



Island Passages

20103 State Route 525 ♦ P.O. Box 1076, Freeland, WA 98249 ♦ 360-321-8656 ♦ www.whidbey.com/uucwi/

August 2011

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
	1	2	3 10 am Men's Group	4	5	6 11am - 5pm WISH Aid Benefit
7 10 am Service: "Homelessness on Whidbey Island" Noonish: South End Lunch Bunch	8	9 7pm BOT	10 7:30 EvenSong "Meditations by Victoria Safford"	11 UUCWI Board Retreat	12	13 10 am VAC 1-3pm North End Koffee Klatch
14 10 am Service: "The Meaning of the Flam- ing Chalice in UUism"	15	16	17 10 am Men's Group	18 Noonish South End Koffee Klatch	19	20 9 am Work Party
21 10 am Service: "World Peace Begins in Our Corner"	22 Newsletter Deadline	23	24	25	26	27
28 10 am Service: "Blessing of the Animals" 6pm North End Dine Out	29 Noon Membership Committee	30	31			

For More Information on Listings - see pages 2 and 3

From Our Minister



Dear Whidbey Friends,

I'm writing this in earlyish July while on vacation, so it'll be short and sweet. I'm looking forward to our new church year together, making plans for services during the year and the many ways we'll increase our sense of mission in the community and strengthen our congregation's sense of connection.

I hope many of you will turn out for the WISH AID benefit on August 6 on our grounds. As a member of the Whidbey Island Share a Home (WISH) board, I offered our beautiful green yard as a venue for the annual WISH AID concert, after experiencing last year's rained-out event in another locale.

The bands will play on our portico if it's good weather, with listeners grouped on the greensward and chomping on barbecue at the picnic tables. If the weather turns on us, we'll move indoors. Three of us (Ken Merrell, Dave Sweetwood, and I) are members of bands playing for the concert, and we would love it if you'd come hear us! Ken and Dave are members of the Cranberry Boggers (1 p.m.) and I'm part of Bayview Sound (3:30 p.m.).

During this program year, I'll be speaking monthly on "Top Ten Things about Unitarian Universalism". I got the idea from a colleague, Rev. Anthony David, who offered a similar series for his congregation last year. My Top Ten and his are not exactly the same and you may have your own ideas about the most significant things about our faith. I'd love to hear your ideas on the topic.

On August 14, our topic will be "The Flaming Chalice" and how it came to be an icon of UUism. Its meaning to UUs has broadened and changed somewhat since its beginnings, and it has become one of our most recognizable symbols. I hope you'll be interested in this series.

Well, that's enough of a taste of August----now I'm off to have some vacation fun!

Much Love,
Kit

Calender Listings

Aug. 7: "Homelessness on Whidbey Island"

Speaker: Doris Newkirk

Doris Newkirk is the executive director of Whidbey Island Share a Home (WISH). A designated offering will go to support WISH's efforts to improve housing alternatives on Whidbey Island.

Worship Leader: Gladys Mitchell

Aug. 10: 7:30 pm EvenSong

"Meditations by Victoria Safford"

On the second Wednesday of each month UUCWI holds a contemplative candlelight evening gathering of readings, song, and meditation. This month we'll share some of the writings of Rev. Victoria Safford. Accompanied by harp music, this time of reflection is a way to enhance our personal spiritual practice.

Aug. 14: "The Meaning of the Flaming Chalice in UUism"

Speaker: Rev. Kit Ketcham

In the first in a series of services on "The Top Ten Things About Unitarian Universalism", Rev. Kit Ketcham will tell the story of how the flaming chalice came to be our faith's iconic symbol and what it means to us today.

Worship Leader: Sara Heath

Aug. 21: "World Peace Begins in Our Corner"

Speaker: Rev. Dave Bieniek

World Peace seems like an insurmountable goal for our planet. Yet the wisdom of sages and ages responds that we must be the "Change we wish to see." It is my belief that world peace must begin close at hand and even within. Only then can we hope to change the world. Come and explore some of the possibilities.

Rev. Dave Bieniek is ordained in Metropolitan Community Church and affiliated with the Alliance of Baptists, both progressive Christian communities. His spirituality is very broad, and he finds wisdom in everyday life. He and his partner moved to Whidbey Island a little over a year ago. Dave presently serves as the Spiritual Care Services and Volunteer Coordinator at Whidbey General Hospital, Home Health Care and Hospice.

Worship Leader: Effie Brown

Aug. 28: "Blessing of the Animals"

Speaker: Rev. Kit Ketcham

Our pets, domestic animals, and our wildlife neighbors are an essential part of life in this rural setting. We owe gratitude to them for their companionship, their service, and their ecological importance. In this annual service of blessing, Rev. Kit Ketcham and worship leader Joann Roomes will offer thoughts and stories about the animals in our collective lives.

Worship Leader: Joann Roomes

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Aug. 6, 11 am-5 pm: WISH Aid Benefit

On UUCWI's grounds for the first time in history, Whidbey Island Share a Home's 3rd annual WISH AID concert, featuring local bands including the Cranberry Bog Bluegrass Band (with Ken Merrell and Dave Sweetwood) at 1 p.m. and Bayview Sound (with Kit Ketcham), at 3:30 p.m. and headlining local rock stars Janie and Joe at 2 p.m. This annual event features a silent auction of lots of outstanding items, a barbecue wagon to serve great eats, and an open-air concert and picnic area. (If it rains, we'll go indoors!) Come listen to some good music by folks you know and love and support WISH at the same time. Concert is free; donations are welcomed.

Aug. 7, noonish: South End Dine Out

at China City in Freeland. We order several dishes and split the cost. We reserve the big table at the end of the dining room so there's room for plenty of folks. All are welcome!

Aug. 13, 1-3 pm: North End Koffee Klatch

at Whidbey General Hospital, in the cafeteria. Great food, decent coffee, and fabulous conversation! All are welcome!

Aug. 18, noonish: South End "Koffee Klatch"

(aka lunch with a bunch) at Living Green in Langlely. Delicious, inexpensive vegan and vegetarian fare. We aim for the large table in the middle and have a great time. All are welcome!

Aug. 28, 6 pm: North End Dine Out

at Zorba's in Oak Harbor. We order off the menu and pay separately. Excellent, plentiful Mediterranean food and fabulous company. All are welcome!

Announcements

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 4-5.
Barb Hutton

Annual Seabeck Retreat

Sept 23-25

This year's topic is "Cutting Our Carbon Diet". The carbon diet has been about cutting back, reducing, consuming less, doing without. Although these efforts are essential, responding to the twin challenges of peak oil and climate change has another side involving positive, solutions-focused, community-scale actions. Join us at Seabeck Conference Center on Hood Canal the weekend of September 23-25 for fun, relaxation, and an inspiring presentation by the EUUC Social Justice Triad: "A Better World is Possible: Moving Beyond Sustainability to Resiliency."

We'll examine what people are doing today to transition from the twilight of the Age of Cheap Oil to engage whole communities in a transformative process that accepts the crucial need to reverse course and develop new, viable, ecologically sustainable urban and rural systems. We'll explore a vision that encompasses a materially leaner but inwardly richer human experience. Recommended reading: "The Transition Handbook—from oil dependency to local resilience" by Rob Hopkins.

Late fee after Aug. 15. For more information or for an application contact Christi Shaffer (shafferc@whidbey.com), Mavis or Dave Cauffman

"A successful response to peak oil and climate change will look more like a party than a protest march." Richard Heinberg

From Our President



General Assembly Report

Thank you for the honor of letting me, along with Francie Wood, represent you, as your delegate to the General Assembly (GA) of the Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA) in Charlotte, North Carolina, in late June. 4082 people attended, including 2059 delegates. Unlike many denominations that have a corporate-like top-down structure and hierarchical clergy, UUs are organized bottom-up. Each of our congregations is independent, governing itself and calling, even ordaining its own ministers. We freely associate with the thousand other congregations of which the UUA is comprised. The GA is the annual UUA business meeting. It is also the occasion for many interesting presentations, educational workshops, worship services, musical events, inspiring sermons, opportunities to witness for social action, and not a few exhibits and vendors. This year was unique in that it was the 50th anniversary of the union of the Unitarians and Universalists. It was also special to see Rev. Bill Graves honored as a newly ordained minister. More details of what transpired in Charlotte can be found at <http://www.uua.org/ga/2011/index.shtml>

At the top of the agenda was a significant restructuring of the UUA. Delegates approved bylaws that change the composition of the UUA Board of Trustees, dropping the number of trustees from 26 to 14. Districts will no longer elect their individual trustees. Rather, a Nominating Committee will offer candidates for trustee positions, endeavoring to reflect “the full diversity of the Association” with respect to marginalized communities, geography, lay and ordained status, size of congregations, age and gender.

A thoughtful Statement of Conscience, several years in the making, entitled “Ethical Eating: Food and Environmental Justice” was approved. The four-page statement calls on UUs to “eat ethically by becoming aware of the ways that food choice affects one’s health and the health of the planet.” It makes reference to industrial farming, condemns mistreatment of animals and workers in food production, encourages a diet based more on plants than animals, and invites people

to seek out and advocate for food that is raised responsibly. The statement also urges congregations to work for “food justice” so that everyone can have “adequate, nutritious food.” You can read the statement and learn about what you can do about ethical eating at <http://www.uua.org/justice/statements/statements/185320.shtml>.

The next GA (June 20-24, 2012 in Phoenix, Arizona) will be a Justice GA where all typical activities except those required by UUA bylaws will be put aside and replaced by public witness. Arizona has implemented harsh laws against alleged illegal immigrants and punishment for anyone who might assist them, and other states have imitated Arizona’s sad example. UUA President Peter Morales was part of a witness in Phoenix earlier this year and was among a number of UUs arrested there. He recounted the humiliations that he and others experienced in Arizona’s jails and legal system, vowing to help lead a large UU witness at GA next June. If you are interested in practical and nonviolent witness against state injustice, consider attending GA 2012 and discuss your interest with Peggy Bardarson, our new Social Justice committee chair. You can read about it at <http://www.uua.org/ga/2012/index.shtml> Be warned that conditions will not be comfortable, given the current moral conflict and high June temperatures in Arizona.

It is hard to be with 4000 other UUs without feeling uplifted and inspired; it’s an experience I wish I could share with each of you. Through communications technology, that is possible to a significant extent: I particularly commend to you two of the most outstanding presentations, which are available on the web: the Ware Lecture by Karen Armstrong <http://www.uua.org/ga/2011/184434.shtml> (video; 1 hour) entitled “The Challenge of Compassion” and the sermon by Kaaren Anderson entitled “Living Outside the Box” embedded in the Sunday Worship <http://www.uua.org/ga/2011/worship/184418.shtml> (text and video – see Mavis in the choir at 33:53). Take a respite from the clamor of life to reflect with your fellow UUs and to be reminded that you are not alone, that there is great power in compassion, and that we have work to do.

Dave Cauffman

Committee News

Book Group 2011-12

We plan to meet every 1st Thursday at 7:00 pm, at UUCWI, September through May. Following is our chosen list of books. Of those books which have been made into movies, we plan to view the movie together sometime during the month as well. If you have questions, please contact Mary Goolsby (579-2838)

- September: *The Lacuna* by Barbara Kingsolver
(Peggy Bardarson, hostess)
- October: *To Kill a Mockingbird* by Harper Lee
(Joan Gerteis, hostess) *Movie
- November: *Reason: Why Liberals Will Win the Battle for America* by Robert Reich
(Cary Sinnett, hostess)
- December: *Auggie Wren's Christmas Story* by Paul Auster
(Bill Marsh, host) *Movie
- January: *Housekeeping* by Marilyn Robinson
(Helen Kuschnerreit, hostess) *Movie
- February: *The God Delusion* by Richard Dawkins
(Judy Kaplan, hostess)
- March: *Floating in My Mother's Palm* by Ursula Hegi
(Janis Hummel, hostess)
- April: *Birds in Fall* by Brad Kessler
(Jen McGill, hostess)
- May: *Social Animal* by David Brooks
(Mary Goolsby, hostess)

Caring Connections Committee

The Caring Connections Committee helps members and friends of the congregation when they have short-term, emergency needs: winter power outages, visitations needed due to sickness, child-care, housing, pet care, meals, transportation, and memorial service assistance (for Kit). There are now 10 of us; we communicate by email to share these responsibilities. New members are always welcome.

Our annual meeting will be September 25th, a Sunday, at 11:30 in the sanctuary. Bring something to eat or drink to share.

Judy Kaplan

Social Responsibility Council

The Social Responsibility Council will meet next on September 4, after church at 11:30. All are welcome to attend. After September our regular meetings will be the second Sunday of the month. Our tasks are Social Action with a local focus. We have three full Sunday Services to plan and produce a year: November 20, January 15 "Standing on The Side of Love" and Justice Sunday, March 4, 2012 with a global water justice theme. We also choose together the recipients of the Designated Monthly Offerings. Our main challenge is that we are interested in *everything*.

SRC is proud to report from that September 2010 to July 2011 over \$5000 was raised in Designated Offerings collected once a month to benefit local non-profit social service projects. The list included Habitat for Humanity, South Whidbey Youth Connection, Veterans Resource Center, Whidbey Island Nourishes, Whidbey Giving Circle, WAIF, Disabled American Vets, Senior Center, Friends of Friends, Tibetan Student Scholarships and Good Cheer. SRC is also assisting the Tibetan Education Fund as an umbrella for scholarships.

On August 7 the Designated Offering will be taken for Whidbey Island Shared Housing. Doris Newkirk of WISH will be speaker that Sunday. The Food Basket for Good Cheer will be featured once a month on Sunday morning. This will begin on August 28. The basket will be placed in the front of the sanctuary. On Sept 18 the Designated Offering will be for Ryan's House, a youth Shelter for ages 13 to 17. It was reported recently that there are 80 homeless kids now living on South Whidbey - sleeping in cars, camping out, crashing with friends, on their own. On October 9 the recipient of the special offering will be Planned Parenthood of Oak Harbor.

SRC is considering how to use the \$1200 donated to it this year through various concerts and benefits. UUCWI is a compassionate and caring community and we are appreciative of your generosity. Please join with us in this wonderful work
Peggy Bardarson, SRC Convenor

UUCWI 2011 - 2012 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
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**UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CONGREGATION
OF WHIDBEY ISLAND**

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