



Island Passages

UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CONGREGATION OF WHIDBEY ISLAND

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

January 2006

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 New Year's Day 4:00p -5:00p Service: Soap Box Sunday	2	3	4	5	6	7 9:00a -11:00a North End Koffee Klatch (p. 2) 2:00p -4:00p Welcoming Congregation workshop (p. 2)
8 4:00p -5:00p Service -- Winter Reflections: Lessons of Nature Guest At Your Table collection ends (p. 3)	9 9:00a Worship Committee meeting at Trinity	10	11	12	13 10:15a -11:45a Social Action Committee meeting at Whidbey General Hospital	14
15 4:00p -5:00p Service: The Gospel of Unitarian Universalism	16 ML King Day 9:00a -4:00p Poverty Action Summit & March (p. 7)	17	18	19 1:30p Circle of Caring (p. 3)	20	21
22 4:00p -5:00p Service: Who am I and What is My Purpose?	23 9:00a Marriage Equality Day (p. 3) newsletter deadline	24	25	26	27	28
29 4:00p -5:00p Service: Lessons from the Gulf Coast	30	31	Additions and updates can be found on the calendar on the congregation's web site: www.whidbey.com/uucwi/			

January 8th — Winter Reflections: Lessons of Nature
with minister the Reverend Kit Ketcham

As January grips us in its chilly fingers, we humans turn inward to reflect on the lessons of this time of year. Nature offers us a wordless sacred text to pore over in our pursuit of understanding.

Lay Leader: Marilyn S.

Membership Representative: Tim K.

January 15th — The Gospel of Unitarian Universalism
with guest minister
the Reverend Thomas Anastasi

Yes, we do have a Gospel ("Good News" in Greek) to offer the world. Our sorely needed message is about inherent worth and dignity of all people, and includes a radical valuing of our relationship with the Earth itself.

The Reverend Thomas Anastasi has served Shoreline Unitarian Universalist Church for over fifteen years. Thomas was a professional musician and singer before entering ministry and now uses these talents in ministry. Today's sermon about the UU Good News will be spoken and sung and played.

Lay Leader: Sandy W.

Membership Representative: Malcolm F.

January 22nd — Who Am I and What is My Purpose?
with minister the Reverend Kit Ketcham

This service begins a series of five sermons focusing on the great theological questions of human living. The Reverend Kit Ketcham will speak about how we sort out our answers to life's questions.

Lay Leader: Frank A.

Membership Representative: Roy B.

January 29th — Lessons from the Gulf Coast
with guest minister
the Reverend Rachel Taber-Hamilton

Invaluable lessons have been learned from the collective disaster response to the Gulf Coast region following Hurricane Katrina. Rachel will share experiences from her deployment with the Red Cross to the Gulf Coast and focus on the role that racism, poverty and educational disparity played in the situations she encountered. These same forces can and will predictably affect disaster planning and response in the Pacific Northwest unless we address these very real issues within our own region by fostering relationships and communication between communities, emergency response organizations and local/state/national governmental bodies. Rachel believes that faith communities are in the best position to host and encourage this dialogue. Reverend Taber-Hamilton is an ordained Episcopal priest with a background in anthropology and folklore studies.

Lay Leader: Mavis C.

Membership Representative: Baird B.

Special offerings: Helping Hand and Help House

The offering at this service will be shared with Helping Hand, which provides counseling, family crisis support and referral services on Whidbey Island. We will also collect nonperishable foods for Help House (see page 3).

Congregational News & Events

NEKK, January 7th

The North End Koffee Klatch will meet as usual at the West Wind Cafe at Whidbey General Hospital in Coupeville, from 9-11 a.m. on Saturday, January 7th.

Welcoming Congregation, January 7th

Our monthly Welcoming Congregation session (2-4 p.m. Saturday January 7 at Trinity) will be with Adrian Dee and his partner, as we explore the interesting and unusual world of transgender identity. Adrian is a female-to-male transgender person. He is a member of Wy'east UU Congregation in Portland Oregon.

We hope that many UUCWI members and friends will join us in our study of GLBT issues and concerns as we complete the requirements for becoming an official Welcoming Congregation.

~ Reverend Kit Ketcham

GAYT Collection, January 8th

All Guest At Your Table boxes and envelopes can be returned before or during this service. A longtime UU tradition, this annual collection supports worldwide projects of the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee toward human rights and social justice.

If you failed to pick up a collection box or envelope, you are still welcome to make a contribution during the service.

Women's Group, January 9th

All women of the church are invited to a gathering on Monday evening, January 9th. The topic will be "Why I am a Unitarian and what Unitarianism Means." The meeting will be at Camille L.'s house near Langley. We'll start at 7:00 p.m. with refreshments and socializing, and the discussion will start at 7:30.

Circle of Caring, January 19th

Our topic for this meeting will be "What do we want to do with the rest of our lives?" We'll meet at 1:30 p.m. at Joan's home.

In addition to checking in with one another as usual and conversing about the above, we also agreed we would discuss possible topics for future discussion. Two such 'topics' follow:

- Exploration of the idea put forth in the article entitled "Long-Term Care: Declaration of Independents", which explains how to be able to live in your own home for the rest your life as opposed to needing to go (at some point) into a long-term-care facility.
- A meeting during which we will focus on getting to know one another better through activities that Mary Goolsby will direct. (Mary did this stuff professionally before she retired to Whidbey).

~ Joan G.

Marriage Equality Day, January 23rd

Equal Rights Washington and the Religious Coalition for Equality are organizing Equality Day 2006 in Olympia to educate people about the issues involved with marriage equality and antidiscrimination legislation, to provide education about how to visit with legislators effectively and easily, and to again show support for marriage equality and antidiscrimination legislation.

Schedule:

Coffee and donuts: 9-9:30 a.m.

Advocacy Workshops: 9:30-11:15

Rally on Capitol Steps: 11:45-1 p.m.

Visit legislators: 1-3 p.m.

Reception: 3 p.m.

Register at info@religiouscoalition-wa.org. For more information, visit www.religiouscoalition-wa.org.

Food Bank Donation: January 29th

Hildred C. was inspired by our December donation of nonperishable food items in honor of Malcolm's birthday and decided to follow suit. January 29th is Hildred's 70th birthday, and she has requested that food items be brought for the North Whidbey Help House food bank (see www.geocities.com/northwhidbeyhelp). We'll collect food at the service that day to be donated to the Help House.

Where Will You Be February 11th?

The holidays are over. The turkey is all gone and, maybe, even the fruitcake. But the best is yet to come with the annual auction — our special UU FUNraiser. If you haven't yet decided what unique delight to donate, keep an eye out for the suggestion board which will be available during after-services coffee hour. List things you'd like to be able to bid on, or let the list inspire you to greater heights of creative offerings. Please note: the auction will begin at 7:30 p.m. on Saturday, February 11th, but you don't want to miss the best part: hors d'oeuvres, wine and a delicious dinner will be served at 6:00. Meal tickets will go on sale soon at \$12 (kids are half price). This is a real bargain — ask anyone who attended last year! See Joan G. for tickets.

~ Mary G.

[Editor's note: the auction Promise Form is printed on pages 5 and 6 in this newsletter.]

Building Committee News

The Building Committee is alive and kicking. Sandy W. who heads up the Design Subcommittee has taken the latest suggestions and requirements for our new facility to Flat Rock Design and they have morphed them into a new and improved building concept which will be on display at each church service. Sandy, Roy B. and Tom B. are hard at work firming up the cost estimates. Tom and Dave C. are busy formulating the business plan which will explain how it can work financially. There are many "green" features being considered, and Malcolm F. is our guru in this department.

The building will be contracted "in house." Roy B. has volunteered to step up to the General Contractor task. A successful project requires that there be full ownership by the members and friends of our church — and faith that your committee has the wisdom and energy to make it possible.

You can expect that soon the entire building package will be presented to the congregation for its consideration at a meeting called especially for this purpose. Soon we will own a building to better enable us to promote peace, celebrate diversity, explore spirituality and teach our children morals and values that are not fear-based.

~ Baird B., Building Committee Chair

UUCWI Earns Award

Our congregation has earned a *Creating Justice Banner Society* award from the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee (UUSC) in recognition of the increased number of UUSC members in our congregation. Our participation in the Guest At Your Table fundraiser for the UUSC has also increased steadily in the last few years. Our contributions to the UUSC enable substantial work to be done to further human rights and social justice around the world. To find out more about UUSC's programs, please visit www.uusc.org/programs/.

~ Nancy S., UUSC Local Representative

From Our Minister



Dear UUCWI friends,

I hope that several of you can join me in Olympia this year, as we rally with thousands of other committed persons of faith in support of equal rights for sexual minorities. Last year, our rally in support of anti-discrimination legislation and marriage equality for same sex couples attracted about 1700 people to the capitol steps.

This year, we hope for even more, as the Religious Coalition for Equality joins with Equal Rights Washington to converge in Olympia on Monday, January 23, for a morning of advocacy training, a noon rally on the capitol steps, and afternoon meetings with our legislators to encourage them to vote for equal rights for all Washington citizens.

Last year, several Whidbey Islanders met with me and our legislators to talk about equal rights. Our legislators are Chris Strow and Barbara Bailey, neither of whom support antidiscrimination legislation or marriage equality, and Mary Margaret Haugen, who is a support of antidiscrimination legislation. We need to work a little harder on Strow and Bailey to help them see the need for equal rights for all citizens.

We will be attending the rally and legislator meetings with our friends at Langley United Methodist Church. Larry Fox and the Reverend David Vergin at LUMC will coordinate with us to carpool to Olympia.

We are rallying earlier this year because it is a short legislative session, of only 60 days. A January date means it may be chilly and rainy; wear warm RED clothing and comfortable shoes. Bring your own sign in support of our cause or grab one at the rally.

I will make appointments with our legislators and let you know when they are scheduled. In the meantime, go to the RCE webpage at www.religiouscoalition-wa.org and sign up for updates. UUCWI is a sponsoring congregation for the rally, which makes me very proud of you all!

See you soon!

Much love,

Kit

Services Auction
Saturday, February 11th
Auction Promise

Due by Sunday, February 5, 2006

Please explain in detail what you would like to offer. Include (when applicable) the date or date range for which you are offering the service, advance time notification needed, number of people item is for (e.g. Lasagna that will serve six), total number of buyers you desire (e.g. a dinner in my home for 10 people), length of time of service offered (e.g. four hours of yard work), and any other information that will make your offering as clear and interesting as possible. Please use a separate Auction Promise sheet for each service/item. Make a copy of this one, download one from our website, pick one up at Services on Sundays, or call Joan.

Name of service or item _____

Description of service/item _____

Donor(s) _____

Date(s) _____

Minimum bid \$_____ **per** _____. **Maximum quantity** _____

Item will be available ___night of the auction ___on date indicated ___to be arranged

Will sample be on display? ___yes ___no ___N/A

Good Faith Fair Market Value of your offering (to conform with IRS regulations) \$_____

Signed _____ **Phone** _____

E-mail _____

I prefer to be contacted about this via ___e-mail ___phone

The Services Auction

Join together with other UUCWI members for a *real* auction – complete with an experienced Auctioneer and bidding paddles! You can give and buy things that keep on delivering fun times and great ways to connect with others. All for the good of our Congregation's coffers.

Take some time to think about what you would like to offer. Be creative; think up something that would be *fun to give* as well as receive.

Below are some of the services & items that have been auctioned off in previous years. The most popular services & items clearly have been ones related to a *favorite activity or passion of the giver*, or ones that *involve getting together with other folks*. Hopefully this list will help you think up a marvelous way to offer something special just from *you*.

- Autumn Fruit Chutney (homemade)
- Baha on the Beach – for 8
- Beautiful dahlias planted in your yard
- Bocce Ball tournament
- Cat sitting in your home
- Cook Inlet Wild Alaska Salmon
- Extraordinary Mariner's Tickets
- Family fun at Goss Lake
- Fern Trivet/stained stoneware
- Garden Rototilling
- Garden fresh, organic vegetables and fruit
- Golf lessons
- Handmade cloth dolls
- Hand knitted scarf
- Hand knitted wool mittens
- Homage to Julia Child – A Provencal Dinner for 6
- Homemade Fruit Cake
- Lavender planted for you
- Lemon Curd (homemade)
- Mohair slippers
- Outdoor portrait session
- Piano lessons
- Pick-up-truck load of compost
- Poetic Pickin's – read poetry with 5 other folks over an organic dinner with great wine and dessert
- Pick-up-truck load of compost
- Poker Night, Philosophy, + Bar food
- Postcards from Russia
- Pruning lessons
- Sailing dinner
- Sea kayaking basics
- Swedish Smorgasbord, folk music & dance – for 12
- Six glorious months of fresh flowers
- Whidbey Island Sushi

OK, you get the idea? Now, come up with your own ideas and get ready to participate in a *fun-raiser*!

Send your completed form to Joan G/
/or bring them to her on a Sunday. *Call or email* Joan G., Mary G., Paula K., or Marjorie L. for *more information* and *volunteer opportunities*. (See UUCWI Directory for phone numbers & email addresses) More donation (promise) forms can be downloaded from our website at <http://www.whidbey.com/uucwi/>, picked up at Services on a Sunday, or by calling/emailing Joan.

Calling All Cooks

Good Cheer Food Bank is beginning the planning for a series of cooking demonstrations on low-cost, nutritious meals for its clients. Our Social Action Committee has volunteered to gather recipes for use in the demonstrations and for a cookbook. We're looking for recipes that produce these kinds of dishes:

- relatively low in fat and sugar but high in vitamins, minerals and fiber
- don't require exotic ingredients that are expensive and can't be found at the food bank
- simple to make, but perhaps with variations that permit more experienced cooks to add some flair
- tasty (appealing to children would be a plus)

We welcome a variety of recipe types: main dishes, side dishes, soups/stews, breads, snacks, breakfasts, lunches, beverages. The goal is to provide real alternatives to expensive, fatty, fast/convenience foods.

Please send complete recipes to me, preferably by email. Include all the details — ingredient measures, can sizes, pan dimensions, cooking times, number of servings and whatever else is necessary for someone making the dish for the first time.

~ Nancy S., Committee Chair

Poker, Anyone?

We've had two poker nights at the B.s (auction item), and there seems to be interest in continuing to play poker. So...if you are interested in poker (25 cent limit), conversation, and potlucks about once a month, please call Roy.

January 15th Special Musicians

Cellist James Hinkley and a student of his, Hannah Anderson, will be our special musicians on January 15th. James has degrees in performance and education, a masters degree in music theory and composition and a doctorate in 'cello. He has played in a number of symphonies across the country and served as a director of a music conservatory and conductor of a youth orchestra. Also active as a composer, James has had his music performed in several cities with commissions from several ensembles. He has scored several episodes of the MTV series *Liquid Television* and is currently exploring new media for the 'cello including rock, jazz, and bluegrass.

~ Linda G.

Member News & Notes

All-Island, All-Book Group Potluck Gathering, January 12th

In lieu of our UUCWI Book Group meeting this month, we will participate in this wider gathering of book groups at 6:00 p.m. at Thomas Berry Hall at the Whidbey Institute. The speaker will be UUCWI member Frances Wood. A book sale will support the gathering, and a silent auction proceeds will fund a scholarship to the Whidbey Writers' Conference. Contact Mary G. for information on the event, what food to bring, and how to donate books to the sale or to support our group's contribution to the silent auction.

~ Mavis C.

Poverty Action Summit & March, January 16th

Washington State UU Voices For Justice invites all to attend a Martin Luther King, Jr., Day Poverty Action Summit and March on the Capitol in Olympia. Join us as we urge our lawmakers to fight for access to opportunity, work that pays, and health and well-being.

Events will run from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. at Temple Beth Hatfiloh, with the march at 1:00 from Sylvester Park. From 4:00 p.m. to 11:00 p.m., a benefit show will play at the Vault.

A \$15 fee covers lunch and all activities for the day, with scholarships available. There is no charge to attend just the rally and march. To register, visit www.povertyaction.org or call 1-866-789-7726.

~ Nancy S.

Watch Formal Mock Trial of U.S. Officials

The Unitarian Universalist Service Committee (UUSC) has video-recorded the formal mock trial which can now be seen in its entirety or in parts from our website. Visit www.uusc.org/blog/hotwire.html for links to the streaming video, which features the "trial" of Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld, former CIA Director George Tenet and Attorney General Alberto Gonzales on charges of authorizing and condoning the use of torture in Iraq, Afghanistan and Guantanamo. See www.uusc.org/programs/STOP/cast.html for a complete list of cast members in the trial.

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of Whidbey Island**

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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 (206-781-3098)

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.

Newsletter Information:

News, announcements, events, and other items of
general interest to members of the congregation
should be submitted in writing by the 20th of each
month to editor Nancy S.

Short faxed

items may be acceptable; call for more
information. 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:

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