



Island Passages

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March 2009

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
1 Service: 10 am Community Organizer	2	3 Membership Committee	4	5 5:30 pm CRE	6 5:30-7:30 pm Young Adult Parents Group	7
8 Service: 10 am Justice, Equity, and Compassion in Human Relations: Principle #2	9 9-11 am Worship Committee	10 7 pm Book Group	11	12	13 9-11 am BOT	14 10-noon Visual Arts Committee 1-3 pm NEKK
15 Service: 10 am This I Believe Social Justice Potluck after service	16 5-7 pm Dog House, Langley SEKK	17	18	19	20 Newsletter Deadline	21 8:00 Fun on Whidbey Club Small Group Dinners
22 Service: 10 am Workin' on a Building Service: 4 pm Dedicating Our Sacred Space	23	24	25	26 4 pm - ? Rockhoppers, Clinton SEKK	27	28 10 am Visiting Steward Training 7 pm Conversation @ Kit's
29 Service: 10 am Justice Sunday	30	31 7:30 - 9pm Lyceum 2009: Earth Economics and Puget Sound				

For More Information on Listings - see pages 2 and 3

Calender Listings

March 1: Community Organizer

Speaker: Susan Morrisson

Each time we reach outside ourselves, to engage with the world, is an act of compassion and justice. Joseph Tuckerman, 19th century Unitarian, was the first full time minister-at-large, addressing the needs of the urban poor. His work fostered the development of a social consciousness in our liberal religious tradition. Susan Morrisson is a fifth year student in the School of theology and Ministry at Seattle University. She is also a long time member of East Shore Unitarian Church in Bellevue.

Worship Leader: David C

Greeter: Lois C

March 8: "Justice, Equity, and Compassion in Human Relations: Principle #2"

Speaker: Rev. Kit Ketcham

The terms of our second principle are easy to understand at a superficial level, but what do they mean in our own lives and the lives of those we live with? What does it mean in our congregational life?

Worship Leader: Frank A

Greeter: Karla K

March 15: This I Believe

Speakers: Michelle Alspaugh, Sara Heath, Dean Enell, Brenda Cole

As an UU faith community, we affirm and promote a free and responsible search for truth and meaning. Where are you on your search? On this Sunday, four people from our congregation will speak about their personal beliefs. Be inspired by the thoughtful insights of your fellow travelers. Through this sharing we come to know each other in more meaningful ways and are motivated and challenged to think about our own beliefs.

Worship Leader: Sandy W

Greeter: Baird B

March 22, 10 a.m.: "Workin' on a Building"

Speaker: Rev. Kit Ketcham

What does it mean to us that we are becoming recognized in our local community as an advocate for justice, equity and compassion? What are our new responsibilities here on the island? How will we live our religious ideals as we open our doors and our

hearts to all in the community? Rev. Kit Ketcham will lead an interactive service.

Worship Leader: Mark B

Greeter: Karla K

March 22, 4 pm: "Dedicating Our Sacred Space"

At a special service at 4 pm, Unitarian Universalists from Puget Sound and beyond will gather in our sanctuary for a celebration and dedication of our beautiful building. Dignitaries from our area and representatives of UUism will bring greetings and congratulations; we will listen to Ms. Gini Courter, UUA moderator and engaging speaker, offer her thoughts on what it means to be a vital and growing UU congregation. This is a service that is not to be missed! Come celebrate with us!

March 29th, Justice Sunday

This service will be presented by members of the Social Responsibility Council. A 'soap box' format will present individuals speaking briefly on particular social justice issues such as Housing, Military Influence in Schools, Torture, Peace Activism, Gay/Straight Alliance and Civil Liberties. Singer/song writer Karin Blaine will be the guest musician.

Worship Leader: Frank A

Greeter: Earl B

March 6, 5:30-7:30 at the church: Young Adult Parents Group

Food, child care, and adult conversation with other YA parents. RSVP to Kim or Kit.

March 10, 7 pm: Book Group

Our book group selection will help you understand the language of the opposite gender much more. It's an easy and fun linguistic book; you won't listen to your mate in the same, tired way! Deborah Tannen, a well-known linguist, has written *You Just Don't Understand* which will be explored on March 10th, at 7:00, at the home of Mary Goolsby.

March 14, 1-3 pm, West Wind Cafe @ Whidbey General: North End Koffee Klatch

Great food, good coffee, cheap prices, fabulous conversation! Join us!

March 16, 5-7, at the Dog House in Langley : South End Koffee Klatch

Join us for Burger Night and Happy Hour.

March 15, after the 10 am service:

Social Justice Committee Potluck Lunch & Meeting

So many ways to heal the world - our Social Action committee will have its March potluck and meeting right after the service on March 15th. The issues we are currently concerned with are: peace, NRCAT (anti-torture), gay/straight social justice, the garden project, ethical eating, and housing on the Island. As we will be leading the Justice Sunday service on March 29th, we will use part of this meeting for planning. Join us and bring us other concerns to ponder and deal with.

All are welcome. Bring food to share.

March 21, times vary: Small Group Dinners

A great way to get to know your fellow UUs. Sign up on Sundays or let Marilyn Saunders know if you want to be on the list if you are not and if you can host for March. Hosting just means a little organizing and using your home. Everyone brings something. Once you're on the list you're on through June unless you tell Marilyn. It's OK to miss a month or two. You don't have to drop out.

March 21, 8 pm: Fun on Whidbey Club

We had so much fun singing Karaoke in January in the lounge of the Freeland Cafe (Main Street) that we will give them an encore on March 21st at 8:00. You don't have to be a singer; kind and supportive Steve, the director, has all the words to all of his songs. Let Judy K know by email by March 19th if you plan on joining her and the group.

March 26, 4-?, at Rockhoppers in Clinton: SEKK

Tea or decaf or ? and good conversation.

March 28, 7 pm: Conversation @ Kit's

This month's conversation will be on Principle #2 "Justice, Equity, and Compassion in Human Relations". Refreshments at 7, conversation at 7:30. Call Kit or email for directions.

Tuesdays, March 31-May 5, 7:30-9 pm:

Lyceum 2009: What's It Worth? Earth Economics and Puget Sound

The current situation has made us painfully aware that the economy profoundly affects our daily lives. At the same time, our dependence on a healthy environment remains undiminished - witness the multiple threats from global warming, including potentially disastrous rises in sea level. Come and hear leading thinkers offer their insight into the relation-

From Our Minister



Dear Whidbey friends,

One of my favorite things as a minister is the time I am privileged to spend with my UU minister colleagues. As I sit down to write this column, I am looking forward to a long weekend (Feb. 18-22) with those colleagues at our winter retreat, which comes just before our district's Annual General Meeting (or AGM).

A couple of days ago, one colleague emailed me and asked me to help her with the musical portion of a worship service for our ministers' group during the retreat. Because we have a tradition of saying "yes" when a colleague asks us to do something, I said "yes" immediately, even though I knew I'd be tired after a day of travel, even though I might have to postpone something else until later, even though I wasn't crazy about the songs she wanted to do. I said "yes" because she is my colleague and she needs me.

It's been wonderful, as we've planned our UUCWI building dedication service on March 22 (you have saved the date, haven't you?) to have busy people say "yes" to me as I've asked them to help in some way. We will have dignitaries from the county, ministers from across the district, visitors from other congregations, and our special speaker, UUA moderator Gini Courter. We want to put our best foot forward. And it's so much easier when people say "yes" to requests for help.

It's also time to start thinking about our yearly stewardship drive. This is an opportunity for you to say "yes"----"yes" to the person who calls you up and asks if you have some time to get together for coffee and conversation about

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ship between a sound economy and a healthy local environment, including applications to human health and to business.

Fee: \$6 per lecture/ \$30 for whole series.
Information and advance ticket purchase:
(360) 341-1884

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church matters; “yes” to the person who asks you to be a stewardship visitor; “yes” to supporting the congregation financially; “yes” to the person who needs you to usher or make coffee or vacuum the floor, as a way of giving your time and energy.

In fact, it’s even better if you beat them to it----volunteer to do coffee or usher or sweep; volunteer to be a visiting steward; volunteer to get your pledge in early or to help with the process in some way---like the big kickoff dinner!

“Yes” is such a wonderful word to hear, whether it’s in response to an idea for a social or study event, or a request for help, or a need for support. Yes, Yes, Yes, Yes, Yes! Let’s say it a lot to each other. Let’s have a tradition here at UUCWI of saying Yes whenever we can, knowing that it makes it easier for others to say “Yes” themselves.

Much love,
Kit

Announcements

March “Share The Plate”

The board has chosen to donate the March “Share-the-Plate” to the local Food Bank by purchasing a share in the Greenbank Farm CSA. A CSA or Community Supported Agriculture operates by pre-selling “shares” in the production of the farm, usually produce. Each week for 20 weeks a box of fresh fruits and vegetables will be delivered to the food bank. The newly-formed Greenbank Farm CSA is a cooperative effort engaging WSU, NWABC, and the Port of Coupeville. It is a training program with eight trainees with the expectation that the outcome will be eight new farmers that will go on to set up their own CSA’s.

This is an opportunity to engage with the Sustainable Agriculture and Local Food initiatives, and help get good food to our neighbors that visit the food banks. The full subscription price is \$500 so hopefully we will have a generous response as we usually do for the Share-the-Plate.

If you have questions about CSA’s or the Greenbank Farm CSA Training project, call or email Paula K.

Washington State UU Voices For Justice

WA UU Voices is doing important working in our State Capital. It brings our UU values to the Legislature by advocating for issues that build a more inclusive and just society, supporting programs that aid the poorest and most vulnerable in our state, and working to preserve the environment.

At www.uuvoiceswa.org you will find updates on bills related to WA UU Voices’ legislative agenda: housing and homelessness, marriage equality, universal health care, global warming and climate change.

Be a UU Voice for Justice – Sign up to receive our electronic newsletter and alerts to learn what you can do to support legislation during the 200 session. Become a member of WA UU Voices and support our progressive liberal religious presence in Olympia! Go to www.uuvoiceswa.org, or contact Rev. Carol McKinley, WA UU Voices Coordinator, coordinator@uuvoiceswa.org, 360 786-8074, to be part of this important work.

March 5 -7, 7 pm, Langley Middle School Theater: Vagina Monologues

Judy K, one of our own, will be performing. The performances all start at 7:00. The March 5th performance is especially for teens with an adult as there will be discussion after the show with the cast members. The purpose of presenting Eve Anslow’s monologues by women is to raise awareness of battered and abused women around the world, in this country and on this island. 100% of the proceeds will go to our women’s shelter in Oak Harbor, to the brutalized women in the Congo and to our own Soroptomists’ efforts to have their Island Girls’ Camp in the summer. Please bring an item to donate to the shelter; there is a list of needed things in the foyer.

UUCWI History is Now Available.

The book covers our church life from its founding in 1993 until we moved into our new building. There’s a fairly complete narrative describing our various moves around S. Whidbey, and lots of reports and anecdotes about members’ involvement in the congregation. Two main features are the 90 or so photos taken during our building’s construction; and the complete list of speakers and their topics over our 15-year history.

Malcolm F wrote most of it, often from interviews (thank you, all), plus lots of digging through

old Orders of services and Newsletters and church records; Joan G took lots of the images; Kimi J did the layout. The church Board has given its blessing to the project.

It's available as a CD (\$8.00) and full-size, bound hard copy (\$15.00). \$3.00 of every history purchase will go to the church general fund. We'll be taking orders at church the next few weeks, or via Malcolm. I hope you will find it a useful part of congregational life!

Art Gallery News

Are you enjoying the current art exhibit in our foyer? Are you aware that a portion of sales proceeds will go into UUCWI's coffers? Congregation members Nola A and Christi S are delighted to be exhibiting their work this month.

Nola A, a native of western New York State, has worked in various media since childhood but has concentrated on watercolor since moving to Seattle 34 years ago. She is a member of NWWWS and Seattle Co-arts and has won numerous prizes for her work. She has studied with Jerry Stitt as well as other artists, local and national. Her work in landscapes and florals reflects a life long love of the beauty of nature. She has been represented by Childer-Proctor Gallery, Gaskill-Olson Gallery, the Issaquah Gallery and Eastshore Gallery.

Christi S started working with stoneware clay in the late 1960's when she took classes from 3 Seattle area potters. Today she makes both "thrown" (on the wheel) and "slab" (hand built with a slab roller) functional and decorative pottery. Her dinnerware can be used in the oven or microwave and smaller items can be placed in the dishwasher carefully.

Christi mixes her own glazes from recipes and does not use lead as an ingredient. She presses leaves, ferns, lace, cloth, clay stamps and natural items into soft clay, or just glazes the pottery. Glazes and stains are chosen for varied smoothness, color and design. Some of the orange/yellow designs on her pots come from local Whidbey clay (Double Bluff cliffs).

Our Gallery will be open on Saturdays February 28th – March 21st, 1:00-4:00 pm to allow others opportunity to view this beautiful exhibit. Be sure to spread the word!

Our April/May exhibit will feature the art of John Adams, a beloved UUCWI member who passed away unexpectedly in November 2006. John worked as

The Prez Sez



GENEROSITY

Here's the deal. Once a year our congregation participates in ministerial outreach. We visit our members and friends in their homes and dialogue about our church. We share our concerns as well as our pride in what we do. Our social outreach. Our search for spiritual meaning. The education of our youth to help them be good decision makers and have healthy values. We are encouraged to express ourselves about how our congregation can be more effective and inspiring. As the liberal religious voice on Whidbey Island, putting our money where our hearts are assures us that our ideals will grow legs.

Yes, it is almost time for our Annual Stewardship Drive. Saturday, March 28 at 10:00 AM marks the date of our canvasser training. Saturday, April 4 is the date of our fun-filled all church dinner that will kick off the campaign. The 20 member stewardship team is large enough so that no one will have to visit more than three people.

Our religion deserves the generous side of giving and I urge you to open your hearts. Tithing is an old fashioned concept but is always accepted with joy.

So expect a call from one of our stewardship team in April. Give them a warm welcome. Be prepared to share about your spiritual life and your hopes and dreams. Give so you feel there is power in your financial commitment. Be prepared to deepen a friendship.

an illustrator his whole life and Gail A is working with our Visual Arts Committee in putting together an exhibit of his work.

April 4th Marks The Stewardship Kick-Off!

Most of us think of UUCWI as our spiritual home. And just as with any healthy, thriving home, what keeps us going is our sense of “family”, our caring for one another, our being together, our sharing our celebrations and sorrows with each other. But just as with any other home there are times we need to deal with some practical matters like paying the bills and building and managing a budget.

April is rapidly approaching, and that is the month in which we focus on building our budget for the next fiscal year. We hope you have already marked your calendars for our stewardship dinner and celebration on April 4th! This is our time to celebrate our community and launch our annual pledge drive. It is an evening of fellowship, good food, entertainment and fun.

During the two weeks following the April 4th dinner, visiting stewards will meet with members and friends to hear what you have to say about your experiences with UUCWI: What is going well? What could we do differently? What do you think should be our goals and dreams for the future? We hope you are giving some thought to these questions. We are looking forward to hearing what you have to say.

We will also be collecting membership renewal/financial pledge cards during April. If you are a member and wish to continue your membership our bylaws require that you have a current pledge card on file. Our fiscal year runs from July 1st through June 30th. So, the cards we will be collecting in April are for the period beginning July 1, 2009.

When a visiting steward calls on you, please welcome her or him into your home and use this opportunity to have a great conversation about the future of our congregation. YOUR participation in our future is vital! Without you, the picture won't be complete.

YOUNG ADULTS WANTED!

Several young adults in the 18-30 year range are interested in starting a social group. Do you know someone who might be interested? Are you interested? Young adults often fall into two or more groups but tend to be “parents” and “non-parents”.

We have a YA parents group at UUCWI; now we need a group for YA non-parents. For more information, call Kit.

Call for Volunteer Art Gallery Associates

The Visual Arts Committee has decided that regular Gallery hours are needed to promote the sale of the art works in our beautiful new gallery. Initial plans are for the Gallery to be open during the hours of 1:00 to 4:00 pm on Saturdays (when this time does not interfere with a rental of the building for another purpose) and whenever the building is open for other selected events (as long as having visitors in the Gallery will not interfere with those events).

Committee members plan to staff the Gallery on Saturdays during the current exhibit. However, to keep the Gallery open on Saturday afternoons and other selected dates for future exhibits, additional volunteers will be needed. The Congregation benefits financially from the sale of art works in the Gallery, so this is another way you might want to consider contributing to our UU community.

The primary responsibilities of a Volunteer Gallery Associate will be processing sales occurring during Gallery hours and assisting with new exhibit openings. Associates will also be expected to acquaint themselves with the current show. Training in all procedures will be provided.

For more information about this opportunity, please speak to any member of your Visual Arts Committee – Nola A, Peggy B, Joan G, Mary G, or Christi S. We are looking forward to hearing from you!

JULY WORSHIP SERVICES!

For the first time in its history, UUCWI will have worship services in July. Rev. Kit Ketcham is helping to organize those services and invites members of the congregation to offer suggestions and to participate. The possibilities are quite open: one service could be a potluck brunch with a chalice lighting and a meaningful reading; another could be a poetry reading or story-telling hour; another could be a discussion of a current event; another might be an hour of Dances of Universal Peace. Summer services offer great opportunities for experimentation and innovation, so this is our big chance! Say “yes” now to the chance to organize a simple service on your favorite topic! Talk to Kit about your idea and get her help with it; you can do this!

UUCWI 2008-2009 Board of Trustees

Baird B, President

Paula K, Treasurer

Pat L, Secretary

Mark B, Trustee

Lois C, Trustee

Camille L, Trustee

Joann R, Trustee

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

Minister: Kit Ketcham

Chaplain: Sally Elder

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 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

Dave C, Webmaster

**UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CONGREGATION
OF WHIDBEY ISLAND**

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