



September 2010

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
			1 10 am Men's Group	2	3	4 10-Noon VAC
5 10 am Service: "Work and Spiritual Values" <i>RE begins</i> SRC Pot luck/Meet- ing after svc. <i>South End Lunch</i> <i>Bunch after svc.</i>	6 9-11 Worship Committee	7	8 7:30 pm EvenSong "The Challenge of Staying in Relationship"	9	10 9-11 am BOT 7pm Calendar Planning	11 Noon Choir Retreat 1-3 pm North End Koffee Klatch
12 10 am Service: "Ingathering and Homecoming" <i>Annual Salmon Bake</i> <i>after svc.</i> after events: BOT	13 7 pm Book Group	14	15 10 am Men's Group	16	17 Newsletter Deadline	18
19 10 am Service: "Yom Kippur: Day of Atonement and Forgiveness"	20	21	22 5:30 pm CRE	23	24	25 7 pm Convesation at Kit's
26 10 am Service: "Creating Peace" <i>Potluck with a Purpose</i> <i>after svc.</i> 6 pm North End Dine Out <i>7 pm Fun on</i> <i>Whidbey</i>	27	28	29	30		

From Our Minister



Dear Whidbey friends,

I'm looking forward to the new program year at UUCWI, relishing the adventures of the summer, and feeling grateful for the many blessings of being part of this congregation.

Those of you who've been around for awhile probably know that every year the Worship committee selects a theme for the year's services; this year it's "Sources of Spiritual Inspiration". In August, we reflected upon Nature as a source of spiritual inspiration and experimented with our very first Animal Blessing service.

September's theme is "New Beginnings", corresponding with the kickoff of our congregational year, new programs being considered, new projects in the works. One of those projects is something an ad hoc committee of the board has been working on: a Covenant of Right Relations to help us as we deal with the little and not so little ups and downs in the community.

Even the most loving groups (as we are, I think) need ways of dealing with conflict. We tend to be hopeful that disagreements will just go away because we hate to be in conflict. Some conflicts do just fade away; they aren't important enough to worry about. But others cause hurt feelings, anger, and can even grow into infighting serious enough to threaten the stability of the congregation. Years and years ago, that even happened here.

A Covenant of Right Relations, agreed upon by members of the congregation, gives a framework for handling the kind of day to day differences of opinion that frequently arise as well as ways to work through larger disputes that occasionally occur. It's a way of reminding us that respect and courtesy are major requirements of our life together and that understanding of differing points of view is achieved by thoughtful listening.

On Sept. 26, I will be saying more about a possible Covenant of Right Relations and at a

"potluck with a purpose" following the service, you will have a chance to read through and discuss the first draft that the committee has come up with. A leader at each table will take notes and the committee will regroup to consider the suggestions made.

The process of refining the Covenant of Right Relations will continue until it is ready to be ratified by the congregation as a body. It is important that the thoughts expressed in the Covenant represent the needs of the membership. This will not be a harsh or punitive document, but rather a call to be our best selves as members of the UUCWI community.

Dr. Melissa Harris-Lacewell has said: "To love one another does not mean to agree about everything. Love is in part about a willingness to put aside what we are convinced is right in order to be careful enough to listen to one another. "

Much love,
Kit

Calender Listings

Sept. 5: "Work and Spiritual Values"

"Tell me, what is it you plan to do with your one wild and precious life?" These words by poet Mary Oliver prompt us to reflect not only what do I want to do, but how should I do it? Unitarian Universalists and the Labor Movement share many of the same principles including worth, dignity, justice, equity, and respect for every person. As we celebrate Labor Day, four members of the congregation will talk about their experience of religious/spiritual values as they relate to work and how these values have informed their work life.

Worship Leaders: Mark B. and Judy K.

Sept. 8, 7:30 pm: EvenSong "The Challenge of Staying in Relationship"

Being in a joyful community means developing sensitivity to the needs of others and skills to deal compassionately with any difficulties that arise. We will reflect on this topic during our quiet, contemplative candlelight gathering of song, meditation, and readings.

Sept. 12: "Ingathering and Homecoming"

Speaker: Rev. Kit Ketcham

We celebrate the beginning of our congregational year with our traditional Water Ceremony and Salmon Bake. Rev. Kit Ketcham will speak about the significance of the water ceremony and its place in Unitarian Universalism. Please bring a small amount of water from a place that was important to you spiritually this summer; we will pool these waters of our lives and bless it for use in child dedications and other ceremonies in the year.

Worship Leader: Sara H.

Sept. 19: "Yom Kippur: Day of Atonement and Forgiveness"

Speakers: Katlaina Rayne and Jerome Rosen

September 19th, is one day past the holiest day in the Jewish calendar called "Yom Kippur". We will reflect upon and regard the teachings of this holiday as the Jewish religion is one of our many sources of inspiration and spirituality. Yom Kippur is the day of atonement and forgiveness. For which transgressions shall we atone? What will we become after forgiveness? Should we forgive ourselves? We will hear from two members of the Jewish community. One was born into the religion and the other converted to it.

Worship Leader: Judy K.

Sept. 26: "Creating Peace"

Speaker: Rev. Kit Ketcham

For the past several months, an ad hoc task force of the board has been meeting to write a draft of a Covenant of Right Relations, a statement of the mostly unwritten covenant we have together as members and friends of UUCWI. We are a pretty peaceful congregation already, but it can be helpful to be clear about how we deal with conflict---before we have a conflict! Rev. Kit Ketcham will speak about how we can maintain our peaceful environment and what it means to be in covenant together.

Worship Leader: Sarah R.

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Sept. 5, after services: South End Lunch Bunch,
at China City in Freeland. (Let Kit know you are coming---) All are welcome!

Sept. 10, 7 pm: Calendar Planning for 2010-11

We will work out the calendar for this coming year. Committee chairs or other folk who need to get events on the annual calendar are invited to this session.

Sept. 11, Noon: Annual Choir Retreat

We'll have our annual choir retreat at our UU meeting space, outdoors if the weather is nice. It will be a potluck lunch, starting around noon, with a short organizational meeting. We'll decide who wants to lead choir when & we'll consider the schedule for holiday music proposed by the worship committee. Please bring your calendar. Then we'll do some singing. Linda will hand out music for the Oct. choir performance. Contact Linda if you have questions.

Sept. 11, 1-3 pm, North End Koffee Klatch

at Whidbey General Cafeteria in Coupeville. Great conversation, delicious food, cheap coffee. All are welcome!

South End Koffee Klatch is on hiatus till October.

Sept. 12, after service: Annual Salmon Bake

Let's join together after our Ingathering service for salmon, hamburgers, hot dogs, and lots of conversation! As usual, we need to know numbers in time to "catch" the right amount of salmon. You know you want to come, so sign up soon!

There are sign up sheets at the church or call Gloria S. to reserve space. The cost is \$5 per person (\$10 per family) PLUS a salad or side dish. We need 10 persons to bring a dessert. Please bring your own plates and knives and forks. Beverages and cups will be provided.

This is going to be FUN!!!

Sept. 13, 7 pm: Book Group

Haven't read David Remnick's *The Bridge* yet? Thinking about it? Come join us anyway as we discuss our uniquely American drama of race, civil rights and the politics leading to Obama's election. We will meet at UUCWI. Call Mary G. for information.

In October, Sandy Marsh will host a discussion of *The Coroner's Lunch* by Colin Cotterill.

From the Pres



September is a very full month as we launch another “program” year. RE will soon be in full swing again, our annual salmon-bake is always a good time – and well attended, our VAC will be setting up a members/friends art display which I am really looking forward to seeing, and we will return to our work on the Covenant of Right Relations project which we began last Spring. This and so much more will be coming to us this month . . . a very rich month.

Have you had an opportunity to learn about the Trillium Woods Project? We had a dedicated collection a few weeks ago to help support this Whidbey Camano Land Trust project – and we collected \$1165! Thank you for your generous contributions to this effort. The deadline for raising the needed funding is September 10th, so I urge you to spread the word. You can find more information about this exciting project at SavetheForestNow.org.

I am looking forward to spending the last week of August in Vancouver, BC. This year I am especially excited about getting together with a couple of “long lost cousins”. It should prove to be a very interesting experience.

Warmest regards,
Lois

Sept. 26, after service: Pot Luck with a Purpose – Covenant of Right Relations

How do we, at times of stress and conflict, or in times of love, behave toward each other? As you know, a group has been working toward forming a Covenant of Right Relations for UUCWI. During the month of September you will be hearing more about this, culminating on Sunday September 26th.

That day, Kit will preach on the Concept of a CRR and we will have Pot Luck with a Purpose following the service to give everyone in the congregation a chance to look at our proposed language for such a covenant and give your input to the process. Please mark that date on your calendar and make every effort to be present

Sept. 26, 6 pm: North End Dine Out

at China City in Oak Harbor. (Let Kit know you’re coming---) All are welcome!

Sept. 26, 7 pm: Fun on Whidbey

Because we all had a laugh-riot last time, we are headed back to Mike's Place trivia contest on Sunday, September 26th. There's dinner (the food here is good) at 7:00 and trivia at 8:00 PM. Older children may be able to help you remember what you thought you have forgotten. It's fun to realize all you do remember. Join us!

Announcements

Quaker Services at UUCWI

The Whidbey Island Worship Group of the Religious Society of Friends (Quakers) will be holding weekly services at UUCWI every Sunday at 4 pm beginning September 5. We are delighted to have them sharing our facility and hope they will feel welcome. Anyone who is interested is invited to join them.

Interfaith Vigil Of Peace And Hope

On September 23, Thursday evening at 7:00, St. Augustine’s-in-the-Woods will host the seventh annual Whidbey Interfaith Vigil of Peace and Hope. This year’s interfaith vigil will focus on an interactive presentation by the nationally acclaimed “Interfaith Amigos.”

Calendar listings continued from p. 3

Sept. 25, 7 pm: Conversation at Kit’s, “New Beginnings”.

Refreshments and socializing at 7, conversation at 7:30. Call for directions. All are welcome!

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The Interfaith Amigos from Seattle are Sheik Jamal Rahman, a Sufi Islamic minister at the Interfaith Community Church in Ballard; Rabbi Ted Falcon, a Reform rabbi who has founded synagogues in Los Angeles and Seattle; and Pastor Don Mackenzie, an ordained minister in the United Church of Christ (Congregational), recently retired. They received national recognition as the subject of a November 24, 2009 New York Times article "Three Clergymen, Three Faiths, One Friendship," a CBS News report and several NPR interviews. They have given many presentations and workshops throughout the nation and have co-authored a book, *Getting to the Heart of Interfaith*.

Island churches, faith communities and peace groups involved in the vigil planning and participation are the Tahoma One Drop Zen Buddhist Monastery, Langley Methodist Church, St. Hubert's Roman Catholic, Trinity Lutheran, Whidbey Friends Worship Group (Quakers), St. Augustine's Episcopal Peace Fellowship, and Unitarian Universalists. As in previous interfaith vigils, recording artist, Karl Olsen of the Brothers Four, will lead the gathering in song.

There will be beverages and cookies immediately following the service. This will allow for further interfaith discussions with the Interfaith Amigos.

Peace Activities

The Whidbey peace group meets every Saturday at Bayview Park & Ride from 10-11 am. Come join our friendly, interesting group.

Women in Black, a nation-wide organization, meets the 1st Friday of each month just south of the Bayview Park & Ride on the grass. We display the sign "Women in Black Standing for Peace" from 5-6
Barb H.



Committee News

Visual Arts Committee News

We wish to update our UU community regarding the Fabric Art Project which will be hung on our Sanctuary wall. The work of designing was done last year with the hope of reaching installation early this year. That date has been pushed back however, as some of the final steps are more time-consuming than we anticipated. The largest panel is complete and in the hands of Eileen Walker, whom we have engaged to complete the stitching and binding. The smaller panel is together and almost ready for that process as well. Our current hope is to have the entire project completed and installed in the Spring of 2011. Thanks for your patience.

Mary G

On behalf of the VAC

Art Gallery News

In September and October our foyer Art Gallery will be graced with the artwork of a dozen or so UUCWI Artists. Art is, without doubt, one of the ways we express something about ourselves, and this will be an opportunity for all to get to know some of our members better through their art!

Each piece displayed will be accompanied by a brief narrative about our fellow UUCWI member—perhaps something about what inspired them to do that particular piece, or what they feel they are able to express through their art.

A reception for exhibiting artists will be held after Services on Sunday September 19th.

Religious Education

"Above all we need, particularly as children, the reassuring presence of a visible community, an intimate group that enfolds us with understanding and love, and that becomes an object of our spontaneous loyalty, as a criterion and point of reference for the rest of the human race."

~ Lewis Mumford

UUCWI is a wonderful community for people of all ages. It provides a place to share our joys and concerns, join together in common purpose, and work towards a more peaceful world. It offers us a "group that enfolds us with understanding and love." Our UUCWI RE program strives to build on these gifts for the children who come to our church. We

have an incredible group of teachers and are looking forward to our new year starting September 5th.

Our Wonder Play class (for infants through kindergarten age children) is led by Dawn C. Dawn worked in corporate advertising for many years, but her love of art and children blossomed when she moved to Whidbey Island over thirteen years ago. She has produced two local musical puppet theater shows in addition to working for after school programs, homeless shelters, home schools, and puppet theatre workshops. She is currently an independent child caregiver. A quiet person, her loves are books, art, her beautiful dog Winter, walking, and her dear friends here on Whidbey.

Our Spirit Play class (for 1st – 5th grade students) is led by Peter L. Peter is a dedicated father and husband, dancer and gardener, lover and seeker. Curiosity and wonder characterize his relationship with the earth, her inhabitants and the divine mystery that flows through them. Peter has worked as an environmental educator, a carpenter, and a caretaker of land. He is currently in training to teach 5Rhythms movement, a moving meditation/dance practice. He is very excited to connect with the UUCWI community!

Our Youth program (for middle and high school students) is led by John L. John was a high school English teacher and administrator at Charles Wright Academy in Tacoma until he retired and moved to Whidbey Island. This is his fourth year as youth teacher. "I especially enjoy the kids in this age group. They are developing independent and critical thinking, and those skills are very much a part of the UU values." When not teaching he enjoys kayaking, wood carving, and working for Habitat for Humanity.

In addition, we have other awesome volunteers who co-lead or assist in the classes, are members of our RE committee, bring snacks, and help in other ways behind the scenes. Please let Vanessa know if you would like to volunteer to help with RE this year.



Social Responsibility Committee

The Social Responsibility Committee (SRC) wants your participation! The first meeting of the new church year will be held on Sunday, September 5, following the worship service.

Why an SRC? This is the group that will guide UUCWI in contributing to and participating in the immediate and greater communities. Our principles include the words “Peace”, “Justice”, “Equity”, and “Compassion.” But what are we really doing to see that these happen in our community – or in the world?

This past year, the SRC supported the local Habitat for Humanity project, the Whidbey Veterans Resource Center, the Save the Forest (Trillium) campaign and more. SRC identifies the recipients of the dedicated offerings each month. Over \$6,000 from these went to such organizations as Planned Parenthood, Good Cheer, South Whidbey Youth Connection and the Red Cross. Most recently, over \$1,000 was collected for the Trillium effort.

While SRC has made the decision to focus its efforts on Whidbey Island needs (see the Purpose/Mission Statement below), it is a part of a regional coalition of similar committees of other UU congregations. The sharing of ideas and priorities is important and inspiring. SRC also stays in touch with the national UUSC.

And, as a side note, SRC helps UUCWI become more visible which always helps in membership growth. It is the SRC activities that will show people who we are, what we believe in and how we act on our principles. Please join the SRC!

Purposes/Mission of UUCWI SRC

To foster the worth and dignity of all people by promoting social and economic justice and community service activities that

1. Promote the direct involvement of UUCWI in service, advocacy, and/or community organizing to create justice in the larger community of Whidbey Island,
2. Encourage connections between UUCWI, the larger community of Whidbey Island, and the Northwest region,
3. Support a generosity of spirit and action in all aspects of our UUCWI community,
4. Respond to emergency or crisis needs as they occur.

UUCWI 2009-2010 Board of Trustees

Lois C., President

Tom Buxton, Treasurer

Dallas H., Secretary

Roy B., Trustee

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Sally Ann E., Trustee

Janis H., Trustee

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 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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