



Island Passages

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

February 2009

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THUR	FRI	SAT
1 Service 10 am: Prison Ministry Following the service: "Potluck With a Purpose" 4 - 5:30 pm The Art of Listening	2	3 Membership Committee	4	5 5:30 pm CRE	6	7
8 Service 10 am: Standing on the Side of Love 4 - 5:30 pm The Art of Listening 6:00 pm Transition Whidbey Benefit Concert	9 - 11am Worship Committee	10 7pm Book Group	11	12	13 9 - 11 am BOT	14 10 am - Noon Visual Arts Committee 1 - 3pm North End Koffee Klatch
15 Service 10 am: How the Light Gets In 4 - 5:30 pm The Art of Listening	16	17 10 - Noon South End Koffee Klatch	18	19	20 Newsletter Deadline PNWD AGM	21 PNWD AGM
22 Service 10 am: Relationships that Mat- ter PNWD AGM	23	24	25	26 6:30 - 9pm Orchestra Rehearsal	27 6:30 - 9pm Orchestra Concert	28
<i>March 1</i> Service 10 am: Community Organizer						

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From Our Minister



Dear Whidbey friends,

January 18 was an exciting day for me at UUCWI. On that day, Martin Luther King Jr. Sunday, I spoke to the gathered congregation of "Proposal 2009: Standing on the Side of Love" and described the gift that our congregation is offering to same sex couples on Whidbey Island.

Later that week, interested folks gathered to discuss the meaning of this gift to our congregation, how it addresses our responsibility as a Welcoming Congregation, and what the details of that gift might be. I am pleased that you have responded so positively to this idea and have offered such helpful feedback. Here are the details as we have gradually worked them out.

During the year 2009, the use of our sanctuary and my services as officiant will be offered to same sex couples on Whidbey Island for their wedding ceremonies, as a gift. We as Unitarian Universalists have long supported marriage equality and see this as a way of living out our principles: to affirm and promote the inherent worth and dignity of every person and the right of every person in a democratic society to have equal civil rights.

In counseling with couples who choose to accept this gift, I will ask them to provide legal protections for each other that will be security in the event of death, disability, children's needs, and the like. I will urge them to register as domestic partners if they have not already done so, unless military regulations make this unwise.

We are doing this as a congregation to say to our community that we believe in marriage equality, that we believe in the inherent worth and dignity of every person, and that we honor and respect the marriages of all couples who are committed to each other in love and loyalty, whether that marriage is between a man and woman or two men or two women.

We believe that civil marriage for all will be a reality someday and we hope that this gift will assuage

some of the pain of such recent setbacks as Prop. 8 in California and other similar referenda.

Much love,
Kit

Calender Listings

February 1, 2009: Prison Ministry

Speaker: Rick Blank

Rick Blank, a member of St. Augustine Roman Catholic Church in Oak Harbor, will talk about his work with the Kairos Prison Ministry. For over ten years, Rick has been involved with this lay-led nondenominational Christian Ministry with the goal of bringing their faith to incarcerated individuals, their families and those who work with them. The ministry assists the incarcerated in the transition to becoming a productive citizen.

Worship Leader: Toyan C

Greeter: Lois C

February 8, 2009: Standing on the Side of Love

Speaker: Rev. Kit Ketcham

On this Sunday before Valentine's Day, Rev. Kit Ketcham will consider our Third Principle, "acceptance of each other and encouragement to spiritual growth in our congregations" and how Love is the catalyst that makes this principle meaningful. We will dedicate children on this date as well.

Worship Leader: Effie B

Greeter: Sara H

February 15, 2009: How the Light Gets In

Speaker: Tom Thresher, PhD

Creation happens at the intersection of order and chaos. We are at such an intersection today. Join guest speaker Tom Thresher as he weaves economics, cosmology and myth into a story of hope.

Pastor Tom Thresher, PhD, has been a student of consciousness for nearly 40 years. After teaching economics for a decade, working another 12 years as an artist/craftsman, he entered seminary in 1998. Over the years he studied and worked with a Native American shaman, explored Zen and Yoga, and developed his own Westernized spiritual practices, with a particular interest in Integral Theory. He is currently the pastor of

the progressive United Church of Christ in Suquamish.

Worship Leader: Terra A

Greeter: Baird B

February 22, 2009: Relationships that Matter

Speakers: Panel

An important aspect of being human is the wealth of relationships we create and nurture during our lives. It has even been suggested that we do not really know ourselves except in relationship. Please join several of our long-time married UUCWI couples as they share what they have learned from their partnerships of 40 - 60 years. Their wisdom and stories are relevant to you, whether you are in a relationship with a love-partner, with a child, a parent, a beloved friend. As you are willing, please bring a photograph of a person with whom you are nourishing a long-time relationship. We will have a table in the foyer for all those photographs, thus "presencing" those people during this unusual service.

Worship Leaders: the Allens, Browns, Cauffmans, Ferriers, Goods, and Longs

Greeter: Earl B

March 1, 2009: Community Organizer

Speaker: Susan Morrisson

Each time we reach outside ourselves, to engage with the world, is an act of compassion and justice. Joseph Tuckerman, 19th century Unitarian, was the first full time minister-at-large, addressing the needs of the urban poor. His work fostered the development of a social consciousness in our liberal religious tradition. Susan Morrisson is a fifth year student in the School of theology and Ministry at Seattle University. She is also a long time member of East Shore Unitarian Church in Bellevue.

Worship Leader: Dave C

All-Congregation "Potluck with a Purpose", Feb. 1, Right after the service - in time for Super Bowl

We'll have a potluck and brainstorm session about "hospitality". What attracted you to UUCWI? What makes you feel welcome? Please come and share your ideas on how we can assure we are as welcoming to guests -- and to each other -- as possible. We'll also share ideas on our Sunday logistics so that everyone can be a participant in our gatherings. All are welcome! Please bring a main dish or salad to share. Dessert, coffee, tea and juice will be provided.

Conversations in Music: The Art of Listening

Feb. 1, 8, 15, 4 - 5:30 pm

Legh Burns, Music Director / Conductor of the Saratoga Chamber Orchestra, will be giving lectures designed to enhance enjoyment and understanding of music. For information contact Legh at 360-221-2353, or email: legh@whidbey.com.

UUCWI Book Group: February 10, 7 PM

The book group will meet Tuesday, February 10 at the home of Marilyn S to dialogue around *The Universe in a Single Atom*, by the Dalai Lama. Karen Armstrong (author of *A History of God* and *The Spiral Staircase*) writes, "With disarming honesty, humility, and respect, His Holiness the Dalai Lama has explored the relationship between religion and science and suggests the way in which they can affirm and qualify each other's insights. By juxtaposing traditional Buddhist teaching with the discoveries of modern physics and biology, he infuses the debate about such contentious issues as the origins of the universe, the nature of human consciousness, the evolution of species and genetic engineering with intimations of profound spirituality. His gentle but insistent call for compassion is desperately needed in our torn and conflicted world."

Come and join us for a fun evening. Call Marilyn if you're coming. You're welcome even if you haven't read the book.

North End Koffee Klatch: Feb. 14, 1-3 p.m.,

Whidbey General Cafeteria. Great conversation, good coffee, cheap food! Join us!

South End Koffee Klatch: Feb. 17, 10--noon,

Rockhoppers Coffee in Clinton. Coffee and tea drinks, food, comfy chairs, great company!

Pacific Northwest District Annual General Meeting

This year's meeting is taking place in Salem, Oregon on February 20-22. For more information visit: <http://www.pnwd.org/agm.php>

Conversation at Kit's

There will be no Principle Conversation this month because of the conflict with Valentine's Day and the PNWD Annual General Meeting. We will resume in March.

The Prez Sez



RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

We are going to miss our Religious Education Director, Lorie Wood. Her husband Robyn is returning to active duty in the Army. His first assignment will be in Hawaii. They still consider Whidbey to be their home and plan to return in three years when Robyn retires.

We are so fortunate to have had the skills, enthusiasm and hard work that Lorie has brought to this position. This is born out by the increase in the numbers of children participating. The curriculum used is called "Spirit Play" and is applicable to all age groups. The Middle Age Group Students are known as "MAGS". This group is being taught and supervised by our volunteers Paula K, John L, and Dave C. We have started looking for a new Director with a search committee made up of Vicki P (chair of the RE committee), Shannon O'P and Kit Ketcham.

The RE Committee is moving toward implementing the OWL (Our Whole Lives) program. This is an age appropriate comprehensive sexuality education program developed jointly by the United Church of Christ and the Unitarian Universalists. Of course families are the most important educators of their children. Our schools have an important role to play. But there is also a great need for Sexuality Education in an environment centered on faith-based values and our Seven Principles. I am hoping to develop a congregational commitment through Education, Inspiration and making this program part of the congregation's ministry.

More later.
Baird

Announcements

Attention All Singers

The choir will sing for the February 15 service. Rehearsals are Feb. 8, right after the service and Feb. 15, 8:45 am – prior to that day's service.

Refreshment Volunteers

Refreshment volunteering has gotten easier and less expensive. We are asking our volunteers not to bring any food, but only to bring a small container of half-and-half, and a small container of juice. The job involves making coffee and tea and then cleaning up.

Fun on Whidbey Club

We are going to eat Thai dinner and schmooze in lovely Coupeville. Please join us on February 21st at 6:30. The prices range from a manageable \$9.95 to a scrumptious \$13.95, but it's Chinese style, so we all can get a taste of what everyone else has ordered! Children who love to eat Thai food are welcomed.

The restaurant is The Cove, 602 North Main Street in Coupeville. Let me know by February 19th so I can make other dinner plans if no one will join me.

Judy K

SAVE THE DATE!

On March 22, at 4 p.m., the long-awaited Building Dedication will take place, with dignitaries, great speakers, a dedication ceremony, and food! Child care will be provided, to make it possible for all to attend. Put it on your calendar now!

Now is the accepted time, not tomorrow, not some more convenient season. It is today that our best work can be done and not some future day or future year.

It is today that we fit ourselves for the greater usefulness of tomorrow. Today is the seed time, now are the hours of work, and tomorrow comes the harvest and the playtime.

W. E. B. Du Bois
Reading # 502

To the Congregation

Hi Everyone,

It's with a heavy heart that I write this article for the newsletter as I must share the news that I will be leaving UUCWI. My husband was offered a 3-year position in Hawaii, and we decided that accepting it would be the best choice for our family. It's hard to leave UUCWI and Whidbey Island, but it's easier knowing that we will be back in three years with the plans to retire from the Navy and continue with the plan of making Whidbey Island our permanent home.

So I'm sure you're all wondering what this means for the Religious Education program. Of course it means change, but due to your unfaltering support of the RE program for the past three years, the program will continue to move forward and grow both in numbers of children and offerings.

We have already begun the search for a new Director of Religious Education. So if you or someone you know is interested in the position, please contact Vicky P to get more information on how to apply. The position will close Feb. 15. Although that is right around the corner, it will allow us to have plenty of time to get the new DRE in place prior to my departure in late March. Once a candidate is selected, I will enthusiastically do everything I can to ensure a smooth transition. And, I will never be more than an email away.

I will miss all of you terribly, especially our children. I hope that you'll look us up if you ever decide to shake off the chill of Whidbey Island in Hawaii. My personal email address will not change.

With warmth from the flame,
Lorie Wood
Director of Religious Education/UUCWI



"O Day of Hope and Gladness":

Reflections on the Obama Inauguration

I know I am not alone in feeling the powerful and heartfelt swell of joy and restored confidence which was evident in the Inauguration coverage of yesterday. It was visible and palpable. I sat in tears most of the morning as the events unfolded, thrilled that our beloved country was turning, renewed, in the direction of its great promise. It is my sincerest prayer that this courageous young president be blessed with wisdom and strength for the journey ahead. It will not be easy and will not yield to any quick fixes, yet for the first time in many years there is chance for success. There is hope.

Peggy B

Love is patient; love is kind; love is not envious or boastful or arrogant or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful, it does not rejoice in wrong doing, but rejoices in the truth.

It bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. Love never ends. Prophecies will come to an end. Tongues will cease. Knowledge will come to an end. We know in part, we prophecy in part. But when the complete comes, the partial will come to an end.

When I was a child, I spoke like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child; when I became an adult, I put an end to childish ways.

Now, we see in a mirror, in a riddle. Then we will see face to face. Now I know in part. Then I will know fully.

Now faith, hope and love abide, these three, and the greatest of these is love.

1 Corinthians 13
Reading # 638

UUCWI 2008-2009 Board of Trustees

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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: Lorie W

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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**UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CONGREGATION
OF WHIDBEY ISLAND**

P.O. Box 1076

Freeland, WA 98249

360-321-8656