



Island Passages *August 2014*

| Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
|--|--|--|--|----------------------------|--|--|
| Yesterday is History, Tomorrow is a Mystery and Today is a Gift: that's why we call it The Present. | | | | | 1 6pm First Friday Family Game Night | 2 10am VAC Mtg |
| 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 |
| 10am UU Worship 4pm Quaker Worship | 8:45 WIN 4pm Meditation 5:30pm TWOG | 1pm Dennis' Office Hours | 10am UU Men's Group | 8:45am WIN Burrito Team | | 1pm North End Coffee |
| 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 |
| 10am UU Worship 4pm Quaker Worship | 8:45 WIN 5:30pm TWOG 6:30 pm PFLAG | 10am Women's Group 10am Membership Ctte 1pm Dennis' Office Hours 3pm SRC strg ctte WiFire | 7pm Worship Ctte | 3:30pm Pastoral Assoc. Mtg | | 9am Work Party - please come and help care for our shared home |
| 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 |
| 10am UU Worship 4pm Quaker Worship 5pm Quaker Business Mtg | 8:45am WIN 4pm Meditation 5:30pm TWOG | 1pm Dennis' Office Hours 2:30pm Women's Retreat at Ft Ebey State Park through the 20th | Women's Retreat all day 10am UU Men's Group 4pm MAGIC Newsletter Deadline | 6pm North End Grp | | |
| 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 |
| 10am UU Worship 4 pm Quaker Worship | 8:45 WIN 5:30pm TWOG | 10am Women's Group 1 pm Dennis' Office Hours 6pm Choir Rehearsal | | | | |
| 31 | "Only put off until tomorrow what you are willing to die having left undone." Pablo Picasso | | | | | |
| 10am UU Worship 4pm Quaker Worship 6pm North End Dine Out 7pm Dances of Universal Peace | | | | | | |

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

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

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 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. We look forward to your presence and your shared learning as we worship - *create worth* - together.

August 3: Hip Hop Saves Lives:

Millenials and the Search for Meaning

Today's youth may not talk with the person sitting next to them, but through music, videos, and social media they are intimately and intricately connected on a scale never before seen. Come hear the youth of our community share their musical inspirations and discover how they are shaping our future.

Worship Leaders: Janella Riegel & Nydia

Blood

August 10: Releasing the Genie

with Rev. Dennis Reynolds

Many have looked at nuclear energy as a nearly magical way to transform the world. Even the first atomic bombs were seen as the means to quickly end a World War and in peace time, nuclear energy was seen as a safe source of unlimited energy. The horrific devastation of the bombs dropped on Hiroshima and Nagasaki and the continuing disaster that followed the tsunami at Fukushima in 2011 remind us that there are seldom simple solutions to major problems.

As we mourn those who died let us reflect on how we might seek for better ways to live.

Music by Chigua Kitai

Worship Leader: Suzanne Reynolds

August 17: Everyday Heroes and Heroines

Colorful superhero characters in the popular cultural art forms of TV, film, musical theater, poetry and thriller novels offer examples of ways we explore and express our ongoing search for meaning. Effie Brown and members of the congregation will share stories of the many everyday heroes and heroines who quietly step up in times of need to support one another and serve the greater good.

Music: Eileen Soskin

Worship Leader: Effie Brown

August 24 Pete Seeger: the man & his music with Rev. Dennis Reynolds

Pete Seeger was much more than a 'mere' musician. His exemplary life and his commitment to meet injustice with music and loving opposition can instruct and inspire us all. Join us in singing as we celebrate a man, his music, and his legacy.

Music: The Unnamed Trio – Dave Sweetwood, Suzanne Reynolds, Kent Vendervelde

Worship Leader: Suzanne Reynolds

August 31: Poetry as Spiritual Practice with Judith Adams

Where does the source of creation come from, and what is inspiration? How does the soul respond to the imagination of the universe and how does it move in our lives? Through the medium of poetry we will explore the art of relating to inspiration and the place we find ourselves through this process. What does it take to show empty handed trusting in the silence?

"... Suddenly all those brilliant thoughts you had, all those sharp insights and profound reflections disperse like a morning mist, leaving you naked and lost." -R.V. Adams

Judith Adams is a Whidbey Island Poet. Born in Suffolk, England, Judith has given many readings in collaboration with musicians. She has written and produced books and CDs and is currently working on a new book.

Worship leader and musician: Mavis Cauffman

STILL ALIVE

The point is I am still alive.

There are people I would like to know;

chairs I would like to push back in the boardroom so we can dance;

hit the road for a walkabout; hey, stop for coffee!

After all, who knows the real plot?

The point is you are still alive.

Judith Adams

Looking Ahead: mark your calendars!

The Annual Church Auction is right around the corner, November 1

Ken Merrell and Jelcy Romberg have done some preliminary work and now it's your turn. You've had fun at the auctions before... we think it will be even more fun this year.

If you are willing to spend a little time and be creative, *we need your help*. There are table designs to imagine and acquire, signage to create and post on the walls for Dutch Auction donations. We need help registering guests and settling accounts at the end of the evening. There is a bit of fun figuring out how/ where/ what to arrange for the silent auction. Perhaps you have some ideas about food? We need help coordinating set up, serving and clean up, which our volunteers last year told us was not a big headache

We are ready, willing and anxious to start receiving your donations. Ken hopes to have as many donations as possible submitted online this year – more details on *how* will soon be available. And of course we will be happy to take your donation sheets by e-mail, snail-mail or in person as needed.

Please contact Jelcy Romberg at jelcy@jelcy.com or 360.222.3355 for more information and to volunteer



*Save September 7th
for our annual
In-Gathering Luncheon,
following the
service. Enjoy our
community
potluck. More details
will be forthcoming.*



Our monthly work party to care for our building and grounds is scheduled for Saturday, August 16, from 9-11. Our kids help. Will you?

3rd Annual Women's Retreat

August 19-20 at Ft Ebey St Park.

The plan is to enjoy the park during the afternoon, share a potluck dinner at our beautiful bluff-side reserved site beginning about 5:30pm, then gather around a campfire to watch the gorgeous sunset and tell stories, sing, whatever seems to call us at that time! More than 15 people are already signed up, including some newcomers to UUCWI. Camping overnight is optional but encouraged. More precise details will be sent directly to everyone attending regarding meals, sleeping arrangements and ride sharing.

You don't want to miss this wonderful opportunity to build community with the wonderful women of UUCWI, so call May-Britt NOW! 360 678-6050 johnmayb@yahoo.com

Around and About UUCWI



Congratulations!

If you were not blessed to attend the June 29th service, you may not know that our own Mavis Cauffman was awarded Credentialed Music Leader status on May 14, 2014 by the

UUA Music Leadership Certification Committee.
Bravo, Mavis



And we **WELCOMED 7 new members:**
Marsha Morgan, Claire Moore, Larry Morrell, Ruth Richards, Janet Rivers, Travis Todd, & Teri Wright.

Dennis' August Musings: *Waiting for the Ferry*

Living here on Whidbey Island, one soon learns how to coordinate travel plans with ferry schedules. We not only need to pay attention to sailing time, but also when there will likely be delays. Recently I had weekend appointments on the Peninsula and the mainland and knew some delays were inevitable.

The first trip was easy as we went via Keystone/Port Townsend and made the necessary summer reservation. Other trips via Mukilteo/Clinton were not so efficient as we were not able to follow the usual Island advice of not trying to leave the island on the weekend, especially on Sunday afternoon or evening.

As I approached Clinton, it was soon evident that we would have a multi-boat delay. My automatic response was to tighten my grip on the steering wheel and mumble a curse. Then I reminded myself that how I might react to the delay was a choice.

I remembered a suggestion encountered years ago when I first read the writings of the Vietnamese Buddhist teacher Thich Nhat Hahn. He offered practical advice in finding time to be mindful in everyday life. He wrote in his book Peace is Every Step about how to use the delays that happen in our busy lives as positive opportunities rather than as frustrations.

He suggested waiting for a computer to boot up might offer a moment or two to simply breathe in and out deeply. He also suggested that while waiting for a red traffic light to turn green, rather than clinch the wheel more tightly, we might actually let go for just a moment and simply breathe.

Here on Whidbey, especially on the South End, we have far fewer traffic lights than in other places just across the water and the pace is slower, yet, I still manage to fill my life so full of places to go and things to do that slowing down and taking time to just be seems impossible.

Even during my recent brief vacation I kept myself busy. At our annual UU summer camp we were on the volunteer staff. We also scheduled a move to the condo unit next door to ours. We also took trips to the South Sound to see family and sell crafts to raise funds for our non-profit.

Fortunately ferry delays gave me some down time. One Sunday, as I headed out the door towards likely lines in Clinton, I considered bringing my laptop or at least a book, but remembered that the time could be put to better use doing nothing.

The waiting became a gift that I chose to receive. The wait for the ferry offers many more than the few received from a red light. How fortunate am I.



Reminder from the Visual Arts Committee. If you want to move the fabric art in order to use the wall for projection, please note the following procedures:

1. Please use the pole located on the floor under the fabric art. (*Pulling by hand places unnecessary wear and tear on the fabric and may pull it off center.*)
2. Place the hook through the circle from the back and slide to the side.
3. Slide the two works apart only as far as needed for size of the projection. (*Sunlight damages and fades the fabric.*)
4. Please return the works all the way to the middle. (*They will slide easily and stop at the appropriate place.*)

Thank you so very much for helping care for our precious art



The President's Pen

In April of this year while carving in my shop, I got a phone call from a member of the UUCWI Nominating Committee. She asked me if I would agree to be a nominee for the congregation's Board of Trustees. After consulting with my wife Camille, who had previously served on the Board, I called back and said, "Sure, nominate me." I had been a member of the congregation for nearly nine years and thought it was probably my turn to serve. I have to admit that my answer was more obligation than opportunity. Lots of folks had done the work before, and I probably ought to try to continue that work.

Within a matter of weeks, I was asked by the same member of the Nominating Committee if I would be willing to serve as President of the Board should the other Board members wished me to. I should clarify that the new Board met in advance of taking office and selected its own officers. The prospect of being President of the Congregation was a little daunting. I had done a fair amount of administration during my career in teaching, but I had left that behind in 2005, and I felt that I was probably pretty rusty on the fine art of herding cats. But there was also a good chance that some other member of the Board would be nominated and agree to serve. And someone had to be President, so if it fell to me, I should agree. Obligation.

At that first meeting of the new Board, I was elected President and agreed with relatively good grace. In the two months since I was elected, I have done a lot of thinking about service to our congregation. The wonderful small book *Serving with Grace* by Erik Walker Wikstrom has helped me see lay leadership in a new way. Wikstrom says that lay leadership is best seen as a form of spiritual practice, not just a necessary task that someone has to do. Seen from this perspective, lay leadership is an opportunity for personal spiritual growth, like prayer or worship or driving the Habitat truck on Tuesdays.

As our congregation looks more deeply into shared ministry this year, I hope that we can deepen our appreciation for the opportunities that service to our congregation affords us all. We are a lay-led congregation, and that is one of our great strengths. We are individually and collectively responsible for our own spiritual growth. Although we have a partnership with our minister Dennis, he is only a partner. Ultimately we are the ones who have responsibility and opportunity for our spiritual practice. That's both a challenge and a blessing. And we have lots of good role models for meeting that challenge – Mark and Effie, Mavis, Eileen, and Tom to name only a few of the folks who do such good work and serve with grace. I'm now pretty excited by my own opportunity.

Puzzler from Gene Berg

As I was going to Saint Ives
I met a man with seven wives.
Every wife had seven sacks,
Every sack had seven cats,
And every cat had seven kits.
Kits, cats, sacks, wives,
How many were going to
Saint Ives?

Adult Programs: Have you been thinking of offering a stimulating program in the fall to UUCWI congregants and the Whidbey Island community? Perhaps you have an idea for a class and know of someone who might facilitate it? Or maybe you just have something that you would *really* like to attend? Well, the Adult Programs Committee is currently receiving program proposals for fall/spring 2014/2015 Adult Programs. To suggest a program please use the Adult Programs form found on our website, http://www.uucwi.org/activities/adult/AP_Form.pdf

Please contact the Committee Chair Charlie Knutilla at cknutilla@whidbey.com for any questions about the proposal process or prospective programs. We look forward to hearing from you!

Meet your UUCWI leaders...



Hello. I'm Gladys Howard. I had the good fortune to be raised

a Unitarian in Ithaca, NY. The Church and its many activities were a focal point of our family life. It wasn't mandatory, but it was meaningful and a lot of fun. After three years teaching English in Japan, I worked in special education in upstate New York. As it turned out, I even met my husband Mitchell Howard, a UU minister, when I followed a friend's advice to try the church he was then serving in historic Barneveld, NY. During the subsequent years, as he served congregations in New Jersey, Georgia, and Rhode Island, I continued my work in special education. In Rhode Island I was a docent at Slater Mill, a living museum connected with the mechanization of spinning and weaving. Meanwhile I taught myself to play basic organ music, and our children were born. First-born Daniel died prematurely; Ted flourished and eventually earned university degrees in California and Norway.

In January of 1993 our family of three moved to Coupeville to run the Inn at Penn Cove B&B. We noticed an announcement for an organizational meeting for a Whidbey Island UU congregation, attended, and became Charter Members, belonging ever since. My first organizational involvement was the choir. Nothing for me has the emotional impact of singing the hymns I've heard for as long as I can remember. Most recently I've been a worship leader, an RE assistant, and Board of Trustees member for the past 2 ½ years.

I agreed to become a member of the Board knowing that while organizations may live in our hearts, we function day to day only when each of us participates. I did not join with any particular goal, but am committed to our beloved community thriving and will do what I can to help ensure it does.

Although my earliest memories of church (beyond the sand box) are of a single man in a black robe running the whole service and setting the tone of the entire congregation, I have learned that congregations are most meaningful when each of us participates and contributes our unique talents.

I am still working with Mitch to maintain the Inn at Penn Cove while we try to sell it. After 21 years we are quite ready to retire. I play recorders with several groups and am an active member of the Whidbey Weavers Guild. I love all fiber -spinning it, knitting it, or weaving it. I'm also a Beach Watcher (Class of '10).

Our congregation has grown so large that I haven't met many of you. However, because you are here I feel that at some level we are friends already and I look forward to knowing you better in the future.

Unitarian Universalist News

UUA Divests Fossil Fuels! *On 6/28/14 the UUA General Assembly voted overwhelmingly to both divest \$173 million worth of fossil fuel stock and to maintain some investment for the purpose of shareholder advocacy. According to Simon Billenness, "The UUA resolution should be viewed as model language for other religious institutions that also use shareholder activism on help halt climate change. This resolution safeguards the UUA's critical shareholder activism while adding another powerful voice to the fossil fuel divestment movement. UUA Press Release:* <http://www.uua.org/news/pressroom/pressreleases/296102.shtml>

Sunday, July 20th, the First UU of New Orleans was "infiltrated" by members of the anti-abortion coalition, Operation Save America. While the OAS members determined to disrupt and disturb the service, calling the congregation a "Synagogue of Satan" they were met with a firm yet respectful invitation to either sit quietly during the service or leave. Read more about this story. The behavior of the UUNO congregants exemplifies the values of UU and all that we stand for. <http://kristataves.wordpress.com/2014/07/22/religious-terrorism-meets-religious-liberalism/>

Social Responsibility Council News

SRC In The Know

We are in the "home stretch" in securing a congregational endorsement to reduce gun violence in our state. Initiative-594, Washington Universal Background Checks for Gun Purchases, would expand required background checks for gun sales and transfers. We have the opportunity to add our voice to Washington Faith Action Network's advocacy to pass the initiative and take one more step to reduce gun violence.

Our efforts align with action taken last month at the UUA General Assembly 2014 with the adoption of the Action for Immediate Witness, Affirming Congregational Commitment to Gun Violence Prevention, http://www.uua.org/documents/ga/140629_aiw_c_gun.pdf.

Our congregation was also graced with the presence of Cheryl Stumbo, speaker at the SRC Forum on July 20 to promote understanding of I-594. Cheryl is a victim of gun violence who transformed her personal tragic encounter with a shooter into advocacy for gun violence prevention. Listen to her compelling TEDx talk, <http://tedxtalks.ted.com/video/Our-Deadly-Little-Secret-Cheryl;search%3Acheryl%20stumbo>.

The SRC has created a very short, two-question survey asking for your opinion on I-594. This survey was available in the foyer on 7/13, at the Forum on 7/20, on 7/27 and will be available again 8/3. Many have completed the survey and we hope that those who have not will offer their opinions so that we can include all responses in our report to the Board mid August. UUCWI, individually and collectively, has an important voice; please speak up!

Initiative 594

Current Law:

- background screening required by gun dealers for retail gun sales.

Initiative 594 would:

- apply the same background screening to purchases at gun shows, for online sales and private purchases.
- as with current law, exemptions will continue for transfers of guns among family members, temporary loans of firearms for hunting, sporting events and competitions, training and self-defense. The transfer of relics and antiques is also exempt.

Goal of I-594:

- protect Washington residents by extending background screening to those who often evade screening by purchasing guns at gun shows and online. Evidence has shown that those with felony convictions, as well as those who are sex offenders, domestic abusers and those with serious mental illnesses can purchase guns at gun shows and online, thus avoiding background checks.
- Join 14 other states and the District of Columbia with laws in place for background checks for private firearm sales.

Our dedicated offering on August 24th is for Helping Hands of South Whidbey. Helping Hands is where people can go when they can't pay their utility bill or they are having problems meeting their mortgage payment, rent or other bills. Helping Hands pays the bill directly for the client and can make referrals to various agencies for longer-term assistance. They have helped many people for whom basic services for life and well-being are threatened. Help us support those who support our local community.

Did you know?

For our dedicated offering in June we collected \$506 for Friends of Friends.

Thank you for your generosity, UUCWI!

Around our Community

Plan to attend a benefit for the *Whidbey Veterans Resource Center* on Sunday, August 17, beginning at 2pm at Tahoma Zen Monastery. We are gathering energy, and great musicians to benefit our veterans. See *Gene Berg* for more information.

Women in Black meet on the 1st Friday of every month to stand in opposition to war, near the Bayview Park 'n Ride.

The **Peace Group** stands vigil every Saturday, from 10-11, again at the Bayview Park 'n Ride. See *Barb Hutton* for more details.

**Unitarian Universalist Congregation
of Whidbey Island**

2014 - 2015 Board of Trustees

John Long, President
Libby Roberts, Vice President
Charlie Knutla, 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 chaplain are available for rites of
passage ceremonies (including ceremonies of
commitment or union) and pastoral visits.

Administrator: Mavis Cauffman

admin@uucwi.org

Director of Religious Exploration: Ginger White

re_dir@uucwi.org

Newsletter Information:

News, announcements, events, and other items of
interest to members of the congregation should be
submitted in writing by the 20th of each month to
editor, Terra Anderson at newsletter@uucwi.org.
Suggestions for articles and information of interest
to the whole congregation are encouraged.

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 Knutla, Chair
wwg_chair@uucwi.org

UUCWI's website: www.uucwi.org

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**UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST
CONGREGATION OF WHIDBEY ISLAND**
P.O. Box 1076 Freeland, WA 98249
360-321-8656 uucwi.org