



Island Passages *April* 2015

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 10am UU Men's Group 6pm Rehearsal	2 6pm Rehearsal 7pm Book Group	3 10am VAC 6pm Family Game Night	4 5:30pm OWL
5 10am UU Easter Worship 4pm Quaker Worship 6pm Rehearsal	6 8:45am WIN 10am Dance 4pm Meditation	7 1pm Dennis' Office Hours 7pm Choir	8 6pm Rehearsal 7pm Worship Ctte	9 1:30pm Quaker Mtg 6pm Rehearsal	10 6pm Set up 7:30pm Musical	11 1pm North End Coffee 6pm Set up 7:30pm Musical
12 9:45am OWL 10am UU Worship 11:20am Parents' Mtg 4pm Quaker Worship 5pm Quaker Dinner	13 8:45am WIN 10am Dance 6:30pm PFLAG	14 10am Membership 1pm Dennis' Office Hours 3pm SRC Strg Ctte 7pm Choir	15 10am UU Men's Group 4pm MAGIC 6:30pm Rehearsal	16 4pm Finance Ctte 6pm Rehearsal 6pm North End Grp 7pm What Moves You?	17 3pm Ctte on Ministry 6pm Set up 7:30pm Musical	18 9am Work Party sponsored by our Board of Trustees 6pm Set up 7:30pm Musical
19 9:45am OWL 10am UU Worship 11:30am Stewardship Kickoff 4pm Quaker Worship 5pm Quaker Business Mtg	20 8:45am WIN 10am Dance 4pm Meditation 7pm C2R Earth & Ocean Week: Totem Journey Newsletter Deadline	21 1pm Dennis' Office Hours 7pm C2R Earth & Ocean Week: Water Rights	22 7pm C2R Earth & Ocean Week: Carbon Tax 	23 1:30pm Quaker Mtg 7pm BOT Mtg 7pm C2R Earth & Ocean Week: The 6th Extinction	24 7pm C2R Earth & Ocean Week: Climate Monologues	25 10:30 South End Coffee
26 10am UU Worship 11:30 Forum: Witnessing Whiteness 4pm Quaker Worship 6pm North End Dine Out 7pm Dances of Universal Peace	27 8:45am WIN 10am Dance 6pm Setup 7pm Peace Corps in Guatamala	28 1pm Dennis' Office Hours	29	30 7pm What Moves You?	We do not inherit the earth from our ancestors, we borrow it from our children. -- Native American Proverb	

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

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

April 5: **Easter: Rolling Back the Stone**

with Rev Dennis Reynolds

Each of us encounters barriers along our life path that can make progress difficult. In this season of balance between light and dark, let us explore how we can use insights and knowledge acquired in more quiet times to aid us in doing what we truly want to do and being who we truly want to be. How can we, individually and collectively, roll away the barriers and clear our path towards growth and renewal?

Worship Leader: Glo Sherman

April 19: **Circles Within Circles**

with Rev Dennis Reynolds

How *do* we build community? Is it simply getting together with like-minded people or is there more to it than that? Is it a matter of shared belief or is there more to it than that? Is it sharing a dream together or is there more to it than that? Perhaps the work of building community is like the web weaving of a spider. When we look closely at spider spinning we are reminded of how making connections requires intention, initiative and diligent effort. Let's explore together how we spin and sustain the web of this congregation and the greater communities that surround it.

Music: UUCWI Chalice Choir

Worship Leader: Libby Roberts

Dedicated Offering: Ryan's House

April 12: **Let's Talk:** The challenges and gifts of conversations before dying

Cynthia Trenshaw and Effie Brown each have witnessed both accidental and expected deaths within their families. They will dialogue about these experiences with death, and about the difference it made having – or not having - advance directives to support the process and assure that last wishes are honored. They will also share their experiences of the power of heart to heart conversations as we contemplate the great mystery that is our dying. You are invited to further the conversation at a forum following the service.

Music: Eileen Soskin

Worship Leader: Effie Brown

April 26: **Standing on the Other Side of the Track:** awakening to the experience of white privilege

Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. called us to "Be lovestruck with each other, not colorblind towards each other." What could it look like to *witness* race? What is white culture and how does it shape us? How do we build a world of justice and equality for all? A discussion forum will follow this service to allow further time for personal reflection and questioning.

Music: Kamilla Kafiyeva

Worship Leader: Janella Riegel

There will be a forum on the topic, after the service, hosted by the Witnessing Whiteness study group.



The honor of your presence is requested...

You are most cordially invited to the kickoff of our annual stewardship drive, following the service on April 19th. Fun and laughter are guaranteed. Board members will be present to explain the funding goals for this next budget year; there will be delicious refreshments, one of John Long's famous skits, and embarrassing musical performances. Come, come, whoever you are...



People who come to Unitarian Universalism seeking spiritual goods are likely to be disappointed so long as they have the outlook of consumers in search of material goods. If their connection to our liberal faith is to grow into something more rewarding, they have to give up the consumer mindset and begin to think of themselves instead as shareholders, investors, co-owners in what happens in the religious community ... with a joint share in the success of the enterprise. ~ Gary Kowalski

Community Building



Library News:

With new book shelving now installed in the middle classroom, some books have been moved to different locations. Specifically, all books on *World Religions & Religious Thought, Christianity,* and

Science & Religion have been moved onto the new shelving, making more room on the hallway shelves for books on *Spirituality, Congregational Life & Worship,* and other subjects.

New signage is not yet completed but will be soon. Cataloging of all titles is still underway as well. Our library catalog can be accessed at <http://uucwilibrary.com>. Instructions for checking books out are on a clipboard on our book cart – and on our website. ~ Joan Gerteis

Belly Dancing the UU Way:

Join a group of outrageously fun-loving ladies on Monday mornings for an hour of laughter, great exercise, and a big dose of

re-embodying our feminine. We gather from 10 to 11 in the sanctuary. Laurie Riley makes the moves “accessible” for even the oldest, most modest and arthritic of us! ☺



PASTURE-IZED... *Adult children sometimes think their parents need to be put out-to-pasture before the "old" folks are ready! A Broadway producer/director has a heart attack and his son insists he needs to retire, slow down and take it easy. His dad has other ideas!!*

The UUCWI 2014-2015 Concert Series presents an original musical written and directed by *Ken Merrell* with original music by *Eileen Soskin*. Starring *Sandy Welch, Quynn Stirling, Cheryl Lawrence, Rich Doyle, Gretchen d'Armand, Callan Barrett* and *Les Asplund* with a cameo appearance by *Glo Sherman*. You will probably want to see this show at least twice!

Performances are at 7:30pm on **Friday, April 10, Saturday, April 11, Friday, April 17 and Saturday, April 18**. Tickets are \$15 (\$5 for students) and will be sold in the foyer after services on March 22, March 29 and April 5. Angel tickets are available - if you want to attend, we want you to be there! Tickets are also available at Moonraker Books in Langley and Habitat for Humanity in Freeland, cash or check only.



Lunches at China City Resume

The monthly Second Sunday Lunch Bunch at China City will resume this month. It will begin around 11:45, or whenever you get to China City after the social time at the church. We historically have ordered about 2 main courses for every 3 people in attendance. We divide up the bill equally between us (unless someone orders a beverage other than tea, or something else that would not be shared by the rest of the group). There is no theme to the lunches. We just chat about whatever comes to mind. Come and get to know some of your fellow members a bit better. The price is right and the fellowship is always a delight.

~ Jelcy Romberg

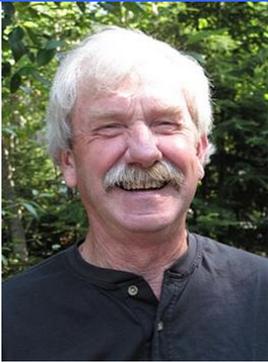
Gene's puzzler

Can you reverse a number by multiplying it by 9?

$$ABCD \times 9 = DCBA$$

Post your answers to Gene Berg at gaberg678@gmail.com

From our Leadership



The Prez Sez...

Gratitude. This is the most powerful message I receive when I go to Sunday services. Gratitude for the people who have crafted the service. Gratitude for the musicians who surprise and delight us. Gratitude for the faith and vision of those, some of whom are now gone, who dreamed that we could create our own beautiful space for worship. And gratitude for those friends who sit around me and share this experience with me. Do I express this gratitude often enough? Probably not. At the end of the service I try to let those who have been part of the service know how they have touched me. And I do catch a few. And as I leave the building and head back to my car, I am charged with thankfulness for those of you who have touched me, challenged me, inspired me. I hope on

those mornings when I fail to catch you, that someone else you have moved has said how much your work meant to them. Thanks.

It's almost pledge time. Here's what is going to be different this year. The Board has decided to continue the trend of reducing dependence on our auction in the operating budget. This year we would like to reduce fundraising proceeds to 4% of the budget. This means that our pledges must do a bit more of the work of paying the total cost of operating the congregation. Why is that a good thing? Two reasons. First, pledges are a more reliable source of income than fundraisers, enabling us to budget with greater certainty. Second, when we fund operations out of pledges, fundraiser success can enable special projects and programs that we cannot fund from the operating budget. This past year we decided to install blackout curtains for the sanctuary and parking lot lights, from auction success. These were projects that we simply had not been able to accomplish from our operating budget.

In the coming year, we hope that fundraiser success will allow us to do more special projects and even special programs. We wish to see our Fundraiser Success Fund (fundraisers proceeds above operating budget) used not only to finance capital projects but to enhance our primary mission of spiritual growth and exploration by funding new spiritually focused activities. This is a more balanced approach than only completing capital projects.

We ask that you consider increasing your pledge this year as we work to further wean ourselves from fundraising as a means of completing our operating budget. At the conclusion of our pledge drive we will see if we can achieve our goal. We appreciate your help in sustaining and growing our congregation and the good work it does for us and our community.

Introducing Libby Roberts, member of the Board of Trustees...

I am a retired educator with 30 years in the classroom, primarily teaching high school and college English literature; I have also worked in staff development as a literacy specialist. I am passionate about the work of Parker Palmer and was as part of a cohort entitled "*Courage to Teach for Educational Leaders*" in 1998. The program consisted of eight three-day retreats over two years under the guidance of Marci & Ric Jackson who co-founded *Courage & Renewal* with Parker Palmer. I continue to be grateful for this transformative experience, and over the years I have worked to better understand the hidden wholeness of paradox and to more often access my "inner teacher." At 70 and retired, I am eager to slow down, re-center myself, and deepen my awareness about the next stage of life. As for my personal life, I am very close to my three children, their families, and my four grandchildren (with one on the way). We are a diverse group, both in origin and in profession, which brings us much pleasure. How did I get involved at UUCWI? I've lived on Whidbey Island for 23 years and had been driving by the UUCWI site for years. When I finally had enough time and interest to investigate in 2009, my partner Dave Sweetwood & I attended our first Sunday service and signed the book the same day. Having grown up in rural Vermont, living in Coupeville on our farm has been a joy and a connection to my roots. Raising my three children here helped to ground them in a very special way which often brings them home to visit which couldn't make me happier!



The Minister's Corner



Renewing and Recommitting

Springtime is a season of renewal. The warming rains, the splashes of sunshine, and the colors that emerge make me want to shout a joyous “YES!” to life. The trees and bushes are opening up and bursting forth with new leaves and blossoms that will become fruit in the months to come. The bulbs have emerged from their time underground and seeds are sprouting in the garden beds.

As April emerges Suzanne and I will have just returned from a brief vacation in the Big Apple, renewed and relaxed, filled with new ideas and impressions from visits to museums and attending musical performances. No doubt some of the most thought provoking and heart warming new notions will be those that emerged from unhurried long conversations with my graduate student son, Nick, who will share his Spring Break with us.

It is an amazing season. I love it. Yet some aspects of it are problematic. Not all new growth is positive. The fresh starts emerging in the garden includes the seedlings of the cool weather vegetables we planted *and* the weeds that sprouted from windblown seeds. The new growth includes the fresh young blackberry vines in my neighbor's yard that are reaching out towards our boundary fence. All the beautiful bursting forth of blossoms releases clouds of pollen that aggravate my allergies and asthma. This is particularly noticeable this year when my respiratory health has yet to be fully restored. My sense of renewal this year is even more profound than it has been in the past. My recovery from a grave illness has increased my appreciation of life, weeds, irritating pollens, thorny blackberry vines and all.

Spring offers opportunities for renewal and fresh starts, a time to be intentional about what we nurture, what we plant and what we will choose to prune back. What we do in this season will determine what kind of harvests will come to us in the future. It's a season of deciding what we want to commit to.

In our congregation it is the time when each of us is asked about our commitment to the well-being of our beloved community. We will all be asked to renew and perhaps increase our financial commitment. The board will also be asking people to serve in leadership roles. Meanwhile, we always need people to do the vital work of assuring that chairs are set up on Sunday mornings and the building and grounds are maintained. There are plantings to nurture and weeds to be pulled. What fresh and positive energy will you bring into the garden of life? ~ Dennis

What Moves You

Do you want to explore more deeply your own personal theology? Do you want to know more about important figures in UU history and how their lives and their thoughts shape us still?

Please join Rev. Dennis Reynolds and Rev. Bill Graves in a 4-week introduction to an Adult Programs class titled “What Moves Us.” We will use material from a 10-week UUA program and meet at the church on Thursdays from 7:00 to 8:30 on April 16, 30, May 7, 21. Sign-ups will begin at church on Sunday March 29 or by contacting Dennis by email at minister@uucwi.org

Contemporary theologian and UU minister, Rev. Dr. Thandeka, author of the curriculum, describes “What Moves Us” as *“a program that explores the life experiences of both historic and contemporary UU theologians, highlighting that which caused in them a change of heart, a new direction, new hope, and a deeper understanding of their own liberal faith. These workshops offer participants a chance to engage with and bring their personal experiences to bear on the very questions explored by each theologian in turn. The program offers a pathway for developing not only one's own personal theology but also one's deep understanding of the threads of our Unitarian, Universalist, and Unitarian Universalist theological heritage.”*

Bill and Dennis will offer additional sessions of “What Moves Us” next year. These first spring sessions will explore the life and work of Hosea Ballou, Margaret Fuller, William Ellery Channing and James Luther Adams. For more info go to <http://www.uua.org/re/tapestry/adults/movesus>

UUCWI Activities and Committees

Caring Connections Update: *Shared Ministry in Practice*

At the Feb 15th service, 32 members and friends completed a form offering to give service as part of our Caring Connections program at UUCWI. For those of you who were not in attendance, there are forms at UUCWI on the welcome table that you can complete and leave in the box. The form will also be an attachment to the next few e-news.

The form includes a list of ways we have most frequently been of service in the past. There is also a place for you to offer a service that is not yet on the list. In the future, we will be adding ways to serve as our list of willing helpers grows.

I'm sure you know, the more people who offer service, the more needs we can meet AND the easier it will be for us to do so. Particularly for those who are new to service in a specific community, ease is important. Also those familiar with service and those receiving services benefit from the process being clear and simple. I'll attempt to involve equally all who wish to serve and to do so with the minimum of email and phone contact needed to get the job done.

We could use more people living in the Clinton/Langley area or Freeland folks who wouldn't mind a ride south to help one of our members with rides to and from church. ~ Glo Sherman

UUCWI EARTH AND OCEAN APPRECIATION WEEK, April 19-25

All events are at 7PM in the UUCWI Sanctuary*

Monday April 20th, 7pm **“Our Shared Responsibility: The Totem Pole Journey 2014”.**

Lummi master carver Jewel James took the totem pole he carved for the occasion on an epic, evocative and inspiring 3800mi journey, bringing hope and showing solidarity for the communities effected by tars sands oil trains and the proposed coal port at Cherry Point. Lummi Freddie Lane has documented this journey. Both will answer questions afterwards.

Tuesday April 21st, 7pm **“Thirsty for Justice: The struggle for the human right to water”.**

This film examines the increasingly critical crisis of our freshwater supply, looks at causes and proposes solutions. “It shows how we as a democracy are slowly giving up our rights to one of our most basic resource, water, to corporations.” Island County hydrologist Doug Kelly and WRAC rep Don Lee will answer questions after.

Wednesday, April 22nd, 7pm **“Making Polluters Pay: The Carbon Tax Option”** Should the fossil fuel industry continue to pollute for free as we absorb the horrific costs? Cap and Trade? Fee and Dividend? Economist, former UW professor, comedian and author Yoram Bauman, PhD, will humorously sort it all out for us as only he can.

Thursday, April 23rd, 7pm **“The Sixth Extinction”** We will join Libby Roberts for a lively discussion about this fascinating book by Elizabeth Kolbert. “Over the last half-billion years, there have been 5 mass extinctions, when the diversity of life on earth suddenly and dramatically contracted. Scientists around the world are currently monitoring the 6th extinction, predicted to be the most devastating yet. This time the cataclysm is us.”

Friday, April 24th, 7pm **“The Climate Monologues”** Climate Destabilization will unfairly target the most vulnerable and least responsible. In this one-woman musical, Orcas Island's Sharon Abreau will, with creativity and grace, tell the stories of real people impacted by climate disruption. It has been performed nationally and most recently as part of the University UU's Climate Action Week.

The Wider World of Unitarian Universalism

Continuing our UU History lessons...

Mis-shelved Faiths

When President Obama, speaking at Selma in early March, mentioned a Unitarian minister who lost his life in the struggle for civil rights half a century ago, my thoughts turned to the time I spent as the UU minister in Athens, GA. In '81 I moved to the "New South" hoping to contribute, in my small and, I hoped, non-lethal way, to its ongoing renovation. The UUs of Athens were a diverse lot, united by the fact that they were not at home in the old-line churches of the region. Despite our dissident streak, we sought cover: we had a regular Wednesday evening potluck, since that was the night all the Baptists held mid-week evening services.



While on the UU Mid-South District board, I traveled around the region for meetings and conferences. A visit to the venerable Unitarian Church in Charleston, SC, reminded me that John C. Calhoun, better known for his stalwart defense of slavery, the Old South's "peculiar institution", was a founder of All Souls Unitarian in D.C. The minister of Charleston's Unitarian Church gave the eulogy at Calhoun's funeral.

It was in Athens itself that this complexly twisted history and its impact on our liberal religious tradition hit closest to home. No, nobody ever burned a question mark on our lawn. But in my work with the Campus Ministry Association I came face to face with the conundrum of liberal tolerance. A group related to the Unification Church (the "Moonies") sought admission to the CMA. Most did not want to let them in, thinking them an extreme, political cult. One of our UUs had "lost" a son to the Moonies. But the Mormon rep to the CMA argued that if we ruled the Moonies to be outside our circle of fellowship, might not the LDS church be the next to be excluded? We assured him he was safe, and declined the Moonies' application. Before I left Athens, however, I saw something that made me think more deeply about our Mormon colleague's concern. In a Christian Bookstore in downtown Athens I found books on Mormonism, UU-ism and Christian Science thrown together with books about the Moonies in the "cults" section. There is, alas, much evidence of a slide in recent decades toward bigotry and reaction, especially in the Deep South. When Gladys and I were in Athens this past summer after attending a family wedding in Savannah, I decided I'd rather not know if that bookstore had reconfigured its shelving criteria. It was better to visit the UU church's luminous new building and hope that my three years there had helped to lay at least a part of the foundation for a more benign pathway forward. ~ Mitch Howard



(1) **Keep your eye on www.uua.org/ga.** A lot of information is available including the complete program with workshop times and descriptions, and the tentative agenda of business coming before this GA. You'll also see opportunities for side trips and tours, learn about the children's programs, get help planning your travel, and much more.

(2) **Register for General Assembly now.** Registration is now open, and while you can register any time between now and GA, you save money by registering before May 1. You'll find all the information you need at <http://www.uua.org/ga/registration/index.shtml>

(3) **Consider applying to be a GA volunteer.** Check out the job descriptions and fill out the application at <http://www.uua.org/ga/registration/financialaid/14930.shtml> You'll be notified by April 23, in time to register at the lower March-April rate.

(4) **Plan and reserve your lodging at GA.** You have a choice of hotels, dormitories, or home hospitality. Housing reservations **are now open.** <http://www.uua.org/ga/travel/index.shtml>

More from the Wider World of Unitarian Universalism

"Pathways to Spirit"

Presented by the Living Tradition Institute of the West Puget Sound

Saturday, April 11, 9:30am-3:00pm – Quimper UU Fellowship

This 6th annual workshop is presented by UU ministerial colleagues of the North Olympic Peninsula, who yearly plan a day of weighty and intriguing exploration of matters spiritual. This year's theme is "Pathways to Spirit."

The journey to spiritual wholeness is grounded in ancient tradition, yet continually evolving. In this workshop, we'll explore ways to deepen our own spiritual practice, honor those who have helped us grow our souls, and celebrate how our UU communities sustain us on our varied paths.

The main presenters will be Florence Caplow, an ordained Soto Zen priest and ministerial intern at Quimper and Rev. Barbara ten Hove from Cedars. Assisting them are Rev. Jaco ten Hove, Rev. Dennis Reynolds, and Rev. Bruce Bode

Suggested donation: \$5 at the door. Please bring a brown bag lunch. Coffee, tea and snacks will be provided. **Please register online by Thursday, April 9, at: <http://tinyurl.com/ALPs2015Winter>** If you have questions e-mail Rev. Bode at bruce@olympus.net, or call the QUUF office at 360-379-0609



Although no one in this video claims to be Unitarian Universalist, please watch and determine for yourself whether this isn't a most exquisite expression of our 1st UU value "the inherent worth and dignity of every person." What amazes me most is that this is a *commercial*! I simply cannot imagine a US company that would ever take a stand for compassion as is seen in this youtube clip.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cZGghmwUcbQ>

It's guaranteed to put a smile on your face. ☺ ~ Terra

April is the UUA's [Climate Justice Month](#), a time to start thinking together about changing *everything*. Our current climate crisis requires transformation. It's less about changing a few individual behaviors and more about imagining radical new ways of living. Our current paradigm assumes the expendability of some people and species in service to the dominant culture. In it, we willingly forgo human health and even human and non-human life on this planet as long as we can live in comfort and convenience today. In this paradigm, we willingly sacrifice the people on the margins of society—generally people of color, immigrants, and people who live with great financial instability—to maintain the industrial growth economy. This economic system assumes ecosystems, communities, cultures, and non-human beings are all externalities that are expendable in the pursuit of maximizing profit.

NOW, Unitarian Universalists and other people of faith and conscience begin to think deeply together about altering social norms and creating climate justice. Climate justice is a global fight to dismantle the paradigm that disadvantages marginalized people and approaches Earth as supply source and sewer rather than a system of interdependent life, a single, beloved community. Climate justice pays deep attention to those most affected by climate change to find transformative solutions grounded in profound connections with Earth and each other.

~ Commit2Respond (C2R)

Social and Environmental Justice News

SRC...be in the Know!

“Healing the wounds of the earth and its people does not require saintliness or a political party, only gumption and persistence. It is not a liberal or conservative activity; it is a sacred act.”

~Paul Hawken, Blessed Unrest

These wise words seem a fitting introduction for you--our UUCWI members and friends--to the proposed new name and Role and Responsibilities statement for the SRC. Note that Hawken speaks to both “the wounds of the earth and its people”. And so our proposed new name, Social and Environmental Justice Council, calls forth justice for both the *earth* and its *people*. The SRC blended the voices of advocates from diverse perspectives in crafting the proposed Roles and Responsibilities (please see the side-bar on the following page) Prior to submission to the Board in May for their approval, we ask that you – members and friends of the congregation - take a look at our thinking and forward comments and questions to us (jeanmc@whidbey.com).

Here is how we imagine our responsibilities would translate into activities:

Social Justice	Environmental Justice
Support UUSC and Washington UU Voices for Justice <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Endorse Family Unity Legislation• Support NW Detention Center justice action• Join UUSC as members and as a congregation	Support UUA’s Commit2Respond <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Support Low Carbon Future• Endorse Salish Treaty• Support UUA initiatives• Partner with other UU congregations, and other churches/organizations
Increase housing and food sufficiency on Whidbey Island via Habitat for Humanity and WIN	Help lead Whidbey Island’s Ecumenical Greening Group
Sponsor 6 Dedicated Offerings Annually	Sponsor 6 Dedicated Offerings Annually

April’s SRC activities perfectly illustrate our new dual justice focus. Earth and Ocean Month, as well as the UUA initiative Commit2Respond, present many opportunities to learn more about climate change and its impact upon the earth and all its inhabitants. Last month we supported a service on the moral imperative of acting to halt climate disruption. At the end of this month, the SRC will support a service focused on the social and environmental justice impacts of white privilege.

The mission of the Social and Environmental Justice Council is to raise awareness and mobilize action to address the crisis of climate change and the social justice issues it magnifies. In your opinion, does our new name and mission reflect what you want to see our Council represent for UUCWI?



For our dedicated offering in March we collected \$508 for Citizens Against Domestic Abuse (CADA).



Thank you for your generosity, UUCWI!

Continued Social and Environmental Justice News

Draft – for your consideration and comment

I Don't "Believe" in Climate Change!

I was a 'believer.' It began when James Hansen made his report to the Senate in 1988 about the possible consequences of climate disruption. My 'belief' was further reinforced after observing the Keeling Curve's rhythmic, regular, steadily upward oscillations. I 'believed' Svante Arrhenius's postulation (1898) that human activity could increase global temperatures was plausible. But I don't 'believe' in global warming any more because I don't have to. Like Doubting Thomas I can put my finger into the wounds. They are everywhere. Killing heat waves, deadly droughts, ever fiercer forest fires and floods are ravaging the surface of Eearth*. Meanwhile alarmingly rapid changes are occurring in the ocean effecting oysters, pteropods and coral reefs. Weather patterns are changing. Planting zones are sliding northward. Grapes are grown in England. Australia has added magenta to their weather map, due to rising temperatures. The Polar Cap is just 30% of what it was 40 years ago. Walrus are beaching themselves as a result. Glaciologists say the melting of Greenland and Antarctica has gone too far to stop it. Meters of sea level rise are guaranteed. Visit Miami or Norfolk, VA to see it coming through their storm drains, flooding their streets. In the East, weird winter weather ruled, while the West was warm and drying. If the drought in California continues they will run out of water in 2016. The lack of snow here has forced Governor Inslee to declare a drought emergency.

There is nothing to 'believe.' Instead, we must confront what we were warned to avoid. We *can* ask, "Why?" but *must* ask, "What now can we do?" Your SRC has created a variety of opportunities for thinking and for action. Check your weekly e-news for questions to contemplate and discuss in Chalice Circles and with your. "How am I feeling and What can I do now?" is the title of the forum following our 3/29 service. It will be an opportunity to examine our thoughts and emotions and envision a pathway forward. UUCWI will also be hosting Earth and Ocean Appreciation Week, April 19-25.

Many see this as an inherently moral issue not be solved by simple technical fixes. As President Morales recently put it, "You can pretend to care. You can't pretend to show up." Nor can you pretend to Commit2Respond. Join us. ~ Gary Piazzon

* Eearth (2010) by Bill McKibben The title reflects the radically new planet we will live on due to human activity.

Social and Environmental Justice Council Role and Responsibilities

Pursuing social and environmental justice

"The Universe is a communion of subjects, not a collection of objects." ~ Thomas Berry

The Social and Environmental Justice Council within UUCWI strives to promote justice – moral principles guiding behavior based on truth, reason, fairness, and equality. The SEJC's activities are consistent with the initiatives of UUA, UUSC, and the Washington UU voices for Justice. We:

- Foster the worth and dignity of all life by promoting social, environmental, and economic justice, and recognizing the interrelationships of all forms of justice;
- Promote the direct involvement of UUCWI to service, advocacy, and/or community organizing to create social and environmental justice in the larger community of Whidbey Island;
- Encourage connections among UUCWI, Whidbey Island, the Northwest region, and national and global partners for the purpose of social and environmental justice;
- Support a generosity of spirit and action in all aspects of our UUCWI community; and
- Respond to emergency or crisis needs as they occur

We align with the United Nations Earth Charter and with Commit2Respond, a Unitarian Universalist religious response to raise awareness and mobilize action to address the crisis of climate change and the social justice issues it magnifies. We believe that social and environmental justice are deeply interrelated, impacting all and especially those with fewest resources.

Our commitment is to:

- Grow the climate justice movement
- Advance the human rights of marginalized communities
- Shift to clean and renewable energy
- Honor all life as interrelated

**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

UUCWI's website: www.uucwi.org
"Like" us on Facebook ... Search for Whidbey
Unitarian or UUCWI

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