



Island Passages

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August 2009

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
						1
2 Service: 10 am "Listening to the Messages"	3	4	5	6	7	8 10 am VAC 1-3 pm NEKK
9 Service: 10 am "Thinking About the Great Questions of Human Existence" 11:30 Fun on Whidbey	10 9 am Worship Committee	11	12 10 am Membership Committee	13	14 9 am BOT	15
16 Service: 10 am "Your Brain's Creation Story" After service: SRC pot luck and meeting	17 7 pm Workshop with Rev. Michael Dowd	18	19	20	21 Newsletter Deadline	22 Choir Retreat time: TBA
23 Service: 10 am "Who am I?"	24	25	26	27 4 pm - ? SEKK	28	29 7 pm Conversation @ Kit's
30 Service: 10 am "from the musings of archy and meh-itabel"	31					

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From Our Minister



Dear Whidbey Friends,

As I look ahead to the new year together as Unitarian Universalists on Whidbey Island, I'm excited by the prospects I see: new friends and members, new activities, new ideas, new projects, new ways of reaching out to our larger community, new ways of being in service to others. Every year we add newness to the dear familiarity of our community, for this is how we continue to grow and evolve.

During worship services this year, we will explore some of the great questions of human existence, aka "theology". Though the word means "study of God", we UUs don't interpret those great questions through a single definition of "God"; we each have a unique relationship with the Sacred and our answers to the great questions may be somewhat different because of this. Fortunately, our differences are what make our faith exciting and help us to evolve as humans striving to make our lives meaningful.

We'll be examining such ideas as "who am I?", "does life have a purpose?", "what is the relationship of good and evil with human nature??", "how can I become the most whole person I can be?", "who was Jesus? The Buddha? Mohammed? Moses? And what do they mean today?", "what is the driving force in the Universe?", "what does it mean to belong to a faith community?", "how do I know what to believe?", "what do we do with our faith?", "what does my death mean?", "what are the sacred texts we find important?".

We'll be looking at these great questions over the course of the year. I will speak at least once a month on a question and other services during the month may also address the same topic, though from a different angle. There will be additional opportunities to participate in conversation about each question, as we continue our regular monthly Conversation series at my home.

Our hope is that as we consider the building blocks of Unitarian Universalism (our Principles,

our Sources, our Theology, our Outreach), each of us will come to have a deeper understanding of who we are and what we may become, as individuals, as a community, and as part of the interdependent web of all existence.

I hope your summer has been a satisfying and joyous time for you so far. See you in August!

Much love,
Kit

Calender Listings

Aug. 2: "Listening to the Messages"

Speaker: Rev. Sarah Schurr

Insight, wisdom, the voice of the divine – these are all around us. The trick is to be able to notice them and get those messages to guide us along our way. The Rev. Sarah Schurr, a close friend of Rev. Ketcham, is our guest speaker today. Rev. Schurr is a graduate of Marylhurst University and did her internship at the UU Fellowship of Corvallis, Oregon. A native of Portland, she is currently working as a social worker at Parkinson's Resource of Oregon while she awaits her first parish position.

Worship Leader: Rev. Kit Ketcham

Hospitality: Lois C.

Aug. 9: "Thinking About the Great Questions of Human Existence"

Speaker: Rev. Kit Ketcham

During the coming church year, we will be considering some of the great questions of humanity and what they may mean to us during times of huge cultural shifts in the world. Rev. Kit Ketcham will speak about those questions and set the stage for an examination of Unitarian Universalist theology and its evolution.

Worship Leader: Evan W.

Hospitality: Karla K.

August 16th: "Your Brain's Creation Story"

Speaker: Connie Barlow

Unitarian Universalists, as freethinkers, have long appreciated the scientific endeavor for what it can tell us about the vast Universe and the depths of prehistory. The young sciences of Evolutionary Psychology and Evolutionary Brain Science are now

beginning to offer practical tools that can assist us in leading fulfilled, on-purpose lives — and that can call forth compassion when we and others fail to live up to our commitments and ideals. Indeed, these sciences teach that “inherited proclivities,” which served our pre-human ancestors, are at the root of our most challenging personal issues today: relationship troubles and our tendencies to use food and other substances in unhealthy ways.

We welcome the return of Michael Dowd and Connie Barlow. They last spoke to our congregation in December 2005. Since then Michael has written a best-selling book, *Thank God for Evolution*, and Michael and Connie were featured in the Spring 2006 issue of UUWorld. They have crisscrossed the country speaking in numerous UU churches and being featured on many radio and media programs (NY Times, LA Times, Washington Post, Newsweek, Discover, Lou Dobbs, ABC News are just a few). Michael has keynoted several Science and Evolution conferences and most recently he delivered a workshop for the United Nations. Michael and Connie will also be the featured speakers at the August Eliot institute. We welcome them back to Whidbey Island and our UU congregation! Connie will deliver our sermon on August 16th, then they will both provide us a stimulating and provocative workshop on Monday night, August 17th.

Worship Leader: Terra A.

Hospitality: Mavis C.

Aug. 23: “Who am I?”

Speaker: Rev. Kit Ketcham

All our lives we strive to understand ourselves and others. We have learned that it is helpful to know ourselves so that we can know others more deeply. We learn about ourselves through our relationships with other beings and with the mystery of the Universe. What is most important to know about ourselves? Rev. Kit Ketcham will speak.

Worship Leader: Sandy W.

Hospitality: Sara H.

Aug. 30: “from the musings of archy and mehitabel”

Speakers: Baird and Peggy B.

Don Marquis first introduced Archy the cockroach and Mehitabel, a cat in her ninth life, in his newspaper column in the New York Sun in 1916. In a previous incarnation Archy was a freeverse

poet, while Mehitabel’s soul once belonged to Cleopatra. She is toujours gai while Archy is more philosophical. (Archy’s musings are typed at night on his boss’s typewriter ... but in lower case without punctuation because Archy is not strong enough to operate the shift key.) The B.s will explore Archy’s philosophy of life.

Hospitality: Earl B.

Aug. 8, 1-3 pm: North End Koffee Klatch

Come early for lunch and stay for good coffee, great conversation, and a lot of laughs!

Aug. 9, 11:30 am: Fun on Whidbey

The Fun on Whidbey Group is traveling north to our own Sarah R.’s huge lavender event at her breathtaking Lavender Wind Farm. It’s high season for lavender; you would not believe all the intriguing products that Sarah makes from her lavender. Her pond and views of the water are not to be missed. Bring your cameras, picnic blankets and money for a catered lunch at a modest price. There’s also ice cream, blueberries and loads of lavender gifts. Some of the proceeds will benefit WSU.

The date is Sunday, August 9th. We’ll leave from the church at 11:30. Judy will have some fruit to stave off hunger until we arrive at the Farm. Our Ken M. will be singing from 3:30 to 5:00! You know how much Fun on Whidbey he can be! This is a child-friendly event. Email Judy K. so she can include you in a carpool.

August 17, 7:00: Workshop with the Rev. Michael Dowd, “Evolution and the Global Integrity Crisis”

From crumbling economies to collapsing ecosystems, humanity is experiencing an unprecedented global integrity crisis. In a richly illustrated presentation, Michael Dowd sheds light on a wide range of personal, social, political, and economic issues through the prism of global integrity: humanity in right relationship at all levels, from the personal to the planetary. The evolutionary sciences teach us that throughout life’s history, a vital trend is chaos catalyzing cooperation in ever-larger systems of interdependence. Dowd proposes that only an evolutionary worldview can help us co-create a just and thriving

Calender Listings continued on p.4

From the Pres



VOLUNTEERISM
Lois C.

Coming together is a beginning;
keeping together is progress;
working together is success.

Author unknown

I'm not sure where I first came across this quote, but when I saw it, I immediately thought of our UUCWI community. Whenever I am in our building or on the grounds, I see so many people contributing in so many ways to the health of our congregation. THANK YOU!

If you are relatively new to our congregation I encourage you to seek out ways to involve yourself in the many activities that help to make us a thriving community. You do not have to be a member to participate in any of the following ways:

- Committee membership
- Usher
- Coffee hour refreshments
- Work parties

There are two opportunities for volunteers on the immediate horizon:

1. Our traditional Salmon Bake is scheduled for September 13th following our service. We need volunteers to help prepare the space and organize the pot luck. Let me know if you can lend a hand.
2. We are in need of a Building and Grounds Committee – something we didn't need when we were renting space at Trinity Lutheran. If you can help us in the care and maintenance of either the building or the grounds please contact Tom B. or me.

I truly do believe that working together is what builds a strong community. Come on in.

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future at this new, planetary level of interdependence. The talk is based on his landmark book, *Thank God for Evolution*, which has been endorsed by 5 Nobel Prize-winning scientists and religious leaders across the spectrum.

Aug. 22: Choir Retreat

We'll meet at A.'s place on Goss Lake. More information will be provided later.

Aug. 27, 4 pm - ?: South End Koffee Klatch

Location to be determined; Rockhoppers has closed. Suggestions for an alternate location are invited and a decision will be announced via the Friday E-News and Sunday Orders of Service.

Aug. 29, 7 pm: Conversation on Theology at Kit's

Refreshments at 7, Conversation at 7:30.

Our topic will be the question "Who am I?" Before we can know others, we must know a certain amount about ourselves. We are always learning about our own nature, even as we approach the end of our lives. What are the important things to know about who we are? How do we learn about ourselves? Expect a lively evening of good conversation!

Announcements

Worship Leader Workshop, September 26

"There are many ways to give to the life and work of this congregation. . ." We hear these words nearly every Sunday, and maybe you're looking to experience a new way of giving to the church. How about becoming one of our Sunday Worship Leaders? An important first step, even if you're just considering the idea, is to attend our workshop on Saturday, September 26, 9am – 2pm, lunch provided.

Our current or past worship leader volunteers are also strongly encouraged to come, since we're counting on tapping in to your collective wisdom. We'll be addressing a wide variety of topics from the basics of the sound system, lighting, and voice projection— all the way to creative ideas and resources for enhancing the service format. It's sure to be a lot of fun! We'll need to know how many are attending, so please RSVP to Sandy W.

United Nations Envoy

With the consent of the Social Responsibility Council, Toyon C. has volunteered to serve as an UU United Nations Office (UU-UNO) Envoy for UUCWI. She joins more than 400 dedicated UUs who promote understanding and support of the UN in their congregations and bring the voice of Unitarian Universalism to the UN. Recognizing the strong parallels between our UU principles and the UN Charter, socially conscious Envoys in Canada, the United States, and throughout the world work to uphold and affirm the United Nations' determination to preserve our planet for future generations.

The UU-UNO is the official representative of the UUA to the UN. More news will be available. Visit their website at www.uu-uno.org.

Save The Date!

Mark your calendar for La Fiesta – the annual UUCWI auction – to be held Saturday, November 7, 2009! And, at the same time, begin giving serious thought to what you might contribute to our major fundraiser: in-your-home parties, group outings, lessons of some sort or....

Co-chairs of the auction this year are Frances W. and Toyon C. Let them know if you have questions or would like to help. Gracias!

Committee News

Stewardship Report

A huge thank you to all who helped to make our recent pledge drive a success.

- Thank you to the many visiting stewards who met with members and friends to listen to their thoughts and wishes regarding our UUCWI community.
- Thank you to all who so generously pledged a financial commitment to UUCWI during this fiscal year. We continue to grow and thrive because of your support. The total amount pledged for the fiscal year that began July 1, 2009 is \$59,694.00
- Thank you to all those members who renewed/re-confirmed their membership for the current year. As of this writing we have 78 members.

And a huge thank you to Baird B. for volunteering to chair the stewardship committee!

Social Responsibility Council

The Social Responsibility Council (SRC) has been sifting through a number of issues, causes and suggestions brought to it for their support. They have identified nine recipients for the upcoming monthly dedicated collection plates, agreed to present three services in the coming year (including Justice Sunday) and recently recommended the BOT's approval of two projects:

- Joining Unity of Whidbey and the Quakers in presenting *The Power of Forgiveness*, a contemporary film, at UUCWI. (More details later – see www.thepowerofforgiveness.com.)
- Co-sponsoring with Unity of Whidbey and the Quakers, on September 20, an event emphasizing non-violence.

The SRC continues to sponsor the cleanup of Mutiny Bay Road and food bank collection for Good Cheer. If you have something you would like the SRC to consider, please let Toyon C. or Judy K. know.

The Council meets approximately once each month at a potluck luncheon immediately following a Sunday service. The next meeting is August 16. All are welcome.

Art Gallery News

During August and September, our UUCWI Art Gallery in the foyer will feature 1 or 2 works by each of 10-12 local artists. A reception for these artists after Sunday Services will be held sometime during the exhibit period. The date for this reception will be announced by email and at Services.

Fundraiser for the VAC

In conjunction with our request for money donations toward the Sanctuary Wall Art, the VAC is planning a Book Sale early in September. We plan to include CDs, DVDs, and Videos along with books in this sale. We are requesting donations of items from our members and friends. So, please save those things you might otherwise plan to give away. Next month look for additional information about when, where, and who. The "why" is easy. We need to raise money to complete our quilted art piece for the sanctuary.



UUCWI 2009-2010 Board of Trustees

Lois C., President

Tom B., Treasurer

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If you wish to contact any of the Board members, call UUCWI voice mail at 360-321-8656.

Minister: Kit Ketcham 360-331-2163

Chaplain: Sally Elder 360-675-3314

Our minister and chaplain are available for rites of passage ceremonies (including ceremonies of commitment or union) and pastoral visits.

Director of Religious Education: Vanessa K.

Newsletter Information:

News, announcements, events, and other items of interest to members of the congregation should be submitted in writing by the deadline to editor Celia B.

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

Time-sensitive late items will be posted with the announcements and/or on the calendar on our web site.

Current and past issues of this newsletter are available online at:

www.whidbey.com/uucwi/newsletter.html

Last names, phone numbers, and addresses are deleted from the online version for members' privacy.

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