



Island Passages

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April 2009

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
			1 10 am Member- ship Ctte	2	3 1 pm Worship Ctte 5:30 UU Parents of Young Children	4 6pm Stewardship Kickoff Dinner
5 Service: 10 am “Are We All One in Spirit?” After service: Choir Rehearsal	6	7 7:30 - 9pm Lyceum 2009: Earth Econom- ics and Puget Sound	8	9	10 9-11 BOT	11 10-Noon Visual Arts Com. 1-3 NEKK
12 8:45 Choir Rehearsal Service: 10 am “Saving Paradise”	13	14 7:30 - 9pm Lyceum 2009: Earth Econom- ics and Puget Sound	15 5:30 CRE	16	17 Newsletter Deadline	18 9am: UU Orientation 11am: Fun on Whidbey Small Group Dinners
19 Service: 10 am “What a Long, Strage Trip It’s Been” After Service Potluck: SRC Meeting	20	21 7:30 - 9pm Lyceum 2009: Earth Econom- ics and Puget Sound	22	23 4-? SEKK	24	25
26 Service: 10 am “Sex and the Single Planet” After Service Potluck: Worship Issues	27	28 7:30 - 9pm Lyceum 2009: Earth Econom- ics and Puget Sound	29	30		

For More Information on Listings - see pages 2 - 4

From Our Minister



Dear Whidbey friends,
 Spring has sprung!
 Spring means change in the natural world---growth and color and young plants and animals, movement of clouds and winds, sunshine followed immediately by a down-pour.

That's a little bit how this year has felt to me---lots of change and growth and color and young things, movement in how we do things, movement in people's lives, joy and sorrow all at the same time.

Change means opportunities: we're thinking about how we can strengthen our adult programs, what classes or special events we might offer; what we might do for our Young Adults, both those with kids and those without; when we might offer Our Whole Lives, the UUA's comprehensive sex education program for teens; how we might expand our youth and children's religious education; what we might offer in July in terms of exciting and experiential worship.

Our pledge campaign starts in April and it's important for us to think about how we will finance the dreams we have for our congregation and for our community. We have a lot of energy and a lot of hope. We have new folks coming through our doors every Sunday and others coming for special events, like our upcoming Pete Seeger Tribute concert. We want to be able to offer them our hospitality and our friendship; we also want to contribute all we can to the larger community of Whidbey Island.

I hope that, like me, you are energized by Spring and its growth and that you will continue to support UUCWI as fully as you can, especially in these tough financial times. With our pledges, we are investing in a dream that is coming true---of a home from which we can reach out to our community and offer them the good news of Unitarian Universalism.

Much love, Kit

Calender Listings

April 5: "Are We All One in Spirit?"

Speaker: Sally Elder

The 7th UU principle refers to "... the interdependent web of all existence of which we are a part." How do we relate to this web? What IS our part? What about unintended consequences of good intentions? Come explore the intricacies and mysteries involved.

Sally Ann Elder holds an MATS from Brite Divinity School, TCU. Her abiding interest is: life-long learning through encouraging questioning. She has taught Special Ed., Secondary Ed. on the Wind River Indian Reservation, and in Alternative High School. She serves as a chaplain for UUCWI and assists in Adult Ed.

Worship Leader: Effie B

Greeter: Dean E

April 12: "Saving Paradise"

Speaker: Rev. Kit Ketcham

Rev. Kit Ketcham will offer her thoughts about what Easter may have been like before the institutional church began to formulate dogma and doctrine around the Trinity, the significance of Jesus' sacrificial death and his resurrection. The early church was much different from today's Christianity. You are invited to wear an Easter bonnet!

Worship Leader: Joann R

Greeter: Lois C

April 19: "What A Long, Strange Trip It's Been"

Speaker: Allan Ament

Allan Ament will explore his journey from growing up Jewish in the segregated South to living on South Whidbey Island, as well as the journey from slavery to revelation celebrated in the Jewish tradition at this time of year. The intersection where Jewish spiritual and mystical traditions, Biblical history, and personal story meet will form the foundation for Allan's presentation.

After a career as a criminal defense attorney, mediator and day spa owner, Allan now spends his time teaching for the University of Phoenix, and serving on the boards of the Northwest Institute of Literary Arts and Whidbey Institute at Chinook. He resides in Freeland with his wife, Deloris, an award-winning writer and art critic, and stroke survivor. Allan is working on a memoir about the lessons he

is learning while traveling both internal and external journeys as his wife’s primary caregiver.

Worship Leader: Effie B

Greeter Karla K

April 26: “Sex and the Single Planet”

Speaker: Rev. Kit Ketcham

As we celebrate Earth Day, it is important to look at the root causes of our planet’s distress. One of the most significant is over-population caused by lack of information about and access to contraception coupled with the reluctance of some religious faiths to encourage use of birth control devices. Linda and Leonard G are the sponsors of this sermon, having purchased the choice of topic at our recent auction.

Worship Leader: Malcolm F

Greeter: Earl B

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April 3, 5:30pm: UU Parents of Young Children

Open to those who would like a moment for quiet conversation and reflection with fellow parents. Includes childcare and dinner, donations for both graciously accepted. Dinner, 5:30, meeting at 6:00. Please RSVP to Kim J

Choir Schedule for April/Easter

April 5, after church: Choir Practice

April 12, 8:45am: Choir Practice

April 12 Service: Performance

Volunteer Director: Baird B

Stewardship Activity

Ah, Spring! I love this time of year. A time of new beginnings. For our congregation it marks the time of preparation for our new fiscal year, which begins on July 1st.

A critical element of the plan for a new fiscal year is the development of the operating budget, and before we can finalize the operating budget we must complete our annual pledge drive. April is the month in which we conduct that drive.

Please plan to attend the kick-off dinner on April 4th! It is a joyous celebration of who we are, what we have accomplished, and what great plans we have for our future.

During the two weeks following this celebration, a visiting steward will call on you to hear what you have to say about how we are doing. We want to hear from you. What are your dreams and wishes

about the direction we should be taking?

This is also the opportunity for current members to reconfirm their membership. The pledge card that we sign each year is also our membership renewal card, so it is important that you check that box on the card that lets us know you wish to keep your membership active.

Please welcome your visiting steward when she or he calls on you. This annual event is vitally important to the health of our congregation. And thank you for ALL that you do to promote and support our congregational community.

Lois C

Stewardship Chair

April 11, 1-3: NEKK

North End Koffee Klatch continues to meet on the second Saturday afternoon from 1-3, at Whidbey General’s cafeteria, with several folks arriving early to eat lunch as well. In March, we had a record turnout, with 12 people! We were rockin’ the West Wind café, much to the delight of the staff---and us! Good coffee, cheap food, fabulous conversation. Ask Paula about microchip implantation!

April 14, 7:30 pm: The UUCWI Book Group

We will meet at Baird and Peggy B's. We will discuss *The Road From Coorain* by Jill Ker Conway who became the first woman president of Smith College. The book is an autobiographical memoir of her life growing up on an isolated Australian sheep-farm, the hardships of an eight-year drought, the sudden loss of her father and brother and the full responsibility of caring for her increasingly debilitated mother. The book described as “extraordinarily gripping and inspiring....will take it’s place as one of the few heroic stories of girlhood”. All are welcome to attend whether you have read the book or not.

April 18th, 9:00 am: UUCWI Orientation Class and Luncheon

A couple of times each year we offer an orientation class to better acquaint friends, visitors and new UUs with our history, values, principles and the men and women who have contributed to our movement. The next opportunity to attend an orientation class will be Saturday, April 18th at 9:00 AM in the sanctuary. This is a three hour class followed by a luncheon. If you are a new member of our

congregation or if you are thinking about joining our congregation this class is especially for you. If you have visited our congregation and would like to know more about us you are encouraged to attend and ask questions! If you are already a member and just curious to learn more you, too, are encouraged to attend!

If you are planning to attend, please let Kit or Lois C know so we can prepare enough food and hand-out materials. Also, let us know if you will need childcare.

April 18th, 11am: Fun on Whidbey Club

The group will be visiting the landscapes and gardens of India by viewing the acrylic paintings of Martha M. Aubin. She'll be showing them at Creative Moves, Home of Dancing Colors at 107A First Street in Langley at 11:00 am. From there, we'll find a restaurant offering cuisine from another part of this world. Join Judy K by RSVPing (please). Art and food lovers of all ages are welcome.

April 18, times vary: Small Group Dinners

A great way to get to know your fellow UUers. Sign up on Sundays or let Lois C know if you want to be on the list if you are not and if you can host for April. 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 Lois. It's OK to miss a month or two.

April 23rd, 4pm: SEKK

South End Koffee Klatch currently meets at Rockhoppers in Clinton on the fourth Thursday afternoon, from 4 to 7. Think of it as "tea time", a nice break at the end of the day. Rockhoppers also serves beer and wine, so it could morph into a Happy Hour, if we wish. We will add a Dog House event when they reopen this summer.

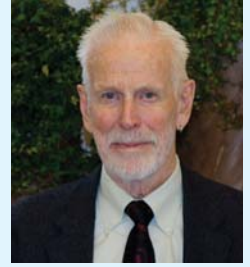
Tuesdays, April 7-May 5, 7:30-9 pm: Lyceum 2009: What's It Worth? Earth Economics and Puget Sound

Come and hear leading thinkers offer their insight into the relationship 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

The Prez Sez



DEATH

I was just 16 when my father died of a massive heart attack. I had decided that there was no afterlife. This was it. While with my mom at the funeral home I declined the invitation to view my dad's body. It seemed pagan. And I was little frightened.

My best buddy as a kid was Jack Fremont. He was a career Air Force pilot. I was in my thirties when I heard he was going to have surgery back east. I searched him down by phone the night before surgery. "Baird, I don't think I'm going to make it." I was shocked and proffered platitudes. He died at surgery. I didn't attend his funeral.

My Uncle Ed was in his early seventies when he was hospitalized with a bleeding ulcer. He refused blood transfusions and summoned his son to his bedside and died. He was happy to go. His sexual prowess was on the wane. I didn't leave the sailing regatta in LA to attend his funeral.

My life-long friend Jim Greenan phoned me a year ago. "My doctor says that I have lung cancer and have three weeks to live. He promised to keep me comfortable." After some talk I broke into sobs and said I would have to phone him back later.

I feel so empty that I did not blubber away, tell him that I loved him and ask what I could do to help. If I have another chance I will extend my hand and heart, profess my feelings and not be afraid of emotion.



Announcements

April Share-the-Plate

The recipient of April's "Share-the-Plate" collection will be Whidbey Island Nourishes (W.I.N.). Over 23% of the students in school from K-12 need help with consistent nourishment. WIN's goal is to reduce hunger in our community by providing a sack lunch at no cost to anyone desiring a meal, especially children, and WIN provides this help on non-school days throughout the year.

New Religious Education Director

The Religious Education Committee is very happy to introduce our new Director, Vanessa K (pronounced COLE-hoss), effective April 1st.



Vanessa has her Bachelor's degree in Music, and a Master's degree in Education. She is also certified in Special Education and has her Waldorf Teacher Certification. She

completed her master's thesis on the development of movement in the kindergarten, and has observed education programs in Denmark, Hungary, Germany, and Holland.

Vanessa was a Special Education teacher in public schools in Texas. She established a Kindergarten at the Austin Waldorf School and was an Early Childhood Teacher at our own Whidbey Island Waldorf School. She has served as mentor for other teachers and as a presenter for educational workshops.

Her husband Mark was raised in a Unitarian Universalist Church in Colorado. They have a 17-month-old son, Leon.

Although we will all miss our outgoing director, Lorie W, we welcome Vanessa to our Religious Education program. Be sure to say "hi" sometime!

Insight Meditation Group Forming

The benefits of meditation are: calming the mind, developing mindfulness and cultivating compassion. Sitting with others provides support along

the path. Come meditate with us on Wednesday evenings from 7 to 8:30 in Coupeville, starting April 15. Open to meditators of all levels. Beginners are welcome. For more information call Celia B.

Pete Seeger 90th Birthday Bash!

On May 1, at 7 p.m., South Whidbey acoustic musicians, including several from our congregation, will present a concert in tribute to Pete Seeger as he attains 90 years of age. No, Pete won't be there, as he is sticking close to home these days, but his spirit will be present, as we listen to the songs he has made famous during his long life of social justice activism. The concert is a benefit for both UUCWI and Hearts and Hammers. Tickets are \$12 and will be available at various locations on the island. Jim Freeman will be Master of Ceremonies. Local bands and individual musicians will perform Seeger songs from his long career. From UUCWI, you will hear Ken M, Evan W, Linda G, Adam S, Heidi H, Barbara D, and Kit Ketcham with her group Bayview Sound. Other groups performing are members of the Shifty Sailors, Swords into Plowshares, and Band du Jour.

Full Spectrum Joyfulness

Would you be interested in a class taught by the Rev. Amanda Aikman? Rev. Aikman would be glad to come to Whidbey and teach seven 90-minute sessions on incorporating joyfulness practices into every day life. For more information, call Kit.

What: A seven-session adult class based on "Full-Spectrum Joyfulness." This is a simple but rich program that helps people learn, practice, and remember easy ways to become more joyful in their everyday life.

Who: Rev. Amanda Aikman (revamanda@hotmail.com; 425-750-0711) is writing a book based on her "Full-Spectrum Joyfulness" concept. This is based on current happiness studies and has a unique, UU-flavored approach to incorporating joyfulness practices into everyday life.

Change in Newsletter Deadline

Starting this month the newsletter deadline will be the third Friday of the month. This will allow us enough time to have the newsletter printed by the last Sunday of each month. This month's deadline is Friday, April 17.

To the Congregation

Farewell from Lorie W

Hi Everyone,

What a sudden change of events February brought to me and my family. As most of you undoubtedly know, my husband accepted one final set of orders for active duty to Hawaii before retiring from the Navy. Although the idea of living somewhere warm for three years has an undeniable appeal, it's not without a great sense of loss that we leave. These past three+ years at UUCWI have been wonderful to me. You opened your hearts to me and together we built a strong RE program. I am truly grateful to all the love, support and time you have given me to build our program.

Although every Sunday is a painful reminder that I am leaving, it helps knowing we'll be back in three years, and that the baton of RE leadership is being passed to someone that I feel will carry the RE program on to bigger and better things. I hope all of you will get a chance to meet Vanessa K soon. She will officially take over the reins April 1. We are working together the last two weeks of March to ensure the smoothest transition possible.

With much love and appreciation,
Lorie, DRE

Marilyn Saunders

Marilyn Saunders died peacefully March 24 around 7:30pm. Rev. Kit Ketcham was notified shortly thereafter. She along with Effie B, Dana M and Donita C were able to go to CareAge and sit in vigil with her body. They lit a candle in honor of her generous and loving life and Kit used water from our water ceremony to anoint her head, lips, heart, and hands, in gratitude for her life among us. Dana and Donita played music. All four shared memories of Marilyn and appreciation for her many contributions to the life of the community.

Marilyn had a peaceful passage from this life; she was free of pain and anxiety when she died. Her son had been with her for several days, leaving just yesterday morning, and that gave her great joy.

There will be a memorial service for Marilyn which will be announced in the Friday emails and at the Sunday services. An obituary will be printed in the May newsletter.

The Larger Circle

We clasp the hands of those that go before us, and the hands of those who come after us.

We enter the little circle of each other's arms and the larger circle of lovers, whose hands are joined in a dance,

And the larger circle of all creatures, passing in and out of life, who move also in a dance, to a music so subtle and vast that no ear hears it except in fragments.

Wendell Berry
Reading #646

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: Vanessa K

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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