



# Island Passages

20103 State Route 525 • P.O. Box 1076, Freeland, WA 98249 • 360-321-8656 • www.whidbey.com/uucwi/

## January 2011

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
						1 <i>Happy New Year</i>
2 <b>10 am Service:</b> "Soap Box Sunday"  <i>11:45 am</i> <i>South End Dine Out</i>	3	4	5 10 am Mens' Group	6	7	8 1-3 pm North End Koffee Klatch
9 <b>10 am Service:</b> "One Story, Many Mean- ings" <i>after svc: BOT</i>	10 9-11 am Worship C.  7 pm Book Club	11	12	13	14	15 6 pm Fun on Whidbey
16 <b>10 am Service:</b> "Not Count- ing Gays and Lesbians"	17	18	19 10 am Mens' Group	20 Noon South End Koffee Klatch	21	22 2 pm Ordination of Bill Graves
23 <b>10 am Service:</b> "We Laugh, We Cry" <i>6pm North End</i> <i>Dine Out</i>	24	25	26 7 pm Lyceum 2.0	27	28	29 7 pm Conversation at Kit's
30 <b>10 am Service:</b> "Humor and Spirituality"	31					

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## From Our Minister



Dear Whidbey friends,

As the Beatles' song says, "*Help, I need somebody, Help, not just anybody, Help, you know I need someone, help.*" Of course, when the Fab Four sang this song to us long ago, we knew they were looking for a girl or a new guru or a new agent, not somebody to help out at church!

But that's what I'm looking for, many somebodies to help out at church. Our faithful core group of those who always step up and fill in when there's a need for refreshments or cleanup or ushers or greeters or Religious Education volunteers or work party helpers---they're getting tired of being the only ones who step up regularly.

There's a wonderful reward that comes from helping out with the regular chores, keeping our building and grounds beautiful, making our visitors feel welcome, providing the coffee and refreshments after worship, straightening the chairs and tidying up in readiness for the Quaker congregation later in the day, volunteering to help with the children and youth, setting out the hymnals for our worship, checking the sound system

That reward is a sense of belonging, of contributing something of yourself, not and acting as an usher. just your financial resources. That reward is also a chance to get to know other volunteers at a deeper level. That reward is also a knowledge that you are able to give back to a community that has offered itself to you in many ways.

And so I ask you to claim your reward by volunteering to help out. Here's a list of a few things you can do:

1. Sign up to be an usher. It's easy, takes only a little time on a Sunday and no experience.
2. Come to a work party---these are fun! Lunch comes with the deal and the company is terrific!
3. Bring refreshments----you will be a Rock

Star if you make coffee and set out a few goodies. Nothing fancy needed, just a few cookies and fruit will be fine.

4. Say hello and get acquainted with visitors and newer folks. We want to be known as a friendly congregation.
5. Learn to run the sound system. It's not hard and it is essential to have adequate amplification for services.
6. Volunteer to help in the Religious Education program. Our kids are great and they need more caring adults in their lives.
7. Think about where your interests lie---would you enjoy being part of our membership committee or Social Responsibility Council? Working on fundraising? Being a trustee or other officer? Is the choir more your thing? Or the auction? Do you have a new idea that would be fun to try out?

It's important to our sense of community that we ALL take part in creating and sustaining our congregation's inreach and outreach----what we do for each other and for the world beyond our walls. It's easy to let the "core group" do all the work, but it's not really conducive to building the Beloved Community we strive for.

So when you come to services next Sunday, look on the greeting table for the clipboard of signups and sign up to bring refreshments or usher sometime in the next few months. Come to the next work party; they're indoors in the winter. Seek out a visitor next Sunday and say hello; find out a little bit about them. Ask somebody to teach you to run the sound system. Give Vanessa, our DRE, your name and volunteer to help out one Sunday. Find a committee to join. Volunteer as a substitute pianist, if you have that skill.

If you're stuck for ideas, come and talk to me or to Lois Chowen, our president, or Mavis Cauffman, our administrator. We have lots of them!

*"Help me if you can, I'm feeling down, And I do appreciate you being 'round. Help me get my feet back on the ground, Won't you please, please help me, help me, help me, oh."*

Much love,  
Kit

## Calender Listings

### Jan. 2: "Soap Box Sunday"

Several members of UUCWI will speak briefly on issues of importance and relevance to them. These are always lively and diverse presentations from within our membership.

*Worship Leader: Frank Allen*

### Jan. 9: "One Story, Many Meanings"

**Speaker: Rev. Kit Ketcham**

Rev. Kit Ketcham and worship leader John Long will collaborate in this service, using a real-life story to illustrate timeless human truths. Guest At Your Table boxes will be received today; please count the deposits in your GAYT box, write a check for the amount to UUCWI, and bring it to the service. Our treasurer will tally the total gift and send that total to the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee.

*Worship Leader: John Long*

### Jan.16: "Not Counting Gays and Lesbians"

**Speaker: Rev. Dave Bieniek**

Rev. Dave Bieniek will speak on marriage equality. Rev. Bieniek is a part-time chaplain and volunteer coordinator for Whidbey General Hospital - Home Health Care & Hospice. He is ordained in Metropolitan Community Church and is also affiliated with the Alliance of Baptist Churches. Originally from Texas, Rev. Bieniek spent the last 14 years in Austin, Texas where he was on the pastoral staff at MCC Austin and served as staff chaplain at Dell Children's Medical Center.

He and his partner, Ervin Knezek, moved to Whidbey Island in June 2010. They have been together 10 years, celebrated a Holy Union in Texas 5 years ago, and became Domestic Partners in Washington State last July. They are excited to be in a state that at least recognizes that their relationship counts for something and for some rights.

The offering taken at this service will be dedicated to Whidbey Giving Circle, a community of Island County citizens who pool resources to support LGBTQ equality and young people on the island.

*Worship Leader: Toyon Copeland*

### Jan. 23: "We Laugh, We Cry"

**Speaker: Rev. Kit Ketcham**

One of life's challenges is to respond constructively to the large and small crises of our human condition. Many of us have found that a strong sense of

humor and the ability to laugh at ourselves is a crucial skill, helpful at all stages of life. Rev. Kit Ketcham and worship leader Joann Roomes will present a service that looks at the role of lightheartedness in daily living.

*Worship Leader: Joann Roomes*

### Jan. 30: "Humor and Spirituality"

**Speaker: Allan Ament**

In a talk entitled, "I want to make people laugh so they will take this seriously," Allan Ament will explore the connection between humor and spirituality. A retired lawyer and mediator, Allan teaches for the University of Phoenix and serves on the board of several local organizations. He is also a member of Wake Up Laughing, an improvisational comedy troupe on South Whidbey.

*Worship Leader: Effie Brown*

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### Jan. 2, 11:45: South End Dine Out

at China City in Freeland. We reserve the big table in the back of the restaurant, eat family style and split the check. All are welcome! Frank and Nola Allen will host this session of SEDO, since Kit is off-island.

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

at Whidbey General Hospital's cafeteria. Good food, good coffee, fabulous conversation! All welcome.

### Jan. 10, 7pm: Book Club Holiday Read

The UUCWI Book Club will gather at the Cauffmans' home (not at the church this time) to re-view Mary Doria Russell's *The Sparrow* and its sequel, *Children of God*. The books follow a Jesuit priest on a mission to the planet Rakhat where sentient life has been detected. Part philosophical science fiction, part mystery, part spiritual quest, part human drama, the tale explores the existence and function of God, the meaning of life and of suffering and healing, and the intricacy of human relationships.

Contact: David Cauffman



## From the Pres



### Just Say “Yes”

Our UUCWI community is truly amazing! It is a joy to know and work with so many talented, committed and generous people. I feel blessed to be a part of this community.

We are midway through our church program year, but it is already time to begin to look ahead to some specific planning for our 2011-2012 fiscal year. You will soon start to see and hear signs that such planning is underway. Our Leadership Council will meet in January and will, among other things, begin some work toward next year’s budget requests. Our Nominating Committee will begin their search for next year’s Board members. And committees are looking ahead to their work plans for future projects.

The health of our community depends on the volunteer efforts of many of its members. Some of us have found a niche – a place in the workings of our community in which we feel our talents and passions are best used. Others of us may still be searching for that spot – or may be considering trying a new focus. There are many tasks in which helping hands are needed. Some require long term commitments such as Board or committee memberships. Others may be specific to an event such as the auction or pledge drive or serving refreshments on a given Sunday morning.

We are depending on you to help us. If you are asked to serve on a committee or otherwise lend a helping hand with one of the many tasks being undertaken, just say “yes”. You will love the feeling of fully belonging to this church family.

Warmest regards,

Lois

### Jan. 15, 6 pm: Fun on Whidbey

This month we’ll explore a new, all-you-can-eat Chinese and Mongolian buffet restaurant in Oak Harbor. Mongolian food is an interesting cuisine. One chooses the meat, vegetable, rice and sauce from many foods and sauces offered and then watch it being cooked to order. We’ll meet at 6:00 at DH Buffet, 551 NE Midway Avenue, #2. Children would also enjoy eating with us.

Carpool info. for South Whidbey folks: meet us at the UU at 5:15. Coupeville: meet at the middle/high school front parking lot at 5:30. No need to RSVP Judy this time.

### Jan. 20, noon: South End Koffee Klatch

at Living Green in Langley (Anthes and De-Bruyn). We’ll have lunch together at this vegetarian hot spot. All welcome.

### Jan. 22, 2 pm: Ordination of Bill Graves

#### *To All Members and Friends of UUCWI:*

The honor of your presence is requested as the Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Whidbey Island and the Skagit Unitarian Universalist Fellowship jointly ordain William Cory Graves to the Unitarian Universalist Ministry. Dr. Sharon Daloz Parks will give the ordination sermon.

Call 360-221-2270 to reserve child care.

### Jan. 23, 6 pm: North End Dine Out

at Zorba’s (Midway/Goldie and Hwy 20). We reserve several tables and order off the menu. All are welcome!

### Jan. 26, 7pm: Lyceum 2.0

We continue our Lyceum 2.0 series on “Energy Futures for Puget Sound” with a presentation by Dr. Rick Gustafson of the University of Washington, who will offer his thoughts on biofuels and answer questions from our audience.

This talk will bring you up-to-date on biofuels, both with regard to policy and technology, and will give you one person’s view of what will happen in the future. The following are topics that will be covered:

- What’s the big fuss about biofuels (and bioenergy)?
- What is the current biofuels US situation?
- How do we produce biofuels?
- What could be the impact locally?

## Jan. 29, 7 pm: Conversation at Kit's

Our yearlong theme is "Sources of Spiritual and Religious Inspiration" and January's topic is Humor and how it helps us in human living. Refreshments at 7, conversation at 7:30. All welcome! (Call for directions, if necessary: 331-2163)

## Announcements

### Auction Success!!

A huge thank you to all who participated in our auction event in November! The final tally is in. Our net income was \$10,700. Excellent!!

Special thanks go to Toyan, Chris, and Francie for their oversight and organization of this enormous project. And thanks also to Ken for once again masterfully handling the auctioneer position – and to Sarah, his able assistant. Thanks to Libby and *all* of her kitchen crew for organizing the dinner portion of the evening. Thanks to John and Camille for again entertaining us with several public service announcements that instructed us as to how we could participate in this joyous event. And thanks to all of you who donated auction items and who purchased auction items. All of these contributions combined to make this a very, very successful fundraiser – and fun raiser.

*Lois Chowan*

### Peace Activities

The Whidbey peace group meets every Saturday at Bayview Park & Ride from 10-11 am. Come join our friendly, interesting group.

Women in Black, a nation-wide organization, meets the 1st Friday of each month just south of the Bayview Park & Ride on the grass. We display the sign "Women in Black Standing for Peace" from 3-4.

*Barb Hutton*

### Aid for Family Pets

There are people on this island who can no longer feed and keep their pets due to losing jobs, medical emergencies, and other financial considerations. The shelters are busy trying to keep up with all of these companion animals losing their homes. Couldn't we pool our resources, contact a local vet or two and offer to help? If you would like to help both the humans and the animals, contact Judy Kaplan.

## Committee News

### Art Gallery News

On display in our Foyer Art Gallery during the months of January and February will be the work of the Whidbey Island Sketchers – a group of people on Whidbey Island who love to simply draw! They are also about learning from one another, showcasing the unique character (and characters) of Whidbey Island, and most importantly - having fun.

More about this group and its member artists may be found on their website at <http://whidbeyislands sketchers.blogspot.com/>

*Joan Gerteis, Visual Arts Committee*

### Caring Connections Committee

The CCC has compiled a list of congregants who are willing to help others in the congregation when there are extensive power outages.

People who have generators and can help with *warmth, freezer space, cooking, electricity*: Judy Kaplan (Greenbank), Jean McIntosh (East Harbor Road), Karen Hastings (Oak Harbor). People who heat with wood and can offer *warmth*: Mary Stewart and Dean Enell (Langley), Joann and John Roomes (Coupeville). Joann and John Roomes can offer cooking as well.

People who can offer *guest rooms*: Barb Hutton (Langley), Rev. Kit (Freeland), Lois Chowen (plus running water), Helen Kuschnerit (Clinton).

A warm thanks to these kind folks!

*Judy Kaplan*

### Religious Education

Thank you, thank you, thank you to *everyone* who participated in our Christmas pageant. It was such a great success! It took so many people to pull it together and I was so impressed by the amount of time and effort that was shared.

It has been a great joy getting to know the new families in our RE program and to continue building on friendships with families who have been coming for a while. We are lucky to have a growing group of regularly attending families. This continuity has really helped to create a deeper sense of community in the classrooms. I have overheard parents talking to teachers about specific needs of children and am so grateful to have consistent teachers in all three

classes. It really allows teachers to develop relationships with the RE students and discover ways to best support them during RE class time. I have also overheard children planning times to get together outside of church. What a gift for all our families – to extend our church community into our daily lives. One of my new year’s resolutions for our RE program is to create more opportunities for us to gather outside of church time together as families, as well as time for parents to get together without children, so that we can continue to create friendships and widen our circle of support. I wish you all a wonderful holiday season and look forward to this new year at UCUWI.

*Vanessa Kohlhaas*

### Notes from the SRC

The Social Responsibility Council met on Sunday, December 19 to discuss upcoming SRC Sunday events, proposed dedicated offerings, and other issues of interest to council members. Our next Social Responsibility Sunday will be January 16, and the speaker we have slated couldn’t come at a more opportune moment.

David Bieniek, Chaplain to Whidbey General Hospital, will speak on the subject of marriage equality. In the wake of the historic repeal of “Don’t Ask Don’t Tell” and more and more state governments and judiciaries recognizing the rights of GLBT citizens to fully participate in the freedoms we take for granted, it’s inspiring that UUCWI will be reaffirming our commitment to being an open and affirming congregation. That is exactly what we mean by Social Responsibility.

The icing on the cake is that our dedicated offering taken up at that service will benefit Whidbey Giving Circle, our local arm of the Pride Foundation, that connects GLBT teens and young adults with local resources to help them stay safe, gain access to healthcare, and find acceptance in the community. Be sure to wear your “Standing on the Side of Love” tee-shirt on the 16th if you have one. If you don’t, you can order one from the website:

[www.standingonthesideoflove.org](http://www.standingonthesideoflove.org).

Future dedicated offerings will benefit WAIF (Whidbey Animal Improvement Foundation) in February, Good Cheer in March, The Senior Center in April, and Friends of Friends in May. This local focus in choosing recipients of our dedicated offer-

ings is intentional on the part of the SRC and reflects our shared value of working globally by acting locally.

The SRC is considering becoming a sponsoring member of Voices for Justice, the UU lobbying organization for the Washington State Legislature. This group is the voice of UUs in our state’s democratic process. A sponsoring membership will cost \$100 and will give us the opportunity help shape the debate in Olympia. Voices of Justice’s current focus is legislation related to homelessness. That’s going to be a tough sell in the current climate, so they’ll need all the help they can get.

As always, the SRC needs the congregation’s help and support. We believe our reach could and should be farther, our goals loftier, our influence greater if we could harness more of the abilities, talents, and creativity of the people in this wonderful organization. We want your ideas, your passions, your causes, and the things that keep you up at night. And we want your time and energy. Grab an SRC member and find out how you can get involved. Our next meeting will be following the January 16 service.

*Ken Merrell*



### The Heart Knoweth

We have a great deal more kindness than is ever spoken.

The whole human family is bathed with an element of love like a fine ether.

How many persons we meet in houses, whom we scarcely speak to, whom yet we honor and who honor us!

How many we see in the street, or sit with in church, whom though silently, we warmly rejoice to be with!

Read the language of these wandering eye-beams.  
The heart knoweth.

*Ralph Waldo Emerson*  
*Reading #661*



**UUCWI 2009-2010 Board of Trustees**

Lois Chowen, President

Tom Buxton, Treasurer

Dallas Huth, Secretary

Roy Bingman, Trustee

Mark Brown, Trustee

Sally Ann Elder, Trustee

Janis Hummel, Trustee

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

**Minister:** Rev. 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 Kohlhaas

**Newsletter Information:**

News, announcements, events, and other items  
concerning the UUCWI Congregation or the UU  
principles are welcome. Please submit to the editor:  
Celia Bartram: [celia@bartramrecorders.com](mailto:celia@bartramrecorders.com)

Submissions may be edited at the editor's discretion.  
Ads will not be printed.

Items submitted after press time will appear in the  
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Time-sensitive late items will be posted with the  
announcements and/or on the calendar on our  
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deleted from the online version for members'  
privacy.

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**UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CONGREGATION  
OF WHIDBEY ISLAND**

P.O. Box 1076

Freeland, WA 98249

360-321-8656