



# Island Passages

UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CONGREGATION OF WHIDBEY ISLAND

P.O. Box 1076, Freeland, WA 98249 • 360-321-8656 • [www.whidbey.com/uucwi/](http://www.whidbey.com/uucwi/)

## September 2006

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2
3 10:00a Service: Spiritual Beings in the Interdependent Web	4 Labor Day	5	6	7 9:00a Building Committee meeting at Trinity	8	9 9:00a -11:00a North End Koffee Klatch (p. 3)
10 4:00p -5:00p Service: Coming Home to UUCWI 5:00p Salmon Bake/Potluck (p. 3)	11 9:00a Worship Committee meeting at Trinity	12 7:30p Book Group (p. 3)	13 9:00a -11:00a South End Koffee Klatch (p. 3)	14	15	16
17 4:00p -5:00p Service: Courage and Faith in a Time of Empire	18	19	20 newsletter deadline	21 9:00a Building Committee meeting at Trinity	22	23
24 2:00p choir rehearsal (p. 5) 4:00p -5:00p Service: Yom Kippur -- Ancient Rite, Modern Relevance	25	26	27	28	29	30

Additions and updates can be found on the calendar on the congregation's website:  
[www.whidbey.com/uucwi/](http://www.whidbey.com/uucwi/)

### **September 3rd — Spiritual Beings in the Interdependent Web**

"Spiritual Beings in the Interdependent Web" is the topic of the September 3rd lay-led service. How do we participate in the universal life struggle of which we are a part? What spiritual truths and disciplines are important in promoting our respect for the interdependent web of all existence of which we are a part?

Toyan Copeland, with the assistance of other congregants, will present the thoughts of the Reverend Barbara Merritt and others on the seventh UU principle.

*This service will be held at 10:00 a.m. on the church property two miles north of Freeland on the west side of State Route 525.*

### **September 10th — Coming Home to UUCWI with minister the Reverend Kit Ketcham**

As we gather to begin our new church year, we are reminded of how much we enjoy belonging to this community of faith, where we are accepted, cared for, and inspired to grow. Reverend Kit Ketcham will speak about "Coming Home" and what it means to her; in addition, we will celebrate our coming together by pooling the waters of our lives. You are invited to bring a small amount of water from your summer adventures to pool with others in our Water Ceremony. This water is purified and used later in the year for ceremonies of dedication and other meaningful moments.

*This service will be held at 4:00 p.m. on the church property two miles north of Freeland on the west side of State Route 525.*

### **September 17th — Courage and Faith in a Time of Empire**

**with guest speaker Dr. Bill Grace**

Join Dr. Bill Grace in exploring how contemporary faith can respond to the despair and fear we may feel as we observe the United States government building a global empire while disregarding expanding social inequity. As people of faith, how do we source courage to address the schisms between our professed values and action?

A social activist, teacher and writer, Bill founded the not-for-profit Center for Ethical Leadership in 1991 to promote in people an inner life of integrity and action on behalf the common good. These days he is interested in helping people find courage and hope at the core of their faith so that they can more deeply serve justice with confidence and compassion. He believes that Deep Hope, nurtured through the practice of spiritual development, is a vital resource for leaders who seek justice for people society marginalizes.

He is an inspirational and sought-after public speaker and trainer whose personal commitment to ethical leadership development has had tremendous impact on audiences across the United States. His publications include *Ethical Leadership: In Pursuit of the Common Good*, *The Spirituality of Leadership*, and *100 Top Readings for Ethical Leaders*.

*Beginning this week, our services return to our regular time and place: 4:00 p.m. at the Trinity Lutheran Chapel at State Route 525 and Woodard Road.*

### **September 24th — Yom Kippur -- Ancient Rite, Modern Relevance with guest speaker Steven Greenebaum**

How do we make peace with ourselves? With others? With God? Every religion has recognized that it's hard to move into the future until we make peace with the past. We'll explore some paths Judaism takes — in reflection, prayer and song — and in the process perhaps find a few ideas for ourselves.

Steven Greenebaum is the director of music at the Evergreen Unitarian Universalist Fellowship in Marysville and a Master of Divinity student at Seattle University. He has been active in environmental and social justice issues for more than thirty years and is the former executive director of Citizens for Environmental Responsibility. Steven holds master degrees in mythology and music and has directed Methodist, Jewish, UU, Interfaith and other choirs.

## Congregational News & Events

### **North End Koffee Klatch, September 9th**

NEKK will be September 9th, 9:00-11:00 at our usual spot, Whidbey General's West Wind Cafeteria in Coupeville.

### **Salmon Bake/Potluck, September 10th**

Our Sunday service on September 10th will be followed by a salmon bake/potluck dinner. Baird B. has again graciously agreed to coordinate cooking the salmon. The cost for the salmon will be \$5/person or \$10/family. Please bring a potluck item to round out the menu. In environmentally responsible style, please bring your own nondisposable plates and utensils. Soft drinks and juices will be provided – you are welcome to bring your own wine or beer.

In order to plan the amount of fish to buy, we would very much appreciate an RSVP by September 7th if you plan to attend. However, if your plans are uncertain and you decide to come at the last minute, come anyway! If the weather is bad, we'll move to Trinity. We look forward to seeing friends old and new. Please RSVP to Baird as soon as possible

### **Book Group, September 12th**

The UUCWI book group will meet at Dave and Mavis C.'s home at 7:30 on Tuesday September 12th to discuss *Middlesex* by Jeffrey Eugenides. One review of this Pulitzer prize-winning novel says "Spanning eight decades and chronicling the wild ride of a Greek-American family through the vicissitudes of the twentieth century, this witty, exuberant novel on one level tells a traditional story about three generations of a fantastic, absurd, lovable immigrant family -- blessed and cursed with generous doses of tragedy and high comedy. But there's a provocative twist. Cal, the narrator -- also Callie -- is a hermaphrodite. And the explanation for this takes us spooling back in time, through a breathtaking review of the twentieth century, to 1922, when the Turks sacked Smyrna and Callie's grandparents fled for their lives. Back to a tiny village in Asia Minor where two lovers, and one rare genetic mutation, set our narrator's life in motion." All are welcome! Please call Mavis to let her know you're coming.

### **South End Koffee Klatch, September 13th**

Our first meeting will be September 13th at 10:00 a.m. at "Locals Only", the new coffee shop in Freeland, in the cedar shake mini-mall north of China City.

### **Movie Screening, September 13th**

*Inlaws & Outlaws* will be shown at the Whidbey Institute. As a film that speaks to the heart of the matter of the gay marriage debate, the support of the faith-based community is invaluable in cultivating an open and positive discussion. Specific information will be sent in an email message to all UUCWI members, or you can ask Reverend Kit Ketcham for details closer to the date.

### **Chaminade Recital, October 21st**

The Chaminade Trio recital (a UUCWI annual celebration and fundraiser) will take place on Saturday October 21st at the Cauffman home. Save the date!! Members of the trio are Peggy Bardarson (violin), Carol Graef ('cello), and Nola Allen (piano).

### **A Peek at Next Month**

The October 1st service will be "The Message of Islam and the Unity of Creation," presented by Mohammad Fani of the IMAN Islamic Center in Kirkland.

### **Children's Religious Education**

Wow! So much is happening with the Children's Religious Education (CRE to you and me) program. I have been so eager to see September roll around and suddenly it is here! Sadly, we no longer have Laura and Erin Hilton helping us out in the CRE program, but we are very excited to introduce our new associate teacher Jennifer Thompson. Jennifer joined the CRE program in June and will be teaching the Elementary Class (ages 4-9). I'll still be teaching the Youth Class. We have a lot of new and exciting plans for the CRE program, including some wonderful new curricula that we'll be using in addition to the many fun and interesting activities we have planned for our 2006-2007 CRE year.

In the Elementary Class, we will be using "Treasure Hunting – Take Two" written by highly respected UU curriculum writer Gaia

Brown. We will also be teaching the Seven Principles by associating them with the colors of the rainbow through materials written by the North Georgia Cluster of UU Religious Educators. Our children will start the year off by being introduced to Roy G. Biv. We'll have some information available at the September 10th service, so please stop by to talk with us and meet Roy G. Biv in person! The children will also be continuing to work on their social action project with Heifer International. Our goal is to raise enough funds to purchase a lamb as our year-end gift. We're about halfway there, so keep those aluminum cans coming in! We'll save parrots and help feed the hungry one aluminum can at a time.

Our Youth Class (ages 10-14) will be exploring themselves, their beliefs, their UU faith, their relationships with others and the world through lessons from Compass Points, also written by Gaia Brown. In addition, the kids have come up with some great social action ideas. They have really committed themselves to "think globally, and act locally." You will be hearing a lot more on these plans from the kids themselves in the upcoming weeks. We will also be working closely with Reverend Kit Ketcham with some "Coming of Age" topics.

In addition, we are hoping that some of you would share your talents and expertise with our kids. If you have a favorite hobby, special interest or just want to share what you do with our kids, please come see me, call me or email me

Malcolm F. and Frances W.

(thank you!) joined our classes during our last session and their visits were a big hit with the kids. It's a great way for the kids to get to know you and for you to know them!

Don't forget we also provide nursery care for those three and under!

~ Lorie W.,

Director of Religious Education

## **President's Column**

from Toyan C., UUCWI President

Your Board of Trustees is off to a great start for the new UUCWI year! A recent all-day retreat brought us together to review who we are and where we hope to go. We learned and we were inspired.

We confirmed how much we appreciate our congregation: the wonderful people who make up our accepting, loving and searching community and the willingness of many to participate in it – to become passionately involved.

We learned about ourselves. We realized that, as a Board, we are capable of and committed to remaining confident, hopeful and optimistic about the future of UUCWI. We know that we will ever keep in mind the congregation as a whole and will do our very best to make the right things happen. We realized that a Board of introverts can be quite dynamic!

Building our building is, of course, a big priority. We are aware that this project will continue to demand the talents, energies and time of many members. And we know that we must also continue to grow as a nurturing and supportive community now. We must not put off the programs and connections that will help us do this.

Creative, active committees will be critical to giving UUCWI the oomph it will need to build and be vibrant at the same time during the coming year. The Board is counting on friends and members to contribute their ideas, time and support to the committee(s) of their choice. We are so fortunate that Kit has agreed to devote a significant part of her time to working with the CRE, Caring Connections and other committees to give them a stronger sense of direction and purpose.

We would like UUCWI to contribute more to the larger community (starting with Whidbey Island). We like the idea of a focus within our congregation that will interest and engage us – bring us together even more. And we want to somehow let others know more about us. All of these goals seem to lead back to Social Action. Service is the practice of our spirit of love. We want to do more of this. It might be on our own or with another organization. It might be continuing with an existing project or program or starting a new one.

Whatever we do, the Board agreed that we must have fun doing it! Let us remember to laugh, to appreciate and say thanks to each other, to not take ourselves too seriously while doing our best and to – well, to have fun.

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The Board is grateful to Terri A. for her skillful leadership in the meaningful retreat. We always welcome conversations – ideas, questions, and the like - with others. We are looking forward to a productive and rewarding year!

### **Building Committee**

The Building Committee has been meeting over the summer, led by Roy in Baird's July absence and this month on August 10th. Progress is slow on the new driveway project, but it is almost finished — about two months later than promised. The committee has been working on a revised business plan with the Finance Committee. Some assumptions built into the previous plan were erroneous and are being modified.

Our hopes are still high to get started on our Phase 1 building in early winter, but there are many details to be finalized. It has been enjoyable to have summer morning services on our lovely property — a good way to see the new driveway and rough outline of the future parking for Phase 1. We are enjoying the vision of our own home there and learning the virtues of patience. The minutes of the Building Committee are being posted to the website for your information.

~ Peggy B.

### **Choir News**

On behalf of the Music Committee of the Congregation, I'd like to report that we're looking for a new choir director, but it is not easy to find someone to replace Heidi. We've decided to try, temporarily, a lay-led choir, taking turns from volunteers. I'll go first, in October. I'll try to coordinate after that who is leading when (their choice of rehearsal and performance days).

I'd like to keep the same rehearsal time of 2:00 at Trinity, and keep pieces fairly easy, doing a lot of review from what we've done before. Remember when we had the "hymn leaders"? We can revive that tradition and I'll try to have the list of hymns for Sundays when choir does special music.

I'd like to have our first rehearsal on September 24th and perform on October 1st. I'll send email to choir people as a reminder. Since it is Rosh Hashanah and Ramadan and Yom Kippur, we'll have pieces related. It is okay to be a part-

time choir person; you can join for one performance or decide to stay for a season. Let us have fun singing and learning together. Thanks for your understanding in this endeavor.

~ Linda G.

### **UUCWI Directory**

Work has begun on updating the annual UUCWI Directory of Members and Friends, which we hope to publish in late September. Please let Mavis know ASAP if any changes should be made in your entry.

### **Questions from Question Box Sunday**

1. How can we find a balance, emotionally, psychologically, spiritually, on the environmental issue (and others), after seeing "An Inconvenient Truth" and not get depressed that we're not doing enough?
2. How can we forgive and forget?
3. What is the status of small group ministry? What is small group ministry?
4. What happens when I die? I can't imagine that it just ends because everything else recycles into some other life form.
5. Why do we call ourselves a congregation and not a church?
6. Is there a God?
7. Do I have to believe in God?
8. I think we UU's have a hard time "speaking truth to power" which often leads to no action or a consensus that pleases no one. Can we change or is this the best we can do?
9. What can help us to clearly hear the voice of conscience?
10. Are there any circumstances where the end justifies the means?
11. How can UUs help to bring peace to the world?

\* \* \* \* \*

UUCWI is proud of our commitment to openly welcome people of all races, ethnicities, sexual orientations, gender identities and belief systems. Anyone who agrees to promote the seven UU principles is welcome to become a part of this congregation. If you would like to join us but have not completed the membership process, please contact us at 321-8656 for more information.

## From Our Minister

Dear UUCWiers,

It's been a wonderful summer for me, full of visitors and good times as a new resident on Whidbey, and, following our summer services on the land, I'm looking



forward to the new church year and all its promise. I hope your summer has been as restful and satisfying as mine has.

As my hours increase this year, I've thought about how to increase my service to you and with the board have decided that several areas of congregational life merit more attention. With that directive in mind, I will be working with volunteers to reconstitute and re-invigorate several committees.

Caring Connections volunteers will be considering the possibility of developing small group ministry here at UUCWI, a way by which we can keep better connected with each other, take care of each other if crises demand, and strengthen the bonds of community.

Membership volunteers will examine our current practices and see how we might re-think our ways of welcoming newcomers, connecting with visitors, and integrating new members and friends into the congregation.

A new Social Action task force will undertake the possibility of developing an all-congregation social action project, researching alternatives, developing parameters, and presenting ideas to the congregation later in the year. Such a project

would offer opportunities for every member and friend of UUCWI to be involved at some level.

I will be working with these three groups to rethink and restructure current practices and get these essential working groups up and running smoothly. If you are interesting in helping in any of these areas, please call me so we can talk. We can always use more heads, hearts, and hands!

In addition, I will be offering an adult RE class later in the year, perhaps an "Evensong" experience, a small group where participants share their spiritual journeys, explore their own growing edges, and deepen their spiritual life together.

There is a movement afoot on Whidbey to develop a local chapter of the Religious Coalition for Equality, advocating for marriage equality and civil rights for all. I have been working with David Vergin and Larry Fox of Langley UMC, and we are excited about the possibilities of this effort.

And strictly for FUN, I want to offer a new Koffee Klatch opportunity for SouthEnders. We'll call it SEKK (following the precedent of the NorthEnders' NEKK) and our first meeting will be September 13th at 10 a.m. at "Locals Only", the new coffee shop in Freeland, in the cedar shake mini-mall north of China City. They have great coffee and a beautiful space to meet in. Join me there!

It will be a wonderful new year, I know, working together on our building and enjoying each other as we grow in spirit and in outreach. Much love,

*Kit*

## Member News & Notes

### Saturday Movies

You are invited to reserve nine Saturday evenings beginning September 23rd at 7:00 p.m. for the second biannual Scatchet Head Film Festival: Light Fare for the Darkening Season. Pick up a schedule at the next congregational service or call me.

~ Mary G.

## From the UUA

### UUA President Decries WA Supreme Court Ruling on Marriage Equality

*Statement from the Rev. William G. Sinkford on Washington Court Ruling on Same-Sex Marriage*

(July 26, 2006 — Boston, MA) I am deeply disappointed by today's ruling by the Supreme Court of Washington upholding the constitutionality of that state's discriminatory "Defense of Marriage" statute. Today's ruling further delays the time when the legal protections enjoyed by heterosexual couples in Washington will be

made available to all committed couples.

Like so many people of conscience, Unitarian Universalists are saddened by the recent setbacks in the struggle for marriage equality. Today we are even more keenly aware that our society has a long way to go before we fully honor every person's inherent worth and dignity. Our hearts go out to the thousands of same-sex couples in Washington who have been denied an opportunity to secure legal protections for their families.

Although this is a sad day, I want to thank the three dissenting judges for their courageous opinions, and to honor all of the couples and families in Washington State who have witnessed for justice through their living examples. We know from hard experience that the road to justice is long, and despite these recent setbacks to the cause of marriage equality, Unitarian Universalists are committed to continued engagement with this issue until the day when full legal and civic equality is a reality for all loving couples.

*from the UUA website*

### **Witnessing for Peace**

In response to the ongoing conflict in the Middle East, the Unitarian Universalist Association of Congregations and President William G. Sinkford have joined several interfaith efforts aimed at stopping the violence and calling religious people to action.

In joining with these efforts, Reverend Sinkford expressed the sense of urgency shared by many Unitarian Universalists. "The widening conflict in the Middle East is a call to all people of conscience to witness for a just and lasting peace," Sinkford said. "As we work to end the violence, may we also find the courage to examine our own role in shaping the conditions that allow violence to flourish."

The UUA has officially endorsed a statement from Dr. William F. Vendley, the Secretary General of Religions for Peace, calling for an end to fighting between Israel and Hezbollah in Lebanon, and Israel and Hamas in Palestine. The statement also urges religious leaders to "reject the grotesque misuse of religion in support of violence."

Religions for Peace, the largest coalition of international religious communities, is a long-standing partner of the UUA.

Reverend Sinkford, along with senior Jewish, Muslim and Christian leaders, including religious leaders from Israel, Palestine, Lebanon, Syria and Iran, will participate in the Eighth World Assembly of Religions for Peace, a conference to be held in Kyoto, Japan, at the end of August. Religions for Peace supports religious leaders in the Middle East who are working together to end the violence and build a lasting peace.

To help gather domestic support for these peace-making efforts, the UUA has joined a broad interfaith initiative organized by religious leaders from groups including the National Council of Churches USA, Islamic Society of North America, and The Shalom Center. The campaign, called "Season of Prayer for Peace in the Middle East," will officially be launched later this week, and will include a collection of online worship and advocacy resources.

Reverend Sinkford has signed two letters authored by another US interfaith group, Churches for Middle East Peace, a religious coalition of twenty-one church groups including the UUA. The first letter addresses the recent crisis in Gaza, and the second calls for a broader cease-fire.

For UUs committed to long-term action, "Peacemaking" is the issue that was selected by General Assembly for congregational study and action over the next four years. Sustained attention to this critical question presents an opportunity for Unitarian Universalists to engage with some of the most profound issues of our time.

The purpose of the Congregational Study/Action Process, according to the UUA by-laws, is "to provide the member congregations of the Association with an opportunity to mobilize energy, ideas, and resources around a common issue. The end result will be a deeper understanding of our religious position on the issue, a clear statement of Association policy as expressed in a Statement of Conscience, and a greater capacity for the congregations to take effective action."

The text of the "Peacemaking" Congregational Study/Action Issue can be found online at [www.uua.org/csw/CSAI\\_06-10\\_P.pdf](http://www.uua.org/csw/CSAI_06-10_P.pdf). A resource guide for congregations will be available by November 1st.

*from the UUA website*

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**Unitarian Universalist Congregation  
of Whidbey Island**

**2006-2007 Board of Trustees**

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

**Minister:** Kit Ketcham (360-331-2163)

**Chaplain:** Sally Elder (360-675-3314)

Our minister and chaplain are available for rites  
of passage ceremonies (including ceremonies of  
commitment or union) and pastoral visits.

**Newsletter Information:**

News, announcements, events, and other items of  
general interest to members of the congregation  
should be submitted in writing by the deadline to  
editor Nancy S.

Short faxed items

may be acceptable; call for more

information. Items submitted after press time will

appear in the following month's newsletter if

appropriate. Time-sensitive late items will be posted  
with the announcements and/or on the calendar on  
our web site.

Current and past issues of this newsletter are  
available online at [www.whidbey.com/uucwi/  
newsletter.html](http://www.whidbey.com/uucwi/newsletter.html). Last names, phone numbers, and  
addresses are deleted from the online version for  
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