



Island Passages February 2015

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 10am UU Worship 4pm Quaker Worship 5:45 OWL	2 8:45am WIN 10am Dance 12pm Rehearsal 4pm Meditation 7pm Rehearsal	3 4pm Dennis' Office Hours	4 10am UU Men's Group 7pm Rehearsal	5 7pm Book Group	6 10am VAC 11:45 TWOG 6pm Concert set up 7:30pm Concert	7 1:30pm Ament Book Release 6pm Concert set up 7:30pm Concert
8 10am UU Worship 11:15 Music Ctte 11:20am Parents' Mtg 1pm Island Strings 4pm Quaker Worship 5pm Quaker Dinner	9 8:45am WIN 10am Dance 6:30 pm PFLAG 6:30pm Poetry of Mary Oliver	10 10am Women's Group 4pm Dennis' Office Hours 2pm SRC Strg Ctte 7pm Choir	11 10am Membership Ctte 7pm Worship Ctte	12 1:30pm Quaker Mtg 6pm Audubon	13 11:45 TWOG 6pm Family Game Night	14 10am Pledge Workshop 1pm North End Coffee
15 10am UU Worship 12pm Foster Memorial 4pm Quaker Worship 5pm Quaker Business Mtg	16 8:45am WIN 10am Dance 1pm Power of Vulnerability 4pm Meditation 6:30pm Poetry of Mary Oliver	17 1pm Dennis' Office Hours 7pm Choir	18 10am UU Men's Group 4pm MAGIC	19 3pm Ctte on Ministry 4pm Finance Ctte 6pm North End Grp	20 11:45 TWOG Newsletter Deadline	21 9am Work Party sponsored by Social Responsibility Council Please come and help care for our shared home
22 8:45am Choir 10am UU Worship 4pm Quaker Worship 6pm North End Dine Out 7pm Dances of Universal Peace	23 8:45am WIN 10am Dance 1pm Power of Vulnerability 6:30pm Poetry of Mary Oliver	24 10am Women's Group 1pm Dennis' Office Hours	25	26 1:30pm Quaker Mtg 7pm BOT Mtg	27 11:45 TWOG 7pm Greening Congregation Movie "Forks over Knives"	28 9am Worship Leader Workshop 10:30 South End Coffee



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

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

Feb 1: UU Faith and Identity with UU Seminarians

Is there such a thing as a UU identity? What is it? Why is UU ministry relevant today? This service will vary from our normal format. Opportunities to question some edges through song and reflection as well as laugh loudly as some silly squirrels play during the Story for All Ages. Please note that children will journey to their classrooms a bit earlier than during other services. Join Seattle University School of Theology and Ministry UU seminarians Nydia Blood and Crystal Zerfoss for exploration within many questions.

Worship Leader: Nydia Blood

Feb 15: Surprises

This would normally be one of Dennis' Sundays, but with his recovery from pneumonia a day-by-day process, we do not know yet if he will be well enough to grace our pulpit. The worship committee is exploring alternate speakers and interesting themes. Please come and once again have your curiosity heightened and your love of this community deepened as we create worth together in shared worship.

Music: Eileen Soskin

Dedicated Offering: PFLAG

Feb 8: Islamic Inquiry: Why Mohammed? with Rev Jaco tenHove

The founding figure of Islam and his context are worth considering as we try to grasp why he inspires such dedication among his followers, then and now.

Rev. Jaco ten Hove is a "home-bred" UU. After short careers in both art and technical fields, he graduated from Starr King School and was ordained and installed at the Edmonds UU Church. He is married to the Rev. Barbara Wells. Together they have served in Golden Colorado, Washington DC and are currently co-ministers at Cedars UU on Bainbridge Island.

Worship Leader: Janella Riegel

Feb 22: Music for All Ages with members of UUCWI and the Chalice Choir

All ages are invited to this service of song, story and activity. We'll express our values and emotions in some songs (familiar and new) and all will have the opportunity to contribute to a "Gratitude Tree".

Worship Leader: Mavis Cauffman



Photo courtesy of Dave Cauffman; Story for All Ages, 1018-15

Community Building the UUCWI Way...

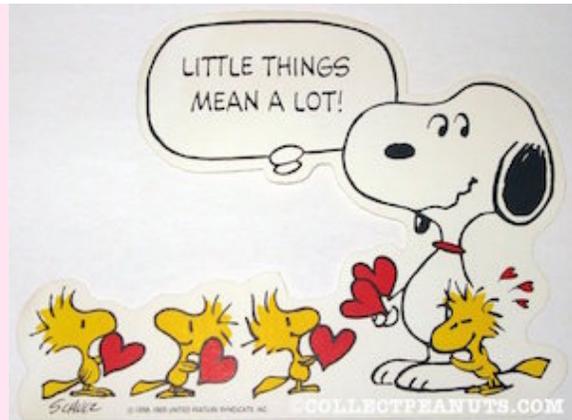
Caring Connections is back!!

With it come more opportunities to live out some of our Seven Principles and Sources of Inspiration. We also have access to another way to build community.

Principles and Inspiration: We affirm that love is the spirit of UUCWI and that service is the practice of that spirit. We recognize how interdependent we are; we try to love our neighbors as ourselves; we help and support each other; we serve our community with generosity and joy and we encourage spiritual growth in each other. Service to others is not only an indicator of spiritual maturity but also a vehicle for spiritual growth.

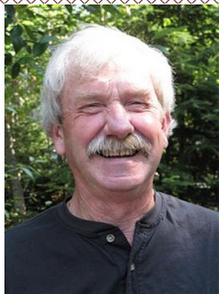
Building Community: Many of us are familiar with polls and surveys showing that a sense of community is very important in the decision to participate in religious and spiritual life. Our own internal polls reveal overwhelmingly this is why we joined UUCWI. The "flip side" is that sometimes people leave or sideline themselves because they don't feel part of things. Both serving others and being served strengthen the web of interdependency and that is by definition *community*.

At service soon there will be a short introduction of the new Caring Connections and an opportunity for all to indicate what they want to do to help others in UUCWI. I ask you to spend some time before then thinking of the ways in which you could share ministry with the rest of us. There will be the usual ways (meals, transportation, etc), but I encourage you to be creative about what else you would offer.
~ Glo Sherman



From our Minister: *Things known and yet-to-be-known*

I know that I have turned the corner on what has been a very serious health crisis. At this time, yet to be known, are the specifics of the path and duration of my journey to recovery. I know I am privileged to have received exceptional health care services. I also know that support in cards, emails, social media, prayers and good wishes have and continue to enhance my recovery. I know that significant thoughts, emotions and spirit have been opened up to me through this experience. As yet to be known is how much of this I will be able to articulate. I know that I will be exploring new depths. I look forward to re-engaging with this awesome congregation and the amazing shared ministry we continue to create.
Blessings and love, Dennis



The President's Pen... *OUCH!*

In lieu of the Presidents Column, this month I send you a picture of my recently broken foot. It's not exactly true that my broken foot prevents me from writing a column, since I hardly ever use my feet on the computer keyboard. Rather I have been absorbed in other matters including Dennis' illness, grandkids, Board stuff, the Children's book I wrote with Judi



Nyerges, and listening to members of the congregation. I find I can learn a lot when I just listen. So I thank you, folks who have shared their ideas and concerns and interests with me. I'll be back with more words next month. For now just enjoy the respite. ~ John

Around and About...



Monthly Work Parties Chop Wood, Carry Water

The Buddha told us that before enlightenment we must chop wood and carry water. And after enlightenment? He replied simply, chop wood and carry water. ☺ Every month, usually the 3rd Saturday from 9 to 11, you are invited to join UUCWI members and friends to spruce up our building and grounds. For a large church with extensive paid staff including janitors, grounds keepers and general fix-it people, this is probably not a consideration for congregants. They can just show up for events, knowing everything will be clean, in place, well tended, mended and polished. However, ours is an all-volunteer organization, so nothing happens unless WE do it. How can you help? Can you dust? Sweep? Clean a refrigerator? Sort name-tags? Maybe pull weeds? Or dig a hole for a new tree? There is work for all skill levels and physical strengths. Every hand is needed, welcomed and appreciated. Please consider helping at least one month a year. Many hands make light work and ever so much more fun. Which month can you come? Each work party is sponsored by one of our committees. They bring refreshments, make coffee, encourage their friends to participate, and shower you with compliments for a job well done. Here are some dates:

- Feb 21 – Social Responsibility Council
- Mar 21 – Committee On Ministry
- Apr 18 – Board of Trustees
- May 16 – Religious Exploration
- June 20 – Visual Arts Committee

Parents' Group Reminder!

We meet once a month, after the Sunday service In the office 11:20 to 12:30 often on the third Sunday and hope you will join us! Our next 3 dates are February 8th, March 15th, April 12th

Check out our UUCWI Group for Members and Friends: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/440460519434692/>

It provides a great chance for folks using Facebook to have more conversations, share resources, ask questions, etc. In its first couple weeks we've already had wonderful interactions! Thank you Mavis Cauffman & Sarah Richards for setting it up! ~ Meg Gluckman & Ginger White, DRE

PHASE II SHARED MINISTRY

Individual Chalice Circles have begun to meet to explore their individual meanings of *ministry* and to describe their experiences of *shared ministry* within our congregation. Here are some preliminary responses that might inspire your own next conversation.

Q: If you had to use one word for ministry what would it be?

A: acceptance; questioning; listening; openness; trust; personal examination; helping; eliciting the answer that you have within you.

Q: What is your understanding and experience of ministry in this congregation?

A: The way we care for each other and the congregation as a whole.

A: When I go to church I feel it is a place I belong. Going to Payless is a transaction. I'm not coming to church as a transaction or as a consumer.

A: We minister to other people, act in another's favor. A congregation also ministers to itself, like a family.

Q: How do you experience "shared ministry" in this congregation?

A: We freely choose to be a part of this community. It is not mandated by someone in authority.

A: It is not just the minister who ministers.

A: Doing your own seeking is daunting task but I feel gratitude for the support from others which is an awesome gift.

A: Giving to others feels good.



Unitarian Universalism Wider and Deeper...

Continuing our UU History lessons...

A DUTCH FLOWERING IN THE COLD NORTH COUNTRY



The oldest house I've ever lived in was once home to Francis Adrian Vanderkemp. It was a dozen miles or so north of Utica, New York, and got really cold in winter. I lived there because it was the parsonage of the church that ordained me as a UU minister, back in 1975. Mr. Vanderkemp had come to live there in the late 1700's, all because of John Adams. Well, mostly.

Vanderkemp, a liberal in religion and a Dutch nationalist in politics, had met Adams (yes, Abigail's husband) when Adams was in Holland hunting down financing for the brand-new USA. Adams told this radical preacher that, should things ever get too hot for him in Holland, he ought to move to America. They did, and he did. Adams took him on tour, introducing him to a certain George Washington, among other luminaries of the young republic. Eventually, Vanderkemp ended up on what was then the frontier between the USA and the Iroquois Confederacy, living in that same old house I much later inhabited, and helping found the Unitarian Church of Barneveld (est. 1803). I served there only 28 months, before surging heating oil prices strangled the church's tiny budget. But it still thrives in a small-town way. Gladys and I met there, and it still holds a very special place in our family memory. Our son Ted has Vanderkemp as his middle name.

It's often assumed that Unitarianism is "the Boston religion." Indeed, our congregations are thickest on the ground in Eastern New England, mostly originating as dissenting branches of Puritan Congregationalism. But there in Barneveld I served a church planted by Dutch liberals the same year President Jefferson bought Louisiana from the French. Nor is the Barneveld Church our only exotic bloom. In Cincinnati, St. John's Unitarian was so much the church of 19th century German immigrants that services were still held in German well into the 20th century. Alango and Virginia, in the Iron Range of Minnesota, are home to Unitarian churches founded by Finnish immigrants. And, just a couple of hours north of Whidbey, is the Free Church (Unitarian) of Blaine, founded by Icelandic immigrants.

Although we sometimes vex ourselves about the need for more diversity within our walls, let us not forget about the differently accented roots we have. And if you go online to icuu.net, you'll be introduced to a worldwide network of Unitarian flowerings, from Transylvania to Manila, from Lagos to Cape Town to Halifax, even to Brazil and beyond! ~ Mitch Howard



The theme of this year's General Assembly is **Building a New Way**. New approaches for working in community, engaging in ministry, religious education programming, fund raising, and congregation building will be featured in workshops, worship, and exhibits. Together, we'll be *building a new way* in **Portland** by *witnessing* to address climate change thru the Commit2Respond program on which UUA is collaborating with other denominations.

The Poetry of Mary Oliver: John Long and Dallas Huth will lead a class on the poetry of this inspiring woman whom some call St Mary of Beacon Street. The class will meet on Monday evenings from 6:30-8:00 on Feb. 9, 16, and 23 and March 2, 9, and 16. If you are interested in joining the class, there are spaces for 6 more participants. ~ Contact John Long (johnlong45@gmail.com, 221-4094) or Dallas Huth (dallashuth@whidbey.com, 331-3350)

Social Responsibility Council News

SRC...Be In the Know!

Motivated by our national Unitarian Universalist Association and its Service Committee's development of Commit2Respond*—a religious response to the crisis of climate change—and responding to advocacy from members of the congregation, the SRC is developing an expanded action agenda.

Commit2Respond's conviction is that "climate change is the gravest danger facing humanity today" and that "we are compelled to respond." We are revising the SRC Roles and Responsibilities statement to include environmental justice and climate change alongside our commitment to social and economic justice. Next month, you will hear more about our anticipated social action agenda to include focus on immigration and the Tacoma Detention Center.

We want to reflect the views of the congregation as we expand our agenda to forcefully address environmental justice. Please help us! We want our name, our Roles and Responsibilities, and our action plan to reflect our commitment to the interdependent issues of environmental, social, and economic justice. The full text of our proposal is on the following page. **Please review our initial thinking on the environmental justice action items we are considering and provide your feedback to the SRC through email, in person, or by phone.**

Contact Jean McInstosh at jeanmc@whidbey.com, Libby Roberts at libbyroberts10@gmail.com, Linda Good at lgood@langleywa.org, or Gary Piazzon at piazzon@comcast.net

*To read more about Commit2Respond, go to <http://www.commit2respond.org/>

\$

For our dedicated offering in January we collected \$614
for the Washington State UU Voices for Justice.

\$

Thank you for your generosity, UUCWI!



FRIDAY, February 27, 2015
7:00 PM
UUCWI Sanctuary

The next **Greening Congregations** event

- part of our *Moral Ground Series* -

features the film *Forks over Knives*

<http://www.forksoverknives.com/the-film/>

Can the food we eat make us ill? Can it heal? Do our food choices matter in combatting global warming? More and more the research says "Yes!"

This film, acclaimed by medical experts, has helped ignite a food-as-medicine revolution. Backed by scientific research, the film presents a radical but convincing case that modern diseases can be prevented, halted, and often reversed. It has been viewed by millions and become one of the most influential documentaries of our time. A panel of medical and agricultural experts will answer your questions afterwards. ~ Gary Piazzon on behalf of Greening Congregations

Social Responsibility Council News (continued)

SRC Proposal to the UUCWI Congregants

"It doesn't matter who you are, where you are at or what race you are- red, black, white or yellow- we're all in this together." ~

Jewel Praying Wolf James, Lummi Master Carver

117 years ago it was speculated. 79 years ago it was confirmed. 26 years ago some of the dire consequences of changing the atmosphere of our Earth's chemistry via carbon dioxide pollution was described to the US Senate. Now we are experiencing those consequences and more at an alarmingly rapid rate. In response, the religious community is rising to lend its voice to that of scientists, indigenous peoples and others who recognize the moral imperative to abandon this destructive and non-sustainable path. For the first time in history, at the UN Climate Conference in Lima Peru, the USA demonstrated to the world a commitment to diverting us from that path. This year, 2015, the world will be holding its collective breath as 196 nations meet in Paris, France to continue the work begun in Lima. The possibility of failing to meet the future's needs is very real, the consequences unthinkable

In consideration of the foregoing the Social Responsibility Council has been discussing how to respond to this reality and has several proposals for the UUCWI congregation to consider, discuss and provide feedback:

1. A name change from Social Responsibility Council to the *Social Environmental Justice Council*.
2. A formal request by UUCWI to the PNWD to endorse the "A Public Declaration to the Tribal Councils and Traditional Spiritual Leaders of the Native Peoples of the Northwest"^(a) which reaffirms the Lummi Nations rights to life and livelihood in light of the direct and immediate threat of a massive coal port at Cherry Point. PNWD would join 10 other religious organizations from our region supporting the Lummi who are "*holding the line*," giving their time, talent, money and hearts in the effort to stop the destruction caused by fossil fuel mining and transportation.
3. A request for membership in the Nawtsamaat Alliance^(b) which would demonstrate our empathy and support and acknowledge the need for collaboration, cooperation and mutual support in the challenging times now and ahead. The Juggernaut of our fossil fueled culture will not be easily disturbed. According to Naomi Klein "Indigenous rights...may now represent the most powerful barriers protecting all of us from a future of climate chaos."^(c)
4. Recognizing the need for significant and rapid changes in defense of our future, the SRC wants to act expeditiously on behalf of the congregation. There are a number of issues UU Voices is promoting about which we want a voice: banning toxic, carcinogenic fire retardants which unnecessarily endanger fire fighters and families; Governor Inslee's Carbon Cap and Trade proposal; CarbonWA's carbon fee and dividend initiative; Living Wage and Immigration issues. The SRC will soon draft an Environmental Justice Resolution for congregational approval which will outline specific actions to be taken, including parameters for when the SRC can act on urgent matters on behalf of the congregation.
5. Finally in recognition of this singularly important point in history we request approval to place a sign at the UUCWI entrance affirming our awareness of and commitment to this issue to the greater community. "Human Change, Not Climate Change" has been suggested. What ideas do YOU have?

~ Prepared by Gary Piazzon on behalf of the SRC for discussion and feedback. Jan 21, 2014

(a) <http://earthministry.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/04/Denominational-Executive-tribal-support-letter.pdf>

(b) <http://www.protectthesacred.org/>

(c) <http://thischangeeverything.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 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
Charlie Knutilla, Website Manager:
wwg_chair@uucwi.org

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