



Island Passages

UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CONGREGATION OF WHIDBEY ISLAND
 20103 State Route 525 • P.O. Box 1076, Freeland, WA 98249 • 360-321-8656 • www.uucwi.org

May 2013

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 10am UU Men's Group 10am Quaker Mtg	2 8:30am WIN Burrito Team 6:30pm Book Group	3 4pm Recital Rehearsal	4 10am VAC 4pm Recital Rehearsal
5 10am UU Worship 4 pm Quaker Worship Service Reynolds Ordination in Eugene, OR	6 9:30 WIN /Kitchen 1 pm Chimes 7pm Rehearsal	7 6pm Meditation (Moss)	8 7:20 EvenSong	9 6:30 Intro to Meditation (Moss)	10	11 9am Leadership Council 1pm Ctte on Ministry 7pm B&B Chamber Music Recital
12 10am UU Worship 11:30am Board Mtg 4 pm Quaker Worship 11:30pm VAC Artists Reception	13 9:30 WIN /Kitchen 6:30pm PFLAG	14 7pm Chalice Singers @ Soskin	15 10am UU Men's Group 4pm MAGIC	16 6pm North End Group 7pm Rehearsal (Soskin)	17	18 9 am Work Party – hosted by RE 6pm Circle Dinner @ Romberg
19 10am UU Worship 11:30am Reynolds' Celebration/Potluck 4 pm Quaker Worship 5pm Quaker Business Meeting	20 Newsletter Deadline 9:30 WIN/Kitchen 1 pm Dennis' Office Hours 1pm Chimes 7pm Rehearsal (Soskin)	21 6pm Meditation (Moss) 7pm Chalice Singers @Soskin	22	23 6:30 Intro to Meditation (Moss)	24	25
26 8:45am Choir Rehearsal 10am UU Worship 11:30 CCC Mtg 4 pm Quaker Worship 7 pm Dances of Universal Peace	27 9:30 WIN /Kitchen 1 pm Dennis' Office Hours	28	29	30	31	

May Worship Services:

May 5: *The Journey Toward Freedom: Wanderings in Our Own Wilderness*

with Rabbi Ted Falcon

Rabbi Ted Falcon, one of the *Interfaith Amigos* along with Jamal Rahman and Don Mackenzie, is a writer and popular teacher of Jewish meditation and spirituality. He has founded synagogues in Los Angeles and Seattle and authored or co-authored several books. He was ordained at Hebrew Union College and later earned a PhD at the California School of Professional Psychology.

Worship Leader: Frank Allen

Special Music: Carlos Xavier

Wed., May 8 : *EvenSong*, 7:20 pm

At this month's evening service we will hear meditations from *Voices from the Margins*, an anthology of reflections inviting us to listen to stories of some who have been silenced in the past. *EvenSong* is a quiet candlelit service including readings, silent meditation, and songs accompanied by harp. All are welcome.

May 12 : *Working for Peace with Open Ears, Hearts, and Minds* with Tom Rawson

Tom Rawson is a folksinger, songwriter, storyteller, and peace activist from Seattle. When he grows up he wants to be Pete Seeger. Armed with long neck banjo and other weapons of mass delight, Tom leads group singing at camps, festivals, churches, community gatherings, and anyplace else folks want to gather and have a hootenanny. Tune up your vocal cords--you'll need 'em. Tie-dye optional.

Worship Leader: Ken Merrell

“Tom Rawson has a great talent for inspiring people to come together, and on this night, it was to sing along with nearly every song he played. With his disarming manner and generous heart, he fed us lyrics like he was cooking us supper. The result was a houseful of people united in song. I mean, since when do you go to a concert, and the focus is on the audience, not the ego of the performer?”

— S. Jaen Black, Orcas News and Review

May 19 : *Answering the Call*

with Rev. Dennis Reynolds

Life and perhaps something larger can call us to be our best selves. I felt a call to ministry and answered. What is “call” and how does it shape our journeys? What calls to you?

Worship Leaders: Effie Brown and Dave Cauffman Special Music: Fran Kenney

May 26 : *In Memoriam*

with Rev. Dennis Reynolds

Each year, on the Sunday before Memorial, we set aside time to remember those who we have loved who have died in the past year or whose absence moves us still. There will be opportunities for shared remembrances and appreciations of those no longer with us in body, but whose love still moves within us.

Worship Leader: Terra Anderson

Special Music: the UUCWI Chalice Singers

May Events:

Book Group News – Thursday, May 2, 6:30 pm

Join us for a discussion of Pomegranate Soup: A Novel by Marsha Mehran – the story of the three Aminpour sisters who escape the Iranian Revolution and make their way west to a small Irish village. Everyone is welcome.

May 5, 11:45 am: First Sunday Lunch Bunch

The monthly First Sunday After Church Lunch will once again be held at China City in Freeland, at 11:45, give or take. We order and eat family style and split the bill. Jelcy is away but has reserved the usual large round table, so this will be a "no host" meeting.

Work Party - Sat, May 18, 9 – 11 am

Our monthly gathering to maintain our building and grounds. Coffee, goodies and camaraderie provided! The Religious Exploration team is hosting this month.

Circle Dinner - Sat, May 18, 6:00 pm

Jelcy and Conrad Romberg will have returned from their trip! They'll host the May dinner at their home. Contact Jelcy to reserve a seat.

jelcy@jelcy.com

***A Musical B&B:
Bach, Brahms & British Composers***



Be sure your calendar includes *A Musical B & B: Bach, Brahms & British Composers*, with works by Bach, Brahms and five British composers, on Saturday May 11 at 7:30 pm.

This final concert of the UUCWI 2012-2013 Chamber Music Series features our own Nola Allen (piano), as well as Teo Benson (violin), Frances Kenney (oboe) and Kathryn Vinson (mezzosoprano) with commentary by Eileen Soskin.

The program will include Violin Sonata No. 2 in A major, Op. 100, by Johannes Gurney, Stanford, Head, Warlock, and Williams.

The Brahms violin sonata, written in Thun, Switzerland in 1886, is considered the most lyrical and most difficult of Brahms' three violin sonatas. Like the music of Bach and Brahms, the program of British songs is harmonically quite complex, but much more contemporary, and offers a wide range of drama and emotion.

The performers:

NOLA ALLEN, piano, graduated from the Oberlin Conservatory where she majored in organ and piano. A professional accompanist and chamber musician, she has toured with the Seattle Ladies Musical Club Young Artist Competition winners throughout Washington State. She is a Whidbey Island native

TEO BENSON, violin, is a member of the Tacoma Symphony and performs frequently in the Seattle area with an indie folk rock band. He directs the Halcyon School of Music in Seattle.

FRANCES KENNEY, oboe, earned her bachelor's degree at Xavier University. She performs with the Saratoga Orchestra and teaches music at the Whidbey Island Waldorf School.

KATHRYN VINSON, mezzosoprano, received her Bachelor of Arts in Music degree at the University of Washington. She has sung principal operatic roles in Germany and the United Arab Emirates and has been featured on several film soundtracks.

The performance will be at UUCWI. Tickets are \$20 adults/\$10 students and are available at Moonraker Books (Langley), Habitat for Humanity (Freeland), uucwiconcerts@yahoo.com, in the foyer following Sunday services and at the door the night of the performance.

Sunday, May 19th
A Joyful Ordination Celebration

Our minister, Dennis Reynolds, will officially become the Reverend Dennis Reynolds in an Ordination Ceremony at the Unitarian Universalist Church in Eugene, Oregon on May 5th

In our UU tradition, the congregation who has mentored and nourished a graduate from theological seminary has the honor of bestowing ordination, as our congregation did for Bill Graves a few years ago.

On Sunday morning, May 19th, our congregation and members of the wider community will gather to affirm and celebrate this very important milestone in Dennis' life and ministry. Our worship service will include a sermon highlighting the Call to Ministry, an Ordination Affirming Ceremony, and special music by Fran Kenney. Our celebration will continue with potluck lunch following the service. Dessert and beverages will be provided. Mark your calendar - don't miss this opportunity to share in this joyous occasion.

Dennis' Ministerial Musings: May Day Morn

Back when I was kid, on May Day morning my brother and sisters and I would rise a bit early in order to make special deliveries before heading off to school. A few days before we had made some simple construction paper baskets either in schools or at home and that morning we would pick a few pansies to go inside the paper baskets.

Dad always planted pansies in the flowerbed by the driveway. He reminded us that the more of them you picked the more blossoms these hardy little plants would produce. So, on May Day morn we would place a few fresh picked pansies in the baskets, then hang them on neighbors' front doors, ring the bell, and hurry off.

I now have little doubt that they knew it was the Reynolds' kids who left these little gifts. Back then I thought that it was a secret delivery that would fill them with surprise and delight and, hopefully, a bit of bewilderment at their good fortune. I am sure I smiled with delight at the whole notion.

Simple gifts given without expectation are still a special joy. Holding the door open for fellow passenger on the ferry, letting someone else go first at a stop light, giving an energy bar from my glove box stash to a homeless person, or checking in, with genuine interest, as to how another, be they stranger or friend, is doing. All these are special gifts we can give.

This May I am the recipient of a very special gift. On May 5, my home church in Eugene Oregon will ordain me as a Unitarian Universalist minister. UUCWI gave that same gift to former member Rev. Bill Graves, who now serves the UU congregation in Tacoma.

I completed my seminary education and was granted fellowship by the Unitarian Universalist Association last year and that was all affirmed in a ceremony at General Assembly. But this final affirmation of ministry that we call ordination can come only from a congregation. In our tradition neither central bureaucracy nor ecclesiastical commission has the authority to deem someone as "Reverend." That authority lies with individual congregations.

I am thrilled and a bit humbled by it all. It will be a new season in my still new career as I don, both literally and metaphorically, what a former supervisor called "the mantle of ministry." There will be a celebration of that Ordination here at UUCWI on May 19. That Sunday I will be preaching about "call," both my own calling to ministry and exploring what each of us may be called to be and do in the world.

We come together here as one community, yet each of us is called in our own unique way to bud and to bloom and to share our gifts.

Peace and Love,
Dennis

Terra's Tales

We just passed our 20th anniversary of the first official gathering of UU's on Whidbey Island. Reading Malcolm Ferrier's history, I understand that Gladys and Mitch Howard, Carrie Carpenter, Dean Enell and Mary Stewart, Linda Good and Christi Shaffer *may* have been in attendance that day. They were among the 38 charter members. Twenty years ago those people had a dream and the commitment to see their dream manifest.

What will be our legacy for the next 20 years? What do YOU dream of leaving for the next generation of liberal leaders on Whidbey Island? Here are just a few of mine:

- Our building is mortgage free and we have an ample capital reserve to support annexes as they are needed
- We have an education wing that houses a cooperative pre-school during the day
- We have so many new members and friends we have 2 services on Sunday mornings. One service is conventional, probably formatted like we have now; the other is totally unfamiliar to our current experience – perhaps full of the sounds of raucous music (rhythm & blues? reggae? gospel? Rap?), flashing lights and multi-media shows, and certainly the laughter of young families.
- Our adult education program is so robust and popular, people attend from all denominations and regions of the island. There is an inspiring and motivating class

every night of the week in our meeting house.

- We have visitors from other denominations every week, curious about who we are and why we have such a diverse appeal to the community.
- Our forest is healthy and productive; our new trees grow 5 feet across before they are 100 feet tall; islanders walk our grounds during the week to experience a healthy forest that is haven for both wildlife and beings of the human sort. The food growing under the canopy is abundant and we offer guided foraging in season for Whidbey Island inhabitants
- We have Sunday morning bus service that runs up and down the island, radically reducing our fossil fuel consumption. Most of our parking lot has been converted to a thriving food forest.

Of course you will have other dreams, and they may well be in total contrast to mine. Isn't that great news? Please think about your dreams. Share them with one another. What are we creating and how will we know if/when we achieve it? Twenty years from now, what will the congregation be saying about *our* legacy?

Terra Anderson, President of the Board

From the Treasurer:

Thank you to all of you who came to the pledge kick-off dinner Sat. April 13th. The pledges turned in that evening averaged a 9% increase -- nearly the 10% Terra encouraged. They represent nearly half of our pledging units. We are assuming/hoping the remaining pledges will be similarly generous.

At the Finance Committee meeting soon after, we worked on a budget to present to the Board on May 12 (which will, if approved, go to the congregation at the annual meeting in June.) Our suggestions include small raises for the staff, establishing a **Capital Reserve fund** for building maintenance, maintaining but significantly reducing the CRE budget to give the **Religious Exploration** committee time to review and make recommendations about how best to educate and serve our young families and indeed to look at

education for the whole congregation, and reducing the amount needed to be raised by special events to balance the budget (hopefully we can continue to enjoy these events for the fun and community building aspect and not feel quite so obligated to "dig deeper.")

At this time, with just over two months to go in this fiscal year, we appear to be in good shape keeping to this year's budget. Our bills are paid and there is a little money in the bank. As I have said before, this is largely due to the fantastic job done this past year by the fund raising committee. Hopefully next year they won't have to work quite as hard.

If you have any budget questions, call Tom or me. We can meet one on one or have a workshop after church on a Sunday morning. We would love to discuss the budget details so you can feel well informed and we can hear your ideas and suggestions.

Mark Brown, Treas.

Dedicated Offerings Serve Our Community

For years, one way that UUCWI has made service our practice is to hold special Sunday service offerings dedicated to a specific charity, in some cases an emergency event like Hurricane Sandy. The Social Responsibility Council has an application process through which we create relationships with non-profit agencies serving Whidbey Islanders' needs. Once the application is completed and approved, dedicated offerings are scheduled monthly.

What have we contributed lately? We have given slightly under \$4000 in the last five months to:

American Red Cross (Hurricane Sandy)
Habitat for Humanity
Whidbey Island Nourishes
WAIF
and Ryan's House.

In April we supported the Coupeville Hearts & Hammers effort, and in May we will help the Veteran's Resource Center and their August 3 **Stand Down** for Whidbey Island homeless veterans and their families.

Thanks to all for your generosity!

~ Jean McIntosh and Libby Roberts

UUCWI Men's Group

A reminder that the UU Men's Group meets 1st and 3rd Wednesday mornings from 10 to noon at the church. The group is open to all men who want to spend a little time with other men. We talk about anything of interest, and share a cup of coffee or tea. Join us if this sounds interesting.

~ Mark Brown – 331-7399

CCC news and Potluck

Our last meeting of the church year will be a potluck picnic on our beautiful grounds at 11:30. Join us on May 26th for a wrap-up of our caring connections and a projection of our next church year. Please let Judy know what you'd like to bring. Come to celebrate with us or to check out what this committee does to build a caring community.

~ Judy Kaplan

On the Spirituality of Children

Join us for an open conversation, facilitated by Dr. Sharon Daloz Parks, on the The Spirituality of Children during the first decade of life, (with a future session on adolescent development.) The session is sponsored by the Whidbey Quakers and will be held Saturday June 8 from 9:30 am to 12:30 pm at UUCWI. Childcare available.

Math Camp at UUCWI

Math Camp at UUCWI. Fun and engaging. Afternoons, June 24-28 at UUCWI. Ages 11-15. Free for students enrolled in RE in UUCWI 2012-2013 academic year. Led by Gene Berg, a 35-year career mathematician for the Department of Defense. Consider this challenge: Behind my home I have a barn with cows and chickens in it. There are 10 heads and 24 feet. How many chickens live in my barn? For more camp details email uucwiMathCamp@gmail.com or call Gene 443-928-2689.

UUCWI is a Scent Free Zone

Please remember, and remind visiting friends too, that UUCWI is a scent free zone. This is an important part of assuring that our sanctuary is fully accessible to those with significant chemical sensitivities. This means that all are requested to avoid wearing cologne perfume aftershave etc. to services and programs at the church.

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.

Pledge Dinner Photos (by Charlie Knutila)



Tom Buxton and Suzanne Reynolds



John Long tuning his tambourine, assisted by Toyon Copeland



Ken Merrell: "We Need Cash!"

**Unitarian Universalist Congregation
of Whidbey Island**

2012 - 2013 Board of Trustees

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Sara Heath, Vice President
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Jean McIntosh, Trustee
Ken Merrell, Trustee

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

Minister: Dennis Reynolds 541-517-7325
minister@uucwi.org

Chaplain: Sally Elder 360-675-3314
chaplain@uucwi.org

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 re_dir@uucwi.org

Administrator:

Mavis Cauffman admin@uucwi.org

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CONGREGATION OF WHIDBEY ISLAND**

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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 newsletter@uucwi.org
Items submitted after press time will appear in the
following month's newsletter if appropriate.

Look for us on Facebook ... search for UUCWI

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