



Island Passages

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

May 2009

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
					1 7 pm Pete Seeger Birthday Bash Concert!	2 6 pm Fun on Whidbey Club
3 Service: 10 am "A Pete Seeger Retrospective"	4	5 7:30 - 9 pm Lyceum 2009: Earth Economics and Puget Sound	6 3 pm Memorial for Marilyn Saunders	7	8 9-11 am BOT	9 10 - Noon Visual Arts Committee 1-3 pm NEKK
10 Service: 10 am "Celebrating Spring with Flower Communion"	11 1 -3 pm Worship Committee	12 7 pm Book Group	13 5:30 pm MAG team	14	15	16 Small Group Dinners
17 Service: 10 am "Art and Spirituality"	18	19	20 Newsletter Deadline	21	22	23
24 Service: 10 am "In Remembrance of Those Who Have Died"	25	26	27 5:30 pm CRE	28 4 pm SEKK	29	30
31 Service: 10 am "Men's Spirituality"						

For More Information on Listings - see pages 2 and 3

From Our Minister



Dear Whidbey Friends,

As we come to the last couple of months in our first year in our new home, it's a good time to look back over what we have accomplished, the changes we have made, the challenges we've faced, and how we might move ahead in the coming year.

I know, I know, we've just barely gotten past tax season and the pledge campaign, but it's never too early to consider our successes and our challenges, building on the successes and reworking the challenges.

Here are some useful questions to think about:

1. How are we doing in making our many visitors comfortable and helping them to feel included?
2. How are we doing in supporting our leadership? Our volunteers? Our staff?
3. How are we doing in contributing time and energy, in addition to our financial resources, to the wellbeing of the congregation?
4. How are we doing in our outreach to the larger community, in terms of social action and visibility?

It's not just important to consider the "we" questions! Here are some "I" questions to think about:

1. How am I doing in connecting myself with the congregation? It's not all up to others, you know.
2. How am I doing in finding a spiritual practice that works for me? A spiritual practice is a huge help in finding peace of mind and heart.
3. How am I doing in making attendance at worship a priority for me? Being at worship services helps us bond with the congregation.
4. How am I doing in living out my Unitarian Universalist principles? Our faith is an active, vibrant faith!

These are just a few of the things that can make us a strong, effective community. I see so

many of us really working hard at the "we" questions and the "I" questions! Thanks for loving this community so much that you are willing to give of yourselves so freely.

Much love,
Kit

Calendar Listings

May 3: "A Pete Seeger Retrospective"

Speaker: Rev. Kit Ketcham

Today, May 3, is the 90th birthday of iconic folk singer and longtime Unitarian Pete Seeger. Because his music has such meaning for many UUs and social activists of all sorts, Music Director Linda Good and Rev. Kit Ketcham offer a time of singing and commentary on the meaning of Pete's life and his gifts to the larger community.

Worship Leader: Sarah R

Greeter: Lois C

May 10: "Celebrating Spring with Flower Communion"

Speakers: Rev. Kit Ketcham, Vanessa K

Many years ago, a Unitarian minister, Rev. Norbert Capek, created the Flower Communion for his Czechoslovakian congregation. For this Mother's Day service, Rev. Kit Ketcham and DRE Vanessa Kohlhaas present an intergenerational service of stories and songs.

Worship Leader: Carol B

Greeter: Helen K

May 17: "Art and Spirituality"

Speaker: Jerry Wennstrom

How better to celebrate this month's theme of 'Arts as a Spiritual Practice' than by involving Jerry Wennstrom and his wife, Marilyn Strong.

In the words of Parabola Magazine "In 1979 Jerry Wennstrom was a rising star in the New York art world when he let go of his identity as an artist by intentionally destroying his large body of art and giving away his possessions. With this leap of faith

Jerry embarked on a decade of wandering, listening, seeking, and relying on intuition and unconditional trust to guide and provide for him.” In the forward to Jerry’s book, *The Inspired Heart: An Artist’s Journey of Transformation*, Thomas Moore wrote “Jerry is able to describe a spiritual journey outside of any ancient tradition or modern system, and I trust that originality.”

At this service Marilyn Strong will provide our music and will lead us in some chanting. She holds a BA in Religion and Adult Education and an MA in Spirituality and Culture. She has been a skilled creator and facilitator of adult spirituality programs and workshops for twenty-six years. In addition to being a respected ceremonialist and singer, Marilyn is a certified Death Midwife and an inter-faith minister.

Worship Leader: Mary G

Greeter: Sara H

May 24: “In Remembrance of Those Who Have Died”

Speaker: Rev. Kit Ketcham

Memorial Day is a time for remembering those now gone who have enriched our lives with their lives. Rev. Kit Ketcham will reflect on death as a part of life. You are invited to bring pictures and mementoes of beloved friends and family members to display on our altar.

Worship Leader: Terra A

Greeter: Earl B

May 31: “Men’s Spirituality”

Speaker: Larry Daloz

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May 1, 7 pm: Pete Seeger Birthday Bash Concert!

Don’t miss this tribute concert to Pete on the occasion of his 90th birthday! The grand old man of folk song turns 90 on May 3 (see our worship calendar for more) and we are honoring him with a local benefit concert whose proceeds will support UUCWI and Hearts and Hammers, in true Pete form. Tickets are available from Kit Ketcham and Linda Good.

May 2, 6pm: Fun on Whidbey Group

The group is going to our northland, Oak Harbor, to lend our support to the wonderful horses in need of rescue. On Saturday, May 2nd, we will be enjoying the Whidbey Island Rescue for Equines (WIRE) party beginning at 6:00 at the Oak Harbor Elks Lodge. There will be food, beverages and a silent/live auction. The cost is \$20.00. May be fun and suitable for older children. Please RSVP Judy K as soon as possible so she can form carpools from the southlands and give you directions to the Elks Lodge.

May 6, 3pm: Memorial Service for Marilyn Saunders

The service will take place in the UUCWI sanctuary. Please bring your memories of Marilyn and any photos or mementos of her life that you wish; we will create a Memorial Portrait of the Marilyn we knew during the service. Rev. Kit Ketcham and Karen Samuelson will officiate.

May 9, 1-3 pm: NEKK

North End Koffee Klatch continues to meet on the second Saturday afternoon from 1-3 at Whidbey General’s cafeteria, with several folks arriving a bit early to eat lunch as well. Good coffee, cheap food, fabulous conversation!

May 12th, 7pm: Book Group discussing *Shadow of the Wind*

A selection from the "book book" genre. This international sensation, translated from Spanish, a best seller in over 20 countries, has books and storytelling--and a single, physical book--at its heart.

Group meets at the home of Joan G in Langley this month. Let her know you are coming by email or phone and to get directions as needed.

May 28, 4 pm: SEKK

South End Koffee Klatch meets at Rockhoppers in Clinton on the fourth Thursday afternoon, from 4 till ?. Think of it as “tea time” or a break at the end of the day. Rockhoppers also serves beer and wine so it is also a Happy Hour possibility. Great conversation, lots of room and comfy chairs!

The Prez Sez



I feel fortunate to have been able to serve as president of the congregation for the past two years. It has been an exhilarating ride to help guide our church from a dream to its present state of fruition.

Every time I set foot on the property or in the building I feel a great sense of joy. We have started on a grand journey to become a vital religious force in our community and to provide a liberal religious education to our children. Of course our primary concern is to help people in need and relieve suffering.

Our pastoral leadership has been outstanding. Our minister Kit Ketcham comes from a serious Baptist background that gives her rebirth as a born again UU special piquancy. Terra A and a vital Worship Committee have led us down a remarkably spiritual religious path. We are fortunate that Sandy Whas been asked and has agreed to carry on this tradition of rich worship. Our worship leaders are outstanding.

With the coming of warmth and green we are soon to experience the good works of our landscape committee led by Frances Wood.

We will have our Annual Congregational Meeting June 7. Attendance by all members is encouraged. Our nominating committee consists of John L, Tom B and Mary G. They have nominated an excellent slate of officers and trustees. Also on the agenda will be a minor by-laws revision and approval of the budget of 2009-2010. Our fledgling membership has gotten a great start but the best is yet to come. Good Luck to us all.

Announcements

Newsletter Deadline: May 20

Since the third Friday comes so early in May, the deadline for this month will be May 20. The deadline for June will be the 3rd Friday.



May 15 & 16: Heart Circles: Tending the Soul Needs of a Community

Sponsored by Unity of Whidbey with Tej Steiner, author of *The Heart Circle Teachings: Waking Up with Everyone Around Us*

Free Intro Talk – Friday, May 15th 7-9pm

Workshop – Saturday, May 16th 10am - 4pm

Lunch provided – A Love Offering will be requested

Trinity Lutheran Church, old Chapel nearest Hwy; 18341 SR 525, Freeland, Whidbey Island

"The work of that community (Rumi's) was the work of opening the heart and exploring the mystery of the "union" and kindling the love for truth - and honouring the difficulty and glory of being in a human incarnation."
-Coleman Barks

Pre-registration not required, but appreciated. For information or RSVP: Barbara Joy Laffey 360-730-2490, Joyce Small 360-579-2617 or Tadd CharetteNunn 206-898-6035
www.heartcircle.com

June 20, 7:30pm : Chaminade Concert

The Chaminade Trio, Peggy Bardarson, violin, Carol Graef, cello, and Nola Allen, piano, will present their annual benefit concert for UUCWI on Saturday, June 20 at 7:30 at the church. Because there are more seats to fill in our new sanctuary the ticket price has been reduced to \$15.00 for a single and \$25.00 for a family. The trio will perform works by Mendelssohn and Mozart. A reception will follow the concert. All proceeds benefit UUCWI.

To the Congregation

As you know I don't get to services much any more. It was amazing to my driver from CareAge that she heard, "It's Hildred." "Hildred's here". Erika was surprised – I was pleased. Thank you – you made my day. All this happened on Dedication Sunday.

Hildred C

I would like to thank Joan G, Christi S, Mary G and Baird B for doing such a wonderful job of putting John's artwork on display in the foyer of our new church.

John always wanted to have an art show and I know he'd be very pleased with what the Visual Arts Committee has done.

In Gratitude,
Gail A

Committee News

Note on Building Aesthetic

As most of you know, since moving into our beautiful new building some of us have gotten together to form a Visual Arts Committee which has been approved and made official by the Board of Trustees. Our purpose is to provide a decision-making structure to generate and implement thoughtful ideas regarding our aesthetics. If you have any thoughts or suggestions please let one of us know or come to one of our monthly meetings.

We have been working on a number of projects these past 5 months or so. A system for hanging wall art in the foyer has been installed and we are planning to keep that space filled with art works from our members and possibly the larger community as well. We have begun keeping this gallery open on Saturday afternoons. (For this we would welcome volunteers.) In addition, we are currently working on a quilted wall hanging for the front of the sanctuary

which we hope will address acoustic as well as aesthetic concerns.

We have also gratefully accepted a number of donations which we feel have added to the style and grace of our communal space. The Visual Arts Committee appreciates your understanding of the importance of directing decisions (re donations, etc.) that affect our space to the Committee, thereby avoiding unilateral decisions that might possibly need to be undone. Please contact any one of us if you would like to make further suggestions for our building.

As e.e.cummings said, "In the beginning was the eye, not the mind."

VAC members: Nola A, Peggy B, Joan G, Mary G, Christi S

From the Music Committee

First we want to say we miss Marilyn Saunders, who served on the music committee, played in our recorder group, and was in the choir. Linda G often carpooled to meetings with her and is glad to have known her.

Special thanks to Mavis for her love and enthusiasm for the choir and for leading us for the dedication service. She expressed hope and optimism for the growth and development of the choir in the future and suggested that we start rehearsing music more in advance so that we have ample time to learn new pieces.

There was agreement in the committee that we can help to build choir participation and growth with continued interest and support from the congregation. We will have a picnic sometime this summer following one our services.

All of the people who have volunteered to lead the choir this year have voiced appreciation for the opportunity. The congregation this year have been very supportive of our efforts. Volunteer choir leadership has been a major contribution to our budget.

Thanks to Evan W for his participation in the Pete Seeger concert. We urge everyone to buy tickets to this benefit for our congregation and Hearts and Hammers.

Vanessa K and Linda G will be meeting to plan intergenerational services. We are looking forward to including the children more in the service music.

From the Director of Religious Education

I have a mobile of small prisms hanging in one of my windows at home. And when the light comes through just right it spreads rainbows all over the walls. This delights my 18 month old son, Leon, to no end. He loves to chase the rainbows, try to catch them, and see where they will appear next.

The children in the Spirit Play classroom are discovering rainbows, too. The guiding principles of Unitarian Universalist faith are presented to the Spirit Play class as a rainbow. Each principle has its own color and letter as seen below:

R (Red) Respect all people
 O (Orange) Offer fair and kind treatment
 Y (Yellow) Yearn to learn
 G (Green) Grow by exploring ideas
 B (Blue) Believe in our ideas and act on them
 I (Indigo) Insist on peace, freedom and justice
 V (Violet) Value nature's web of life

These principles are illustrated for the children using stories presented with visual aids. Some stories are new for the children and others are familiar stories that have one or more principles imbedded within them. After the tale has ended, the story teller shares a series of "I wonder..." statements, inviting the children to wonder with her. These statements change as the stories change.

I wonder, what does the rainbow represent to different people? I wonder, how do the different colors reflect the UU principles? I wonder, how does a small child feel when they first discover a rainbow shining on a wall? I wonder...

Vanessa K

The Social Responsibility Council Report of April 19

In an effort to be more action oriented the SRC decided to develop a phone tree of those in the congregation who will be willing to be called to help on action projects. A clipboard will be circulated to get names and phone numbers of volunteers. It was decided to concentrate on a few concrete action projects. For now SRC will direct its efforts to recruiting volunteers for Good Cheer either at the Food Bank, CSA Garden or thrift store, supporting Habitat for Humanity as volunteer workers, and continuing

support of services for Vets. Special offerings for May will be for Habitat for Humanity, and for June, WSH (local shared housing).

We will continue to gather information about homelessness on Whidbey. We will meet next on Sunday, May 17 following church for a potluck meeting. All are welcome.

SRC attendees, Donita C, Judy K, John L, Linda G, Dave C, Joan G and Peggy B, Convenors

Spring

It's getting warm
 It's getting green
 People still flock
 To the UU scene.

I love our land
 I love our church
 A perfect place
 To launch good works.

We're Stewards now
 To do outreach
 Give time and treasure
 And principles teach

To spread good news
 Tell "This I believe"
 As I generously give
 I will unexpectedly receive.

Baird B



Marilyn R. Saunders
1939 - 2009

Amateur jazz and rescued cats, global citizenship and world peace, healing imagery and human consciousness all mixed together to inform the complex life of Marilyn R. Saunders, PhD.

As a world citizen Marilyn traveled extensively. In the late 60's she was a Peace Corps Volunteer in Somalia, on the Horn of Africa, and later she taught at the University of Guyana in South America. She belonged to several world peace organizations including Global Citizen Journey which strives to bridge cultural differences at the grassroots level, arranging for delegates from the US to share, work and learn with neighbors around the world. For eight years Marilyn directed a summer camp for inner city children at Day Spring Retreat Center in Maryland. In 2005 she traveled to Bosnia for training in Conflict Transformation Across Cultures.

Professionally Marilyn worked for 25 years in private practice in Germantown, Maryland, as a Licensed Clinical Professional Counselor, a Nationally Certified Counselor, and an Advanced Clinician in Imago Relationship Therapy. She completed a certificate in Psychosocial Foundations of Peacebuilding from the School for International Training, and was active in the Institute of Noetic Sciences and the World Future Society. She coauthored the book, *Using Imagery in Therapy: A Path to Nurturance, Empowerment, and Reconciliation*, and made numerous presentations at national and international conferences and meetings.

Marilyn was born on November 6, 1939, in Bloomfield, New Jersey, to Henry and Mary Saunders. She graduated with a Bachelor of Science degree in Psychology from Dennison College and a Master of Arts degree in Political Science from the University of Wisconsin, then entered the Peace Corps and taught grade school English in Somalia for three years. When she returned to the US she completed her PhD in Teacher Education from Syracuse University, then lived and taught in Guyana for several years before settling down to her psychotherapy practice in Maryland. She retired to Whidbey Island in 2004. Since then she had been active in many organizations including the Unitarian-Universalist Church, the Lorian Association, and the Wednesday morning marimba group. She was appointed to the Langley Library Board in July 2008.

In her final days, when she realized that she was at the end of her life, Marilyn let go to her dying process with attention and deep peace. Ahmed Amin, the son of her heart whom she had taught in Somalia and brought to the US when he was a boy, traveled from Virginia to faithfully attend Marilyn's dying. She died in the evening of March 24.

Marilyn will be missed by friends around the world, friends on Whidbey Island, and all of her family members in Virginia and Maryland: Ahmed Amin (Jamila Shirwa) and their son, Abshir Amin, of whom Marilyn was the proud grandmother; her brother, Reed (Dolly) Saunders, and their children: Ray Saunders, Craig Saunders, John Saunders, and Rachael Saunders-Pullman.

Marilyn hoped that friends would remember her as caring and fun. Donations in honor of Marilyn's life may be offered to Enso House (6339 Wahl Rd, Freeland, 98249), to the Unitarian-Universalist Church in Freeland, or to a cause close to your own heart.

UUCWI 2008-2009 Board of Trustees

Baird B, President

Paula K, Treasurer

Pat L, Secretary

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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 Bartram.

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.

Communications Committee:

Celia B, Newsletter Editor

Mavis C, Church Administrator

Dave C, Webmaster

**UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CONGREGATION
OF WHIDBEY ISLAND**

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