



Island Passages

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

June 2008

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 Service 4-5pm: The Importance of Science to UU's (p2)	2 Worship Committee	3 Membership Committee	4	5	6	7 7pm at Kit's: Conversation on Science as a Source (p4)
8 Service 4-5pm Jamal Rahman (p2) 5:15: Congregational Annual Meeting	9	10 6pm: Book Group Potluck (p4)	11 9 am BOT Meeting at Trinity	12	13	14 1-3pm: North End Koffee Klatch at Whidbey General Hospital (p4)
15 Service 4-5pm: Belief Divides, Doubt Unites (p2)	16	17 10am-12 noon: South End Koffee Klatch (p4)	18	19	20 Newsletter Deadline	21
22 Service 4-5pm: Hymn Sing Service (p2)	23	24	25 Begin UU General Assembly in Florida	26	27	28
29 Service 4-5pm: Why I Am a Quaker Trinitarian (p2)	30	July 1	2	3	4	5

June 1: A New Source: the Importance of Science to Unitarian Universalists

Speaker: Rev. Kit Ketcham

This church year we have explored the six official Sources of UUism and have informally added the Arts as a Source for us. We also find a great deal of meaning in Science as a foundational source for our UU values. At UUCWI, we have several scientists in several different areas, from civil engineering to rocket science to medical and social sciences. Rev. Kit Ketcham and Dave C will collaborate to explore this topic.

Worship Leader: Dave C

Membership: Lois C

June 8: Speaker: Jamal Rahman

Again we welcome Sufi Jamal Rahman – the sixth consecutive year he has come to speak to our congregation. In addition to his uplifting presentation on Islamic thought, he will give a special focus on Islamic social justice and service. Congregants consistently put Jamal near the top of our guest speakers; come, and hear why!

Worship Leader: Malcolm F

Membership: Ken M

June 15: Belief Divides, Doubt Unites

Speaker: Rev. Kit Ketcham

This adage, sometimes attributed to Peter Ustinov, was the topic our dear John Adams selected, when he bought the right to choose a sermon topic at our yearly auction. Because of his sudden death, the sermon was postponed until this June. Rev. Kit Ketcham will speak about belief and doubt and how these two intersect and interact in our lives. On this day, we will conduct our first Bridging Ceremony for a graduating high school senior, Niki S., who has been our child care maven for the past few years.

Worship Leader: Effie B

Membership: Baird B

June 22: Hymn Sing Service

The Hymn Sing Service is an annual tradition featuring favorite hymns and readings selected by the congregation. Members and friends are invited to introduce their choices (previously submitted) with some words about why a particular hymn or reading is a favorite. It might provoke a memory. The music might be especially moving. The words

might be particularly powerful. This service honors the importance we place on our music and our readings.

Worship Leaders: Marilyn S, Frank A

Membership: Earl B

June 29: "Why I am Quaker Trinitarian... And You Might Be One Too!"

(based on the Great Commandment in Mark 12: 28-34)

Speaker: Tom Ewell

Tom Ewell is a member of the Religious Society of Friends (Quakers) who moved to Whidbey Island in 2006 after serving as director of the Maine Council of Churches for 20 years. His "reirement," as he prefers to call it, is committed to nonviolence and peace education work, particularly in churches, schools, and prisons.

He is also involved in legislative work with the Friends Committee on National Legislation, the Friends Committee on Washington Public Policy, and the Washington State Campaign Against Torture. Locally he is active as a Board member of the Whidbey Institute and the Whidbey Island Peace and Reconciliation Network. He shares his peace ministry with his wife, Cathy Whitmire, from their home in Clinton.

Worship Leader: Sally E

Membership: Mavis C

News and Events

Building Committee Report

May was a month of enormous progress! The contractors got the second round window installed, put up the siding on the imposing west exterior wall, and poured concrete for the front entrance porch. With the window installed we were able to call in the insulation contractors, who finished that job in two days. Then the drywall was installed and as this is being written they are doing the interior painting. Painting should be completed by the end of May.

Meanwhile, sweat equity work has moved from siding to exterior painting. We're making good progress, though once again the intimidating west exterior wall will be a challenge! However, you can really begin to see what the building will look like when completed. A sturdy porch and steps outside the kitchen are almost complete.

And the sign! John L's beautiful sign was erected and it is truly spectacular. Hopefully, you've had a chance to drive by and see it.

We had a wonderful – and hot! – work party and picnic on Saturday, May 17. Members of the Woodinville and Port Townsend UU Congregations came and pitched in along with 16 of our own members. They installed wells around all the foundation vents, filled in one of the drainage trenches, and did a lot of painting. We also made progress clearing more blackberries to improve visibility of the sign, and we're working to prepare the clearing for August services.

Once the contractors are done with the interior painting, we will paint the kitchen with a more durable finish before proceeding to installing the flooring. Installation of the ceramic tile (in the foyer, hallway, and bathrooms) and bamboo (in the sanctuary) will be sweat equity jobs by a trained group of volunteers. These jobs require some skill, so Sandy will give a crash course to those interested in helping with that phase. Contact her if you are interested in that job.

People responded very generously to the chair campaign, and an order has just been placed for 100 chairs for our new sanctuary. Two members of our congregation have ordered a beautiful cast bronze chalice for us and we've identified an excellent baby grand in need of a temporary home. So our sanctuary will be both beautiful and functional – and very UU. Thank you to everyone who has contributed to this project in any way!!.

~Mavis C for the Building Committee

Annual Meeting

Our Annual Meeting is scheduled for June 8, 2008. The most important items of business are election of officers and approval of the budget. As you know, our church year runs from June 30, 2008 to July 1, 2009. The By-Laws set a quorum at 30% of the membership (21). All are invited to attend, but only members may vote. By mid-May you will receive a slate of candidates for office, as well as the proposed budget. The meeting will commence about 5:15pm, after services and a cup of coffee. Please plan on attending

~Baird B.

Dear Whidbey Friends,

I am writing this the day after our work party blitz on May 17th, when almost 30 people turned out to enjoy the camaraderie of working together on our new home. We got more done in a day than is possible to get done when only the regular crew members show up and we made new friends from the Woodinville and Port Townsend congregations, which was a bonus. Thanks to all who came to work, to chat, to contribute food and elbow grease to the day. We are thinking about a monthly or biweekly work party with lunch over the summer. Would you take part? With these kinds of all-hands-on-deck days, we can be better assured that we will make our target move-in date of September. There are all kinds of jobs to be done; there is something for nearly every skill level. Let's give "The Regulars" our assistance!

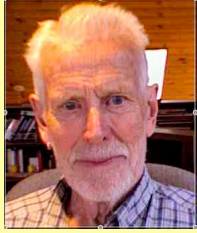


Coming up in June, we have the opportunity to welcome our graduating senior, Niki S, into young adulthood. Unitarian Universalists traditionally recognize graduating high school seniors with a Bridging Ceremony, a time when we as a congregation celebrate the milestone of achievement that graduation means and give our senior a gift. Niki has been our child care specialist for the past few years and has been a priceless addition to our Religious Education staff. We are grateful for her gifts of love and care for our smallest children and wish her the best as she continues her education and experiences.

Elsewhere in this edition of the newsletter, you will find a description of the functions of our newly reconstituted Committee on Ministry. I ask you to read through those functions and talk with one of its members if you have thoughts you'd like to share. I hope, if you have concerns about my ministry to UUCWI, that you would speak with me directly about your concerns. I am always open to feedback!

June is the last month of our church year and we have some wonderful things planned for the congregation! I'm looking forward to seeing you soon.

Much love,
Kit

The Prez Says:**Year's End**

Amazing how quickly a year goes by when you're having fun. We'll sum it up at our Annual Meeting after Sunday Services June 8. And we'll vote on a new slate of officers and adopt a

budget for the church year, July 1, 2008 to June 30 2009. We need your presence to assure a quorum to consider these important matters. The board has been very cautious in their approach to the budget. We have asked all committee heads and personnel to hold the line on spending and budget requests. We recommend no increases this year as we face up to the realities of our first year with a building and a mortgage to take care of.

I am humbled by the hard work, intelligence and devotion that have been displayed by our members this year. It is inspiring. In a few more months and we can start using our facility and get serious about our mission – to make the presence of a free thinking, non-creedal, liberal religion known to the greater community. And then we must all assume the role of greeters as we welcome the influx of new members.

~Baird B

Conversation on Science as a UU Source

On June 7, there will be a conversation on Science as a Source for UUism, at Kit's home, 7-9 p.m.

~Rev. Kit Ketcham

Koffee Klatches: Best Conversation on the Island!

- *North End:* 1-3 pm, Saturday, June 14, the North End Koffee Klatch will meet. We gather in the West Wind Cafeteria at Whidbey General Hospital in Coupeville, for terrific conversation, cheap eats, and good coffee on the North End. All are welcome.
- *South End:* 10am-12noon, Tuesday, June 17, South Enders meet at Rockhoppers' coffee shop and art gallery from 10 am to 12 noon, for great coffee and wonderful conversation. All are welcome.

Music News

Special thanks to all the wonderful choir leaders this year. We look forward to next season in our new building. We will be celebrating Pete Seeger's 90th birthday in May of 2009, with music and words from his life. A highlight this June will be our annual hymn sing, on the 22nd. Contact Frank or Marilyn to suggest a favorite hymn.

~ Linda G

Hymn Sing

The Hymn Sing Service this year will be June 22, coordinated by Frank A and Marilyn S. This is truly a congregational service as we rely upon YOU to select and present the hymns and/or readings. Which are your favorites? Please email or call Frank A or Marilyn S with your choices or hand us a slip of paper when you see us - by June 10 please.

Then be thinking about how you will introduce your choice with a couple of sentences on why it's your favorite. Does it provoke a long-ago memory? Does the music stir you in some way? Are the words powerful to you? The hymns can be from either of our hymnals, the readings can come from wherever you choose. If your reading is not from our hymnal, please send us a copy and the source.

~Marilyn S

Book Group Potluck: Tuesday, June 10, 6pm

June 10th is our final Tuesday meeting for this season, and an exciting time when we come together for a potluck and planning for next year. You don't even have to read a book to attend this group. Just bring something consumable to share and perhaps a thought about what book you'd like to discuss with our group. We will meet at 6pm (earlier than usual due to the food involved), at the home of Mary G - Call for directions).

In general our group meets one Tuesday per month at 7:30pm. All are invited and sometimes folks show up who have only THOUGHT about reading the book. We will announce our selections before our next meeting which will be in September. We have not limited our book selections to any particular category and we have enjoyed a variety of interesting books in the past. Do join us!

~Mary G

The Committee on Ministry Is Alive and Well!

Members of the COM, Mark B, Wendy F, and Marilyn S have been meeting with Rev. Kit Ketcham for the past three months to define the functions of the COM. We see our functions to be as follows:

1. To be a liaison between the minister and the congregation. Members of the COM will help with the communication process between the minister and the congregation, to the extent necessary, including advising a congregant to talk with the minister directly if possible, or going with a congregant to talk with the minister, or taking a message to the minister for the congregant only if the congregant is willing to be identified.

2. To support the minister in developing and carrying out her professional growth goals. This means that the minister will identify and carry out goals for the coming year with the help of the COM.

3. To support the minister by being a confidential sounding board. This means that the minister has a safe place to discuss concerns within the congregation. COM members may also bring up concerns they have about matters in the congregation and discuss them safely and confidentially.

4. To help the congregation explore the nature of its ministry. This means that the ministry of the congregation is the responsibility of all members and friends. The COM will consider ways to help congregants see how they are part of the ministry and suggest ways to expand that ministry, as appropriate.

Our Affirmation, as stated in our Sunday Services gives us guidelines.

~ *Rev. Kit Ketcham*

CRE Report

This year has been a busy one. We brought the amazing UU curriculum, Spirit Play, into our age 3-10 classroom. We were very fortunate to have brought Dr. Nina Penfold to Whidbey Island to train our teachers, as well as 13 other DREs and teachers from throughout Puget Sound and from Oregon and Canada. What a great addition it has been, especially since we have so many wonderfully talented and artistic volunteers who have helped us create the most amazing manipulatives for our storytelling! They have

made a tremendous difference to the quality of the program. Both our teachers and our children love Spirit Play.

We've welcomed four new children— Ila, Jaydee, Felix and Zoe – into our Spirit Play program. They are absolutely delightful children. I encourage you to strike up a conversation with them, as well as any of our other children. And great news! Jennifer T. will be returning as our Associate Teacher in the Spirit Play classroom next year.

We have been so fortunate this past year to have John L. take on the responsibility of leading our youth on their spiritual journey, with Dave C. filling in when needed. We couldn't have a growing RE program without volunteers willing to spend time in the classroom; but sometimes it's hard to stay connected with the rest of the congregation when you miss services each week, so John L. would like to co-teach next year. If you'd be interested in being part of our youth program, please contact me.

Our six new children, along with their families, participated in a lovely child dedication ceremony May 11, and the rest of the RE program celebrated Flower Communion that day. Linda G. worked tirelessly with the children to learn the many songs they performed for the service. We have been particularly blessed by Linda's devotion to bringing music to the RE program.

I appreciate all of the folks who willingly share their time and talents with the RE program. We would never be able to provide the enriching program we now have without them.

Sadly we will be losing Niki S. as our care provider for our nursery-aged children. She will be graduating from high school in June, and I invite all of you to her bridging ceremony during the June 15th service as we wish her well as she moves on into adulthood. She has become a special part of our UU family and we wish her all the best. It will be hard to fill her shoes; in fact it will take two. Melissa W. and Amy G. will take her place in the nursery next year on alternating Sundays. Also on June 15 we will celebrate Melissa S's transition into the youth program, a big step in the spiritual journey for our children. We hope you'll join us in wishing Melissa the best as she continues to grow as a UU.

If you're interested in volunteering for RE, please let me know. We need classroom substitutes, creative souls for helping with the Spirit Play manipulatives, or . . . Next year looks to be a great RE year with a growing program, another holiday pageant, a new beautiful space, outside activities, a youth program and field trips! Just imagine the possibilities!

The 2007-2008 RE year will conclude June 15. Childcare for children age 10 and under will be available for the June 22 and 29 services and youth (age 11 and up) are invited to join the regular services. The 2008-09 RE Year will begin September 7 with an intergenerational water communion service, and regular RE classes will begin Sept. 14. *~Lorie W, DRE*

Stewardship Report

Our visiting stewards have contacted 58 households to survey members and friends and to obtain pledges for the 2008/2009 church year. We have just a few more households to contact. The results have been excellent! Many thanks to all of our visiting stewards for the time and effort they have invested, and many thanks to all of you who have welcomed these stewards into your homes and shared your thoughts and wishes with them.

When asked what you saw as the strengths of our congregation, many of you identified our music, our UU values, Kit, the variety in our services, the quality of the relationships you have formed within the congregation, and the fact that we are soon to move into our own building. There was not as much agreement about changes you would like to see. Many of you mentioned specific elements of the services that you would like to see changed. Probably the most frequently mentioned activity you would like to see added was social action. If you would like to receive a copy of all of the comments to our survey questions, please let me know. I can email a copy to you or send a hard copy. Board members have received copies, and copies will also be sent to committee chairs.

The results of the pledge drive were very successful. To date we have pledges totaling \$52,642.00 in cash and an additional \$5,250 of "in kind" donations.

Thank you to all for your generosity! It is so very exciting and gratifying to know that we have

such solid support as we move into this banner year in the life of our congregation.

~ Lois C

Community News

Keep our Local Economy Going Strong and Help our Mother!

In order to buy meat, you will have to register with your chosen farmer, if you want to buy only part of an animal. This way, they can match you up with another family who only wants to buy half or one-quarter of an animal. No more little styrofoam packages for us!

1. Long Family Farm on Ewing Road 579-6406
2. Henderson's Meats, 2224 Newman Road 321-4757
3. Lamb/mutton – Susan Crocker 321-5220
4. Pork – Fran Eintrez 678-4433
5. Beef – Dale Sherman 678-6344
6. Our 5 farmers' markets: Mostly organic and delicious produce; some have meats.
7. Ask local restaurants if they buy locally.
8. Ask Payless if they buy locally and to increase their local-buying if they already do so. Locally grown shelf-stable items like jams, mustards, etc. are also produced on lovely Whidbey.

~Submitted by Judy K

Blessed . . .

Blessed are the church members who pay pledges in the days of vacation.

They wear casual clothing and wander in pleasant places.

They anoint themselves with insect spray.

They sit beside the still waters and hope the fish will bite, the insects will not.

They build a fire of charcoal; yea, they build it with care and do place savory meat thereon.

The wind wafteth the aroma to their nostrils and their taste buds tingle with anticipation.

They eat thereof and are satisfied.

Night cometh.

They close their eyes with thanksgiving,,
And their sleep is undisturbed.

They know that the good work of their church will not be diminished while they are away.

And yea, even the treasurer rejoices!

~Submitted by Hildred C

UUCWI Worship Survey

The Worship Committee really needs your opinions to begin planning services for the 2008-2009 year. Please answer the questions on this and the opposite side of the page. You may complete it and hand it to any one of us at any service between now and the end of the year: Frank A, Peggy B, Mavis C, Joan G, Linda G, Mary G, Maureen M, Sandy M, Marilyn S, and Terri A.

Again, thank you so very much for sharing your opinions with us. They matter! We listened carefully last year and made changes accordingly. Now we are wondering how we did. How well did our changes reflect your desire? We want to co-create with you the very best UU services you can imagine.

Whom would you especially like us to invite to speak or return to speak next year?

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____

What types of non-sermon programs would you like next year?

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____

What suggestions do you have for topics and/or speakers for next year? Anyone from our own congregation?

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____

Please indicate if you are willing to

- serve on the worship committee,
 be a worship leader,
 be involved in creating a service (what in particular intrigues you? _____)

What else would you like the worship committee to know as we plan programs and speakers for next year?

Your name (optional although we do encourage you to claim your voice! And if we know who you are we can follow up with additional questions to assure we understand your suggestions)

You may also request an electronic copy of the survey and fill it in and return in online.
 Please return this form to Terri A or to any other member of the worship committee

Worship Calendar 2007-2008

Date	Speaker	Sermon title	check here if a favorite
Aug 5	Malcolm Ferrier	Sense of Belonging	
Aug 12	Rev Chris Highland	The Homeless God: a Place to Belong	
Aug 19	Rev Kit Ketcham	Culture of Appreciation & Gratitude	
Aug 26	Peggy & Baird Bardarson	From the Musings of Archy and Mehitabel	
Sept 2	congregants	Play: A Clear View	
Sept 9	Rev Kit Ketcham	Ingathering & Water Ceremony/ Groundbreaking	
Sept 16	Fritz Hull	Choosing Hope	
Sept 23	Rev Kit Ketcham	Source #1 Direct Experience of Spirituality	
Sept 30	Marc Adams	Fundamentalism to Freedom	
Oct 7	Rev Kit Ketcham	An Attitude of Gratitude	
Oct 14	Angela Riggins	One Woman's Heart	
Oct 21	Rev Kit Ketcham	Source #2 Words & Deeds of Prophetic Men & Women	
Oct 28	Congregants	Now is the Time (Assoc. Sunday & GA reports)	
Nov 4	Nan Geer	Blessed are the Greedy???	
Nov 11	Mary Matsuda Gruenwald	Looking Like the Enemy: a Story of Imprisonment...	
Nov 18	Rev Kit Ketcham	Source #3 Wisdom of Word's Religions	
Nov 25	Peggy Barderson & friends	Thanksgiving Abraxas Communion	
Dec 2	Mary, Mavis, Dave, John	Mark Twain: Conscience of a Humanist	
Dec 9	Rev Kit Ketcham	Source #4 Jewish & Christian sources	
Dec 16	Congregants	Music, Mystery & Memory	
Dec 23	Intergenerational	Nativity Pageant: "Do you want to hold the baby?"	
Dec 30	Congregants	Soap Box Sunday	
Jan 6	Rev Kit Ketcham	Twelfth Night Epiphanies	
Jan 13	Sharon Parks-Daloz	Incarnation: from Resolutions to Practices	
Jan 20	Rev Kit Ketcham	M L King and Classism	
Jan 27	Cathy Whitmire	The Spiritual Path of Practicing Peace	
Feb 3	Rev Kit Ketcham	Speaking Truth to Power with Love	
Feb 10	Rev Tim Anderson	The Next Step Together	
Feb 17	Rev Kit Ketcham	Source #5 Humanism	
Feb 24	Congregants	This I Believe	
Mar 2	Rev Kit Ketcham	In Andy's Garden	
Mar 9	Dr Larry Daloz	The Nurse Log's Tale	
Mar 16	Rev Rachel Taber-Hamilton	Living Until We Die: Honoring a Life that is Dying	
Mar 23	Rev Kit Ketcham	Confessions of a Christian Humanist	
Mar 30	Sally Ann Elder	Judgment Day	
Apr 6	Rev Kit Ketcham	Source #6 Teaching of Earth Centered Traditions	
Apr 13	Terri, Mavis, Lois, Siri	Our Creation Myth?	
Apr 20	Rev Barbara Gilday	The Stories We Live By	
Apr 27	Rev James Kubal-Komoto	How to be a More Spiritual Person in 15 min/day	
May 4	Rev Kit Ketcham	Shaping Worth Together: How We Worship	
May 11	Intergenerational	The Story of our Faith	
May 18	Kit, Mary & friends	A new source: The Arts' Importance to UUs	
May 25	Bill Graves	The Theology of Eating Locally	
June 1	Rev Kit Ketcham	A new source: the Importance of Science to UUs	
June 8	Jamal Rahman	An Islamic Perspective on Social Justice and Service	
June 15	Rev Kit Ketcham	Belief Divides; Doubt Unites	
June 22	congregants	Hymn Sing	
June 29	Tom Ewell	Why I Am a Quaker Trinitarian	

**Unitarian Universalist Congregation
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 360-331-2163

Chaplains: Sally Elder 360-675-3314

Bill Graves 360-661-7289

Our minister and chaplains 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
Rebecca S. 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/
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