



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

July 2014

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 1 pm Dennis' Office Hours	2 10am UU Men's Group	3		5 10am VAC Mtg and Installation
6 10am UU Worship 4pm Quaker Worship	7 8:45 WIN 4pm Meditation (Moss)	8 10am Membership Ctte 10 am Women's Grp 1 pm Dennis' Office Hours 3pm SRC Strg Ctte-WiFire	9 7pm Worship Ctte	10 3:30pm Pastoral Assoc. Mtg 7pm Habitat Mtg	11	12 10am Habitat Mtg 1pm North End Coffee
13 10am UU Worship 4 pm Quaker Worship	14 8:45 WIN 6:30 pm PFLAG	15	16 10am UU Men's Group 4 pm MAGIC	17 6pm North End Grp	18	19 9am Work Party
20 10am UU Worship 4 pm Quaker Worship 6pm Quaker Business Mtg Newsletter Deadline – send to newsletter@uucwi.org	21 8:45 WIN 4pm Meditation (Moss)	22 10 am Women's Grp	23	24	25	26
27 10am UU Worship 4 pm Quaker Worship 6pm North End Dine Out 7pm Dances of Universal Peace	28 8:45 WIN	29 1 pm Dennis' Office Hours	30	31		

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 And always check the most current version of our calendar online at www.uucwi.org

July Worship Services
(Sundays at 10 am unless otherwise noted)

July 6 : “Cowboy Culture: From Black and White to Technicolor” with Rev. D. Reynolds

In the middle of the 20th century televisions began to appear in every American home. Soon heroic figures on white horses rode into our living rooms to fight against evil. Children's play and their world view was shaped by the medium and its message. How are we now shaped by contemporary media and by the internal video tapes from our childhood? How might we change the channel?

Worship Leader: Dave Cauffman
Special Music: Ken Merrell

July 13: “Cinema” with Ken Merrell

This summer we contemplate our connection to popular culture. Join Ken as he explores the art of the cinema. They say a picture is worth a thousand words. How about a moving picture with dialogue, music, performance, composition, lighting, and audio/visual effects? Film captures us as individuals and as a culture in all our stark beauty and ugliness, weakness and power, exaltation and debasement, comedy and tragedy. Film is a record of who we are.

July 20 : “How Broadway Musicals Influenced Our Lives” with Eileen Soskin

What did the songs and stories of Broadway musicals teach me (and you) about how to live and about the meaning of life? What did they teach me (and you) about American women, romantic love and marriage? An exploration of the positive and negative messages we heard, sang and took to heart.

Worship Leader: Toyon Copeland

July 27: “Job” with Evan Welch

The Book of Job occupies a unique place in the Hebrew bible. This strange, subversive book explores why bad things happen to good people and how we should react. Evan will explore his own journey through this book, from a humanistic perspective, and how he thinks it informs the way we live.

Worship Leader: Sandy Welch

Summer Worship Series:
“Inspiration from Popular Culture”

Each summer the worship committee and Rev. Dennis invite members of our congregation to craft services that offer a fresh look at one or more of our UU principles. The intention of this series, “Inspiration from Popular Culture,” is to reflect on the ways various media characters and contemporary art forms explore and express our continuing search for meaning in our individual and community lives. This intention is congruent with our UU principles to “affirm the inherent worth and dignity of every person and to promote a free and responsible search for truth and meaning”. Our July services include a wonderful bonus from our own Evan Welch in which he will explore some life lessons we may learn from the Biblical story of Job. Please join us for this series of services that we hope you will find are both fun and, dare I say, inspiring?

~ Effie Brown, Worship Committee Chair

Dennis' July Musings on History, Story, and Metaphor

This past week, I went into Seattle with Mark Brown and Sally Elder to listen to addresses by Marcus Borg, John Dominic Crossan, and Joan Chittister. These three have been leading voices in the Jesus Seminars, an important and influential effort to know more about the historical teacher Jesus and earlier Hebrew writers who shaped the Christian religion that has so profoundly shaped our culture.

In his Seattle lecture, Crossan spoke of how the Exodus story in the Hebrew Bible offers a strong metaphorical framework that may help us in understanding the individual journey each of us travels. We each have our own Exodus story of how we seek to move out of situations which limit our potential towards a place and circumstances with greater autonomy and possibilities for growth.

In that ancient story, people make such a journey as a community. To get to the promised land we need help and support from fellow travelers.

Chittister reflected further on such a journey. She spoke about the story of what happened when the fleeing Jews came to the shores of the Red Sea. As you may recall, the seas miraculously parted

thus allowing the people to cross. The waters then rushed back into to destroy the Egyptian army that pursued them.

She shared a story she said “is told by the Rabbis” of how when Moses struck the shore with his staff nothing happened . Then he struck the waters with his staff and again nothing happened. When one single faithful Jew stepped into the sea, the waters began to recede and the people were able to cross over to the other side and to safety. When one person took action and others followed, change began to occur.

I like that story and I think it has relevancy for those of us who are seeking a better way of being in the world and hoping to be part of a better more enlightened future for all.

Sometimes change only takes place when we wade right in.

When we commit to both lifestyle changes and advocacy on environmental issues, we begin to reduce the warming of the planet that will cause all the seas to rise. When we shop fair trade and support fair wages for workers across the globe and in restaurant kitchens close to home, we open up possibilities for people. When we advocate for responsible gun ownership and soften the violence of our own harsh words and or simply too many words, we move towards true peace.

So, I hope to spend time with soggy sneakers when I follow those, in this community and beyond who are ready to wade right in.

~ Rev. Dennis

Minister on Vacation

Dennis' agreement with us offers the opportunity for him to take 4 weeks of vacation each year. He will take half of that time in July. He will only be in the pulpit one Sunday (July 6) and will not hold office hours July 15 and 22. He will be off the island for much of that time including a week with Suzanne and many friends at Eliot, their beloved UU camp held at Seabeck on the Hood Canal.

Heartfelt Thanks to all Refreshment Volunteers!!

Since January of this year 45 of our UUCWI members and friends volunteered to provide delicious refreshments following our Sunday services. Our Membership Committee extends a very special thank-you for their willingness to help make our time together after the church service more enjoyable. It's a wonderful opportunity to make better connections with visitors, friends and members in our church community over a cup of coffee or tea and a yummy treat. The following friends or members contributed:

John & Camille Long
Heléne Chandler & Ron Roesler
Mary Goolsby
Judy Kaplan & Michelle Schmidtke
Terra Anderson & Tom Buxton
Pat & Janis Collins
Eric & Jennie Brooks
Eileen Soskin & Gene Berg
Marcia & Peter Sills
Barb Hutton & Wendy Ferrier
Rick Weiss
Lois Chowen & Sarah Heath
Eileen Walker and Bev Durocher
Corinne Ludy & Norma Clark
Sandy Welch & Ken Merrell
Frances Wood & Bill Graves
Clara Beier
Frank & Nola Allen
May-Britt & John Kron
Audrey Ricketts & Gladys Howard
Gaye & Mark Simpson
Janella Riegel & John Moreland
Claire Moore & Marsha Morgan
Shannon Arndt & RE

Special appreciation goes to John Long for his unwavering effort and encouragement to rally us to sign up to do refreshments for the worthy cause of creating closer connections with each other.

~ The Membership Committee

“We are not human because we think. We are human because we care. All true meaning is shared meaning.”

Forrest Church, former minister at
All Souls Unitarian Universalist Church, New York City

SRC...In the Know!

Opportunity opens for each of us to vote in November to reduce gun violence in our state. I-594, Washington Universal Background Checks for Gun Purchases, would expand required background checks for gun sales and transfers.

We wrote about this important issue in the June Newsletter, and we ask your consideration of, and involvement in, the next steps to support this Initiative. After significant engagement with the congregation about the initiative over the summer (see below), the SRC will ask that UUCWI endorse I-594. A congregational endorsement on reducing gun violence aligns with actions taken by the UUA in 1972, 1976, and 1991 and reiterated in January 2013 after Sandy Hook through an open letter to Congress, "Faiths United to Prevent Gun Violence." Locally, our support is requested by Faith Action Network, which helped craft the initiative, and by Washington UU Voices for Justice.

With any social justice issue, principled opinions fall along a continuum and have the power to spur learning and engagement ... or to foment dissension. The SRC's goal is the former by providing multiple avenues for engagement and communication about I-594 in July and August. The outcome we seek is endorsement of I-594 by the end of August, adding our "voice" to growing advocacy for passing I-594 in November.

Here's what you can expect:

- newsletter articles informing members about the issue and the process;
- links to detailed information on the SRC Nexus portal on the UUCWI website homepage;
- an information forum on July 20 with a presenter who is a victim of gun violence and who supports I-594;
- "express your opinion" opportunities at an information table in the foyer after the July 13 and August 3 services;
- a "speak with" invitation for individual conversations and communication (in-person, email, etc.) with SRC members at any point along the way.

The SRC will record and tally all comments before submitting them to the Board for consideration in late August.

Please engage in the process and become informed, aligning your decision regarding this issue with your principles and values.

Thank you, Jean McIntosh for SRC

July Dedicated Offering: South Whidbey Tilth

Our dedicated offering for July is South Whidbey Tilth. This organization works to promote environmentally sound and sustainable agriculture to our island community. They provide education and workshops, a farmer's market with healthy products on Sundays and even have local musicians for entertainment. They run on dedicated volunteer energy. On July 20th, please give generously!

Book Group Selections for the Coming Year

MONTH	TITLE	AUTHOR
2014 SEP	<i>Flight Behavior</i>	Kingsolver
OCT	<i>I Am Malala</i>	Yousafzai
NOV	Selections from our favorite poetry	---
DEC	Pot luck & book exchange	---
2015 JAN	Any book by this author	Angelou
FEB	<i>The Unlikely Pilgrimage of Harold Fry</i>	Joyce
MAR	<i>Don't Let's Go to the Dogs Tonight</i>	Fuller
APR	<i>End of Your Life Book Club</i>	Schwalbe
MAY	<i>Mountains Beyond Mountains</i>	Kidder
JUN	<i>Team of Rivals</i>	Goodwin

The book discussion group meets the first Thursday evening of every month from 7pm to about 8:30pm at UUCWI. Please consider joining us.

~ Mary Goolsby on behalf of the UUCWI Book Discussion Group

Pastoral Associates Are Listening and Learning

The Pastoral Associates are meeting regularly through the summer to explore how we can be available to those in the congregation who are facing difficult times. Each month one of the group will serve as the monthly “Coordinator” who will, through attention to Joys and Sorrows and updates shared with them, collect information about what is going on in the lives of the members and friends of UUCWI. The Coordinator for July is Lisa Siders Kenney. Gaea Van Breda will fill that role in August. At their next meeting, the Associates will craft their Mission Statement to help them and the Congregation know more fully what they do and do not intend to offer to the community.

Mark your calendar!

UUCWI 3rd Annual Women’s Retreat - Aug 19-20

At the request of many who attended previous UUCWI Women’s Retreats, another one has now been scheduled. It will be held in the same location as past years – the lovely secluded group campsite on the bluff at Fort Ebey State Park, a few miles north of Coupeville.

The ‘program’ this year will be similar to the past – time for enjoying this fabulous State Park in the afternoon beginning at 2:30pm, a pot-luck dinner starting between 5:30-6:00pm, singing and other fun around a campfire in the later evening. More details will be available in the August newsletter.

Camping overnight on a grassy site next to the shelter is enthusiastically encouraged by those who have done so! The mid-August nighttime temperature is normally in the low 60’s and the sky is full of stars (some ‘shooting’) and satellites. Or you can go home to sleep!

Don’t let the lack of a tent or sleeping bag deter you! A few of us have tents that sleep 4-6 people and you are invited to ‘bunk up’ with others. Just bring that comfy pad from your chaise lounge or borrow an air mattress, grab a couple of blankets, a pillow – and you’ll be just fine. Places for a limited number of RVs are also available. The cost for reserving this Group Campsite will be split among those participating. The site fee (\$75) has been paid in advance, but individuals

will be asked to remit their share when we have a total count of participants. Cost will vary depending on the number attending – not more than \$7.50 and likely less!

Questions? Just ask me, or someone else who attended last year. Send me an email letting me know that you plan to participate. Or tell me in person and I will add you to the list. I do need to know by SUNDAY JULY 13th however whether or not you’ll be coming so that if there are too few of you actually interested, I can cancel the reservation and get a refund. The event will be a go if there are at least 10 of us. Individual cost share will be determined on July 13th. Start thinking summer!

~ May-Britt Kron 360-678-6050
johnmayb@yahoo.com

Newsletter Editor Change!

Cary Sinnett has been our faithful newsletter editor since early in 2012 and she’s now moving on to other activities. **Thank you, Cary!** Terra Anderson has agreed to take up the reins. Please send newsletter items (by the 20th of the month) to:

newsletter@uucwi.org

It’s easy for us to forward these generic emails to the right party without your having to change your habits! Note that our minister can be reached at minister@uucwi.org, administrator at admin@uucwi.org, and our religious exploration director at re_dir@uucwi.org.

New Directory Coming in September

A new directory will be compiled for distribution in early September. —> ***If you are not a member and would like to be included, please inform our administrator*** (send your email, snail mail and phone). Members will be included by default unless you request otherwise. (Being a “member” means you’ve attended UU101, signed the membership book, and you have a current pledge card on file.) ***Also, please let us know if your contact information has changed!***

The directory will be distributed electronically as a pdf. Contact Corinne Ludy, Clara Beier or Rev. Dennis if you are interested in learning more about membership.

~ Mavis Cauffman, admin@uucwi.org

**Unitarian Universalist Congregation
of Whidbey Island**

2014 - 2015 Board of Trustees

John Long, President
Libby Roberts, Vice President
Charlie Knutilla, Treasurer
Gladys Howard, Secretary
Frank Allen, Trustee
Mary Goolsby, Trustee
Sarah Richards, 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.

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
Terra Anderson at newsletter@uucwi.org

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

Communications Committee:

Terra Anderson, Newsletter Editor
Mavis Cauffman, Congregational Administrator
Website Working Group: Charlie Knutilla, Chair
wwg_chair@uucwi.org

UUCWI's website: www.uucwi.org

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