



# Island Passages

UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CONGREGATION OF WHIDBEY ISLAND  
 P.O. Box 1076, Freeland, WA 98249 • 360-321-8656 • [www.whidbey.com/uucwi/](http://www.whidbey.com/uucwi/)

## JANUARY 2002

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
		1	2 7 PM Worship Committee meeting at Trinity.	3 7:30 PM Board meeting at Trinity.	4	5 7PM Movie Night  See article on page 2.
6 2:30 PM Assessment Task Force meeting at Trinity. 4 PM Sunday service and CRE.	7 7 PM Membership Committee meeting at Malcolm F.'s.	8	9	10	11 7PM Building Committee Update and Potluck. See article on page 3.	12
13 2:30 PM CRE meeting at Trinity. 4 PM Sunday service and CRE.	14 6:30 PM WICUUPS Imbolc planning meeting	15 7:30 PM UU Book Group at Francie's	16 7PM By-Laws Review Meeting. See article on page 3.	17	18	19
20 1 PM Islam Workshop. See article on page 2. 4 PM Sunday service and CRE.	21	22	23	24	25	26 Saturday Supper. See article on page 3.
27 4 PM Sunday service and CRE.	28	29	30	31	February 	

## UPCOMING SERVICES

### January 6 — “*Is Epiphany Just Greek to You,*” with guest UU minister, Mitchell Howard

Mitchell Howard, our UUCWI Treasurer, “retired” UU minister, and full-time innkeeper, returns to our pulpit for the first time since early 1999. The occasion is a very special day in the Christian year, with some fascinating overtones beyond the range of Christianity. January 6 is Epiphany, or Three Kings Day — in Armenia, it’s Christmas! On the first Sunday of a year he hopes will be an improvement over the ill-starred 2000 and 2001, Mitch will explore in his sermon some angles on Epiphany you’re not likely to find discussed in the mass-market churches. Bring frankincense, myrrh, gold (there’s the Treasurer talking!) and above all your caring hearts, seeking spirits, and open minds.

Other facts about Mitch: Starr King ’74, ordained ’75, “retired” ’92 to help wife Gladys run the Inn at Penn Cove, elected to Coupeville School Board ’97, re-elected with 67% of the vote, November 2001, now President-elect of Central Whidbey Chamber of Commerce; finishing third year on UUCWI board, after several years on Worship Committee.

Bring your “Guest at Your Table” boxes to be turned in!  
*Service Facilitator: Sandy Welch; Membership Rep: Roy B.*

### January 13 — “*Healing Prayer,*” with guest speaker: Joyce Hawkes, Ph.D.

People of all cultures and diverse faiths pray. What are the common elements of prayer that we share? How can prayer become a deeply healing act? Starting with the connection to God and linking to the cells of the body, healing prayer affects one’s self and others. Joyce Hawkes, Ph.D., will be with us to share her experiences of healing as a biophysicist, world traveler, and energy healer.

Joyce completed her doctorate at Penn State University, then was a Fellow with the N.I.H., later recruited by National Marine Fisheries Service as a research scientist, and subsequently honored for her research publications by election to Fellow in the American Association for Advancement of Science. Leaving her scientific career in 1984, she completed a Masters in Ministry at Seattle University and studied with indigenous healers in remote villages of SE Asia. Joyce brings a synthesis of 15 years as a scientist and 18 years as a healer to the topic of “Healing Prayer.”

*Service Facilitator: Bob W.; Membership Rep: Baird B.*

### January 20 — “*In Honor of Martin Luther King: A Celebration of Islam*”

On a Sunday when we gather to celebrate our community’s diversity, we will come together in a unique worship celebration of Islam. The Prophet Muhammad once spoke, “All of you descend from Adam and Adam was made of earth. There is no superiority for an Arab over a non-Arab nor for a non-Arab over an Arab, neither for a white man over a black man nor a black man over a white man except the superiority gained through consciousness of God.” Join us for a special celebration of diversity, tolerance, and spiritual unity.

With the guidance of Mohammad El-Moslimany, Director, Islamic School of Seattle, accompanied by Muslim colleagues and friends, we will be introduced to the spiritual source and tradition that is Islam. Through celebration, meditation, prayer, and story, we will open a few windows to the rich spiritual resource that is the Quran and our Muslim community. See article below, “Islam Workshop,” for information regarding a special related presentation preceding this service.

*Service Facilitator: Kord .; Membership Rep: Kathy C.*

### January 27 — “*Under the Earth,*” with guest Transylvanian UU minister Rev. Zsuzsa Bartha

Rev. Bartha will introduce us to Balazs Ferenc and Christine Fredericksen, residents of a little village in Transylvania. The sermon title — “Under the Earth”—speaks of this couple’s point of view of the world. Zsuzsa will draw from Christine’s book, *Alabaster Village*.

Born in 1973 in Nagykaroly, the Northwest part of Romania, Zsuzsa graduated in 1996 from the Theological Seminary in Kolozsvar. After serving as an intern minister, she accepted the calling of the congregation from Meszko, a village near Torda — the Alabaster Village, as it is known in this country. Zsuzsa is currently receiving the Balazs Ferenc scholarship at Starr King School in Berkeley. This scholarship makes it possible each year for one Unitarian minister from Transylvania to do a one year postgraduate program at Starr King. Her visit is part of the fundraising mission for next year’s recipient.

*Service Facilitator: Bill G.; Membership Rep: Malcolm F.*

## MOVIE NIGHT

Everyone is invited to Roy & Carol’s Saturday, January 5 at 7:00 p.m. to watch the very popular *O Brother, Where Art Thou?* Humorously based on Homer’s *Odyssey* and starring George Clooney, this is a real charmer. Popcorn provided, bring your own beverage and munchie.

## GUESTS AT YOUR TABLES

Have you been honoring a guest at your table each meal? Remember the folks that are being helped by the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee and contribute generously to their cause. The boxes will be collected at our first service of 2002, that is January 6.

## ISLAM WORKSHOP

The Worship Committee is sponsoring a workshop, entitled “A Conversation: Islam Today, Yesterday and Tomorrow.” It will take place at Trinity Lutheran Church in Freeland (Old Sanctuary), January 20, 1:00 - 3:00 p.m. This will be an opportunity for members and friends of our congregation, as well as the local community, to explore and learn about the religious and spiritual tradition that is Islam, in dialogue with members of the Muslim community from Seattle and Whidbey.

## BUILDING COMMITTEE UPDATE & POTLUCK

Please come to a potluck on Friday, January 11 at 7:00 pm at the Bayview Cash Store (located on the corner of Bayview Rd. and Marsh View Ave. in the complex with the Art Store, Gallery, and the Smilin' Dog Coffee Shop). Bring a main or side dish and we will provide bread, dessert, drinks, plates, and utensils. The Building Committee will present an update and status report on their activities and site plan ideas and will welcome your feedback. Hope to see you there!

## CRE NOTES

Bret T., our "Roots and Shoots" instructor, has submitted a very exciting week-by-week agenda of lessons and events through the end of April. The agenda includes such things as "Whale Awareness Day," "Green Construction," and "A New Economy for Kids." There are also several field trips planned which will need adult involvement. The field trips include replanting a clear cut, a visit to Whidbey's old growth forest, and a trip to Puget Sound Environmental Learning Center.

To familiarize parents with the agenda and to promote parent/teacher teamwork, we are inviting all parents to attend a special CRE meeting Sunday, January 13, 2:30 p.m. at Trinity. We also encourage anyone who is interested in working with the CRE committee to attend. Our committee has been shrinking and is actively recruiting new members. This will be a good chance to see what we're doing.

## BYLAWS REVIEW MEETING JANUARY 16

Treasurer Mitch H. has been tasked by President Bill G. to convene a meeting of a Bylaws Review Committee to review the input Mitch has received to date, and any he may receive in the meantime, and report to the Board at its February meeting. The bylaws meeting is scheduled for January 16 at 7:00 p.m. at the Inn at Penn Cove in Coupeville. Anyone wishing to make a contribution to the discussion of possible revisions to our congregation's bylaws should plan to bring their ideas to the meeting. If you're unable to make that meeting time, please convey any ideas to Mitch.

## SATURDAY SUPPERS

Everyone agrees, our Saturday Suppers are a great way to get to know each other. Suppers are held in two homes on each date and limited to a maximum of 8 people attending at each home. The host/hostess will choose the ethnic theme and coordinate food and drink contributions. There will be two separate sign-up sheets (on the church membership table), one to host and the second to attend, or call Al G. Upcoming dates are January 26, March 16, and May 18.

## A MUSICAL NOTE

UUCWI member Peggy B., will appear as violin soloist with the Port Angeles Chamber Orchestra on January 18 and January 19 in Port Angeles and Sequim. She will play "The Lark Ascending" by Ralph Vaughn-Williams, a romantic tone poem written the 1920's. For information about the concerts and Peggy, call.

## BILL'S BANTER

*from UUCWI Board President, Bill G.*

*"While I sit here sipping my glass of wine, the spirit runs its course"*

It is said that Martin Luther wrote those words as events that profoundly altered our culture swirled around him. My lot is to be far away in Mexico and probably sipping *cerveza* as you read this. Nevertheless, many of my thoughts and much of my heart will remain with you as the spirit runs its course.

In the immediate wake of our assessment report my thoughts and heart have been fractured. One part is angst: Including remorse for the pain felt by some whom I care about. A second part of me longs to get on with the tasks of building a church, reaching out to improve the world beyond ourselves in tangible ways, and ending what my dear friend Malcolm refers to as "this interminable navel gazing." Yet, I know that dealing with the assessment constructively is our most important work the remainder of this church year.

The last part I care to discuss is the brightest. It is a sense of hope and gratitude which stems mostly from the healthy and positive process the Board of Trustees has had together in dealing with these events. We don't always agree, but I know our mutual respect and camaraderie are huge, and that bodes well for the congregation. I am confident we have a very wise and balanced assessment task force convened and poised to guide us on paths of community growth and healing in Effie, Mavis, Al, Ken, and Bob.

In addition to the quote I began with, I have found comfort in several other thoughts offered to me by friends which I wish to share. Both are drawn from my Christian heritage. The first is the concept repeatedly affirmed in the scriptures that when our prayers are too deep to be uttered, the spirit prays for us. The second is a simple statement found in the letters of Paul: "I have determined that in whatsoever state I'm in, therein to be content."

I suggest that at this turning time in our world, all that we are moving through may be held in a larger embrace. At this darkest time of the year occurs the Festival of Lights. It is a time to be mindful of the many around the world in profound suffering. It is also a time to be mindful of that larger embrace of a spirit that holds us and makes it possible to look forward with hope and trust.

## THANK YOU GERALD AND CHOIR

*from Peggy B. on behalf of all who attended Dec.23*

The choir and orchestra service on December 23 represented a first for UUCWI. The 16 singers, augmented by visitors, sang splendidly under Gerald K.'s baton. His original arrangements of traditional and new carols were well-executed by singers and instrumentalists. This is a talented congregation and community — it just takes a little rehearsing with a fine mentor like Gerald to bring it out. Thanks to all who participated by coming two hours early for practices in an often unheated room. And most of all, our deepest appreciation to Gerald for his willingness to come out of retirement to train us. He will work with the choir in January (rehearsal dates TBA), but has indicated that he cannot continue to lead us at this time, except for special services (maybe Easter!).

## WEB SITE - PEEKING IN THROUGH STATISTICS

*by Sarah R.*

In doing this project I found out that we can get a little peek into the hearts of people who are visiting our site. Last June Bob W. asked me if I had statistics on the use of the web site and in July I signed up for a free monitoring service on the web. Now, I have some stats for you which cover five months of data. They are amalgamated, because the original statistics reporting service I used has decided to charge a fee, so I switched to another one in November.

In general we are getting about 66 visits a month. No one visited on Sept. 11, 12 or 13. What can we guess about that? (Maybe UU's don't look to the web for spiritual and emotional support, or maybe everyone was glued to a different kind of screen, the TV?) Most visits come either Sunday or Thursday with the least likely day for folks to visit our site being Friday.

For you discriminating operating system observers, Macs have a much higher percentage on our site than they do in the general population (I believe Macs have between 2.5% to 8% market share). Right now we are getting 70% windows type systems, 25% Macintosh, and 5% other.

Most people visit directly, that means they don't go somewhere else first and click on a link. But for those who do follow a link to our site, the top referral sources are google.com, UU sites, Whidbey.com with aolsearch, and search.msn offering up a few, too. We had one visitor from Canada, the rest were probably from the U.S. Search engines account for 33% of our visitors. Some of the searches that people did that brought up our site were interesting. Heartbreakingly, several were for names of people killed on Sept. 11, our site lists the UU's that are known to have lost their lives. One was someone looking for the UUSea Services which is a Navy Chaplain who has created a site for Navy UU's looking for support and we list a link to his site because of our Navy Base. Someone searched the web looking for "what does the unitarian believe" and found our site. Many searched the web looking for Whidbey Island and our site came up.

What I can't track is how many people have made their way to our services due to visiting our site on the web. So, if you've done that, would you send me an email so I can pass on the information? In fact, I'd like to hear any of your thoughts about our web site — so email me, Sarah R.

## BOARD NOTES

*prepared by Ken M, Board Secretary*

The Board met on Thursday 12/06/01. Much of the meeting dealt with the assessment by the PNWD Contact Team and what actions would be taken by the Board in response to the report. It was decided by a 4-2 vote to edit the Contact Team's assessment report to protect the confidentiality of named members who wished to be removed from the report. It was further decided to form an assessment task force to evaluate the report and work with the Board and congregation to take action on the Contact Team's recommendations.

The Board also heard a report on the status of the bylaw review process. Mitch is putting together a summary of the suggestions he's received for later Board action. The issues coming to the forefront in the review process stem from the language regarding "calling a minister" and definitions of different levels of ministry. Board continuity from year to year is also an issue. The bylaw review is likely to take some time.

The Worship Committee has requested additional funds to complete the Church calendar. As we have yet to hire a part-time minister, the Worship Committee has had to engage additional speakers. A reevaluation of the Worship budget is pending. The Board agreed in principle to the Worship Committee's request that the sanctuary be reserved for quiet contemplation for at least ten minutes prior to the service. We also discussed the shortage of hymnals at recent services, and a plan to purchase additional hymnals is being worked out.

Ken M. was named as acting president during Bill's absences December 21-January 7 and March 14-April 10.

## SERVICES AUCTION COMING SOON

Keep your eyes and ears open for more information coming soon about the fantastic, entertaining, and otherwise fun "Services Auction." This is an opportunity to think up creative offerings and to buy useful services, special products, and space at unique events. Start thinking about what you would like to donate to the auction.

We'll also need people to help with: pre-auction publicity including creative sunday announcements, setting up the auction, taking care of sales, cleaning up, being generalists who can plan and do things. Call or e-mail Sarah R. for information, donation forms, and volunteer opportunities.

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# 2002 CALENDAR OF PAGAN CELEBRATIONS

*Whidbey Island Covenant of Unitarian Universalist Pagans*

Rituals are always on Sundays. Planning meetings are held at 6:30 p.m. on Mondays at Kate and Duke's house on South Whidbey

If you can help, call Patricia or Ginger  
Please join in the planning.

**Imbolc** - Sunday, February 3, 8 a.m., breakfast potluck  
*Planning meeting: Monday, January 14, 6:30 p.m.*

**Eostar** - Sunday, March 24, 9 a.m., breakfast potluck  
*Planning meeting: Monday, March 4, 6:30 p.m.*

**Beltane** - Sunday, April 28, 10 a.m., potluck lunch  
*Planning meeting: Monday, April 8, 6:30 p.m.*

**Litha** - Sunday, June 23, 11 a.m., lunch potluck  
*Planning meeting: Monday, June 3, 6:30 p.m.*

**Lughnasadh** - Sunday, August 4, 1 p.m., lunch potluck  
*Planning meeting: Monday, July 15, 6:30 p.m.*

**Mabon** - September 22, 2 p.m., potluck and apple pressing  
*Planning meeting: Monday, September 2, 6:30 p.m.*

**Samhain** - November 3, 4 p.m., potluck dinner at circle  
*Planning meeting: Monday, October 14, 6:30 p.m.*

**Yule** - Sunday, December 22, 7 p.m., dessert potluck  
*Planning meeting: Monday, December 2, 6:30 p.m.*

Please join us. We also welcome your help to prepare for these events. Fill out this form and return it to us at the ritual or by mail (snail or email). We suggest a donation of \$5 per child and \$10 per adult per year.

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Name(s): \_\_\_\_\_

email \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Do you want to receive notices by ( )email ( )snail mail?

I/we can help: \_\_\_ prepare notices, \_\_\_ call a direction,  
\_\_\_ provide music, \_\_\_ set up, \_\_\_ clean up, \_\_\_ plan  
\_\_\_ prepare the fire, \_\_\_ tell a story, \_\_\_ organize a  
children's activity,  
other \_\_\_\_\_

For which celebrations?  
\_\_\_\_\_

Please email to: prscot@whidbey.net, or snail mail to  
Ginger at: P.O. Box 541, Langley, WA 98260.

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# SOAPBOX

*from Newsletter Editor, Ken M.*



Friedrich Nietzsche said: "That which does not kill you makes you stronger." We must be stronger because I know we ain't dead. Well, maybe we're getting stronger.

There's no denying we've been through a lot in the last twelve months. And, depending on who looks and how hard, one can see any number of mistakes on every side of every issue. I'm not sure how profitable such an exercise would be. We've tried the blame game, and while it may be easy to fix blame—the repercussions of blame are proving more difficult to fix.

I prefer to look forward—and we have a lot to look forward to. This is an exiting time for our community. That's not to say there won't be bumps in the road. We will have our fair share of disagreements, arguments, compromises, and contention. And we will survive them stronger provided we learn a simple lesson—be a good sport. If you win, win graciously. If you lose, don't pick up your toys and go home. We're in this together win or lose. Will we screw up? Absolutely. Will those on the short side of the vote end up being right from time to time? Unavoidable. Will we have to compromise when we'd rather not? Undoubtedly. Is this all okay? Yes—and it builds strength of character. If we should hear one thing from the contact team it's that we need to find a way to suffer through conflict and contention without being torn apart.

We are growing. Things are changing. To expect this all to happen painlessly is patently naïve. What gives me hope is that we are passionate enough to have conflict. When everything sails along with unanimity of purpose and universal acquiescence, I begin to worry we're playing it too safe, being too timid, not stretching ourselves. Safety is just a precursor to stagnation. My high school track coach had a sign on his office wall: "When the going gets easy, you're probably heading down hill." I try to remember that when I let my fears get in the way of my passions.

I'll give you one more. It's something I tell Evan who is often afraid to try new things out of a fear of failure. Evan hates to do anything he can't do well. I can sympathize; he comes by that honestly. I tell him: Anything worth doing is worth doing badly at first. We may be doing a lot of things badly over the next year, but we'll be doing them together and they are worth doing.

# BOOKSTORE IN A BOX

Don't forget about our little Bookstore in a Box located outside the sanctuary on the Membership table. You'll find some of the best-selling books related to our religious movement offered by the two outstanding publishers associated with the UUA: Beacon Press and Skinner House. This is a non-profit endeavor— all money taken in will go to purchasing more books.