



Island Passages

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

September 2009

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
		1	2	3	4	5
6 Service: 10 am "The Semantics of Faith" Religious Education Resumes	7	8 7 pm Book Group	9 10 am Membership Committee	10	11 9 am BOT	12 9-3 VAC book sale 10 am Calendar planning 12 noon Choir potluck/retreat 1-3 NEKK
13 Service: 10 am "The Meaning of Water in Human Life"	14 9-11 am Worship Committee	15	16 7 pm Movie Night Planning	17	18	19 11 am Fun on Whidbey 6 pm Small Group Dinners
20 Service: 10 am "Autumn Equinox" 11:30 SRC Potluck/ meeting 4-6 pm Peace Event	21	22 7-9 pm Conversation on Health Care	23	24 4pm SEKK	25	26
27 Service: 10 am "Bitterness, Forgiveness, and Life"	28	29 7-9 pm Power of Forgiveness	30			

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From Our Minister



Dear Whidbey friends,

Recently a member of our community lent me a profoundly moving book to read: “The Sunflower” by Simon Wiesenthal. It was the book I read in the ferry line all summer, took with me to July Eliot, told my family and friends about, and thought about whenever I considered situations of betrayal, disappointment, vengefulness, and the bitterness which often lingers long after the situation itself is behind us.

If you have not yet read it, I urge you to do so. You will find a remarkable story and an even more remarkable array of responses from well-known and little-known writers. You will think about your own possible response to Wiesenthal’s dilemma and will marvel at the many interpretations of his actions.

During September, we will be considering the theological question of Life’s Purpose. Does life have purpose? If so, does it come from the universe or from our own consciousness? What do our chosen behaviors have to do with our take on life’s purpose? Do we choose certain behaviors if we believe life has purpose? Or others if we believe that life is meaningless?

It’s exciting to be thinking about these things together, isn’t it? When we consider our own answers to the big questions of life and take time to talk with each other about them, we are expanding our knowledge of each other and of our own inner life.

Looking forward to seeing you in church,
Much love,
Kit

Calender Listings

Sept. 6: The Semantics of Faith: The Meaning and Purpose of “Purpose” and “Meaning”

Speaker: Ken M.

Does my life have a purpose? What does my existence mean? Why am I here? Is this it? Or is there more? We’re tackling some of the big questions at UUCWI to kick off our church year. But if we’re going to explore these imponderables, it might be helpful to get our terms straight. Language is an imprecise and unpredictable medium for this endeavor, and yet, it’s the only game in town. Let’s take a little tour of the languages of faith, philosophy, and science.

Worship Leader: Dave C.

Sept. 13: “The Meaning of Water in Human Life”

Speaker: Rev. Kit Ketcham

For our annual Water Ceremony, we ask everyone to bring a small amount of water to pool in a common bowl. The water should represent some important moment in your recent life. You will have a chance to talk briefly about the water’s meaning. This day is our annual Ingathering service followed by an outdoor (weather permitting) salmon bake.

Worship Leader: Mary G.

Sept 20: “Autumn Equinox”

Speaker: Effie B.

Autumn Equinox and the Vernal Equinox in the Spring are the points of balance in the cycle of the seasons when all living beings on earth share equal hours of daylight and darkness. Autumn is a time to give thanks for the gifts of the earth, the abundance in our lives, and to cultivate our own point of balance between our inner lives and our outer service. Join us in celebrating this time when nature reminds us that we all depend on the same air, water, sunlight and fruits from the earth and that our differences are superficial when compared with the reality that we share this dazzling planet home.

Worship Leader: Mavis C.



Sept. 27: "Bitterness, Forgiveness, and Life"**Speaker: Rev. Kit Ketcham**

In Judaism, this season is a time for repentance, atonement for wrongs, and asking forgiveness. Bitterness and disappointment come to us all; how we let go of bitterness and move into forgiveness is important. What do Unitarian Universalists think?

*Worship Leader: TBA***Sept. 8, 7pm: Book Discussion Group**

Moments Rightly Placed: An Aleutian Memoir, by Ray Hudson is the selection for this meeting at the home of Joan G. Publishers Weekly says about this memoir:

Hudson's love for this determined and traditional people coping with various conflicts of transition has shaped a deeply moving testimonial, a public gift to a people he very clearly adores.

Lots of copies are available from our Sno-Isle Library System. Pick one up and come to our meeting! Call Joan to let her know you are coming.

Sept. 12, 10-3: Books Galore! (And Other Things Too)

The Visual Arts Committee is hosting our First Annual September Book Sale. Profits will go toward completing the cloth hanging for the Sanctuary wall. Nola and Mary are working on this project currently but we'll need to pay a local cloth artist to do stitching to complete the work.

We need your donations of books, videos, CDs, and DVDs. Please bring these to the UU meeting hall by September 10th. There is a donation box located under the hall coat rack. Thanks so much to all who have already contributed items. We have even received a large bundle of sheet music. This promises to include an interesting array of items. Do be prepared to show up for the sale on Saturday the 12th as well.

Sept. 12, Noon: Choir Potluck Lunch and Retreat

All choir members - past, present, and future - are welcome to join in a potluck lunch and retreat held at our church. After we eat, we'll have a short meeting and then sing. Eat. Meet. Sing. For more information contact Linda G.

Sept. 12, 1-3: North End Koffee Klatch

Whidbey General cafeteria. Good cheap food, decent coffee, wonderful conversation! Come join us.

Sept. 13: Salmon Bake/Potluck

Our Ingathering Service will be followed by our annual salmon bake/potluck celebration. Some burgers will be provided for non-salmon appetites. The church will also provide assorted soft drinks. The cost for the salmon/burgers/drinks remains \$5/person or \$10/family. We need to provide all the salads, breads, desserts, hors d'oeuvres, etc.

For planning and setup, we would very much appreciate an RSVP (by Sept. 8) if you plan to attend. Please sign up on the sheet on the hospitality table, indicating how many in your family would like salmon, how many would prefer burgers, and what you will contribute to the potluck. Plan to bring your own non-disposable table service to reduce trash and simplify cleanup. Contact Lois C. if you need more information.

Sept. 16, 7 pm: Movie Night Resumes

Remember the fun and fellowship of our Movie Nights a few years ago? Would you like to see this tradition restarted? The nights may be short now, but they will be getting longer!

You're invited to attend an initial Movie Night organizing session at 7:00 pm on Wednesday September 16 at the Cs'. There will be a surprise film with commentary and discussion led by Ken M. and we will make plans for Movie Night as a series. RSVP to Dave by phone or email. Popcorn, coffee, and tea provided; bring your own favorite drinks or snacks and a bit extra to share.

If you want to participate in the series but cannot come to this organizing session, please send your preferences for day of week, genres, etc. to Dave .

Sept. 19, 11 am: The Fun on Whidbey Group

will be cheering our favorite soap boxes as they travel down First Street in Langley. We'll meet at 11 am at Mike's Place on 1st Street and walk 20 feet to where the bystanders are cheering. The contest is actually from 9:00 to 1:00, so we may not see the

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From the Pres



I'm looking forward to the start of our program year. [If you're a newcomer you may wonder about some of our terms. Our "program year" runs from September through June. During these months the children's RE program is in full swing, the choir meets twice a month and sings at one service per month, the small group dinners take place in various homes, and various committee projects and adult programs shift into full gear.] So, if you are just getting acquainted with us this is a great time to get involved in activities that interest you.

Creating our beautiful building has occupied most of our time and energy for the past couple of years. Now that we have a finished home, many have asked, "What next?" What are our plans? The Board is beginning discussions about our long range plans. We want to include you in this process, so watch for more information about this in the near future. In the mean time, dare to start dreaming about what you would like to see in our future.

Here are some words that may inspire that dream: "Each of us is an artist whose task it is to shape life into some semblance of the pattern we dream about. The molding is not of self alone, but of shared tomorrow and times we shall never see. So let us be about our task. The materials are very precious and perishable." This is a quote from a reading in *The Seven Principles in Word and Worship* edited by Ellen Brandenburg. The message seems fitting to the task before us.

Warmest regards,
Lois

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winner unless we wait until 1:00. Either way, Mike's Place has wonderful ice cream, lunches and comfortable chairs for when we decide it's time to sit down. Children will love this one. Bring 'em!
Judy K.

Sept. 20, 4-6 pm: Peace Event

Evan Welkin, a young Quaker from Olympia, will speak, in our sanctuary on his experiences with nonviolent witness on the West Bank and Palestine. This is a peace event sponsored jointly by UUCWI's Social Responsibility Council, Unity of Whidbey, and the Quaker meeting of Whidbey. Refreshments will be served.

Sept. 22, 7-9 pm: Conversation on Health Care

Does a dialogue about health care reform have to be contentious? Emotionally chaotic? Vitriolic? Community members on South Whidbey say "no". An inspirational conversation recently occurred between a chiropractor and a nurse that spurred the creation of an evening forum that poses the question; What questions should I be asking regarding health care changes?

On Sept. 22 from 7-9 pm, at the Free-land Unitarian Universalist Congregation, a unique approach will be taken to help people develop the language and relevant concerns regarding a change to our current health care system. This will NOT be a political debate! Its focus will be on creating a discussion between panel members that will hopefully create a springboard to other discussions. A panel of health care providers, including representatives from the fields of ObGyn (Marshall Goldberg, M.D.), psychiatry (Rick Ingrassi, M.D., M.P.H.), nursing (Eileen Jackson, R.N., Ph.D), the Island County Public Health Dept. (Carrie McLachlan, M.P.H., M.P.A.), and science (Mary K. Sandford, Ph.D scientist/anthropologist). Craig Weinston, D.C. will moderate.

To register, please email drccraig@chirozone.net or call 360-331-5565

Sept. 24, 4 pm - ?: South End Koffee Klatch

Useless Bay Coffeehouse in Langley, in the back room. Some of the best coffee drinks on the island, excellent company. Drop by for conversation and companionship.

Sept. 29, 7-9: "The Power of Forgiveness"

Co-sponsored by UUCWI, the Whidbey Quaker Meeting and Unity of Whidbey, this event will feature a showing of the documentary "The Power of Forgiveness", with an opportunity to discuss the topic in small groups. The documentary reveals the depth of spiritual meaning when human beings are able to find compassion and forgiveness for those who hurt them.

Announcements

From the Editor: New Section

We would like to see the newsletter grow to include more voices from our congregation as a way to strengthen our community. As a congregation, we share a wealth of knowledge, interests, and experiences. The new section will be dedicated to bringing these gifts out "from under the bushel."

For now, the section will be called "Community Corner". We welcome submissions that reflect the UU Principles. Suggested topics could be:

- Community activities of church participants
- Reflections on congregational events / history
- Description of community projects that reflect UU principles
- Poetry
- Essays
- Art work

Submissions will be printed as space allows. Some may be printed after the month of submission. Any submission not in keeping with the UU principles and by-laws will not be printed.

Contest: Name the Section

As mentioned above, the new community section is temporarily being called "Community Corner". This is not a very snappy name. Your editor came up with "Human^{ist} Interest", which is snappy, but not inclusive of all members.

The Contest to Name the Section opens with the publication of this issue. It will close when a snappy, inclusive name is submitted or at the end of September, whichever comes last. The prize will be announced at the same time as the winner of the contest. Please submit your entries to Celia B. No limit on number of entries. Winner need not be present.

Healing Retreat for Those Living with Cancer

The Whidbey Institute is offering a retreat day on Monday, Sept. 14 from 9 am to 4:30 pm to honor and support those living with a cancer diagnosis. This will be a day to release, replenish, and renew through experiencing the beauty and healing power of the natural world. Participants will have private rooms for resting and opportunities during the day for one-on-one spiritual guidance sessions, meditative movement, art projects, journaling, and small group sharing. All activities are optional.

The retreat is led by Cathy Whitmire and Kate Stivers. Cathy Whitmire has worked with cancer patients as an interfaith chaplain and as a pastoral counselor. She has an M.Div. from Harvard Divinity School and trained as a spiritual guide at the Shalem Institute. Kate Stivers is a counselor with extensive experience working with persons living with cancer and other life-challenging illnesses. She is a cancer survivor.

The \$45 fee includes lunch. Some reduced fee slots are available. For more information or to register, contact the Whidbey Institute 360-341-1884.

Insight Meditation Group

Through calming the mind, meditation allows us to better know ourselves, to develop compassion for ourselves and others, and to recognize the interdependent web of all existence. Meditating with others strengthens one's practice.

We will meet in Coupeville on Wednesdays from 7-8 pm, beginning Sept. 16. If there is interest, we can include readings from dharma books. Basic instruction will be provided to beginners. For more information contact Celia B.

Men

Are you interested in meeting regularly with a group of UU men? We could meet Weekly for a specified period of time in a study/discussion group or less often for a longer period of time in a fellowship/support group. If you have interest in either or both, let Mark B. know after services or by email.

We will meet in early September to see where there is interest. Watch the Friday Notes for further information.

UUs In Washington State Focus On Climate Crisis Solutions: Planetary Day of Action on October 24, 2009

Washington State Unitarian Universalist Voices for Justice is joining with groups around the United States and the world committed to working together on climate change. Inspired by the work of environmentalist and author Bill McKibben, 350.org is an international campaign whose mission is to call the world to rise to the challenge of the climate crisis – to create a new sense of urgency and of possibility for our planet.

The focus is on the number 350 – as in parts per million, the level scientists have identified as the safe upper limit for CO2 in our atmosphere. But 350 is not only a number – it's a symbol of where we need to head as a planet. 2009 is an absolutely crucial year. This December, world leaders will meet to craft a new global treaty on cutting emissions.

Bring together UUs in your community to call attention to the climate crisis. WA UU Voices will help you plan an event by working with planners in your congregation. We want everyone – especially our children and youth – to be part of your congregation's Day of Action on October 24. Need some ideas for what to do? You will find dozens of projects already registered at 350.org

Washington State UU's have plans underway! The possibilities are endless

- Olympia UU Congregation is spearheading "Bike and Walk for Climate Change Awareness" on October 24.
- One congregation will plant 350 native plants in a community garden.
- Another is hosting a "Green Forum" in their community, with several climate action groups providing educational materials and action ideas.

Set up an ad hoc committee, and begin planning a fun, all-age event that your congregation can offer your community! Your event does not have to be complicated, but it should be fun, and it should be about calling attention to solutions to our planet's climate crisis.

Contact UU Voices' coordinator, Carol McKinley, at coordinator@uuvoiceswa.org, 360 786-8074.

UU Orientation Class, Saturday, October 3

A few times each year we offer an orientation class to better acquaint friends, visitors and new UUs with our history, values, principles, and the men and women who have contributed to our movement. The next class will be Saturday, October 3 from 9 am to 1 pm at UUCWI. Lunch will be provided. The class is an informal, fun way to learn about UUCWI and to get to know some other people in the congregation. If you are interested in learning more about us or are contemplating becoming a member of our congregation, you are invited to attend. (Attendance at one of these orientations is a requirement of membership.) Please RSVP to Kit (kitketcham@comcast.net) or Mavis (uadmin@whidbey.com). If you will need child-care, please let us know.

Committee News

The Social Responsibility Council

has been meeting monthly with a focus on the welfare of the people on our lovely isle. The UU board has approved our request for one local non-profit agency to receive our donation basket money once each month. Your donations will be benefiting the following groups this next church year: The Hub, NRCAT (against torture), The Whidbey Veterans' Center, Kids First (foster children), Planned Parenthood, UU Service Committee, Good Cheer Food Bank, CADA (abused women's shelter), and Langley Center (emergency shelter).

We are sponsoring, with Unity and the Quakers, two events that will be held at the UU in September concerning peace and justice. Everyone is welcome to attend our potluck/meetings. The next meeting is Sept. 20th, following the service. Judy K.

Religious Education

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- RE classes resume this month, ●
- starting on Sept. 6. For more informa- ●
- tion contact Vanessa K. ●
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This is Jim B., after serenading Hildy C. and friends at a Careage picnic. Jim is one of our multi-talented artists who, in addition to having helped Microsoft develop Power Point, built and played Renaissance Recorders to perfection.

Jim is equally at home with the lathes and drill presses with which he builds his instruments as he is in front of an audience, playing his exquisitely crafted recorders. The pictured model is a 16th century Great Bass. It is one of a collection of large recorders Jim built in the 1970s. He is currently working on Renaissance sopranos and Baroque altoes.

Kent V.

In Memory

Remembering Rev. Tim Jensen, UUCWI minister 2000-2001

Tim Jensen's untimely death from lung cancer this month was a shock to all who knew him in the parishes he served in a 27- year UU ministry. Tim served UUCWI as a quarter time minister in the year 2000 -2001 when I was President of this congregation. Tim was a brilliant preacher and his sermons were often of powerful insight. A Bellevue native, he was a graduate of Harvard Divinity School, and was finishing his PHD in American History at University of Oregon in Salem while he was at UUCWI. He also was serving quarter time at the Roseburg, Oregon UU church which entailed a huge amount of travel for him.

UUCWI grew by leaps and bounds that year under his leadership and the possibility of building our own church began to take shape as we overflowed Trinity. By the end of that year it was clear

that we would build, even though he counseled us to wait. I will remember Tim not only for his inspiring sermons, but for his wise counsel to me as President as problems would arise - "take the high moral ground". A very young congregation thrived and grew that year and began the long and difficult journey to our own building.

Tim dreamed of retiring to Camano Island where he spent childhood summers and of getting a sailboat that would be a "floating library", filled with his favorite books. Tim's little terrier, Parker, was a constant companion here and during that difficult time in his life. It is comforting to think he and Parker will be together again somewhere, perhaps on a sailboat just over the horizon.

Peggy B.

Turn scarlet, leaves!
Spin earth!
Tumble the shadows into dawn,
The morning out of night;
Spill stars across these skies
And hide them with the suns.

Teach me to turn
My sullen sense toward marvel.

Let green and red
And dark and day
Concur with the returning life
I am.

Raymond J. Baughan
Reading #485

UUCWI 2009-2010 Board of Trustees

Lois C., President

Tom B., 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 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.

Communications Committee:

Celia B., Newsletter Editor

Mavis C., Church Administrator

Dean E., Webmaster

UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CONGREGATION OF WHIDBEY ISLAND

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