing service, at which we will express gratitude and compassion for the animals in our lives. See the sermon blurb for that date for guidelines for bringing animals to our service. It's important that all animals be safe and restrained, either on a tether/leash or in a cage!

One more road trip----to the Olympic Peninsula and the North Coast of Oregon---and then I'll be back among you officially. I'm looking forward to it!

Much love,
Kit

Calender Listings

Aug 1: "The Poetry of Mary Oliver"

Worship Leaders: Sandy Welch and Laurie Holte

Mary Oliver is often referred to as the unofficial poet laureate of Unitarian Universalists. Her poems speak honestly to the big questions in life: Who are we? What are we meant to do with our lives? What is sacred? How do we face the inevitability of death?

In this service we shall explore many of her poems and share the wisdom and spiritual compass alive in her words.

Aug 8: "Nature: Spirit Made Visible"

Speaker: Rev. Kit Ketcham

The Transcendentalists of the 19th century are important historical figures in Unitarian Universalism. They changed the trajectory of liberal religion for their time by asserting that Nature and God were closely intertwined. Poetry and essays from this period of history have influenced philosophy and literature for generations. Rev. Kit Ketcham will speak about how their influence lives on in our present-day lives as Unitarian Universalists.

Worship Leader: Frank A.

Aug 11, 7:30 pm: EvenSong, 7:30 pm "A Buddhist Perspective on Happiness"

On the second Wednesday of each month, UUCWI holds a quiet, contemplative candlelight gathering of song, meditation, and readings. We'll take a brief view of the Buddhist perspective that happiness is a way of being and experiencing the world — not a matter of agreeable sensations. Accompanied by harp music, this is a time to take a short, calm respite from busy lives.

Aug 15: "Quaker Worship Practice"

Worship Leaders: Gloria S. & Christine Hall

Unitarian Universalists draw inspiration from many sources, among them wisdom from the world's religions. This Sunday we will be joined by Christine Hall from the Whidbey Island group of the Religious Society of Friends (Quakers.)

Quakers believe that each person has the ability to have a direct relationship with the divine. Christine

will share with us how this belief shapes worship in a Quaker group. We will experience for ourselves how expectant silence can deepen our listening for divine guidance.

Aug 22: "All God's Critters Have a Place in the Choir"
Speaker: Rev. Kit Ketcham

The Blessing of the Animals is a time when we recognize the importance of God's critters in our lives---our pets, our work animals, our food animals, the wildlife that lives in our valleys and forests and waters. We will bless each animal present with a touch of our pooled water from last September and a prayer of thanksgiving for their love and service. Dogs and other large animals are welcome on leashes/ropes; cats and other small animals must be caged. No animal can be unsecured. This service will be held on the greensward in front of the meeting hall. If you prefer not to bring your animal(s), you are welcome to bring a picture to place on the altar.

Worship Leader: Peggy B.

Aug 29: "Mark Twain: Conscience of a Humanist"
Worship Leader: Mary G.

Samuel Clemens was more than a humorist. In fact, he used his satirical style to goad folks into re-thinking important issues. Although he was born one hundred and seventy-five years ago, his messages remain pertinent and his humanity remains a shining example for us today. John L. will take the part of Twain, with supporting roles by Mary G. and Dave and Mavis C.

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Aug 21, 9 am – noon: Work Party at UUCWI

Please come help spruce up the property. It's lots of fun and we even get some "work" done! Jobs for all skill and energy levels. Coffee and goodies provided. Mavis is the contact person.

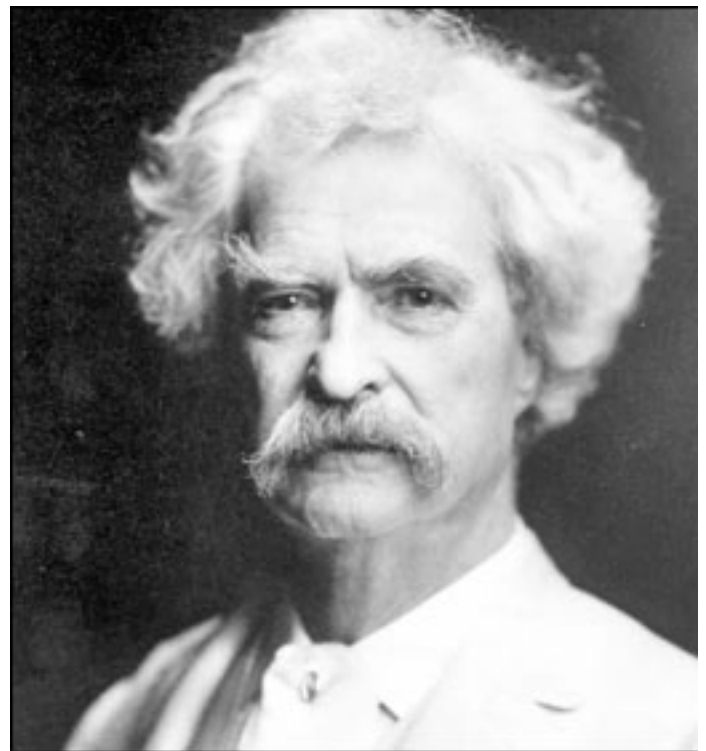
Aug 21, 11 am: Fun on Whidbey

The Island County Fair is here this month and we are going! Let's meet at 11:00 by the fair's entrance nearest the Langley Middle School on Saturday, August 21st. From there, we'll try to decide

where next to go - a very tough decision as there are always so much food, crafts, fun, rides for the kids of all ages, booths and celebration of Whidbey Island. Let's rejoice together!

Aug 21, 1-4 pm: UU101 Session

A few times each year we offer an orientation class to better acquaint friends, visitors and new UUs with our history, values, principles, and the men and women who have contributed to our movement. The class is an informal, fun way to learn about UUCWI and to get to know some other people in the congregation. If you are interested in learning more about us or are contemplating becoming a member of our congregation, you are invited to attend. Please RSVP to Kit. If you will need childcare, please let us know.



It is in the heart that the values lie. I wish I could make him understand that a loving heart is riches, and riches enough, and that without it intellect is poverty.

Mark Twain- Eve's Diary

From the Pres



7th Principle

- *We affirm and promote respect for the interdependent web of all existence of which we are a part.*

I recently viewed the movie, "HOME" – a 90 minute film produced by GoodPlanet.org. What a mixture of emotions it produced! The photography is beautiful. The message is both alarming and hopeful.

In a nutshell, it is the history of our planet. It does an excellent job of portraying the importance of our 7th principle. I'm not sure I have ever seen the "interdependent web of all existence" presented more convincingly.

My first thought after viewing this film was that it should be required viewing in all high school science classes. Two problems with that: 1) the sticky problem of presenting evolution in the public schools, and 2) there may not be enough time remaining for us to depend on the younger generation to reverse the damage we have done. We are all going to have to get very serious about protecting our HOME – now.

I encourage you to view this film.

Love,
Lois

UUA General Assembly 2010

Report: UUA General Assembly 2010

General Assembly, or GA, is the annual meeting where the association of UU congregations conducts its business in "plenary sessions". This is an unusual denomination in that its central body is responsible to the congregations, instead of the other way around. It's interesting to observe the process. Plenary sessions consider elections, bylaw changes, and committee reports, and also revise, reject, or adopt

Statements of Conscience (SOC) and Actions of Immediate Witness (AIW). But in addition to Plenary sessions there are many programs and workshops that are interesting and inspiring, and hundreds of exhibits by auxiliary organizations, booksellers, and other vendors. If your enthusiasm for Unitarian Universalism needs a nudge or a jolt, or if, as a church leader, you need ideas, attend a GA; it's a real "upper". The next one is in Charlotteville NC June 22-26, 2011. It's the 50th anniversary since the Unitarians and Universalists joined! Why not go?

In June I attended GA 2010 in Minneapolis both as your delegate, and as a member of the Pacific Northwest District (PNWD) board.

The most important item of business, in my opinion, was the passing of a "statement of conscience" regarding peace. I think this SOC is very well conceived, and I voted for it, on your behalf. Please read the text of it here: [UUA: Creating Peace <http://www.uua.org/socialjustice/socialjustice/statements/13394.shtml>](http://www.uua.org/socialjustice/socialjustice/statements/13394.shtml) It is notable in bringing us much closer to the Quaker position, and also in that it contains a (first-ever, I have heard others say) statement of UU theological principles, upon which the position is based. It concludes with a series of actions we (as associated congregations) covenant to take. This is good work that can give our efforts coherence; let's not let it be just words!

The best talk I encountered at GA was a lecture series by Galen Guengerich on "The Necessity of Virtue". I personally found it to be both profound and intellectually and emotionally satisfying (and I'm hard to please). I have ordered the dvd, which will arrive by mid-November. I think it would make a great adult education series to watch and discuss.

I also want to give you links to two other great GA talks you can watch online. The Fahs Lecture by Dale McGowan <http://www.uua.org/events/generalassembly/2010/ga2010/167338.shtml> gives an excellent analysis of parenting by nonbelievers, and he wrote a book on the subject. Winona LaDuke, Native American, gave the Ware Lecture <http://www.uua.org/events/generalassembly/2010/ga2010/165861.shtml>. She has a finely tuned sarcastic wit (why do whites insist on renaming large mountains after small men?) and helps us understand the viewpoint of indigenous peoples, in this case, very eco-friendly ones.

Links to all of the social justice-related statements approved at GA are now posted and given on

the page: UUA: General Assembly 2010
<http://www.uua.org/aboutus/governance/generalassembly/165687.shtml>

The most noteworthy of these are the short, generally politically-oriented, "Actions of Immediate Witness"; three were approved this year. These will be pushed on your behalf by UUA Washington and UN staff, and could make good discussion topics for social justice and adult education in our local congregation. They are self-explanatory when read. Here are links:

Clean Up the Clean Energy Bill <http://www.uua.org/socialjustice/socialjustice/statements/169258.shtml>

Gulf Coast Environmental and Economic Justice 2010 <http://www.uua.org/socialjustice/socialjustice/statements/169257.shtml>

Oppose Anti-Immigrant Measures at the State Level (Arizona Law SB 1070 and the Like) and Hasten Federal Immigration Reform <http://www.uua.org/socialjustice/socialjustice/statements/169112.shtml>

The last of these followed an extended debate and decision regarding whether to keep the 2012 General Assembly meeting in Phoenix AZ. In short, the original resolution to pull out (at considerable cost) was morphed into a resolution to keep the meeting in Phoenix and transform it into a "justice GA". There were strong feelings on both sides of the debate, but most Arizona congregations wanted us to come and help them raise people's consciousness on immigration and rights issues. You can read this business resolution here: UUA: Phoenix General Assembly 2012 <http://www.uua.org/socialjustice/socialjustice/statements/169112.shtml>. I voted for it.

There were over 3800 attendees at GA – that's 3.8% of UUs! Did I mention that the music was great too? Put attending a GA on your "gotta do this" list – you won't be sorry.

Dave C.

UUA General Assembly Interviews on the Internet

Kit found a website that has a video of Assembly participants stating what a Unitarian Universalist is.

<http://vimeo.com/13394129>



Announcements

Trillium Forest: A Leap of Faith – an information night for the community

Caring for creation is one of our UU Principles and a community effort. Join us on August 18 for an information night about the Trillium forest project. This evening is sponsored by UUCWI and three other faith communities who have each endorsed this Trillium project as important for Whidbey Island. What can we do to protect the natural beauty and health of our island? Come learn about the project, why it matters, how much money has been raised, and how much more needs to be raised. With other people of faith, look at the gift of nature and our responsibility to care for it.

Wednesday, August 18, 2010

St. Hubert's Church, Langley

5:30-7 pm

Hearty hors d'oeuvres.

Committee News

Book Group News

It's a new season and a new list of books for our Book Group. Newcomers will be warmly welcomed. Our first discussion in September will address *The Bridge* by David Remnick (editor of *The New Yorker*), which "revisits the American drama of race, from slavery to civil rights, and makes clear how Obama's quest is not just his own."

We will meet at UUCWI on Monday, September 13 at 7:00 p.m. Please call Mary G. for more information.

Book List:

The Bridge by David Remnick

The Coroner's Lunch by Collen Cotterill

Stones Into Schools by Greg Mortenson

The Sparrow by Mary Doria Russell

Children of God by Mary Doria Russell

March by Geraldine Brooks

Growing Up by Russell Baker

The Guernsey Literary and Potato Peel Pie Society by Mary Ann Schaffer

The Shelter of Each Other (Rebuilding Families) by Mary Pipher

The Girl With The Dragon Tattoo by Stieg Larsson

UUCWI Nuts and Bolts

An ongoing peek at the workings of UUCWI

Your Visual Arts Committee

The UUCWI Visual Arts Committee (VAC) serves as a clearing house for the selection, use and display of all art objects within and around the church building and actively solicits artwork from local artists for display on a rotating basis within the building. The VAC also serves in an advisory capacity in maintaining the integrity of the aesthetics of our building.

Planning, scheduling and implementing displays of art in our building consume most of the committee's time and efforts. The rotating art shows in the foyer Gallery, the hallway photos of children enrolled in our RE program, the temporary installation of the tall sculptures in the Sanctuary, and the Fabric Art Wall hanging for the front sanctuary wall that is in process are the results of those efforts. The display of art in our UUCWI home, primarily in our foyer gallery, allows the VAC, on behalf of our faith community, to celebrate art as an expression of the connection between creativity and spirituality.

The other activities the VAC engages in pursuant to its purpose are spelled out in detail in a brochure that is available in the foyer. More detailed information about the exhibiting of art in our building is also in this brochure.

The Committee keeps the Board of Trustees aware of its activities via its Board Liaison, currently Roy B. Current members of the VAC are Nola A., Carol B., Joan G., Mary G., Dallas H. and Christi S. Committee meetings are held once a month.

UU Who's Who

Dave S.

I'm 65 and was born in Idaho on my grandparents' farm while my dad was fighting in WWII. My grandfather was a lifelong influence and I always spent as much time as I could on the farm. When I was 10 my family moved to Israel with the US government and its AID program. We eventually moved back to Idaho and then to DC, where I completed my secondary education and formed a folk group that

played professionally. I attended the University of Idaho majoring in mining engineering and geology and my parents moved to India with the Diplomatic Corps. They were there 10 years and I was able to visit for several extended periods. Not getting along well with my major, I took a break from college and spent 4.5 years in the US Army as an Artillery Officer. I then returned to the University and majored in behavioral science and did graduate work in Political Science. I then entered law school at the U of Idaho and was admitted to the WA State Bar in '77, starting my own firm. I retired in 2002 and now live on a 20-acre farm with my wonderful wife and our sheep, lamas, chickens and itinerant creatures together with dog and cat. I love music, old cars, model airplanes, reading and doing anything other than watching TV. I also enjoy cooking, working in my wood shop and creating and repairing "stuff".

I was exposed to the Methodist church because my mom thought it was good to expose young people to "that sort of thing". My travels exposed me to various religious philosophies and how they were actually lived and practiced. I knew they were all good, though different. I also was told by some that "their way" was the only true way and that not to follow it would lead to eternal damnation. I didn't think so. I joined my first Unitarian church in DC when I was a senior in high school. I so enjoyed their open



approach that I became hooked. When Libby and I retired, we were looking for a new community. We both felt UUCWI was a natural. We were right! I see the church growing and doing more to help the community and its members. Most folks probably don't know

that my only sibling is my twin sister who lives in Wisconsin.



UUCWI 2009-2010 Board of Trustees

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Tom Buxton, Treasurer

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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 K.

Newsletter Information:

News, announcements, events, and other items concerning the UUCWI Congregation or the UU principles are welcome. Please submit to the editor:

Celia B.

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.

Communications Committee:

Celia B., Newsletter Editor

Mavis C., Church Administrator

Dean E., Webmaster

**UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CONGREGATION
OF WHIDBEY ISLAND**

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