



# Island Passages

UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CONGREGATION OF WHIDBEY ISLAND

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## January 2009

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
				1	2	3
4 <b>Service 10am: Whom Some Call God</b>	5	6 Membership Committee	7	8	9 9 - 11am BOT	10 1 - 3pm North End Koffee Klatch
11 <b>Service 10am: Cultural Amensia</b>  4 - 5:30 pm The Art of Listening	12 9-11 am Worship Committee	13 7pm Book Group C	14 7-9 pm Pete Seeger Concert Planning Group	15	16	17
18 <b>Service 10am: Martin Luther King Jr. and the Search for Truth and Meaning</b>  4 - 5:30 pm The Art of Listening	19	20 Newsletter Deadline  10am - Noon South End Koffee Klatch	21	22	23	24 7pm Conversation at Kit's
25 <b>Service 10am: Principle #4</b>  4 - 5:30 pm The Art of Listening	26	27	28	29	30	31

For More Information on Listings - see pages 2 and 3

## January Services

### Jan. 4, 2009: Whom Some Call God

**Speaker: Rev. Kit Ketcham**

There are many paths to the Divine and many views about the nature of the Divine. There are many complications, even obstacles, as we humans try to sort out our thinking about the Power beyond human power. During this church year our worship is centered around the Seven Principles of Unitarian Universalism. This service addresses our Fourth Principle---"a free and responsible search for truth and meaning"---and its theme was chosen by Amy and Matt Cyprian, who bought the right to choose a sermon topic at the Feb. 2008 auction.

*Worship Leader: Peggy B*

*Greeter: Lois C*

### Jan. 11, 2009: Cultural Amnesia

**Speaker: Mary G**

"Those who do not learn from history are doomed to repeat it," said George Santayana. We need to be reminded of the moral lessons learned from World War II, particularly those of ethnic injustice. Mary G and Mavis and Dave C will give voice to some of the people and events described in Clive James' book, *Cultural Amnesia: Necessary Memories from History and the Arts*. These vignettes explore the lives of individuals, particularly the Jews of Vienna, who were either part of that history in some way or were precursors to it.

*Worship Leader: Mary G*

*Greeter: Ken M*

### Jan. 18, 2009: Martin Luther King Jr. and the Search for Truth and Meaning

**Speaker: Rev. Kit Ketcham**

The civil rights pioneer MLK Jr. was a thinker and a doer. His search for truth and meaning carried him far beyond the range of traditional Christianity into a theology that advocated liberation for all those oppressed. Inspired by his thinking, Liberation Theology has become a powerful force in Christian thinking. What does Liberation Theology imply for our work in the world today, as Unitarian Universalists?

*Worship Leader: Joann R*

*Greeter: Baird B*

### Jan. 25, 2009: Principle #4

**Speaker: Mark Brown**

The fourth UU Principle is "To promote a free and responsible search for truth and meaning." The question is, however, is TRUTH objective and knowable, or is it relative, slippery, and constantly changing? How can we search for truth when we are not even sure of its nature? We are constantly faced with the question that Pilate asked Jesus, "What is Truth?"

Mark Brown was ordained an Episcopal Priest in 1969, and served for 4 years as a member of an ecumenical Campus Ministry team in Ellensburg. He also served as vicar of two small churches in Roslyn and Cle Elum. He spent most of his working life in the grocery business, owning a small neighborhood store about 3 blocks from the local community church where he and Effie were active for 20 years

He and his wife Effie have attended UUCWI for about 7 years and became members of the congregation this fall.

*Worship Leader: Sarah R*

*Greeter: Earl B*

## UUCWI Events

**North End Koffee Klatch:** Jan. 10, 1-3pm at Whidbey General Hospital's cafeteria. Good cheap food, good coffee, GREAT conversation. We are solving the world's problems during these two hours! You don't want to miss it. All are welcome, not just north-enders.

**South End Koffee Klatch:** Jan. 20, 10-noon, at Rockhoppers in Clinton. Wonderful conversations take place when UUs congregate over coffee and SEKK is a great example. Rene S, longtime UUCWier, presides over the coffee pot and welcomes all to this cozy art-spot. Join us!

### Conversations in Music: The Art of Listening

Jan. 11, 18, 25, Feb. 1, 8, 15, 4 - 5:30 pm

Legh Burns, Music Director and Conductor of the Saratoga Chamber Orchestra, will be leading a series of interactive lectures, designed to enhance enjoyment and understanding of music. This series

was created to enhance the listening experience of anyone who enjoys attending musical performances – whether classical or jazz, instrumental or choral. Knowing more about music will make the experience of listening richer and more rewarding. Recordings and live music presentation will provide examples for the lectures. The lectures are intended to be interactive. The audience is invited to ask questions and give opinions. The goal is a stimulating and enjoyable dialogue about music.

The six sessions will cover such topics as texture in music, melody, rhythm, sectional and continuous organization. The final session is “Putting it All Together.”

Cost for the sessions is \$95 per person, which includes a complimentary ticket to any Saratoga Chamber Orchestra concert; if someone wants to attend with a spouse, partner, friend or student, the cost is \$150 for two, and includes two orchestra concert tickets. All proceeds benefit the Saratoga Chamber Orchestra.

Registration and information are available through Legh Burns, 360-221-2353, or email: legh@whidbey.com.

#### **UUCWI Book Group: Jan. 13, 7pm**

The book group will meet Tuesday, January 13 at the home of Mavis and Dave C to discuss *Here If You Need Me* by Kate Braestrup. The UUA awarded Braestrup the 2008 Melcher Book Award for this memoir. From the UUA website: “Named one of the 'top ten' non-fiction books for 2007 by Time Magazine, the book chronicles the unlikely path that led Braestrup to her calling as a UU chaplain serving those injured and lost in the wilds of Maine. It is a heartfelt and deeply grounded memoir of a path toward healing that led a young widow with four children into a series of search and rescue expeditions to reclaim her spirit, God, love, hope, and lost souls in the Maine woods.”

#### **Conversation at Kit's - Principle #4: Jan. 24, 7pm**

We will discuss what it means that we are a faith tradition which affirms and promotes a free and responsible search for truth and meaning.

### **From Our Minister**



Dear Whidbey Friends,

During this church year we have been considering the Seven Principles of Unitarian Universalism, helping newcomers and longtimers alike to think deeply about our values and the actions which grow out of those values.

Our January principle is #4, "we covenant to affirm and promote a free and responsible search for truth and meaning" and several services during January will address this principle in a variety of ways, for it is unique among religious traditions.

As we welcome new members into our midst, we also receive their ideas, their passions, their questions, their hopes and dreams for religious community. Some come just wanting a haven of like-minded folks; some come wanting to take part in social justice actions; some have a passion to grow spiritually.

We welcome the new life that new members and friends bring to us. And I am particularly glad when I meet new folks who are deeply interested in spiritual growth, for this is the true vocation of a spiritual leader---to encourage spiritual growth.

During January and February, I hope, with the help of one of our newer members, to begin a congregational conversation about spiritual growth and development, to nourish the deep need in many of us to lead more mindful and spiritually aware lives.

A growing congregation is a spiritually-grounded congregation, but the interesting thing about UUism is that we don't all have the same spiritual paths. And that's okay! Some of us use prayer as spiritual practice, some of us use solitude, some use walking, some use journaling, some use other practices. They are all okay. But our hope--to feel more connected to each other and to the Divine (whatever we conceive that to be)---is the same.

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*From our Minister, continued from p. 2*

We hope to invite those interested in deepening their spiritual lives to a get-together sometime in January or February. Watch for news of this new opportunity and keep listening for that Still Small Voice!

Much love,  
Kit



### **Martin Luther King, Jr. Commemoration at St. Augustine's "Blessed Are the Peace Makers"**

St. Augustine's will host the fourth annual commemoration of the life and nonviolent witness of Martin Luther King, Jr. on Monday, January 19 at 1 PM. The event is sponsored and organized by St. Augustine's Episcopal Peace Fellowship.

The service will be preceded by a complimentary light lunch beginning at noon provided by members of St. Augustine's Episcopal Peace Fellowship. All attendees are invited.

This year's event will focus on Dr. King's prophetic call for economic justice. The featured speaker, Bishop Greg Rickel, was rector of an historically African American parish in Austin, Texas prior to coming to Whidbey Island. His personal experience enables him to relate to both the fundamental social and political changes brought about through the Christian activism of the Civil Rights Movement and unfinished agenda for economic justice. Karl Olsen will lead the gathering in singing songs that are common to black churches and the Civil Rights Movement. The St. Augustine's youth choir will also perform at the gathering.

Childcare will be provided. Families and youth are encouraged to attend. For further information, please call Dick Hall at 678-5071.

## **Annual Pacific Northwest District General Delegate Meeting**

This year's meeting is taking place in Salem, Oregon on February 20-22. If you plan to attend and would like to be considered as a delegate, please contact Baird B.

### **Volunteer Announcements**

#### **Volunteers Wanted for Annual General Meeting**

Attendees at the PNWD AGM 2009 in Salem, Oregon, February 20-22, can receive a rebate of \$66 for volunteering at least six hours. Sign up with Laura Stine, the Volunteer Coordinator, either by phone to 503-364-2849, by email, or by mail to Laura Stine, 1635 Capitol St. NE, Salem, OR 97301.

#### **Thank You Singers**

A big thank-you to the choir and musicians who showed up on Sunday, December 14, despite the weather. You sang your hearts out beautifully for our 10:00 am service. The forty or so congregants in attendance heard some wonderful music. A special thanks to Mavis who produced rehearsal CDs of the Bach to practice at home - it helped enormously. It was a beautiful snowy morning in our woods and our little church looked gorgeous - god smiled on us.

Gratefully,  
Peggy B

### **Member Announcements**

#### **Saratoga Chamber Orchestra Concerts**

Jan. 19, Coupeville, Jan. 20, SWHS 7:30 pm.

Peggy B, violin, will be the soloist performing 'The Lark Ascending' by Vaughn-Williams with the orchestra. She is Associate Concertmaster of the orchestra. Also on the program are works by Rossini, Beethoven. and Fillmore. Many local musicians familiar to UUCWI will be in the orchestra - Linda Good, Kat Fritz, Talia Marcus, Elizabeth Felt to mention a few. The SCO is conducted by Legh Burns. For information contact Peggy.

## Fun on Whidbey Club

The Fun on Whidbey Club will be singing their favorite songs in the lounge of the Freeland Cafe on Main Street in Freeland. We will sing karaoke on January 17th (Saturday) at 8:00 PM. The venue is small and cozy, while the lyrics you can choose and view are extensive. The man running this is very kind, encouraging and professional. If you've never done this before, come with us. We haven't either!

Email Judy K with questions. As this takes place in the lounge where liquor is served, this activity is not appropriate for anyone under 21.

## Tables for Eight

We are organizing Tables for Eight for the New Year. Each month there will be an opportunity to gather with a different group of eight UUCWI members and friends for sharing delicious food and great conversation. Here's a chance to socialize with other members and friends in a relaxed, intimate setting. More information will follow.

Contact Lois C if you'd like to help with the organizing.

## The Prez Sez:

Last summer, before Iceland went bankrupt and our retirements melted away, Peggy and I were able to take our daughters Lisa and Siri, and their children, Lily and Seth to Iceland to visit their roots. I was inspired to search out the 1955 Acceptance Speech of the Icelander Halldor Laxness upon being awarded the Nobel Prize in Literature for his novel *Independent People*. The text of his speech follows.



*I was traveling in the south of Sweden a few weeks ago, when I heard the rumor that the choice of the Swedish Academy might possibly fall on me. Alone in hotel room that night, I naturally began to ask myself what it would mean to a poor wanderer, a writer from one of the most remote islands in the world, to be suddenly singled out by an institution*

*famous for its promotion of culture, and brought here to the platform by its command.*

*It is not so strange perhaps that my thoughts turned then as they still do— not least at this solemn moment—to all my friends and relations, to those who had been the companions of my youth and are dead now and buried in oblivion. Even in their lifetime, they were known to few, and today they are remembered by fewer still. All the same they have formed and influenced me and, to this day, their effect on me is greater than that of any of the world's great masters or pioneers could possibly have been. I am thinking of all those wonderful men and women, the people among whom I grew up. My father and mother, but above all, my grandmother, who taught me hundreds of lines of old Icelandic poetry before I ever learned the alphabet.*

*In my hotel room that night, I thought—as I still do—of the moral principles she instilled in me: never to harm a living creature; throughout my life, to place the poor, the humble, the meek of this world above all others; never to forget those who were slighted or neglected or who had suffered injustice, because it was they who, above all others, deserved our love and respect, in Iceland or anywhere in the world. I spent my entire childhood in an environment in which the mighty of the earth had no place outside storybooks and dreams. Love of, and respect for, the humble routine of everyday life and its creatures was the only moral commandment which carried conviction when I was a child.*

*As I was sitting my hotel room in Skane, I asked myself: What can fame and success give to an author? A measure of material well-being brought about by money? Certainly. But if an Icelandic poet should forget his origin as a man of the people, if he should ever lose his sense of belonging with the humble of the earth, whom my old grandmother taught me to revere, and his duty toward them, then what is the good of fame and prosperity to him?*

Amen,  
Baird

**UUCWI 2008-2009 Board of Trustees**

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Paula K, Treasurer

Pat Lewis, Secretary

Mark B, Trustee

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Amy C, Trustee

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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: Lorie W

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

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

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