



**The Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Whidbey Island  
Weekly News**

*Image by Aaron Burdenon Unsplash*



**This Sunday's Service**  
**February 25, 2024 10am**

**Cracked Wide Open**  
**Rev. Kate Lore**

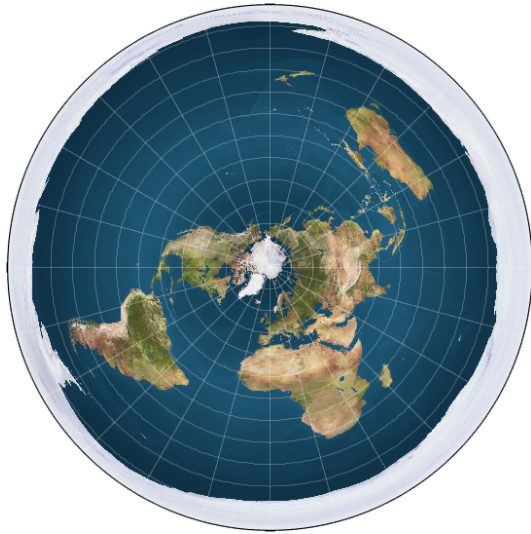
**With Kate Nunn,  
Worship Leader  
and Jane Hayes, Ken Merrell and  
Karen Heather,  
Special Music**

**Please join us in person or on  
Zoom.**

**There is a crack in everything," sings Leonard Cohen, "that's how the light gets in."  
During a breakup or a breakdown, during a life loss or an unexpected transition,  
what gifts await us when we are cracked wide open?**

If you have trouble joining our Zoom meeting, email [webmaster@uucwi.org](mailto:webmaster@uucwi.org) for help.

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## Next Sunday's Service

March 3, 2024 10am

The Flat Earth Society  
Rev. Amanda Aikman

With Effie Brown,  
Worship Leader  
and Eileen Soskin,  
Special Music

*Image by Elene Mozhivilo on Unsplash*

It seems almost beyond belief, but there are many people who are absolutely convinced that the earth is flat.

Let's explore this extraordinary attitude — and also dare to reflect on which of our own cherished beliefs are irrational or weird.

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## This Week's Calendar

[Click here](#) to view our full UUCWI  
Calendar.

Click on blue titles for Zoom link.

Check out our [Members and  
Friends Facebook Page](#).

*Image by Khadeejz Yasser on Unsplash*

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**Friday, February 23**

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***Sunday, February 25***

10am [Worship Service](#) (In Person and on Zoom)  
After Service Drummer's Initiative (Cascade Room)

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***Monday, February 26***

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***Tuesday, February 27***

3:30 - 4:30pm [Caring Circle](#)

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***Wednesday, February 28***

10am - Noon [Men's Group](#)  
11am - 12:30pm Women's Group (Sanctuary and Zoom)

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***Thursday, February 29***

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## Announcements and News

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## Nominating Committee Call for Volunteers

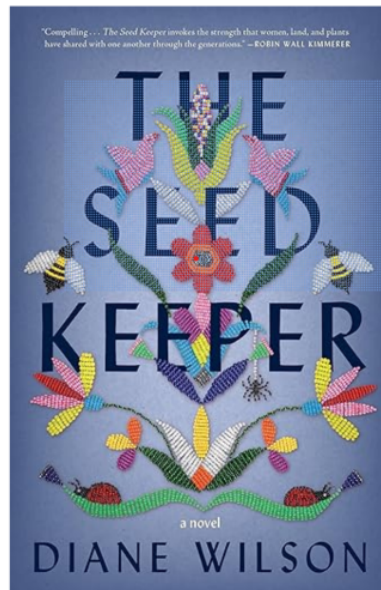
The Nominating Committee has begun its work to build a slate of candidates for the Board of Trustees positions which will become vacant at the end of this fiscal year. Members of the committee are Dallas Huth, Diane Saffitz and Gaye Simpson. If you have interest in the important work of serving on the board, please speak to one of these members.

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## Leadership Council Meeting Friday, March 1st 10am

The Leadership Council will meet on Friday, March 1st at 10 am in the sanctuary. Mark your calendars! All leaders - past, current, or potential - are welcome. If you have anything you would like included in the agenda for this important gathering, please send an email to Werner ([webmaster@uucwi.org](mailto:webmaster@uucwi.org)) by Friday, Feb. 23<sup>rd</sup>. We are looking



## Native Authors Book Discussion Group

Next month on March 20, (6:30-8:00pm), we will begin our spring season with a discussion of *The Seed Keeper* by Diane Wilson. This engaging novel invokes the strength that women, land, and plants have shared with one another through the generations. Wilson is a Dakota descendent, enrolled on the Roseburg Reservation and lives in Shafer, Minnesota.

This Zoom discussion is open to everyone. Please register [here](#). You will be sent discussions questions to guide your reading and in preparation of the discussion.

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## PASTORAL CARE & CONNECTIONS AT UUCWI

UUCWI offers comfort and presence when times of trauma and distress touch our lives.

We have a pastoral care team which includes Rev. Kate Lore, our interim minister for pastoral care. If you or someone you know might benefit from this offering please consider contacting our coordinator, Bill Graves, at [pastor@uucwi.org](mailto:pastor@uucwi.org).

UUCWI also has a Caring Connections team that can provide needed short-term support of a logistical nature (food, a ride to medical, etc.). To make requests email Jane Hayes, our interim coordinator of these types of services, at [caringconnections@uucwi.org](mailto:caringconnections@uucwi.org).

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## THE LARAMIE PROJECT -- A PLAY

Saturday, March 2, at 7 PM  
UUCWI Sanctuary

This is a special opportunity to see a remarkable play brought to us by the King & Whidbey Playhouse. This performance on South Whidbey is one night only. All of the lines spoken are from interviews of members of the Laramie, Wyoming community.

The Laramie Project presents a deeply complex portrait of a community's response to the 1998 murder of Matthew Shepard, a young gay man living in Laramie, Wyoming. In a series of poignant reflections, the residents of Laramie react to the hate crime and surrounding media storm with anger, bewilderment, and sorrow. The play portrays the seismic and deeply personal impact Matthew's death had on this small town while also demonstrating the power of the human spirit to triumph over bigotry and violence. The cast is mostly Oak Harbor High School Students. A few roles are played by non-students.

**Disclaimer:** There is adult heavy content and language. Parental discretion is advised.

# The Laramie Project

By Moises Kaufman and Members of  
the Tectonic Theater Project

DIRECTED BY SHELBY MONTOYA

PRODUCED BY ERIC GEORGE



*DISCLAIMER: There is adult heavy content and language. Parental discretion is advised.*

Show Performance: March 2, 2024 @ 7pm  
20103 WA 525, Freeland Washington 98249  
Seating Capacity: 100

Suggested donation of \$25 at the door

THE LARAMIE PROJECT IS PRESENTED THROUGH SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT WITH DRAMATIST PLAY SERVICES 440 PARK AVENUE SOUTH NEW YORK NY 10016. PHONE 212-683-0960 FAX 212-213-1539 WWW.DRAMATIST.COM

## Community Event

A Celebration of Nonviolent Witnesses for  
Peace and Justice

Interactive theme:

**"Swords to Plowshares:"**

*A Call for Gun Violence Prevention*

**Hosted by:**

St. Augustine's  
Episcopal  
Peace Fellowship

**Music Led by:**

Henry Lebedinsky

*A Beloved Community Gathering*

**"BLESSED ARE THE PEACEMAKERS"**

**Saturday February 24 - 1 PM**

**St. Augustine's in the Woods**

**5217 Honeymoon Bay Rd**

**Freeland**

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## 3rd Sunday Dinners

**After Sunday Services  
at China City in Freeland  
11:30 - 12:30**

We're going back to China City and their large round table to enjoy each other's company, have quite a good number of laughs and share plates of Chinese food, family style! **Every third Sunday**, at 11:30, please join us at China City. Often, we've played a game with our little printed fortunes and found even more laughs. We'll begin in January on the 21st. Happy New Year!





*Image by DJ Winebrinner*

## Women's Group

All Meetings 11:00am - 12:30pm

### **Wednesdays In Person at Various Locations**

May be at a variety of impromptu locations by group members for activities together like having coffee, shopping, walking trails, visit studio or nurseries, going out to eat, etc. Sign up on our email list to receive those invites. Contact DJ Winebrinner by phone or email.

*Image by Jonathan Borba on Unsplash*

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## UUCWI Initiative News

[New Initiative Proposal Form Link](#)

Subscribe	Past Issues	Translate ▼
	<b>Spiritual Development</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Visual Arts Committee</li> <li>• Music Committee</li> <li>• Worship Committee</li> </ul>	Royan Copeland
	<b>Member Service</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Membership</li> <li>• Library</li> <li>• Engagement Development</li> </ul>	Clara <u>Beier</u>
	<b>Technology</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Tech Team</li> <li>• Internet</li> </ul>	Janet Garrow
	<b>Building and Grounds</b>	John Long and Don Winebrinner
	<b>Finance</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Finance</li> <li>• Stewardship</li> </ul>	Janet Garrow
	<b>Community Outreach</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• New Initiatives</li> <li>• Social Justice</li> </ul>	Remmel Nunn

## Native Connections Initiative



### **FEBRUARY NEWSLETTER** [CLICK HERE:](#)

We send monthly newsletters, with a lot more information than we can put in the E-news, directly to your email address if you are on our [email list](#).

### **NEXT NCI MEETING: WEDNESDAY, March 13 at 6:30 pm**

Meetings will continue to be on Zoom, to accommodate Indigenous people who do not currently live on Whidbey. [Join our email list](#) to receive up-to-date information about the meeting.

Frances Wood will again read us in three discussions on books by Native authors. She will provide questions for study and discussion for each book.

**March 20, 6:30 pm:** *Seed Keeper* by Diane Wilson

**April 17, 6:30 pm:** *Red Paint* by Sasha LaPointe

**May 15, 6:30 pm:** *Jesintel: Living Wisdom from Coast Salish Elders*, edited by Children of the Setting Sun

### RETURNING TO THE LAND:

[A 4-part series](#) co-sponsored by [Decolonizing Quakers](#) and presented by Nia to Go There (Cree). You can join the next Modules without seeing the first Module.

Module 4: Saturday, February 27, 12:30-3:30, *Decolonization*

**INDIGENOUS NEWS SOURCES:** If you'd like to stay current on the news from Indigenous people and their communities, here are some excellent sources:

[Native News Online](#)

[Indian Country Today](#)

[High Country News, Indigenous Affairs](#)

[Seattle Crosscut, Indigenous Affairs](#)

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## Supporters of United Student Leaders Initiative



### Education Funding Community Forum

USL is hosted a forum **Tuesday, February 20th in the South Whidbey High School New Commons** to discuss priorities of students and community members for the current Washington State legislative session. We reviewed active bills and other concerns which we will be advocating for. This event is part of our **Transforming Education** campaign, pushing for equitable funding for small and rural school districts like South Whidbey and Coupeville. As students, we have seen firsthand the effects of insufficient funding on our education. We are calling on legislators to prioritize education funding.

USL is planning a trip to Olympia on February 23rd to meet with legislators, Representatives Chavers and Paul as well as Senator Muzzall from the 10th Legislative District as well as members of the Education Committee. **We need community support to pay for transportation and other costs. if you want to support our advocacy work you can [click here](#) to make a donation.**

### **2024 The Year of the Dragon!**

Last Saturday (February 10th), the Lunar New Year began. This is the year of the dragon. The Lunar New Year is celebrated around the world, most famously in China but also in South Korea and Vietnam. The celebration, also known as the Spring Festival lasts for 16 days. It marks the end of winter and the beginning of harvests, planting, and a fresh start to the season of spring. The Year of the Dragon is the 5th animal in the 12-animal cycle of the lunar calendar. The Dragon is associated with the earthly branch symbol *chen*. If you were born in 1952, 1964, 1976, 1988, 2000, or 2012, your zodiac sign is the Dragon! This is your year to shine. Those born on a Dragon Year can often be described as strong and independent people, however, they often rely on and yearn for support and love. According to this belief system keep your flow going West and Northeast and stays a safe distance from the East and the Northwest directions this year.

Have a happy Lunar New Year and stay safe!

Naomi Atwood and Ethan Heather Ford on behalf of USL

\* submitted with edits by USL liaison Gary Piazzon



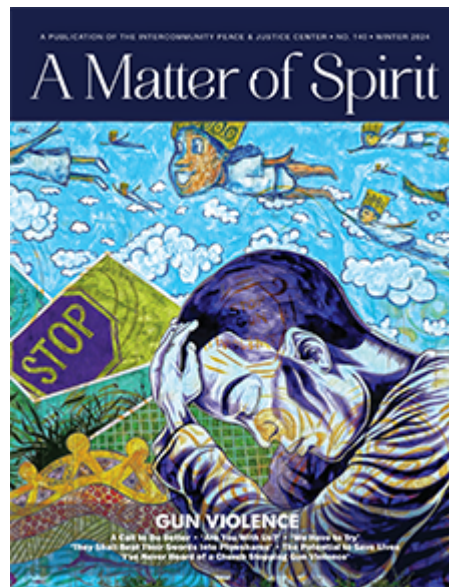
### **Members and Friends Facebook Group**

UUCWI has a Members and Friends Facebook Group to encourage sharing information, resources, and discussions. Check it out [here](#).

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# Social Environmental Justice



**"A well regulated Militia, being necessary to the security of a free State, the right of the people to keep and bear Arms, shall not be infringed." US Constitution, 2nd Amendment**

***"I am furious... How dare you allow powerful adults who love guns to be more important than a generation of children growing up in fear?"*** [Rebecca Field](#)

### **Mark Your Calendar**

**Monday February 24 "Swords into Plowshares"** 1:00 PM at [St Augustine's in the Woods](#). It is an annual event celebrating of his work. The focus will be on the gun violence epidemic. This was originally scheduled for MLK Day.

***"Are You With Us?" Award winning video-*** These youth are making videos about the growing epidemic of gun violence in the USA. You can watch their compelling videos [here](#) and read an interview of the adolescent filmmakers, Emma Lemieux and Abby Gomes, and other articles related to the gun violence epidemic in this issue of [A Matter of Spirit](#).

- Gun Violence is now a leading cause of death and anxiety amongst school age children. The USA is unique in the world in the levels of gun violence. You can find more facts in the attached document.
- "The average young person in the United States knows at least one person who has

more people than you know who were injured or killed by gun violence, the more they reported their anxiety, depression, and post-traumatic stress symptoms to be." 2023 Survey "[Youth Attitudes on Guns](#)"

humbly submitted by UUCWI founding member Gary Piazzon

\*image is from the front cover of A Matter of Spirit Winter 2024 issue

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## Submissions

### UUCWI Weekly E-News

**Purpose:** To remind and inform UUCWI congregation & visitors of upcoming services and church-related events.

**Published:** Weekly, sent Fridays at 5:00 a.m. via MailChimp.

**Deadline:** All submissions must be sent to editor by **WEDNESDAY AT NOON** for the current week's publication.

#### Submissions:

- Send submissions to [enews@uucwi.org](mailto:enews@uucwi.org).
- Be direct and concise in your announcement.
- Think of what, when, where, and why. Suggest a short headline.
- Avoid using acronyms or abbreviations. If you do, define your acronym or abbreviation in your first use, like this: *Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Whidbey Island (UUCWI)*.
- You may include a graphic if you would like but must credit the artist/source.
- Do not use personal emails or telephone numbers. Contact [admin@uucwi.org](mailto:admin@uucwi.org) if you would like to arrange contact information for your item.

#### Topics:

- Worship Services and congregational news
- Messages from the Minister
- Board of Trustees and UUCWI Official Notices
- Committee, Initiative and Program news submitted with the approval of the Chair, Initiative or Program Leader
- UUA information
- Local events UUCWI sponsors

To avoid duplicating other Island announcement services, like Drew's List, we will not accept notices for community events, unless UUCWI is a sponsor of, or a congregant is a participant in, the event.

**Editing:** The eNews editor will review each submission. Any post needing substantive editing will be returned and will need to be

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All submissions for eNews are due by

**WEDNESDAY AT NOON.**

Please send all submissions to UUCWI Staff at [enews@uucwi.org](mailto:enews@uucwi.org).

*Thank you!*



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