



Island Passages

UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CONGREGATION OF WHIDBEY ISLAND

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May 2012

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 7 pm - Meditation- Moss	2 9:30 am WIN- Kitchen - Roberts 10 am UU Men's Group - Brown	3 7 pm Book Group - Goolsby	4	5 10 am VAC mtg and Installation - Bingman
6 9 am- New Event 10 am - UU Worship 11:30 - Congregation Mtg 1pm - VAC Artists' Reception 4pm Quaker Worship Svc	7 9 am Worship Ctte - Copeland 7 pm WWG - Knutila	8 7 pm UUCWI Board Mtg	9 7:30 EvenSong – Cauffman	10	11	12 1 pm North End Koffee Klatch - Whidbey General
13 10 am UU Worship 11:30 am South End Dine Out - Freeland 4 pm Quaker Worship	14 9:30 SRC/WIN – Kitchen - Roberts 10 am Membership Ctte - Long 7 pm WWG - Knutila	15 7 pm - Meditation- Moss	16 10 am Men's Group - Brown 4 pm MAGIC - Buxton	17 6 pm North End Group Disc.	18	19 Circle Dinners 9 am Work Party – Chowen
20 10 am UU Worship 12 pm UU 101 4 pm Quaker Worship 6 pm Quaker Potluck and Mtg Newsletter Deadline	21 7 pm WWG - Knutila	22	23	24	25	26 9 am Leadership Council – T. Anderson 7 pm Auction Event - Reader's Theater - Kaplan
27 10 am UU Worship 11:30 SRC Mtg 11:30 UUCWI Parent Circle 4 pm Quaker Worship 6 pm North End Dine Out 7 pm Dances of Universal Peace	28 9:30 am SRC/WIN- Kitchen - Roberts 7 pm WWG - Knutila	29 7:30 pm Guillemot Trng - Frances Wood	30 7 pm Healing Democracy - Strong	31		

Worship Services:

May 6: The Night Thoreau Spent in Jail

Henry David Thoreau was a Unitarian, naturalist, writer, poet, Transcendentalist, abolitionist and pacifist. He opposed the US-Mexican War, which had been declared by President Polk without congressional approval. Sound familiar? Thoreau protested by refusing to pay taxes, and as a result spent the night of July 23, 1845 in jail. In 1971, during another unpopular war, a play about that earlier time was written by Jerome Lawrence and Robert E. Lee. We will present an abridged version of *The Night Thoreau Spent in Jail*.

May 9: 7:30 pm, EvenSong at UUCWI (Prelude at 7:20 pm)

On the second Wednesday of each month we hold a quiet, contemplative evening service of readings, songs accompanied by harp, and silent meditation. This month's theme is personal spiritual practice and peace. All are welcome

May 13: Flower Communion: The Legacy of Norbert Capek

Our annual Flower Communion service is a tribute to Norbert Capek, Unitarian Czech minister who died at Dachau during World War II. This is an intergenerational service, in which we will dedicate children new to the congregation, recognize our children's Religious Exploration teachers, and participate in an exchange of flowers to symbolize the diversity and beauty of our faith community. Please bring a single flower to contribute to the community collection of flowers. DRE Vanessa Kohlhaas and Rev. Kit Ketcham will lead the service.

May 20: This I Believe

"This I Believe" has become a UUCWI tradition and with good reason. It affords us the opportunity to share in the spiritual journey of our fellow UUCWI members. Their unique voices, experiences, and perspectives expand our diversity, strengthen our connections, and invite us to examine our own paths. Join us for one of the more popular services of the year and support your fellow travelers as Jean McIntosh, Charlie Knutilla, and Eileen Soskin speak from their hearts and tell us . . . "This I Believe."

May 27: Remembering Our Beloveds

Each year on Memorial Day weekend, we memorialize those dear ones who have died and have left memories in our hearts. This service offers time to speak briefly about our Beloveds, share mementoes and photos, and express our sense of loss as well as our gratitude for the gifts we have received because of their lives.

May Events:

May 6: South End Lunch Bunch at China City, after the congregational meeting. We order several dishes, eat family style, and split the cost. All are welcome!

May 12: North End Koffee Klatch at the Westwind Café at Whidbey General Hospital, 1-3 p.m. We pull a couple of tables together and amuse the café staff with our howls of laughter. All are welcome.

May 19: Work Party from 9:00 AM to noon. Please plan to come and help spruce up our lovely grounds and beautiful building. The Stewardship team will put the coffee on and offer tasty snacks. Bring gloves and whatever appropriate tools you may have for the tasks at hand.

May 19, 6pm: Circle Dinners

We have two locations this month, hosting will be Dallas Huth in Langley and Libby Roberts and Dave Sweetwood in Coupeville. Circle dinners are potluck events and are a great opportunity to socialize with other Unitarians. To sign up, contact Janis Hummel, jhummel50@yahoo.com or 360.632.9847.

May 27, North End Dine Out:

Location to be determined. Watch the Friday note during May for updates.

From Our Minister:

Dear Whidbey Friends,
As I write this, our ministerial search committee is hard at work sorting through information and interviews and references, all in pursuit of the right candidate to present to you all as their best match for UUCWI's next minister. I am so pleased with the hard work they've been doing over the past months and am confident that they will find the best possible match for UUCWI.



It's an interesting time in my life, as I pack up my belongings and prepare to move out of my house at the end of June. You'll be seeing me around the island a bit during the summer, but I'm hoping to be ensconced in my new Astoria home by Sept. 1.

I'm grateful to all of you for these nine years of joy and growth; they have been some of the happiest years of my life. You've helped me grow in my skills and understanding of our faith; I've seen you grow as well!

As we move on in our faith journeys, I know I'll be cheering you on in yours and I hope you'll be supportive of mine. We've become very close over the years and it's hard to say goodbye. But you'll always be in my heart and I will always love you very much, both as individuals and as a congregation.

Much love,
Kit

Voting Members of UUCWI

Congregational Meeting to approve:

2012 – 2013 Budget

Board of Trustees

Nominating Committee

Minister Emerita Status for Rev. Ketcham

Please plan to attend so we achieve a quorum!

May 6 following the worship service

Counting

By Dave Cauffman,
UUCWI President



“Everything that can be counted does not necessarily count; everything that counts cannot necessarily be counted.” – Albert Einstein

Being a member of UUCWI includes the privilege and duty to attend the annual meeting to elect officers, trustees, and a nominating committee, and to approve a budget. That meeting will be held on May 6 after church. This year we will also vote on designating Kit “Minister Emerita” (see separate article). Members should have received an agenda and details about the slate of officers and budget in the mail or email. It's your church; please exercise your right to vote: be counted.

Speaking of counting: we're continuing to grow, despite some departures, and now have 95 members. Please welcome and get to know our new colleagues. Attendance at our Sunday services has frequently been more than 70 adults. When children and youth are added, we sometimes use all the chairs, and this creates some problems, but they are of the nice-to-have variety.

This has been a good year in other countable ways as well. Your generous response in pledging support for the 2012-2013 fiscal year that begins in July allows us again to propose a balanced and realistic, if tight, budget (see separate article). (If you haven't returned a pledge card, we have assumed you will, so please do so now.) You should feel really good about our healthy financial posture as we countdown to having a new minister start in September.

Statistics do not tell the real story, however. Exercising the responsibilities of membership is only a means to an end. Our *purpose* in becoming members is to build community and make a better world. Only your personal dedication and passion can make this happen. For that, I know you can be counted upon.

From the Treasurer

Thank You!

Because of your response to this year's canvass, the Board will be able to present a balanced budget for approval at the May 6th congregational meeting. Even though we lost a significant amount of pledged income due to death and people moving, the total pledge amount is still up about 7% allowing us to propose a budget that allows us to hire a minister at a realistic ½-time salary. We asked you to be generous and have faith in the future of UUCWI and you did. Again, Thank You!

The caveat in this good news is that in order to make this possible, we had to budget the new minister at 10 months rather than 12. Because of the timing of this year's search, this works. We hope to have our new minister on board starting in September, thus incurring only 10 month's salary and benefits in the next fiscal year. This means that in order to keep and pay the new person, we will have to come up with at least an additional \$5,000 in the 2013- 2014 budget. That may sound big, but we did it this year, and with continued growth and continued giving, we can do it. I love this congregation, and your generosity says you do, too.

Mark Brown, Treasurer

Ministerial Search Moves Forward

The MSC has enjoyed a variety of SKYPE interviews with candidates, read interesting background material and sermons, and gathered information from a significant number of reference calls. From a selection of 10 applications, the committee has scheduled personal interviews with three candidates. By the first week of May, we are holding the intention to have consensus on a strong candidate to present to the congregation. Members of the MSC are committed to presenting only a candidate that we believe has the experience, insight, energy and enthusiasm to grow with us into the next chapter in the life of our congregation and our outreach to the wider community.

David Sweetwood, Chair, MSC

Board Recommends Emerita Status for Rev. Ketcham

At its April 10th meeting, the UUCWI Board of Trustees unanimously agreed that the congregation be asked to approve the following resolution: *"Resolved, that the UUCWI designate retiring minister Rev. Elizabeth (Kit) Ketcham as Minister Emerita, to honor her nine years of devoted and meritorious service."*

While not indicating any ongoing financial relationship with the designating congregation, the granting of the title of Minister Emerita/Emeritus does convey a significant honor, and, further, entitles the recipient to a vote in the UUA annual General Assembly.

The vote will occur at the congregational meeting planned for Sunday, May 6, after the service. If approved, the honor will be formally conferred at the service June

Dave Cauffman, President, UUCWI

Kit's Fabulous Farewell Party!

Everyone is invited to Kit's Farewell Party, Saturday, June 16, 5:00 PM at the church. We will be honoring and celebrating Rev. Kit Ketcham's amazing tenure as our minister, and wishing her well on the next adventure in her life's journey. We have a program planned for the evening including: music from Kit's band "Bayview Sound," special guests, presentations to Kit, singing, lots of joy and a few tears! You'll also enjoy a spread of "Filling Fabulous Hors D'oeuvres" and beverages. Child care will be provided. RSVP to sandy.welch3@gmail.com by June 1st.

Please submit to Kit's Memory Book!

We are asking you to create a page for a memory book for Kit to take with her when she leaves. Put your farewell thoughts, well-wishes, or memories of Kit in a letter, prose, poem, photo, or drawing on a 8 1/2 x 11 sheet of paper. You can use both front and back if you like, but keep it to just one page. Submissions will be collected in a designated box in the church foyer, or you can submit a PDF document by email to sandy.welch3@gmail.com. Deadline is June 1st.

Mark your calendar: June 1 - 3 Candidate Weekend

We will be scheduling time for the candidate to meet with the board, staff, committees, interest groups, parents and families for conversation, questions and good food. On Sunday, June 3rd, the candidate is scheduled to deliver the sermon with a congregational meeting following the service. At that time the intention will be to vote on the Search Committee's recommendation to offer the half time consulting minister position to the candidate. We urge you to make this weekend a priority so that together we will make a well informed decision on who will be our next minister.

David Sweetwood, Chair, MSC

Board of Trustees to Craft Building Usage Policy

The Board of Trustees is crafting new policies and procedures regarding the use of our building. Our facility is a very popular place for groups, events, lectures, memorial services, classes, and meetings. With five potential meeting spaces and several groups vying for that space, the calendar can become very complex. In order to avoid conflicts, minimize overcrowding, and alleviate parking issues and security concerns, we are asking that members and nonprofits wishing to use the facility make arrangements with the UUCWI Administrator and have the event listed on the church calendar prior to holding any function at UUCWI beyond regularly scheduled services. A trained "host" must be designated for all gatherings. This includes committee meetings, groups, classes, and rehearsals. A formal process for applying for and receiving approval, eligibility, deadlines, etc. is forthcoming from the Board of Trustees. Our policies will ensure that we are honoring our agreements with renters, using the facility responsibly, and keeping good records for security purposes. Feedback, comments, and questions regarding these policies and procedures are welcome and can be discussed with any member of the Board or the Church Administrator by phone, email, or in person. Thank you for your cooperation.

Ken Merrell, UUCWI Board of Trustees
Building and Grounds Committee

SRC : WHIDBEY ISLAND NOURISHES AND HABITAT FOR HUMANITY

April has been a BIG month for the Social Responsibility Council (SRC) as it continues to pursue ways to realize the UUCWI affirmation that "service is our practice." UUCWI is now affiliated with Whidbey Island Nourishes (WIN), an organization whose mission is to feed homeless and needy youth (as well as some adults and families) on Whidbey Island. UUCWI groups of WIN volunteers met on Monday, April 9, and Monday, April 23, to make banana bread sandwiches and burrito wraps for the WIN vending machines in Langley and Bayview that provide free food items. John Leaser, Sandy Welch, Jean McIntosh, Lois Chowen, Shaunna Baganz, Celia Bartram, and Libby Roberts prepared and delivered 44 food items on April 9. Corinne Ludy, Glo Sherman, Norma Clark, Sandy Marsh and Libby Roberts prepared and delivered 44 more items on April 23. Each group will continue to provide food items on the 3rd and 4th Mondays each month. A BIG challenge will be the UUCWI commitment to provide 206 banana bread treats to WIN for the elementary school children's "backpack lunches" on the first week of each month. Currently, the SRC is seeking volunteers to bake loaves of banana bread and bring them to the church by Wednesday, May 2. Please contact Libby Roberts, SRC co-chair, with any questions.

Jean McIntosh, SRC co-chair, is working with John Long, Habitat for Humanity Board member, to organize UUCWI volunteers to help the new Habitat store in Freeland. UUCWI volunteers Dave Sweetwood, John Long, and Gene Berg will help with picking up donated furniture twice a month on Tuesdays and then with displaying it at the store. Other volunteers are needed to help in the store.

The dedicated offering for April will go to Tilth. Linda Good will speak to the congregation about Tilth activities on April 29. In May the offering will go to Hearts & Hammers and in June it will go to Island Senior Services.

Libby Roberts, SRC

Art Gallery News

On exhibit beginning Sunday May 6th will be well-known local artists Sue Owen and Ed Bennett. Sue is a painter of landscapes & abstracts and Ed is a carver of birds. In this exhibit both artists explore just how they were influenced by their teachers.

One of the goals of Ed Bennett is to create birds with the detail features and feathers that make them unique and pique one's imagination. An associated goal Ed says, is to fully enjoy the challenge and the process!

Sue's landscapes are of places she has visited. Her non-representational work is spontaneous and evolves as it is created.

The exhibit will be on display through the end of June.

The Visual Arts Committee

Religious Exploration in May for Children and Youth

This month our Wonder Play and Spirit Play students are reflecting on Love. The children in Wonder Play have been listening to the story, City Dog, Country Frog by Mo Willems and Jon Muth. This story is about the love shared between friends. In spring, when City Dog runs free in the country for the first time, he spots Country Frog sitting on a rock, waiting for a friend. "You'll do," Frog says, and together they play Country Frog games. In summer, they meet again and play City Dog games. Through the seasons, whenever City Dog visits the country he runs straight for Country Frog's rock. In winter, things change for City Dog and Country Frog. Come spring, friendship blooms again, a little different this time. In Spirit Play, the students listened anew to the classic story, I Love You Sun, I Love You Moon by Tomie DePaola and Karen Pandell and considered: *What is Love?* They will continue this exploration by hearing how people in different faiths define Love.

The youth recently had a visit by Abbot Dairin Zenji to their class to discuss the Buddhist faith. Evan had this to share:

I thought that he was very enlightened and understanding, and found his views on consciousness and thought interesting. He was particularly understanding about the other kids reluctance to participate in a service which mainly revolves around sitting and thinking. He was also very willing to answer questions about his faith, and was a very good speaker overall.

He was also quite good at answering questions in a clear way, even ones that were difficult or fairly existential.

I thought he was an excellent speaker, and I can't wait to visit his congregation!

Evan and the rest of the Youth Group will have a chance to visit his congregation Saturday, April 21st.

Our next Intergenerational Service will be our Flower Communion on Mother's Day, May 13th. Often children ask profound, life questions that seem beyond their years. They are still so open to the world and the mystery around us. At our intergenerational service, we will be considering how we can best support children when they ask these kinds of questions. In this spirit, UUCWI will be hosting a parent circle after church on May 27th. This will be a time for parents to ask questions, share joys and challenges, and consider what it means to raise our children in the Unitarian Universalist faith. We will also discuss our shared vision for our congregation's RE program. I hope that the parents in our congregation will plan to attend and welcome them to invite friends to also be a part of the conversation.

Vanessa Kohlhaas, DRE

WHIDBEY ISLAND PEACE GROUP

Whidbey Island Peace Group meets every Saturday at the Bayview Park and Ride from 10 to 11 am. We have extra peace signs.

Women in Black meet the first Friday of each month from 3 to 4 pm on the grass just above Bayview Park and Ride.

**Unitarian Universalist Congregation
of Whidbey Island
2011 - 2012 Board of Trustees**

Dave Cauffman, President
Terra Anderson, Vice President
Mark Brown, Treasurer
Sara Heath, Secretary
Janis Hummel, Trustee
Dallas Huth, Trustee
Ken Merrell, Trustee

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

Minister: Kit Ketcham 360-331-2163

Chaplain: Sally Elder 360-675-3314

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

Director of Religious Exploration:

Vanessa Kohlhaas uucwi.re@gmail.com

Newsletter Information:

News, announcements, events, and other items of
interest to members of the congregation should be
submitted in writing by the deadline to editor

Cary Sinnett scattolina2@hotmail.com

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

Look for us on Facebook ... search for UUCWI

Communications Committee:

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Mavis Cauffman, Congregational Administrator

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