



# Island Passages

20103 State Route 525 • P.O. Box 1076, Freeland, WA 98249 • 360-321-8656 • [www.whidbey.com/uucwi/](http://www.whidbey.com/uucwi/)

## December 2009

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
		1	2	3	4	5 10 am Book Sale
6 <b>Service: 10 am</b> "Who Was Jesus and what is his message to us UUs?"  5:30 pm SE Dine Out	7 9 - 11 Worship Committee	8	9 7:30 pm EvenSong "The Essence of Christmas"	10	11 9 -11 BOT	12 10 - Noon Visual Arts Committee  1-3 pm NEKK  1-4 pm Art Gallery Open
13 <b>Service: 10 am</b> "The Story of Hanukkah"	14	15	16 10 am Membership Committee	17 4-6 pm SEKK	18 Newsletter Deadline	19 1-4 pm Art Gallery Open
20 <b>Service: 10 am</b> "Symbols of Christmas"  2 pm Memorial for Hildred Cyr	21	22	23	24 <b>Service: 4 pm</b> "Christmas Eve at Home"	25	26
27 <b>Service: 10 am</b> "Winter Solstice: An experience of the longest night"  5:30 pm NE Dine Out	28	29	30	31		

For More Information on Listings - see pages 2 and 3

## From Our Minister



Dear Whidbey friends,

The holidays are upon us once again, with their whirlwind of celebrations, traveling, gifts and outpourings of love for our family and friends. It can be a season of great pleasure and joy but it can also bring our anxieties and fears into sharper focus. Some of that anxiety is often centered around gift-giving and receiving: what shall I get for so and so? Why is everything so expensive? Will this gift be adequate or should it be more costly?

My family members and I have all experienced this angst around Christmas giving and this year, we unanimously decided to give each other the gift of a donation to a favorite cause or charity. My sister will donate to Heifer International in my name and I will donate to Serve Moses Lake in her name. My brother and I will each give a donation to the Red Cross in each other's name. We'll still give regular gifts to the children in our extended family and I want to give some carefully selected items to my son and his family. But this year, making donations to favorite charities feels like the right thing to do.

Goodness knows we don't need more stuff! And the world needs our help badly. So if you haven't already considered this idea, you might. I might not have been ready for it a year ago, but this year it feels like the right thing to do.

Speaking of giving, our annual Guest at your Table campaign is underway. I urge you to fill that colorful little box with all the spare change you've got, during the weeks between Thanksgiving and Martin Luther King, Jr., Day in January. This is a wonderful cause to support; the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee does humanitarian work all over the world and in our own country, serving the needs of people for clean water, disaster relief, small loans, and human rights. At the end of the campaign in January, we'll be asking you to count the change in the box and write a check to UUCWI with "Guest at your Table (GAYT) in

the memo line, for the amount in the box. Our trusty treasurer, Tom Buxton, will tally it all up and send UUSC a check for the total amount donated. I hope we'll give a good chunk of change to this noble organization.

What are you doing for the holidays? Spreading love and joy and cheer, I hope, and receiving it in equal measure!

Much love,  
Kit

## Calender Listings

**Dec. 6: "Who Was Jesus and what is his message to us UUs?"**

**Speaker: Rev. Kit Ketcham**

**Worship Leader: Gloria Sherman**

All of the world's most influential religions have heroic figures who model life as it should be lived. Jesus is the hero of Christianity, as Moses would be for Judaism and Mohammed for Islam. The Buddha and Confucius modeled life for their followers as did the many gods of Hinduism and other polytheistic religions. The wisdom of these ancient heroes shapes our global culture today. What value do their precepts offer us during this holiday season?

**Dec 9, 7:30pm: EvenSong  
"The Essence of Christmas"**

Come share in prayer, meditation and song. Use this time to focus on what is most meaningful to you about this sacred season. Harp prelude at 7:15 pm

**Dec. 13: "The Story of Hanukkah"**

**Worship Leader: Sandy Welch**

The ancient story from which the celebration of Hanukkah arose is one of courage, strength, and faithfulness to ideals. This intergenerational service will include stories and activities from the Jewish tradition. All ages will enjoy this timeless celebration. Child care will be provided for children under 3 years of age.

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**Dec 20: "Symbols of Christmas: A Service of Readings and Carols "**

**Service Leader: Mavis Cauffman**

Come for a joyous service of singing and readings selected to help us focus on the important messages of the Christmas season. The choir will sing and new voices are welcome and encouraged.

**Dec. 24: "Christmas Eve at Home"**

**Speakers: Rev. Kit Ketcham, Terra Anderson**

This will be our first Christmas Eve service in our own home; last year we were snowed out! A meditative service of carols, stories, and reflections will start at dusk, 4 p.m., with candlelighting as the sun goes down behind the trees and with reverence for the season's blessings and gifts. Please join us for this annual celebration of peace, love, hope, and joy.

**Dec. 27: "Winter Solstice: An experience of the longest night"**

**Worship Leader: Effie Brown**

For everything there is a season. Through reflection, songs, words, silence, and without a sermon, we will experience the Winter Solstice as a time of endings and beginnings. With the arrival of winter's long dark nights, many of Nature's growing things have died to prepare the way for new life. And, in the fertile darkness beneath the surface of the soil, seeds are germinating and the roots of trees and plants are growing. The closing of the old year and winter's deep silence provide opportunities for us to recognize and release those limiting beliefs or habits that no longer serve our well being. The Winter Solstice season is also a time to look to the miracle of the returning light as a sign of hope and to invoke those qualities and actions that enhance our lives and serve the good of all life.

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**Dec. 5, 10am – 3pm: Another Book Sale!**

Use fresh eyes to pour over this huge selection of pristine used hardbacks and quality paperback – as well as hard-to-find titles and unusual books. Included are newly donated books as well as some that never made it out of donor's boxes for the last book sale! Great holiday gift possibilities! Popular & classical music and DVD's too. Title list of about 50% of books offered is available in advance (by email) upon request from Joan at [jgerteis@whidbey.net](mailto:jgerteis@whidbey.net)

**Dec. 6, 5:30 pm: South End Dine Out, at China City in Freeland**

This event is a revival of a beloved tradition, Chinese food on a Sunday evening. Let Kit know (331-2163) if you can join the group. You can also let her know on that Sunday morning.

**Dec. 12, 1-3 pm: North End Koffee Klatch,**

at Whidbey General Hospital's cafeteria, for good food, decent coffee, and excellent conversation!

**Dec. 17, 4-6 pm: South End Koffee Klatch**

at Living Green in Langley. Join us in the living-room-like environment in Living Green's café for coffee drinks, snacks, and terrific conversation.

**Dec. 27, 5:30 pm: North End Dine Out**

at the San Remo Grill, 421 Midway, OH. This is a new event just getting started and will move from one north end eatery to another, as we decide what we want to do. Lots of good places in the north end! Let Kit know (331-2163) if you can attend or check in with her on Sunday morning.



**Announcements**

**Guest At Your Table**

Every year, UUCWI participates in the Guest at your Table program through the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee. Colorful containers are given to each family and placed on the family table during meals. Guest at your Table boxes are filled with spare change during the collection period and will be received at church at the end of the time, which will be Jan. 17. All funds received will go to the UUSC for use in their many humanitarian outreach efforts across the world and our nation; typical concerns are clean water supplies, disaster relief, human rights, and small-loan banking.

## From the Pres



Happy Holidays!

It's not yet Thanksgiving Day as I write this, but you will probably be preparing for the various December holidays as you read it. While this is one of my favorite times of the year, I also find it to be somewhat dangerous.

I love the excitement of family gatherings, listening to holiday music favorites, eating those delicious foods that are prepared for only that one special occasion each year, [In our family it is the steamed Christmas pudding!], seeing the anticipation on the faces of the children. It is a joyous time of year.

The danger lies in wanting it to be "perfect". Did every dish on the menu come out just right? Are all of the grandchildren thrilled with the gift I bought for them? Could I have done more with the decorations? Did I get all of the season's greeting cards mailed out on time? Is everything just right? Is this the best holiday season ever?? Why, oh why, do we do this to ourselves? My wish for all of us this holiday season is that we be gentle with ourselves.

Wishing you peace, love and joy.

Warmest regards,  
Lois

## Small Group Dinners

The small group dinners will start again in January, after a break for the holidays. The next dinners will be Jan. 16. Please let me know if you are interested in joining. If you cannot provide your home, you can offer to partner or co-host with someone who can. These dinners are the third Saturday of each month and open to everyone.

For more information please contact me, Carol Bingham, at : [bingman@whidbey.com](mailto:bingman@whidbey.com). Phone is : 360-730-1955.

## Zimbabwe Artists Project Exhibit continues through December

This exhibit offers unique holiday gift possibilities for this holiday season – for yourself or others!

Arrangements to purchase artwork can be made by contacting a member of the UUCWI Visual Arts Committee directly. (See the directory for email and phone information). The Exhibit will also be open for sales on Sat afternoons from 1- 4 pm in December through the 19th of the month.

All proceeds go to the Zimbabwe Artists Project. More information about the art and how sales support Zimbabwe can be found at the project's website: [www.zimbabweartistsproject.org](http://www.zimbabweartistsproject.org).

## Soapbox Sunday in January

Has that issue been gnawing at you? Have you wanted to tell the world? A craving for ranting or raving? The quiet power of reason and justice?

We will select a panel of four who will get five minutes apiece to state their case on Soapbox Sunday, Jan. 3, 2010. Contact Worship Leader Baird Bardarson 331-1081 to reserve a spot.

## 2010 PNWD District Assembly

Feb. 19-21, 2010; Hilton Hotel; Bellevue, WA

Come to the annual gathering of UUs from throughout the Northwest. Be educated and inspired to walk out into the world shining the message that our lives matter and our actions make a difference!

Workshops will provide opportunities to share knowledge, experience and resources; to learn new skills; and to expand your understanding of UUism. Meet Rev. Peter Morales, the new UUA President. Delegates will participate in making district decisions. Above all, have fun learning, laughing, and worshipping with new and old UU friends.

For more details and on-line registration, visit the Pacific Northwest District website:

[www.pnwd.org](http://www.pnwd.org) <<http://www.pnwd.org>> --> News and Events --> District Assembly

## Welcome New Member:

Gloria Sherman  
P.O. Box 202, Clinton, WA  
341-4217  
[glosherman@whidbey.net](mailto:glosherman@whidbey.net)

## Committee News

### La Fiesta Was A Huge Success

Bidders walked away with handmade jewelry, pottery and baked goods. Lucky winners will enjoy a cabin in Colorado for a week, a baby lamb come July and a B&B in New York. The adventurous can look forward to horseback riding, kayaking and hiking. The food and drink connoisseurs now have a social calendar full of dinner parties, tea parties and wine tours. The musically inclined can look forward to a holiday sing-a-long or a ukulele concert. And the too busy can turn over gardening and handyman duties to other church members

Thanks to all who donated items, to those who bid, to those who greeted, recorded and helped set up and clean up. Special thanks go to our auctioneer Ken Merrell who once again got bidding paddles into the air. Also heart felt gratitude goes to our queens of the kitchen, Vicky Pitt and Sara Heath, plus their entourage of helpers. Thanks to Carol Bingman and Sandy Welch for organizing the silent auction and to Mary Goolsby for lively decorations. Many thanks to Chris Bell for handling all computer input and output. And bravo to our promoters extraordinaire, Camille and John Long.

Our net income from the year's event is an impressive \$8,100.

Auction Committee, Frances Wood, Toyan Cope-land, Chairs

## Community Voices

### The Writer

He starts with lies  
Timid impossible lies  
At first  
That get crooked smiles  
And encouragement  
Then, he turns to  
grander inventions  
Thick and subtle  
Vaguely believable  
A sweet seduction  
Of fabrications

He begs for your secrets  
There's no one better  
To trust your secrets to  
Than a liar  
Until, drenched in them  
He overflows  
Too shallow a vessel  
And they mingle with the lies  
Like tears falling into blood  
And bear the fruit  
Of stories.

Ken Merrell



*Joan Gerteis*

**UUCWI 2009-2010 Board of Trustees**

Lois Chowen, President

Tom Buxton, Treasurer

Pat Lewis, Secretary

Mark Brown, Trustee

Sally Ann Elder, Trustee

Helen Kushnereit, Trustee

Joann Roomes, Trustee

If you wish to contact any of the Board members,  
call UUCWI voice mail at 360-321-8656.

**Minister:** Rev. 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 Kohlhaas

**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: [celia@bartramrecorders.com](mailto:celia@bartramrecorders.com)

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](http://www.whidbey.com/uucwi/newsletter.html)

Last names, phone numbers, and addresses are  
deleted from the online version for members'  
privacy.

**Communications Committee:**

**Celia Bartram, Newsletter Editor**

**Mavis Cauffman, Church Administrator**

**Dean Enell, Webmaster**

**UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CONGREGATION  
OF WHIDBEY ISLAND**

P.O. Box 1076

Freeland, WA 98249

360-321-8656