



# 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

## February 2014

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						<b>1</b> 10am VAC 1 pm Concert Rehearsal
<b>2</b> <b>10am UU Worship</b> 11:30 Board Mtg 4 pm Quaker Worship 6 pm Concert Rehearsal	<b>3</b> 8:45 WIN 4 pm Meditation (Moss) 7 pm Concert Rehearsal	<b>4</b> 1 pm Dennis' Office Hours 1 pm Waldorf Trip (Foyer) 7 pm Choir Rehearsal	<b>5</b> 10 am UU Men's Group 7 pm Concert Rehearsal	<b>6</b> 10 am Quaker Gathering 6:30 pm Book Group 7 pm Concert Rehearsal	<b>7</b> 9 am Ctte on Ministry 6 pm Family Game Night	<b>8</b> 9 am Leadership Council 1 pm Concert Rehearsal 1 pm North End Coffee
<b>9</b> <b>10am UU Worship</b> 11:30 Music Ctte 1 pm Island Strings Concert 4 pm Quaker Worship 6 pm Concert Rehearsal	<b>10</b> 8:45 WIN 6:30 pm PFLAG 7 pm Concert Rehearsal	<b>11</b> 10 am Women's Grp 1 pm Dennis' Office Hours 2 pm SRC strg Ctte-WiFire	<b>12</b> 10 am Membership Ctte  <b>7:20 EvenSong</b>	<b>13</b> 5 pm Concert Set Up 7:30 pm Concert Fred and Ginger	<b>14</b> 9 am Worship Ctte 5 pm Concert Set Up 7:30 pm Concert Fred and Ginger	<b>15</b> 9 am Work Party (SRC) 5 pm Concert Set Up 7:30 pm Concert – Fred and Ginger 7 pm Circle Dinner
<b>16</b> <b>10am UU Worship</b> 4 pm Quaker Worship 5 pm Quaker Business Mtg.	<b>17</b> 8:45 WIN 4 pm Meditation	<b>18</b> 1 pm Dennis' Office Hours 7 pm Choir Rehearsal	<b>19</b> 10 am UU Men's Group 4 pm MAGIC	<b>20</b> 2 pm Bible for Skeptics 6 pm North End Study Grp 7 pm Bible for Skeptics <b>Newsletter Deadline</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b> 1 pm South End Koffee Klatch
<b>23</b> <b>10am UU Worship</b> 4 pm Quaker Worship 6 pm North End Dine Out 7 pm Dances of Universal Peace	<b>24</b> 8:45 WIN	<b>25</b> 10 am Women's Grp 1 pm Dennis' Office Hours	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b> 2 pm Bible for Skeptics 7 pm Bible for Skeptics	<b>28</b> 6:30 pm SRC Movie – <i>Green Fire: Aldo Leopold and a Land Ethic for Our Time</i>	

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 And always check the most current version of our calendar online at [www.uucwi.org](http://www.uucwi.org)

## ***Worship Services***

### ***February 2: "Faith, Hope, and Champions"***

#### ***With Jessie Dye***

Jessie Dye is Program & Outreach Director of Earth Ministry. She works with congregations such as ours on their "Greening Congregations" program. The Greening Congregations of Whidbey Island currently consist of UUCWI, St Augustine's Episcopal, Langley Methodist and St Hubert's Catholic churches. Jessie will talk about the Greening Congregations program and will meet with representatives from the other churches after our service. For more info:

**[www.earthministry.org](http://www.earthministry.org)**

Jessie has been with Earth Ministry since 2007. She has a law degree and a long career as a mediator and manager, including work with the Seattle Human Rights Department, Washington Arbitration and Mediation Services, and Catholic Community Services. She has a long-standing passion for environmental protection and social justice. Jessie has two children and is the home-stay mother of several young adult internationals working locally in environmental restoration. She spoke at UUCWI two years ago, and many have indicated a desire to have her speak with us again.

Worship leader: Mark Brown

### ***February 9:***

#### ***"Out of Africa: Reflections on a Journey"***

##### ***With Rev. Dennis Reynolds***

Travel takes us across the world and perhaps within the depths of our being. Reverend Reynolds began the New Year on a unique journey to South Africa. Join him in reflecting on how such a journey can enlighten us and offer lessons on living.

Worship Leader: Glo Sherman

Guest Musicians: Sarungano

### ***Wednesday, February 12, 7:20 pm***

#### ***EvenSong***

Mary Oliver said: "You can have the other words - chance, luck, coincidence, serendipity. I'll take grace. I don't know what it is exactly, but I'll take it." This month EvenSong will consider the gift of Grace. All are welcome at this candlelit service of readings, silent meditation and songs accompanied by harp. EvenSong is the second Wednesday evening of each month.

### ***February 16: "The Greatest Honor – To Give" with Angela Lindstrom***

First Nation's educator Angela Lindstrom will join us to speak about the deep tradition of giving within the Potlatch tradition. Angela is a member of the Cherokee and Ojibwa nations. She holds a master's degree in Waldorf education, has been a Waldorf instructor for 9 years and an adult educator for most of her adult life. Each year she leads potlatch ceremonies for 4<sup>th</sup> graders at the Whidbey Island Waldorf School. Our service will include drumming from last year's potlatch participants along with traditional song, story and blessings. This is an intergenerational service with topics appropriate for all ages. We have also invited this year's potlatch students to attend. Worship Leader: Nydia Blood

### ***February 23:***

#### ***"Science Fiction and Theological Imagination" With Rev. Dennis Reynolds***

Sometimes story can offer the deepest insights in questions of ultimate importance. Theological concepts have long been expressed in the metaphorical teaching tales from the sacred literature of the world's religions. The literary genre of Science Fiction often explores just such topics. Let's explore what we might learn from such texts.

Worship Leader: Gladys Howard

Guest Musician: Blaine England

## ***February Events***

### ***February 6 - Book Group, 6:30pm at UUCWI***

#### ***Testimony by Anita Shreve***

This book is about a sex scandal at a New England boarding school. More shocking than the sexual acts themselves is the fact that they were caught on video. Unleashing a Pandora's box of revelations, this video triggers a chorus of voices that details the ways in which lives can be derailed or destroyed in one foolish moment.

Shreve writes at an intense pace, delivering a gripping emotional drama with the impact of a thriller. She compellingly explores the dark impulses that sway the lives of seeming innocents, the needs and fears that drive people into intolerable dilemmas, and the ways in which our best intentions can lead to our worst transgressions. ~ Joan Gerteis



**February 7 – 6 pm at UUCWI  
First Friday Family Game Night**

Bring your Family, your Friends, your Games, Eat Pizza and have Fun! Scheduled every month and open to the whole community. Side-dishes and desserts welcome, but not necessary.

\$10 suggested donation per family

RSVP with your pizza preference to Ginger

White, RE Coordinator at [re\\_dir@uucwi.org](mailto:re_dir@uucwi.org)

This is a fun, fun night for people of all ages!

Spread the word, bring a friend and come join in!

**February 15 - Circle Dinner**

This month's Circle Dinner will be held at Linda Good's house. Please contact her directly for details!

**February 15 – Work Party – 9 – 11 am**

Hosted by the SRC this month, this is our time to spruce up the building and grounds. All energy levels are welcome.

**Dennis' Musings**

February is, for the most part, the least exciting month of the year. While it is true that this year many will be far more thrilled than usual on Ground Hog Day as the Seahawks play in the Super Bowl on February 2, the weeks that follow will be far less exciting.

Except for mid-month, when Valentine's Day seeks to touch our hearts and tap into our wallets for chocolate, flowers, fancy dinners and other tokens of affection, most of the month is not a thrilling time of the year.

Here in our part of the world it is often gray and cold and foggy and damp. Other than planting a

few bare root fruit trees it's too early to begin work in the garden. It is often too muddy to do much else. Some can schedule this as a time to escape to warmer locales or to flee to higher elevations to ski and get up above the clouds.

For some of us, February can be kind of boring. But you know - maybe that is not such a bad thing.

During my recent travels, I spent too many hours flying, too many hours in security lines, and too many hours in airports between flight. On one of those flights I found an article in the KLM airline magazine that explored the "Benefits of Boredom."

Therein a Dutch social psychologist, Wijnand van Tilburg, observed that "common momentary experiences of boredom may help people to reconsider what they find really important. Boredom helps people to abandon seemingly unimportant activities. It serves as an emotional signal that reminds us that we have more meaningful things to attend to."

The article cited recent research that suggests that being bored plays a vital role in triggering creativity and even regenerating our brains. It has to do with a neural circuit called the *default network* that switches on when we are bored. When we daydream and do nothing our brains are busy linking frontal and rear areas of the cortex. It seems that the brain is generating connections between ideas that are seemingly unrelated. The result is that new creative notions and unique perspectives can emerge.

The article's authors contend that "freed from the need to respond to the outside world, the mind explores itself." Boredom can be fertile ground for creativity.

So perhaps rather than choosing to check our email multiple times each day, turn on the TV, plug into FaceBook or find something interesting on TV when it gets dull, we might want to spend some time during this gray month just being bored.

With the over-activity I have experienced in recent months the idea is certainly appealing. May all of us take time to just be bored.

~ Dennis

## *Terra's Tales*

I've just had the experience, and honor, to midwife my mother through the transition to whatever follows our living. We call it death, but how little any of us really knows about what that means. What did we experience before we were born? Were we dead then?

What I'm hearing deep in my bones with this death so recent – our death watch began Christmas morning and only just finished on New Year's Day - is a true experience of that old adage "don't sweat the small stuff." Those words finally became personal. For the first time I no longer cared about what I was going to cook for dinner, how well I was dressed, whether I replied to an e-mail in a timely manner. The only thing that mattered was sitting with her, holding her hand, telling her she was loved and that it was absolutely okay for her to let go and bid this life, and all her pain, farewell. What mattered was the quality of her passing. *Everything* else in my life became trivial. How curious that I have heard that from sages and elders all my life. But it took my mother's passing for me to really understand. I am honored to have stewarded my mom with grace and all the compassion I could muster. And I am saddened beyond words that she is gone. My memories of her are mixed. She taught me. She frustrated me. She delighted me. And always... she loved me the best she knew how.

So what am I learning about UUCWI through this process? Somehow our congregational kerfluffles seem more silly than before. I'm not so bothered that someone is upset with what just happened, nor worried that a milestone isn't going to be met. The only thing that matters to me, at this moment, is that we care about one another, that we give each other complete "benefit of doubt," that we **always** assume best intentions and immediately forgive trespasses – that we are in loving relationship with each other. Ultimately, how we treat one another may be **all** that matters. I'm experiencing all the rest as just noise in the system. I wonder, of course, whether my current perspectives will endure ... or will I begin to be plagued by all those concerns that I now see as truly "small stuff"? It's going to be interesting to watch myself.

~ Terra Anderson, President of the Board

## ***SRC: In the Know***

Our congregation answered the SRC "what's your social justice passion" survey in December with clear guidance. *Support local charities while introducing 2-3 national and international charities for us to better understand.* With this month's column, we spotlight our first local charity, The Whidbey Veterans Resource Center (WVRC). Gene Berg is our *Point of Contact* for those who want to know more about, and hopefully volunteer with, WVRC. Here's what he wants us to know!

### ***The Whidbey Veterans Resource Center (WVRC)***

I am a member of UUCWI and a member of the WVRC. I served as an artillery officer in Vietnam from 1970 to 1971. Although I have had great good luck throughout my life, when I began attending the meetings at the WVRC, I learned I was still dealing internally with issues from my Vietnam service and I found a meaningful way to help myself and others. The WVRC is a community-based organization which seeks to connect, educate and serve veterans and their families living on Whidbey Island.

In addition to the weekly discussion groups, WVRC offers open office hours with representatives of several veterans service offices, free swimming and showers (for disabled veterans) at the community pool in Oak Harbor, an annual Stand Down, support to veterans needing transportation to VA medical care and many other support services.

On August 2, 2014, Stand Down will bring together twenty veteran support agencies, all under one roof, so Whidbey veterans and their families will have easy access to the professionals who can best serve them. This is a day of free food, entertainment, and easy access to the professionals, all in a safe and welcoming environment. For homeless veterans and veteran's families on the edge of economic or other difficulty, new clothes, sleeping bags, back-to-school supplies and clothes, food for the home pantry, and professional counseling on everything from employment and VA home loans to PTSD is available.

At the 2013 Stand Down, volunteers from UUCWI (including Mark Brown, Toyon Copeland, Judy Kaplan and Jean McIntosh)

handled welcome tables, registration, the family area and food service. Sandy Welch provided graphic design services; Ken Merrell and Alex Bonesteel's *Cranberry Bog Bluegrass Band* donated hours of entertainment. Over sixty veterans were served. If you can volunteer time or expertise for our next Stand Down or other WVRC activities, please contact Gene Berg, gaberg678@gmail.com. Or come visit us at our open house on February 15 at the American Legion near Bayview. ~ Gene Berg

### ***The Congregation that Congregates***

Over my time here, I have enjoyed getting together with small to mid-sized groups of UUCWI folks for lunches at China City and at dinners and Coffee Klatches on the north end as well as some newcomer dinners and circle suppers. These informal groups are good examples of the many ways in which the members and friends of the UUCWI community can do the pleasurable work of congregating.

I noted from Newsletters I looked at before I arrived that there had in the past been more gathering down on the south end including some midweek lunches and Saturday Coffee Klatches. I noticed that those had not been happening of late.

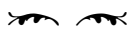
I asked, "Who had organized those?"

To my surprise the answer was "Kit" (the former minister).

"Oh", replied this still relatively new guy in town.

So, beginning on Saturday February 22 at 1 pm, I am announcing "The Return of the South End Coffee Klatch". Please join me at WiFire in Freeland for a snack, some coffee or tea, and conversation.

I am hoping some will then join me and head over to the church for the 3:00 pm showing of the Social Responsibility Council's latest film offering so we can have even more time to think and do and be together. ~ Dennis



*"The central task of the religious community is to unveil the bonds that bind each to all. There is a connectedness, a relationship discovered amid the particulars of our own lives and the lives of others. Once felt, it inspires us to act for justice."*

~ Rev. Mark Morrison-Reed

### ***Announcing Adult Programs for the Spring!***

*The Bible for Skeptics: The New Testament* - starting February 20<sup>th</sup> - afternoons 2:00-3:30 or evenings from 7:00 -8:30 -for 8 weeks.  
Contact: Mark Brown cmbrown@whidbey.com

*White Privilege: The Other Side of Racism* - starting March 3<sup>rd</sup> - for 4 weeks  
Contact: Charlie Knutilla cknutilla@whidbey.com

*The Poetry of Billy Collins* - starting March 18<sup>th</sup> - for 8 weeks. Tuesdays and Wednesdays.  
Contact: Rev Dennis minister@uucwi.org

*The Power of Vulnerability* - starting April 16<sup>th</sup> - for 6 weeks. (This class will be in Coupeville.)  
Contact: Ruth Richards rgrichards@fairpoint.net

Look for more details in the weekly e-news.

*The Bible for Skeptics: The New Testament*  
Last fall we looked at the Old Testament or Jewish Scriptures. Now, as we approach Easter, we will study the New Testament or Christian Scriptures. We will look at questions such as: Did Jesus really exist? What can we know of the man called Jesus? Who was Paul and why is he so influential? What is Revelation and why is it included in the Bible?

You are welcome even if you did not attend the fall class. The text will again be *Understanding the Bible: An Introduction for Skeptics, Seekers, and Religious Liberals* by John Buehrens.

If you need a book, contact Mark. Class will be led by Mark Brown and Dennis Reynolds, with assistance from Nydia Blood.

### ***SRC Movie: Friday, Feb 28, 6:30 at UUCWI***

**"Green Fire: Aldo Leopold and a Land Ethic for Our Time"** This award-winning film depicts the life, work and influence of Aldo Leopold. Poll anyone familiar with conservation stewardship about the most important figures shaping our understanding of the subject and the name Aldo Leopold is there beside that of Rachel Carson and John Muir. A co-production of the Aldo Leopold Foundation, the US Forest Service, and the Center for Humans and Nature, the film shares highlights from Leopold's life and extraordinary career, explaining how he shaped conservation in the twentieth century and still inspires people today.

UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CONGREGATION OF WHIDBEY ISLAND  
*2013-2014 Chamber Music Series*

*Presents*  
**FRED & GINGER —**  
**NO DANCING!**

**starring**

**Les Asplund**  
**Kirstie Bingham**  
**Gretchen d'Armand**  
**Rich Doyle**  
**Melanie Lowey**  
**Ken Stephens**  
**Sandy Welch**

Music by George Gershwin,  
Richard Rodgers, Irving Berlin,  
Jerome Kern and more

Written & Directed by **Ken Merrell**

Musical Direction by **Eileen Soskin**

**Thursday, Friday, & Saturday**  
**February 13, 14, 15, 2014 - 7:30pm**



**UUCWI - 20103 Highway 525, Freeland, WA**

Advance tickets by email reservation: [concerts@uucwi.org](mailto:concerts@uucwi.org)

Tickets on sale at Moonraker Bookstore (Langley), Habitat for Humanity (Freeland) and Lavender Wind (Coupeville). Tickets also be available at the door unless we are sold out.

\$15/\$5 for students

**Unitarian Universalist Congregation  
of Whidbey Island**

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Sara Heath, Vice President  
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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.

**Administrator:**  
Mavis Cauffman admin@uucwi.org

**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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