



# 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/)

## October 2003

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
5 2:00 PM Choir rehearsal at Trinity. 4:00 PM Sunday Service at Trinity.	6 8:30 AM "Shooting the Breeze About Seismic Events," Current Affairs Discussion Group at the Lighthouse Cafe.	7	8 9:00 AM Building Committee meeting.	9	10	11 9:00 AM Work Party at the church property. See item below 7:00 PM Movie Night. See page 3 for more info.
12 4:00 PM Sunday Service at Trinity. 5:30 PM Potluck with Kit. See item on page 3.	13 9:00 AM Board meeting at Trinity.	14	15 7:30 PM Worship Committee meeting at the F.'s.	16 7:30 PM Social Action Committee meeting at the F.'s.	17	18
19 2:00 PM Choir rehearsal at Trinity. 4:00 PM Sunday Service at Trinity.	20 8:30 AM "Shooting the Breeze About Seismic Events," Current Affairs Discussion Group at the Lighthouse Cafe.	21 7:30 PM Book Group meeting at the B.'s. See page 3 for more info.	22	23	24	25 5:30 PM UUCWI Anniversary Party at the Grange.. See item on page 3.
26 4:00 PM Sunday Service at Trinity.	27 9:00 AM Membership Committee meeting at B.'s.	28	29 7:30 PM Capital Campaign Committee meeting at the B.'s.	30	31 <i>Happy Halloween</i>	1 <i>November</i>
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### WORK PARTY AT THE PROPERTY

Join us Saturday, October 11 at the church property (a couple of miles north of Trinity on the west side of Highway 525) for a little clean-up. Bring shovels, gloves, and rakes. We'll be there from 9:00 am to 1:00 pm, with a hot dog break at noon. Even if you can't stay to work, this is a great time to stop by and see how things are shaping up. See you there!

**UPCOMING SERVICES** Services are scheduled for Sundays, 4:00 pm at Trinity Lutheran church. Child care and Children's Religious Education are provided during the services unless otherwise indicated.

**October 5—“The Power of Hazel Wolf,”**  
with guest speaker **Susan Starbuck**

When Hazel Wolf died at the age of 101, she was unquestionably the Northwest's premier environmental activist. Town Hall in Seattle filled with nine hundred of her admirers on February 11, 2000 for her memorial—all counted her a personal friend. What made Wolf so powerful? Witty, feisty, outrageous, but always diplomatic—how did she become the center of a huge and effective network of governors, senators, representatives, city and council councilmen, and citizens fighting for social and environmental justice? Wolf was an atheist, “a good atheist,” she always said. Susan Starbuck, Wolf's biographer (*Hazel Wolf: Fighting the Establishment*, University of Washington Press, 2002) will read Wolf's words from the biography in search of the sources of her power, especially her spiritual power.

Susan Starbuck is a longtime member of University UU church and a Professor of History at Antioch U. Last fall she published her authorized biography of Hazel Wolf.

*Facilitator: Bill G.s; Refreshments: Peggy B.;*  
*Membership Representative: Roy B.*

**October 12 — “Rolling Out the Welcome Mat,”**  
with **Rev. Elizabeth Ketcham**

Rev. Ketcham will speak about homophobia and its insidious effects upon our society, as it creates an environment of fear and mistrust toward gay, lesbian, bisexual, intersex, and transgender persons. How can we Unitarian Universalists combat this attitude of fear and work toward a community of love and justice for all? We will receive rainbow ribbons for our nametags, in recognition of October 11, National Coming Out Day.

Rev. Elizabeth “Kit” Ketcham is consulting minister to UUCWI and the Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Vashon Island.

*Facilitator: Ken M.; Patricia B. will help with potluck (potluck following Kit's service instead of refreshments);*  
*Membership Representative: Baird B.*

**October 19—“A Light Flickering for Life,”**  
with guest minister, **Rev. Roger Kuhrt**

In his remarks, Rev. Kuhrt will explore the meaning of our Unitarian Universalist symbol, the Chalice. He will frame our symbol within the history and context of other major religions from which we emerged.

Rev. Kuhrt was ordained in '63 in Spokane. He has a PhD in Community Psychology and Holistic Health Science from

Columbia Pacific University. Has previously held ministerial positions in Tacoma and Olympia.

*Facilitator: Peggy B.; Refreshments: Marjorie L.;*  
*Membership Representative: Malcolm F.*

**October 26—“Spiritual Insights,”**  
with guest speaker, **Jamal Rahman**

In several traditions there is a method of learning attained by contemplation on stories and verses. The profoundest truth is is sometimes best expressed by a teaching story or verse that illuminates. By meditating on these stories, subtle shifts can occur within one's being. From the traditions of Sufism, Buddhism, Hinduism, and Taoism, we shall explore stories and verses.

Reverend Rahman is a member of “Circle of Love,” an interfaith group of friends who gather together in search of global spirituality and community. This diverse collective is actively engaged in education, music, interfaith worship, healing, fundraising, and service projects.

*Facilitator: Joann C.; Refreshments: Wendy F.;*  
*Membership Representative: Roy B.*

**November 2—“The Price of Adulthood,”**  
with guest minister, **Rev. Barbara Davenport**

Is the price of adulthood the loss of the soul? Spiritual hunger is rampant in America as evidenced by the rise in boredom, anxiety, depression, and disconnection from one another and mother earth. Spiritual development is not only necessary for psychological health but a key to a life of passion and depth.

Barbara is a Harvard Divinity School graduate and now serves as a consulting minister with the Skagit UU Fellowship in Mt. Vernon and the South Fraser Unitarian Congregation in Surrey, B.C.

*Facilitator: open; Refreshments: Sandy W.*  
*Membership Representative: Baird B.*

**FROM THE MUSIC DIRECTOR**

For the first time we have a Music Committee, which consists of Mavis C., Heidi H., Peggy B.n, and myself. The year is off to an excellent start musically, with the choir going strong and our new piano accompanist, Marisa LaRue, accompanying hymns and willing to be soloist when needed. For anyone new to the congregation, let me explain that I arrange for special musicians and that I'm open to suggestions. So if you know or hear of anyone you would like to recommend, please let me know. We try to fit the music to the theme of the service if possible. We have a mix of students and professionals, solos and ensembles.

—Linda G.

## “LET IT BE A DANCE WE DO...”

### UUCWI: THE FIRST 10 YEARS

Save October 25 for an all-church potluck/party celebrating the 10th anniversary of UUCWI. We'll have an opportunity to learn some of the history of our church as well as to meet some of the participants from our early days.

The festivities will be held at the Deer Lagoon Grange from 5:30 until 9:00 pm and will feature Michael Lawson from the UU church of Woodinville and his quartet “Joyful Noise” with Michael Lawson on piano, Jack Brand on guitar, Brad Hull on bass, and Chuck Hanna on clarinet. We'll join the group in singing some of our favorite hymns.

Appetizers and cake will be provided, so bring a salad, main dish, or side dish plus your preferred beverage: wine, beer, or soft drinks. Coffee and tea will be provided.

Please contact Gail A.

if you are able to help with any of the following: set-up, decorations, coffee and tea, donation of appetizers or dessert.

5:30 - Appetizers

6:00- 7:00 pm - Potluck

7:00-9:00 pm - Program

## MOVIE NIGHT

from Ken M.

Our first screening will be held Saturday, October 11 at Dave and Mavis C.'s house

(please

RSVP Mavis or Dave if you plan to attend). Our film will be Tony Richardson's black comedy "The Loved One," (1965-Britain/USA). The film is a scathing attack on American commercialism, corporate greed, and our thirst for immortality. I will send out discussion questions by email next week. There's a lot to consider in this truly original work, so I'm anticipating a lively discussion. Meeting and mingling will begin at 7:00 pm with the movie screening at 7:30 sharp, so don't be late. As always, bring whatever beverages and munchies you like, and we'll make the popcorn.

## AN OLD CUSTOM GETS NEW LIFE

### October 12 potluck supper with Rev. Kit Ketcham

In order to provide the congregation with a regular informal meeting time with Rev. Ketcham, we are planning to gather each month after her service for potluck supper instead of coffee and snacks. Please bring a hot dish, salad, or dessert to share. We will provide coffee and juice. Don't forget your plates and table service. Rumor has it that Rev. Ketcham loves to sing, so this could be a lively gathering. Please plan to be there with your family.

## BOOK GROUP INVITATION

Please join the UUCWI Book Club Discussion Group on Tuesday, October 21, 7:30 pm at the B.'s house. We'll be discussing *Cod: A Biography of the Fish that Changed the World*, by Mark Kurlansky. From the book jacket: "This exceptional book entertainingly reveals the importance of this wonderful fish in world history." Please RSVP to Peggy or Baird.

Following *Cod*, we'll be reading *The No. 1 Ladies Detective Agency*, by Alexander McCall Smith. *Publisher's Weekly* says: "A series of vignettes linked to the establishment and growth of Mma Ramotswe's "No. 1 Ladies Detective Agency" serve not only to entertain but to explore conditions in Botswana in a way that is both penetrating and light thanks to Smith's deft touch." The group meets on the third Tuesday of the month. Next month that will be November 18.

## KIT'S COLUMN

Dear new companions in the faith,

Thank you for your warm welcome in September, as we explored the chemistry of minister and congregation together. I am honored and delighted to be your new minister. I anticipate many happy and rewarding experiences together as we offer Unitarian Universalist values to the Whidbey Island community.

One of the hopes many of you have mentioned to me is that UUCWI can become a welcoming place for the many gay and lesbian folk on the Island. My sermon on October 12 will address this hope and suggest an action we might take together.

As gay and lesbian issues have become hot button topics for American culture, emotions have intensified on all sides. Same-sex marriage, domestic partner insurance coverage, survivor rights, custody and adoption issues—for some they are unthinkable, for others logical and humane. Opponents drag out Biblical references to support their claims—proponents debunk those references in their turn.

Unitarian Universalists have long been in the forefront of promoting civil rights for all persons, regardless of race, creed, affectional orientation, or gender identity. We were the first denomination to welcome and ordain gays, bisexuals, and lesbians as clergy. We have expanded our acceptance to include intersex and transgender persons.

It is Unitarian Universalism's effort to secure freedom and equal rights for all that makes me most happy with our faith. For I believe that unless all are free, I am not free either. My rights must not come at the expense of others' rights.

I'm looking forward to seeing you all on October 12.

—Warmly, Kit

## CHOIR CORNER

The October air is charged with new energy. Summer protests as Old Man Winter fingers her reluctant fruits. And the UUCWI Choir pops up out of the pumpkin patch once again. Choir had a lively first rehearsal on September 14, welcoming new members Ken M. and Kent Va., and exploring new music.

Anyone who loves music and can match pitches is encouraged to join choir. Our purpose is manifold: to enjoy each others' company, to foster hope and optimism in a spiritual context, to create beauty and improve musicianship through conscientious rehearsal, and to explore a wide range of musical styles and topics. Some choir members are experienced, trained musicians, while others enjoy singing by ear and want to learn more about reading music and vocal technique. We rehearse twice a month at Trinity Lutheran Church on Sunday afternoons from 2:00 to 3:30 pm, performing during the service once a month.

### *Rehearsal Schedule:*

Sept. 28	2-3:30 rehearsal	4:00 performance
Oct. 5	2-3:30 rehearsal	
Oct. 19	2-3:30 rehearsal	4:00 performance
Nov. 2	2-3:30 rehearsal	
Nov. 23	2-3:30 rehearsal	4:00 performance (Thanksgiving)
Dec. 7	2-3:30 rehearsal	
Dec. 21	2-3:30 rehearsal	4:00 performance (Christmas)
Jan. 4	2-3:30 rehearsal	
Jan. 18	2-3:30 rehearsal	4:00 performance (Martin Luther King Day)

Please give choir director Heidi H. a call if you have any questions or would like to join us for a sample rehearsal.

## NEW CRE YEAR BEGINS

*from Jeanette L.*

A new CRE program began on September 14 to offer children's religious programming to our UU congregation. Our Curriculum is "We Believe: Learning and Living Our UU Principles," a twenty-two session program that teaches children in learning and living Unitarian Universalist Principles. We begin each session with our own chalice, and we will participate with adults one Sunday a month (for the first part of service—Intergenerational services to be scheduled later). Typical sessions will include a lesson (with relevant stories, discussions), a group activity (outdoors when possible), a treat, and a high level of group interaction. After a few weeks of getting to know this talented group of young people, I will begin advertising the CRE program via flyers, press releases, kid's invitations, and possible newspaper advertisements. Fall and winter plans include a Halloween party, a possible Harvest Fair, a Nature outing, a Social

Action Project (month-long in December), a Sledding Party, Holiday activities and more. The program is suitable for a wide range of ages, particularly 8 years and up. Separate child-care is provided for young children and babies. Teenagers can choose to attend CRE or the Adult service, but we will try to offer more teen-specific programming in the near future. For more information, contact Jeanette

## SUSTAINING OUR MINISTER

*from Dave C., President of the Board*

Although electing Rev. Kit Ketcham represents the culmination of nearly two years of effort by UUCWI, it is, more importantly, the commencement of our relationship. We have laid out in our search criteria and the contract what it is we want from Kit; we also need to be aware of what we must do to help her ministry be successful. Here are some thoughts on the subject:

**Show up!** Nothing energizes a speaker like a full house. It was wonderful to have 66% of our members at the congregational meeting electing Kit. If you missed the candidate's weekend, October 12 is the next opportunity to hear her.

**Savor!** We need to listen to the wisdom Kit brings and to engage in the intellectual and emotional discourses she leads. Let us accept her coaching in illuminating our pathways as we seek truth and as we strive to create a better society.

**Support!** We have 44 full services in this fiscal year (not counting the four summer ones). Our budget for the year is \$45,000. That's about \$1000 per week. An \$8000 deficit is forecast – a consequence of funding a CRE program, engaging more outside speakers, and hiring our own quarter-time minister. Please be generous.

**Sustain!** The dictionary defines this as completeness and adequacy of support. We need to keep Kit informed about what we're planning in our committees, and communicate who might need a pastoral call. We need to give her a voice by including her in committee decision-making. She may suggest different approaches than we are used to, and she has limits on her time. Even an enthusiastic minister can't always be "up"; tolerance is in order. We can seek ways to help her be effective and ways to help our congregation operate purposefully. As Anne Heller pointed out in our "Preparing for Ministry" workshop, there is much more to be done than it is reasonable to expect a quarter-time minister to do. Please say "Yes!" to invitations to serve and to become involved.

**Share!** Kit is not a resource we want to hide away from the world. We need to spread the word about her and about the values-oriented programs at UUCWI. It is particularly heartening to see members bring friends to our services and activities. While Kit's ministry to us as individuals is important, our mission as a congregation is to promote liberal religion in our community. It is a team effort.

## NEW MEMBERS

We have *six* new members to our congregation! They are: Patricia B., Sally E., Kent V., Earl B., Bob L., and Dave M.. We have four introductions below. Look for Sally and Patricia's bios in next month's issue. In the meantime, "Welcome, all!"

**Dave M.**— Charter member Dave M. returns to the UUCWI after a five year absence. He lives on Goss Lake with his wife Sharla and their two children, Devin and Chelsea. As a youngster he found great comfort in the Catholic Church and for a while considered seminary. He gave it up after he joined the Navy as a young man. After discharge he found a marvelous Unitarian Church in San Jose where he treasured the openness and free inquiry he found there. His recent life experience has made him seek a church home where he can be open and bare his soul and find friends who are passionate about their beliefs. Please welcome Dave back into the fold.

**Earl B.**— Earl is a professor of Economics and Politics — was, rather, as he is now retired and—Yes! is writing a book. He is a life-long UU, but for now isn't able to attend UUCWI much because of focussing on his two daughters. But we all hope that will change. Earl is an enthusiastic racquetball player, and can be observed each Monday at Island Athletic Club.

**Bob L.**— Great heavens—another Professor! This time of Physics/Oceanography. Bob declares he is fairly solitary, and his involvement with us will not likely be on committees. But he says he's exceptionally good at moving chairs and clearing away brush. Most of Bob's career was in various Universities, one being St. Lawrence in Canton NY, which was one of the only two Unitarian Divinity schools. His oceanography work took him on academic and geographic adventures, mostly in the South Atlantic. One contribution was helping establish the authenticity of the plate tectonics concept, demonstrating that the continents are drifting apart. Bob retired in 1983 and spent a few years attempting to sail his 30-ft. sloop around the world. After that he toured the US in his mobile home. Bob has three children on the West Coast. He settled (he thinks) in Langley a few months ago.

**Kent V.**— Born in Northern Iowa, Kent was reared as a Quaker on a 240-acre farm. A lifetime obsession with aviation began on that farm while out standing ankle deep in decaying cow manure, transfixed to watch a bright yellow airplane fly, miraculously, right over his farm. Kent joined the Air Force, and after nine years of night school to achieve a necessary college degree (BA in history and psych) and some creative tactics to pass the physical, he entered flight school. Kent spent the next 22 years flying the "best jets in the world, with the best men in the world, all over the world." He retired in '85 and was hired by the Navy to teach their young pilots how to fly carrier jets. He's also a Professor of Aeronautics (specializing in Aerodynamics) with Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University. Returning to his Quaker roots, Kent attended Quaker meetings in Bellingham. But as a Pro-Military Pacifist, he didn't feel comfortable in the Quaker community. "The best thing I found in the Quaker meetings was Sally Elder, who has enriched my life far more than she knows. Sally and I would like to grow old with the Freeland UU's."

## CAPITAL FUND DRIVE

It has long been a goal and dream of this congregation to build a permanent home on Whidbey Island. Three years ago we purchased property and began to develop plans for our own church. Last year we purchased additional property adjacent to our land to make way for a useable facility. We now enter the next phase of our Long-Range Plan by forming a Capital Fund Drive Committee dedicated to the development of the financial resources necessary to build a Church. The committee consists of Peggy B. (Chair), Bill G., Roy B., Ken M., Baird B., and Elaine W. (Board Liaison). The committee held its first meeting on Wednesday, September 24 and began to plan a long-term Capital Fund Drive by exploring such issues as congregational growth and development, environmental and social responsibility, our connection to the wider community, achieving "Welcoming Church" status, and how we might better serve Whidbey Island, potential timelines, funding avenues such as grants, loans, and internal sources of revenue. The committee has a long, laborious road ahead of it, as does our congregation, and looks to our members for patience, support, and feedback. The next meeting is October 29 at 7:30 pm.

## CHALICE LIGHTERS

The first charge of the Capital Campaign committee will be to help our congregation become eligible for Chalice Lighters Grants. The Chalice Lighters are a PNWD organization dedicated to funding programs for congregations throughout the Northwest. Members of congregations are asked to join the Chalice Lighters and answer calls for donations of \$10.00 four times a year. These donations are used to fund grants to member congregations. To become a member congregation, 30% of the congregation's membership must join The Chalice Lighters. In this way, our membership would benefit other congregations and become eligible for grants in turn. Bill G. will head up the effort to get the requisite number of sign-ups from our ranks. If you are already member, thank you for your support of liberal religion in the Pacific Northwest. If not, please consider joining this worthy organization and helping to promote our values and causes throughout the region. Contact Bill G. for more information or check the membership table at our next service.

## SOCIALLY RESPONSIBLE INVESTING (SRI)

Do you want your investments to reflect your principles? You *can* make a difference and still make money. The UUA's Socially Responsible Investment Committee's email list will send you occasional brief announcements about conferences, workshops, UUA shareholder activism, and UUA community development loan fund activity. You can subscribe on their site, [www.uua.org/finance/sri](http://www.uua.org/finance/sri), which is rich in resources for both individuals and congregations. The committee is also looking for volunteers willing to serve as SRI advocates. Contact Susan Leslie at [Sleslie@uua.org](mailto:Sleslie@uua.org) or (617) 948-4607.