



Island Passages

UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CONGREGATION OF WHIDBEY ISLAND
 P.O. Box 1076, Freeland, WA 98249 360-321-8656 www.whidbey.com/uucwi/

March 2007

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 6:00p - 8:00p Board meeting	2	3 8:30 A.M.: Work Party at the Church Property p7
4 4-5 P.M. Service: A Sufi Perspective on Islam and Unitarian Universalism	5	6 7 P.M.: Women's Discussion Group p2	7	8	9	10 North End Koffee Klatch: 1-3 P.M. p7
11 2P.M.: Choir Practice 4-5 P.M. Service: Being Faithful to Our Loved Ones Begin Daylight Savings Time	12	13 7:30 P.M.: Book Discussion Group p3	14 8:30A.M. Work Party at the Church Property p7 10-12 A.M. South End Koffee Klatch p7	15	16	17 Canvass Kickoff Dinner: 6-9 P.M. Greenback Progressive Hall P6 St. Patrick's Day
18 2P.M.: Choir Practice 4-5 P.M. Service: Being Faithful to Ourselves	19	20 Newsletter Deadline	21	22	23	24
25 4-5 P.M. Service: Being Faithful to the Earth	26	27	28	29	30	31
April 1 4-5 P.M. Service: Women Healing Women in India						

March 4: A Sufi Perspective on Islam and Unitarian Universalism

Speaker: Jamal Rahman

Jamal Rahman will make his annual (now the sixth) visit to UUCWI on March 4. Jamal, drawing from his Sufi heritage, will seek parallels between Islam and UUism, doubtless enlivening his presentation with vivid anecdotes. Jamal's visit is always one of our highlights – charming, memorable and gripping. There are more similarities between a good UU and a good Muslim than you might at first think!

Lay Leader: Malcolm F

Membership Representative: Ken M

March 11: Being Faithful to Ourselves

Speaker: Reverend Kit Ketcham

Faithfulness is a term we often use to describe our relationships with family and friends. But it is applicable as well to our relationships with self and the larger universe. In this, the first in a series of three sermons, Rev. Kit Ketcham will discuss why faithfulness to ourselves is as important as faithfulness to a mate. Faithfulness as a character trait is revealed in how we treat ourselves, our mates and other loved ones, and the world beyond our doors. Are we faithful to ourselves? And how do we demonstrate that faithfulness?

Lay Leader: Joann C

Membership Representative: Lois C

March 18: Being Faithful to Our Loved Ones

Speaker: Reverend Kit Ketcham

Fidelity in a love relationship is the foundation upon which a successful partnership/marriage is built. But our mates are not the only persons who deserve our faithfulness. Our friends, our family, our faith community all depend on our faithfulness to the ideals we support together. Rev. Kit Ketcham will speak about what faithfulness means in this larger context.

Lay Leader: Frank A

Membership Representative: Baird B

March 25: Being Faithful to the Earth

Speaker: Reverend Kit Ketcham

When we think about our relationship with the earth, we often think of it in terms of using the earth for our own benefit and being stewards of its bounty. But the earth is our primary sacred text, the wellspring from which all human knowledge arises. When humans turn only to written texts for their wisdom, it is easy to lose sight of the earth's wisdom. Rev. Kit Ketcham will speak about the importance of faithfulness to the earth.

Lay Leader: Evan W

Membership Representative: Earl B

April 1: Women Healing Women in India

Speakers: Cynthia Brix, MA, M.Div. and Will Keepin Ph.D

Teachings from the women of India will be shared through storytelling, photographs, sacred scripture, and music. This service will be led by Cynthia Brix, candidate for the UU ministry and Will Keepin, the founder of Satyana Institute, an international, non-profit organization that provides service and trainings that combine the inner work of the heart with outer service in the world.

Cynthia and Will facilitate healing and reconciliation workshops and conferences in South Africa, India, Italy, and the United States.

Lay Leader: Mavis C

Membership Representative: Lois C

News and Events

Music News

Long time friend Vern Olsen has agreed to lead our choir in March. Rehearsal will be from 2:00 to 3:30 P.M. on Sunday March 11, and the second rehearsal on March 18 at the same time. We'll perform that day.

On March 4 Talia Marcus (violin and viola) will be our special musician, and on March 11 Siri B and Juli S will play cellos. Barbara Dunn will be guest musician on March 25.

~Linda G

Women's Group: Tuesday, March 6

Camille L reports that the UU Women's Group will meet from 7-9 P.M. if a volunteer steps forward to host the event. Please contact her if you can help. The group generally meets at 7 P.M. for conversation with the meeting starting at 7:30 P.M.

Book Discussion Group, March 13

As vividly as Jon Krakauer put readers on Everest, John Vaillant takes us into the heart of North America's last great forest, where trees grow to eighteen feet in diameter, sunlight never touches the ground, and chainsaws are always at work.

Vaillant's powerful and vexing man-versus nature tale, The Golden Spruce, is set in an extraordinary place, Canada's Queen Charlotte Islands, and features two legendary individuals: a uniquely golden 300-year-old Sitka spruce and Grant Hadwin, a logger turned champion of old-growth forests who ultimately destroys what he loves. This tragic tale goes right to the heart of the conflicts among loggers, native rights activists, and environmentalists, and induces us to more deeply consider the consequences of our habits of destruction.

On Tuesday March 13 the UUCWI Book Discussion Group will discuss Vaillant's book. The meeting will be at 7:30 P.M. at the home of Joan G in Langley. All are welcome: RSVP. If there is interest and as time allows following the discussion, Joan will show a few of her breathtaking slides taken in the Queen Charlotte Islands in the 1990s.

~Joan G

Chaminade Chamber Concert

The Chaminade Trio returns to give a house concert on Saturday, May 12 at 7:30 p.m. at the home of Dave and Mavis C. Peggy B, Carol G, and Nola A will play music for violin, 'cello and piano contrasting the classical beauty of Beethoven and the passionate romanticism of Schumann. Hors d'oeuvres and wine will be served after the concert. Tickets are \$20/person and all proceeds go to UUCWI.

~Mavis C

From our Minister

Dear Whidbeyites,

All of a sudden, I see buds on the lilacs, crocuses crotching up out of the ground, WEEDS in my garden. It must be spring! What a relief, to think that a very hard winter is about to be a memory.

We've grown a lot over the winter, even though much of it was painful. Deaths in our beloved community, terrible storms and outages, folks struggling with a variety of issues-----we've weathered a lot together and, though it has been hard, there have been moments when we realized that we have grown, in spirit, in numbers, in outreach, and in maturity.

Coming together to support each other in crisis, developing plans to meet the needs of folks in crisis, figuring out ways to address the looming reality of climate change, watching our children and youth prospering in our CRE program, we have realized that we have a solid foundation in this congregation, a foundation which will support us for years to come, as we grow into the future.

Our new building will be a reality within the next year or so, according to those in the know. That means growth in numbers, growth in programming, growth in infrastructure, growth in spirit and outreach. We will be ready to offer our message to an increasing number of visitors, when we open those doors.

As we enter our Canvass Campaign, I urge you to think about what UUCWI has meant to you this year, how important it has become to you, and how you can express your sense of connection to this faith community through your pledging of resources.

And I would ask you to envision what we might do together in the next year. How shall we invest the resources which you bring to this community? How can we help shape the future of this congregation with our time, talent, and money?

Now that I am a member of UUCWI, I will be increasing my pledge to represent my growing involvement with the congregation. Serving only one congregation next year means that I have more time to invest, as well. How shall I spend that time? These are exciting things to think about!

I hope you'll join me in being generous and forward-thinking as we get ready to meet the future.

Much Love,

Kit



President's Column

From Toyon C, UUCWI President

An enormous thank you for a most successful auction! The nearly \$6,000 raised by the obvious talents and efforts of those who organized, donated to and bid at our major fundraiser will be an enormous help in keeping within our budget this year.

The Chaminade Trio's evening of classical music in May will conclude our fundraising events for the current church year!

And now, believe it or not, it's time to begin planning for next year (which begins on July 1)! The annual pledge drive will be set in motion with the Canvass Dinner on Saturday, March 17. Mark your calendar for this gala evening of a catered dinner and entertainment. This is our chance to come together for nothing more than good company, good food and a good time. It is a reminder of how important we are to each other – how much we value our community.

Then the canvassing will begin. Canvass is another name for our annual stewardship or pledge drive to obtain commitments of financial support for UUCWI for the coming church year. This is our primary funding for our operations and activities.

We have done some wonderful things this year. We have hired a CRE director and her assistants, creating a program for children and youth. Our minister has been spending more time invigorating committees, representing us in the larger community and generally being more available. The Social Action Committee is about to launch an all-inclusive program relating to important environmental issues. We are on the verge of even greater things!

All of this, of course, comes at some expense. It costs money to maintain the administration, personnel, rent, ministry, music, programs and other pieces that make UUCWI what it is. (These are our annual expenses and are separate from the costs associated with building our new home.)

Each of us must decide what we are willing to commit as our share. We must have the participation of each of our members and

friends. Sharing in the financial responsibilities of the church – at whatever level we can - is an obligation for each of us. This is a part of what binds us together as a community.

The first \$80 received from each of us goes directly to UUA and PNWD for our fair share of the programs and other costs of these national and district organizations. What are we willing to pledge in addition to this?

We are not just pledging to a budget; we are pledging to a vision. For example, what are we willing to pledge for:

- * The continuation and expansion of the Children's Religious Education (CRE) program?

This past year, we have made a great start in creating a values-based education program for children and youth. We need about \$8,000 to maintain our valued staff, their training and the curriculum they have created.

- * A paid choir director?

Volunteers have been taking turns leading the talented choir. We need about \$1,500 to hire a director who would provide more consistency, continuity and inspiration to this popular group. The participants and their audience will all benefit.

- * Guest musicians?

We pay but a token amount (\$35) to a guest who provides special music at a Sunday service. But even tokens add up. We need about \$900 to maintain this most important feature of our Sunday services.

- * Our minister and her work with our committees and our congregation?

Kit is currently working about 1/3 time. By the end of this year, she will have organized and inspired several committees, preached 16 sermons, represented us in the larger community and generally been there for us. We need about \$15,600 to keep her at this same level of service.

- * Guest speakers?

A variety of outside speakers, including visiting UU ministers, are the focus of Sunday services throughout the year. Each of these UU ministers receives \$250; others are paid \$150. We need about \$4,400 to continue to have these resources available to us.

There are additional needs for administration, insurance, rent, programs, etc. In fact, we hope to stop paying rent toward the end of the year and begin making payments on a mortgage! AND, how do you put a price on the support, friendships and sense of community that

the combination of all of these factors creates?
To paraphrase a popular TV ad:

Administration - \$7,000; Personnel - \$35,000;
Programs - \$9,000; Community – Priceless.

What is it worth to us? I've been giving this a lot of thought and I've concluded that I want to do more. I hope others do too.

Why pledges? Because we need this formal record of the funds we can expect during the year. We need to be able to plan ahead. In fact, we have a carefully drafted plan – or budget – which shows that we need \$50,000 – or about 15% more than we received this year. We must know soon if we can count on this.

If everyone (each member and friend) gives at least 15% more than they gave this past year, we can do it. If you pledged \$1,000 last year, we ask for a pledge of at least \$1,150 this year. That's just \$3 (one latte) per week more.

Our future is very bright. These are exciting times for us. I look forward to seeing everyone on March 17 at the Canvass Kick-Off Dinner!

Our 2007 Services Auction -- a Grand Success!

Although more than a few weeks have passed since the 2007 Services Auction, many of the folks who attended are still talking about it and at least 35 members/friends of our Congregation are now dreaming of mouthwatering dinners featuring the flavors of Tuscany or Turkey, or looking forward to dinner in a Zen Garden or on the beach aka Margaritaville, or sipping Afternoon Tea overlooking a southerly view of Puget Sound and the Cascades, or to solving a Murder Mystery around the dinner table, or showing off their acting talents at a dinner featuring a play reading, or doing a little Salsa dancing following a dinner with a Southwestern/Salsa flavor, or having 'family fun' on Goss Lake – swimming, boating, and picnicking!

Still others are simply looking forward to *Poker & Pub Grub* or playing *Hoopla* and other games with friendly folks following dinner. One member is dreaming of nearly all of the above! Other kinds of adventurers

amongst us will be off for a hike in Olympic National Park, or a picnic on the water in a 20' runabout boat over to Port Townsend or Marrowstone Island, or an Insider's Tour of the Walla Walla wine country, or to a Mariner's game, or to the City for a weekend of city-type relaxation in a condo that is walking distance to virtually everything! Some are perhaps chuckling (as well as smiling) over other kinds of purchases they made, inspired by Camille L's creative writing and re-writing of item descriptions for the catalog (or by the creative writing of the donor!) and/or by the delightful and amusing marketing skits prepared and presented by Mary G and John L in the weeks before the auction: Indulgences for sins committed, a worm bin, composted equine manure, a robot vacuum, and a laser level with personal instructions on how to use it!

On the table soon in many homes will be flowers from Gail A's garden, chutney, lemon curd, and fruitcake from Malcolm's and Wendy's kitchen, or 'Dream Dinners' prepared by Toyon. Someone's garden will be beautified this coming year with lavender from Lavender Wind Farms and another's honed with the gardening skills of Donita. Two lucky folks will have Susan C available to them for 3 hours to run errands, care for pets or their garden and another two will savor an hour of confidential advice from Dave on any topic.

Kit will be challenged once again this year to deliver a sermon on a topic of the buyer's choice. Small children will be warmed by Wendy's cozy hand woven blankets, adults kept warm with Terri's hand knit hats and still others adorned with beautiful hand knit shawls and scarves from Camille, Frances, Gladys and Terri. Other folks with fine art tastes will be appreciating ceramic trivets, mugs, bowls handcrafted by Christi, a fascinating handmade paper & Rain Tree stick vessel from Mary, photo note cards featuring springtime tulips (from Joan), a NW Coast Halibut Hook hand carved by John, and an original drawing by Debbie Z.

Thanks to the set-up and decorating efforts of Lois C, Marjorie L, Christi S, and Earl B, the wonderful music provided by Spencer C (grandson of Hildred) and the good food and wine provided by the Auction Committee and *several* others. The Greenbank Progressive Hall turned out to be a warm and welcoming place to hold this year's event. Thanks go to Lois C, Camille L, Marjorie L, Mary G and Pat L, who helped me make the decision to hold the auction in this facility. The *buffet* presentation of food, managed by Paula K,

Marjorie and Lois C, encouraged folks to mingle and talk throughout the Hall during the first hour as well as jot down their bids on the 38 Silent Auction items that had been arranged for display by Mary.

Ken M, of course, did his usual magnificent job of auctioneering, ably assisted by his son Evan & friend, by Spotter Donita C, and by Dave C, who managed beautifully in keeping up with the rapid pace of the 'Dutch auctioning' process on that flip-chart. As Ken progressed through the long list of items available, in an order decided upon by Auction Promise Coordinator Camille and myself, most of my lingering doubts about whether or not some auction items would sell disappeared. Yes, a few items didn't 'go' that night, but the 'rest of the story' on that is yet to come, as an opportunity to bid on those items has been offered to those who were unable to attend the auction.

This year also saw a table of Recorders/Cashiers (Wendy F, Kathleen B, Camille L & Jim S) managed by John L, who together tallied winners and swiftly (compared to last year anyway) processed buyers and their checks at the conclusion of the auction.

Also at the conclusion of the auction I went into the kitchen to see what needed to be done *there*, and found that virtually everything *was* done! Smiles from Paula, Tim, Marjorie, Lois, Pat, and Christi were confirming.

The environmentally conscious focus of this year's auction needs to be noted too. Thanks to Tim and Paula K for hauling off everything for recycling in the *certified* recycling operation on their property in Coupeville. (They'll sell it back to you next year as compost!). Thanks to Paula and Marjorie for insisting that we also 'walk the talk' by providing *glass* wine glasses this year, which will be used again and again at future Congregational events.

Donations from local businesses were likewise new this year and were solicited by Camille. Our thanks to Ace Leather Goods, DeMartini's Bakery, and Raven Rocks Gallery.

And of course, thanks again to all UUCWI members & friends who participated either as Donors of the auctioned items or Buyers of those items.

It took **all of us** to make this auction happen!

Finally, as I continue to crank out statements-of-things-bought-and-things-donated for all of you from our *Auction Database*, I want to express my thanks to Sarah R, originator of our Services Auction several years ago, and who is the person who 'built' the database program through which we can manage our auction transactions in a business-like way. She couldn't be present at this year's auction, but I hope you tasted her presence through the delicious 'Lavender Orange Biscotti Dipped in Chocolate' that she provided from her kitchen!

Bottom line: the hours of preparation put in by everyone paid off in dollars as well as a good time. **\$5,847** was netted the night of the Auction, and through the post-auction catalog provided to folks who couldn't be there that night, another \$90 has already been added to this amount and we are hopeful that another \$300 or so will yet come in.

It's been an honor to orchestrate this *fun*-raising, fund-raising event that *best of all* helps create *community* within our Congregation.

~ Joan G

2007 Services Auction Chairperson

Operating Fund Canvass Kickoff Dinner Saturday, March 17, from 6:00 to 9:00 P.M

. We are pleased to announce a venue change for our annual Canvass Kickoff

Dinner: The date and time remain the same, March 17, 6:00 P.M. The location has changed to Greenbank Hall. The hall worked out so well for the auction we decided to book it for the canvass dinner. The kitchen is large and the hall itself has plenty of room for musicians, buffet tables, and, well, us.

I look forward to a fun evening with live music, wine, conversation, good food, and a chance to get our season of giving off to a solid start. A successful pledge drive is vital to our continued success and development. We have big plans for the congregation next year and will need a strong fundraising effort to achieve our aspirations. The operational budget funds everything we do as a community from ministry to special music to children's religious education to social justice programs. So join us for a special evening of fellowship and fun

and find out first hand what makes UUCWI such a special community. We're looking forward to seeing you there.

RSVPs to Ken M

~Ken M

New Member: Katie H

With an enthusiastic push from Baird, here is a quick story of me – your new member Katie H. I grew up on Whidbey Island and, as a delightful surprise to both my mother and myself, returned in September 2005. After attending college, spreading my wings in North



Carolina, and getting married, my husband, Andrew, and I both lucked into jobs with Island County in Coupeville. I am very happy to be near my family again. In June, Andrew and I

purchased our first house in Admiral's Cove, Coupeville. As it turns out, Whidbey Island is a wonderful place to be.

I grew up in a family of service, not religion. So when I finally felt the sigh of contentment that comes from getting yourself somewhat settled, I started getting restless for community. When I walked into my first UUCWI service I felt such a sense of joy and calm.

This congregation is one of the few places where I've felt that I can be my whole self. Not just a person concerned about protecting the environment, a family person, an outdoor enthusiastic, a person doing her job, or a person looking for answers, but as a whole person. So I offer myself to this congregation looking forward to the reprieve that comes from connectedness, the wisdom of those around me, the consistent attention to that which is greater than ourselves, and the responsibility of service.

I look forward to meeting with you all, particularly if you know of a good deal on a sea kayak!

Work Parties at the Property

There has been a great deal of tree damage on account of the high winds of winter. We will have work parties starting 8:30 AM on Saturday March 3 and again on Wednesday March 14, at the same time.

Tasks: re-establish the trails, bring windfall branches to the open area, chain saw fallen logs, reconstitute the sand box, re-establish the boundaries of the property, stake out the roadway/ parking areas and the building footprint.

It is not too late to adopt a plant. See you there.

~Baird B

Koffee Klatches

North End: 1-3PM, March 10

Join Coupeville and Oak Harbor members and friends at the West Wind cafe at Whidbey General Hospital for good conversation, cheap food, and good companionship.

South End: 10-12AM, March 14.

Join Kit and other UUCWiers at Rockhoppers Coffee Shop in Clinton for a morning of good conversation and great art. This is a great opportunity to sit and gab in a relaxed, artistic setting. Rockhoppers is owned by Rene and Dan Schlangen, longtime UUCWI friends.

Directory Additions and Corrections

The UUA General Assembly Comes To Our District

From June 21-24 this year UUA General Assembly will be in Portland, Oregon at the Convention Center. There will be an opportunity for more of us than ever to join as many as 5000 UUs in celebration of our community. If you think you might like to attend, talk now to someone who has been before. And then consider volunteering.

If you volunteer to work for 24 hours, or 16 in the children's program, you will receive free registration. Volunteer applications will be available by March 1st and must be sent to Rosie Hamilton, in Portland, March 1-31. Applications will be available March 1. Please contact Rosie Hamilton -503-293-5453 or rosiephilH@msn.com or see <http://www.uua.org/ga/> for more information. Hope to see you at GA.

~Rosie Hamilton

Community News

Devin Ossman & Friends: Here, There and Bach Again

March 3, 2007 at 7:30 PM at WICA. \$12 general admission.

This will be an evening of solo flute, and classical chamber music, and original works.

Performing along with Devin will be Elizabeth Felt, James Hinkley, Peggy Bardarson, Linda Morris, Heidi Hoelting, Gretchen D'Armand and Siri Bardarson, all of whom are familiar to UUCWI.

~Peggy B

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