



Island Passages

UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CONGREGATION OF WHIDBEY ISLAND

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

February 2012

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 10 am Men's Group	2 7 pm Book Group	3 10 am VAC Meeting	4 7 pm Quartets Then & Now at UUCWI
5 Service 10am: Music as Metaphor Rev. Ketcham and Eileen Soskin Noonish South End Lunch Bunch	6 9am Worship Committee Meeting	7 7 pm Chalice Singers Rehearsal	8 7:30 EvenSong	9	10 11 am Stewardship Mtg	11 1-3pm North End Koffee Klatch at Whidbey General Hospital
12 Service 10am: Forgiveness Rev. Bruce Bode	13 10am Membership Committee Meeting	14 7 pm BOT Meeting	15 10 am Men's Group	16 noon South End Koffee Klatch Trip to Olympia for Marriage Equality	17	18 9-11 am Work Party 11:30 – 3:30 UU101 6 pm Circle Dinners
19 Service 10am: With Liberty and Justice for All Rev. Kit Ketcham	20 Newsletter Deadline	21 7 pm Chalice Singers Rehearsal	22	23	24	25 9 am Training for Visiting Stewards
26 8:45am Choir Rehearsal Service 10am: Praise the Love Rev. Carmen McDowell TBD North End Dine Out	27	28	29	March 1 7 pm Book Group	March 2	March 3 10 am VAC Meeting and Installation Pt Townsend Workshop

Worship Services:

Feb. 5: “Music as Metaphor” with Rev. Kit Ketcham and Eileen Soskin.

“Music expresses that which cannot be said and on which it is impossible to be silent,” wrote Victor Hugo. Because of this paradox, music can be a spiritual experience. Music can give deeper meaning to life; it invites us into engagement with its harmonies and rhythms. When we experience it in worship, it has power to give us moments of spiritual transcendence.

Feb 8: EvenSong at 7:30 pm

On the second Wednesday of each month we hold a quiet, contemplative evening service of readings, songs, and meditation accompanied by harp. This month will focus on the poetry of Mary Oliver. All are welcome.

Feb. 12: “Is Forgiveness Always Called For?” With guest speaker Rev. Bruce Bode.

The matter of forgiveness is close to the heart of daily living. What is forgiveness and what isn't? Does forgiving mean forgetting? Does forgiveness imply reconciliation? How does forgiveness relate to justice? Rev. Bruce Bode is serving in his eighth year as minister of the Quimper UU Fellowship in Port Townsend.

Feb. 19: “With Liberty and Justice for All: Civil Rights in 2012”

On this President's Day weekend, Rev. Kit Ketcham will consider some of the civil rights issues that face American citizens at this time in history: immigration, marriage equality, and economic justice. What similarities do they share? What can we do? Gloria Sherman is Worship Leader.

Feb. 26: “Praise the Love” Rev. McDowell

The Rev. Carmen McDowell serves as the transitional minister at Cascade UU Fellowship in Wenatchee. She was the membership director for five years at East Shore Unitarian in Bellevue, where she heard the call to ministry and was ordained last fall. She is a UU of 14 years, mother of 18-year old Rowan, and spouse of Mark, all of whom are used bookstore lovers. She has been in our pulpit before and preached on radical hospitality.

February Events:

Feb 2: Book Group, 7 pm at UUCWI

The group will discuss *The God Delusion* by Richard Dawkins. All are welcome!

QUARTETS: THEN & NOW! Sat, Feb 4, 7 pm

UUCWI will present the second performance in its 2011-2012 concert series. "Quartets: Then & Now" promises to be an interesting and entertaining evening, providing the audience with an opportunity to experience something new--a dramatic musical juxtaposition of the old and the new that in many ways expresses what is currently happening in the world at large as we navigate social, political, and economic shifts and changes. Two quartets combining the talents of six professional musicians from Seattle will perform. *The Seattle Freelance Classical Quartet* will play Beethoven's String Quartet, Opus 59 no. 1, and a modern quartet calling itself *Stop, Thief!* will play original compositions considered a "fusion" of jazz-rock-blues-funk. There will be cross-overs and over-laps between the two groups in terms of both the performers and the music. The evening will also feature introductory comments by Eileen Soskin. Tickets at \$15 each will be available at the door. Youth accompanied by an adult have free admission. "Angel" tickets will also be available. Please inquire at the ticket table.

Feb. 5: South End Lunch Bunch

Gather at China City in Freeland, after the morning service. We reserve the large table at the back of the dining room, order several dishes, eat family style, and split the tab. Everyone is welcome!

Feb 6: Book Order for *A House For Hope: The Promise of Progressive Religion for the Twenty-First Century* ... Deadline Feb. 6

An adult program discussion series based on this book will begin in early March. A book order will be submitted on Feb 6 (\$11.60/each). Let me know if you would like me to order you a copy. You can also contact me if you want more information about this adult program.

~ Mavis uuadmin@whidbey.com

Feb. 11: North End Koffee Klatch

Gather at Whidbey General's cafeteria, 1-3 p.m. We pull a few tables together and gab, eat the cafeteria's excellent, inexpensive food, enjoy the (also inexpensive) coffee, and entertain the cafeteria staff with our howls of laughter. Everyone is welcome!

Feb. 16: South End Koffee Klatch

Gather at Living Green in Langley, noonish. We group around the large table, order from the extensive vegan/vegetarian menu, and enjoy each other's company. Everyone is welcome!

Feb. 16: SAVE THE DATE

for a caravan of cars going to Olympia to participate in Marriage Equality Day at the State Capitol. More info available soon.

Feb 18: Work Party at UUCWI, 9 – 11 am

UUCWI is our spiritual home – in more ways than one! Just as our primary home needs attention and maintenance, so does our UUCWI facility. The Building and Grounds Committee (affectionately known as the BAG) is reinstating regular monthly work parties on the third Saturday of most months (skipping November and December due to the holidays). There are always things that need to be done both inside and out. There are always projects for all energy levels. And there will always be coffee, snacks, and camaraderie! Please mark your calendars and come help. Thank you.

Feb 18: UUCWI orientation class ...“UU101”

11:30 am – 3:30 pm at UUCWI
If you are considering membership at UUCWI - or are just curious to learn more about Unitarian Universalism and this congregation - you are invited to join Rev. Ketcham in the next offering of "UU101". This is an informal, fun discussion. A light lunch will be provided. To RSVP, contact Kit at kitketcham@comcast.net or our administrator at uuadmin@whidbey.com so we can prepare food and handouts. Let us know if you will need childcare.

February 18, 6pm: Circle Dinners

There are two locations for Circle Dinners this month, hosting will be Gloria Sherman in Clinton and Roger Harrison and Margaret Harris in Freeland. Circle dinners are potluck dinners and are a great opportunity to socialize with other

Unitarians. To sign up for the Dinner on February 18th, email Janis Hummel, jhummel50@yahoo.com or call 360-632-9847. Would you like to host a Circle Dinner? open dates: June 16 and March 17.

Feb. 26: North End Dine Out

at a place yet to be named. Will it be Ciao in Coupeville? Sweet Rice Thai in OH? Zorba's? Christopher's? Our gustatory adventure locale will be selected at the January dine out. Stay tuned.

March 3: “Emerson as Spiritual Guide”

Port Townsend's Quimper UU Fellowship hosts this year's Living Tradition Institute featuring the Rev. Barry Andrews, an authority on the works of UU hero Ralph Waldo Emerson and our Transcendentalist History. For more info, see the article elsewhere in the newsletter.

Social Responsibility Council

On Sunday, Jan 22, the UUCWI Social Responsibility Council met with Mary Fisher of Whidbey Island Nourishes to talk about how our congregation might support her organization's efforts to feed those in need on Whidbey Island--with special focus on young people. WIN has recently gone out from under the umbrella of Good Cheer to establish itself as an independent 501c3 non-profit. Through the efforts of as many as 120 volunteers, WIN provides sack lunches to students at South Whidbey Elementary and Secondary Schools as well as to many who no longer attend school. It also has a "backpack" lunch program for weekends. WIN has received several grants, including one from the federal government that supports a lunch program offered as part of the summer recreational program. WIN will soon receive another matching grant which will support additional food outlets in Freeland as well as educational outreach. The SRC members were very impressed with the commitment and effectiveness of the WIN program and plans to discuss ways that UUCWI members could support its goals. Stay tuned for more information! If you are interested in joining this effort or simply wish to join the Social Responsibility Council, please contact Libby Roberts at 360-202-5255 or libbyroberts10@gmail.com.

From Our Minister

Dear Whidbey friends,

It was exciting, in January, to host the Rev. Dr. Marilyn Sewell here at UUCWI and to view the documentary of her life as a minister. Marilyn is my colleague and has been a source of much wisdom for me as I've grown as a minister.



One of the things that struck me, as I watched the movie that Saturday afternoon, was how much she and I have in common as our ministries with a beloved congregation end. I too envision a great deal of personal pain in saying goodbye to you all this coming summer. I know I keep saying "but there's going to be a party!" and there is, but it won't take away the sorrow I will feel in leaving Whidbey.

I do look forward very much to moving to Astoria and enjoying the many exciting things about meeting new people, volunteering in new ways, and being able to live at the confluence of the Columbia River and the Pacific Ocean, two geographic landmarks that have shaped my life.

You have been a chief source of love in my life and it will be hard to move away from that reliable source of affection and support. But I do need to move away from the island to give space to your new minister, to give you all full opportunity to get to know your new minister, begin to trust him or her with your worship experience, and to experience the new ideas and strategies a new face will bring.

Thank you for the years of love and affection you have shown me. When we part this summer, you will be in my heart forever, even though we won't see each other much. You have taught me much of what I know about ministry, about Beloved Community, about the human heart and its endless ability to love.

Much love,
Kit

Art Gallery News

UUCWI member Shirley Ashenbrenner is the featured artist in our foyer art gallery right now. She paints with oils, acrylics and encaustics, incorporating collage, textures and found objects in her work. Her striking and vibrant abstracts elicit a strong emotional response from the viewer.

Shirley says of her art: "Inspiration for my works often spring in response to the experiences of life - its sorrows and its joys. The moods and shapes of nature also influence my pieces. Whatever the process, I strive for strength and energy in my work."

If you haven't already taken time to linger and enjoy Shirley's art work - or chat with her about it - please do so sometime soon. The exhibit will remain on display throughout the month of February.

MARRIAGE EQUALITY DAY IN OLYMPIA!

Join Washington United for Marriage in Olympia on February 16th for our marriage equality lobby day! This important day will bring together individuals, congregations, and organizations from across Washington State for a rally on the steps of the Capitol. The afternoon will be spent talking with our legislators about what marriage equality means for us as individuals, communities, and a state. If you're interested in attending, please let Kit know (kitketcham@comcast.net, 331-2163) or one of our Social Responsibility Council members.



Witnessing

By Dave Cauffman,
UUCWI President

Despite rumors to the contrary, we Unitarian Universalists don't believe in "nothing", or even "anything you want". But we do seem to revel in using negative terms when asked what UUs believe. Not creeds. Not a literal interpretation of the Bible. Not hell.

Let's look closely in the mirror. What is it that we *do* believe? This is an important question to address, despite the complicating factor of our diversity, especially if we're to reach out to share with our neighbors whatever it is we have that we value.

It would be a good start if we were each prepared to answer when asked what a UU is, or what attracted us personally. What is needed is an "elevator speech", concise enough to be delivered before the questioner exits the elevator. So I've thought about that:

What I value most about our congregation and Unitarian Universalism is that it is a tolerant and supportive environment for my own attempts to become a better person. I can pursue truth free from the dictates of prescribed answers (a freedom that makes UUs unique). I am gratified to find that UUs trust science and reason, tempering rationality with caring and compassion. There is a strong sense of community here, and an active dedication to making the world a better place through conscientious activism on issues such as environmental and social justice.

Your own answer will differ in emphasis, of course, because your spiritual path has been different. Please send yours to me with permission to use it in a future column!

If you haven't formulated your elevator speech yet, consider these sources to stimulate your thinking. Rev. Marilyn Sewell has an 8-point list of points of general agreement in her [Huffington Post article: A Unitarian Universalist Theology](#). Rev. David Rankin has published a nice list of shared [UU beliefs](#). See if any of these trigger you to capture what you find meaningful.

Perhaps you are thinking, "It's about time I paid more attention to my own spiritual path." You're in luck: sign up with Mavis to read and discuss the insightful book by Rev. Rebecca Parker and Rev. John Buehrens, *A House for Hope* starting in March. Or let us know of your interest in starting another "Building Your Own Theology" series. For self-study, you could read *A Chosen Faith* by Rev. John Buehrens and Rev. Forrest Church — essays about the UU principles.

A willingness to share what you find meaningful is a powerful act of witness, and much more attractive than evangelizing - trying to persuade someone else to believe as you do. You are highly likely to discover areas of common interest, a great basis for inviting participation in our activities. If that's successful, I'm sure you'll do the rest to assure a friendly welcome.

Run with it!

"Emerson as Spiritual Guide"
Quimper UU Fellowship, Port Townsend
Saturday, March 3, 9:30am-3pm

Our third annual Living Tradition Institute workshop – organized by five area UU ministers – will consist of presentations and small group conversations on selected essays of Ralph Waldo Emerson. Our primary presenter will be The Rev. Barry Andrews, a recently retired Unitarian Universalist minister now living on Bainbridge Island. Barry is the author of numerous books, including *Emerson as Spiritual Guide*, and *A Dream Too Wild*, an anthology of Emerson meditations for every day of the year.

This workshop will aim to make Emerson's ideas comprehensible and to explore the contemporary relevance of the spiritual issues and practices described in his essays and lectures.

The cost of \$10 includes a delicious lunch (scholarships available). Please register by Sunday, February 27 at the latest, so we can send e-mail you the essays (which we encourage you to read in advance of the workshop). The Quimper Fellowship phone number is 360-379-0609; email: www.quuf.org

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of Whidbey Island**

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Items submitted after press time will appear in the
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P.O. Box 1076
Freeland, WA 98249
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