



Island Passages

UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CONGREGATION OF WHIDBEY ISLAND

P.O. Box 1076, Freeland, WA 98249 • 360-321-8656 • www.whidbey.com/uucwi/

October 2006

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 4:00p Service: The Message of Islam and the Unity of Creation	2 7:00p Women's Discussion Group (p. 2)	3	4	5	6	7 1:00-3:00p North End Koffee Klatch (p. 3)
8 4:00p Service: Roots and Wings	9 9:00 Worship Committee meeting at Trinity	10 7:30p Book Group (p. 3)	11	12	13	14 9:45p Adopt-A-Road Cleanup (p. 3)
15 4:00p Service: VanGogh Café: How Do We Heal a World Filled with Oppression and Hatred?	16	17	18	19	20	21
22 4:00p Service: Control-Z: Regret Is Hard to Handle	23	24 newsletter deadline	25 10:00-12:00p South End Koffee Klatch (p. 3)	26	27	28
29 Daylight Savings Time ends 4:00p Service: On Being Fully Human	30	31	Additions and updates can be found on the calendar on the congregation's website: www.whidbey.com/uucwi/			

October 1st — The Message of Islam and the Unity of Creation

with guest speaker Mohammad Fani

Mohammad Fani is affiliated with the IMAN Islamic Center in Kirkland where he is the manager of a project titled "Raising Awareness of Islam Through Service and Education." He is also a member of Northwest Interfaith Community Outreach and the Greater Seattle Council of Muslims.

Lay Leader: Tom B.

See the related course on page 5.

October 8th— Roots and Wings

with minister the Reverend Kit Ketcham

Unitarian Universalism is inextricably entwined with the history of the United States of America. Reverend Kit Ketcham will talk about the roots of American UUism and how our religious ancestors contributed to the creation of this country and the near-sacred documents of democracy.

Lay Leader: Joanne C.

October 15th— VanGogh Café: How Do We Heal a World Filled with Oppression and Hatred?

with guest minister the Reverend Keith Kron

Maybe we need a little magic. What can one person do? We will explore how we can make a difference and are doing so through Unitarian Universalist values.

The Reverend Keith Kron is director of bisexual, gay, lesbian and transgender concerns of the Unitarian Universalist Association.

Lay Leader: Frank A.

October 22nd— Control-Z: Regret Is Hard to Handle

**with guest minister
the Reverend Amanda Aikman**

Sometimes we wish we had a "Control-Z" button to push to erase our rash action, unkind words, or thoughtless decision. But the recent book *Success through Failure* teaches us that all of our successful technology came about precisely because of failures. Let's see how this might apply

to our own personal and corporate lives. Special attention will be given to Zinedine Zidane's infamous head butt at the World Cup championship game.

The Reverend Amanda Aikman is a playwright and spiritual director. She lives in Everett and serves Northlake UU Church in Kirkland as consulting minister.

Lay Leader: Bill G.

October 29th— On Being Fully Human

with guest speaker Sam Magill

Join local poet Sam Magill in an exploration of the spiritual challenges of owning our humanity. What does it mean to "show up," every day, in every situation, as fully human? How can we respect and embrace every other, with their rumpled hair, their sometimes prickly personalities, even with their body of beliefs we thoroughly disdain. Where do we find the courage? Where do we find the spiritual practices to call ourselves "beloved" and declare the other beloved?

Sam is formally educated in biology, eonology, business administration, and coaching, but his best learning has been through the school of living. He is a consultant and coach to executives and factory workers, health care administrators and front-line practitioners; equally at home in the offices and factory floor of a Fortune 50 company, the vestry of a 1000-year-old church, the wilds of Africa or in conversation at a coffee shop. He blends his knowledge of the earth with his deep understanding of human nature. A deeply spiritual man, his poetry speaks to the everyday experiences of "ordinary" human beings.

Lay Leader: Terri A.

Congregational News & Events

Women's Discussion Group, October 2nd

The UUWI Women's Discussion Group will start its new season of thought-provoking and fun talks at 7:00 p.m., October 2nd at the home of Camille L.

(Call Camille for directions.) Don't be shy; new members are

welcome. We have not picked a topic for this discussion as yet so please email suggestions to Camille. Our talks have ranged from the spiritual ("Why I'm a Unitarian") to thoughts about our mothers and fathers and more. Come at 7:00 p.m. for refreshments and chat. The discussion starts at 7:30.

North End Koffee Klatch (NEKK) Changes Time! October 7th

NEKK will meet from 1:00 to 3:00 p.m. on Saturday afternoon October 7th at Whidbey General Hospital's West Wind cafeteria.

Book Group, October 10th

The UU Book Group will meet at 7:30 p.m. on Tuesday October 10th at the home of Baird and Peggy B. to discuss *Dreams from My Father* by Barack Obama. Obama, the U.S. senator from Illinois, graduated from Harvard Law School in 1991, where he served as the first African-American president of the Harvard Law Review. He has worked as a community organizer, civil rights attorney, and law professor. In his memoir, he tells of his search for a workable meaning to his life as the son of a black African father and a white American mother. It begins in New York, where he learns that his father has been killed in a car accident. This sudden death inspires an emotional odyssey, eventually to Kenya where he meets the African side of his family, confronts the bitter truth of his father's life, and at last reconciles his divided inheritance. Please let Baird know if you plan to attend.

Adopt-A-Road Cleanup, October 14th

We'll meet at 9:45 a.m. at the parking lot at Trinity to carpool to Mutiny Bay Road. Wear comfy shoes and weather-appropriate clothing as we pick up litter along Mutiny Bay Road between Bush Point Road and the highway. Please let Nancy Snow know if you plan to help. She'll have hard hats, vests and litter tools for all.

South End Koffee Klatch (SEKK) on the Move! October 25th

SEKK will meet at the Rockhopper in Clinton from 10:00 to noon on Wednesday October 25th. The Rockhopper is owned by Dan and Rene S., longtime UUCWers! (SEKK will be a

moveable feast because of the many great places to have coffee on the south end.)

Chaminade Trio Concert and Fundraiser Postponed

Peggy B. has taken a fall and fractured her kneecap, so the Chaminade Concert must be postponed until spring. We all send Peggy love and wishes for a speedy recovery.

Winter Eliot, December 28th-January 1st

It's not too soon to make your commitment to yourselves and your family to spend December 28th through January 1st (New Year's Day) with your UU extended family at Eliot Institute family camp. This year's theme speaker is the Reverend Patrick O'Neill, a former Northwesterner and a dynamic and powerful speaker. He will lead us in a discussion of "Reasonable Ethics in an Intolerant Age."

Eliot offers a retreat from the busyness of the holidays in a warm and cozy, friendly atmosphere. Winter traditions include music and singing, letting go of "old" stuff in a boat burning on the lagoon, and an intergenerational dance followed by a midnight feast. There is time for naps, quiet and rest, too.

Seabeck Conference Center is located amid tall cedar and fir trees on the shores of the Hood Canal, at the foot of the Olympic Mountains. Meals are served family-style. Come and find out how good life still is and how simple happiness can be. More information and registration forms are available at www.eliotinstitute.org or 206-374-2497. Look for flyers at the membership table at Sunday services and contact registrar@eliotinstitute.org to register. Questions? See Lois C.

Eastshore UU Adult Education Offering: Islam 101

This is a course with Mohammad Fani about the message of Islam and its relevance in the contemporary world with an emphasis on the American perspective. There are six sessions in this interactive course including an introduction, the fundamentals of Islam, the meaning of faith in Islam, the meaning of virtues in Islam, contemporary issues such as human and women's rights, pluralism, and democracy, and finally, where we go from here.

The course will meet at Eastshore Unitarian

in Bellevue from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m. on six Thursdays : November 2nd, 9th, 16th, and 30th and December 7th and 14th. The cost is \$25 and there is a required text. The deadline for enrollment is October 29th. For more information, please contact: Dianne Upton 425-747-3780 or ll_assistant@eastshoreunitarian.org.

President's Column

by Toyon C., UUCWI President

On the chance that you have been wondering about the UUCWI Board of Trustees (BOT), I offer a bit of explanation. This dedicated group of seven meets monthly to consider questions of policy, finances and other such matters that may appropriately come to it. The minutes of these monthly meetings are posted on the UUCWI website to let everyone know what has taken place – what decisions have been made.

Any member of UUCWI is welcome to attend a BOT meeting. No reservation or advance notice of your visit is required. We meet at 6:00 p.m. on the first Thursday of each month at Trinity. The first ten minutes of the agenda time are available for visiting members to express their thoughts – then the BOT must get on with the business on its agenda. Visitors are welcome to stay and observe the BOT in action.

If you have something you would like the BOT to consider, please submit it to me at least one week in advance of the meeting date. I can then include it as part of the agenda of the upcoming meeting. Last minute items run the risk of being postponed if the agenda is already full.

The key word in all of this is “welcome” – which all members are!

Budget

One important matter considered at length at the last BOT meeting was the operating budget for this year. The budget, as approved by the congregation at the annual meeting, assumed more pledges (income) than were actually received creating a shortfall of about \$4,000. This is not good. The Board scrutinized the budgeted expenses and determined that several “cuts” were in order.

This leads to a side note about our choir. We have such a musical congregation and the choir

has been so important – to participants and listeners alike – that it was with sadness that the BOT accepted the recent resignation of Heidi Hoelting as the choir director. Heidi simply needed time and energy for other things, which is understandable. The choir will continue this year without a paid director.

With the unexpected decrease in this expense, with several other lesser changes to the budget, and with the expectation (and hope) that some additional pledges will come to us in the coming months, the BOT feels comfortable that we are, after all, financially sound for this year.

Money is ever an important topic with the BOT. Unfortunately, money is very necessary for UUCWI to be who we are and who we want to be. We must pay rent (until we have our own home); salaries for our minister, CRE Director and Coordinator; fees for guest speakers and musicians; insurance and more. We will be talking more about money in the coming months.

If ever you have a question about the BOT, the budget or UUCWI in general, please don't hesitate to contact me or any other BOT member. We welcome the chance to chat!

It Takes a Village -- Worshipping with Children

Greet children as well as adults. Be as intentional about knowing children's names as you are about adults' names.

Be patient with the learning process — it won't always be smooth!

When children share, respond to them as participants in worship.

Have expectations and encourage children to behave appropriately during worship.

Be understanding if parents need to take younger ones out and then return during worship.

Open yourself to what you can learn from our children as well as what you might be able to teach them.

From Our Minister

Dear Islanders,

As we move into our “normal” routine of Sunday afternoon services and the “biz” of doing church, we enter a time of year that I have always loved. Autumn is probably my favorite season, with its bright colors, crisp air, quiet nights, and the bustle of new beginnings in many areas of our common life.



This year we are revamping some of the ways we do things at UUCWI. I’ve been working with the Caring Connections team to make it easier to stay connected to each other and with the Membership team to re-think how we receive visitors and new members.

In addition, I will be spending time with a new Social Action team to reinvigorate our Social Action efforts. You’ll hear more about that in coming weeks.

One of the things I discovered this summer was that UUCWI is blessed to have a member with extensive experience in a particular kind of Social Action outreach and we will have a chance to work with her in her particular area of expertise.

That person is Hildred C. I’ve been visiting her every once in awhile, since she can’t always get to church on Sunday, and life in an Oak Harbor adult home for less-mobile ladies can get pretty boring! So one day I asked her, “Hildred, if you had

your druthers, what would you like to offer to UUCWI?” I was delighted when she responded, “I would love to set up and manage a letter-writing table to contact our elected representatives.”

It turns out that she did this for years in several different UU congregations across the country. Hildred is well-known across the UUA for her political activism and her interest in social causes. This summer she was featured in the blog of one of her former students, who credits Hildred (who was her teacher in a Kansas school) with her becoming a social activist herself.

So we are fortunate to have her among us and that she is offering this skill and opportunity. We are planning to have her table set up at least once a month, probably on the Sundays I’m preaching, with supplies, paper, envelopes, stamps, and sample letters (and email addresses, if that’s more convenient for writers). She will suggest issues for us to write about and will coach us on how to do it most effectively.

Of course, we’ll need to make sure she gets a ride to church as often as possible. Kent and Sally and Pat Lewis have volunteered to help out a couple of times a month, but if there are others in the congregation who would be willing to help Hildred get to church, it would be great! Let me know if you can help.

Much love,

The Universal Mystic

Have you ever longed to be a mystic? What is mysticism, anyway? How is it relevant in these turbulent times at the dawn of the 21st century? How do science and mysticism relate? What is the practical value of mysticism in everyday life? How can mysticism serve the world?

Join us to delve into these questions and explore universal truths common to the mystical journey from diverse traditions, drawing on Hindu, Christian, Buddhist, and Sufi sources. Weekly gatherings will emphasize contemplative practices and disciplines for deepening mystical consciousness in daily life; honoring the feminine divine, integrating science and spirit, and practical service to others and the world community.

Facilitated by Cynthia Brix and Will Keepin, who lead retreats and service projects in the U.S., India, and South Africa. Cynthia is a lifelong UU and a candidate for the UU ministry. Will is the founder of Satyana Institute a nonprofit organization whose mission is to support individuals, communities, and organizations to combine inner work of the heart with outer service in the world.

This multifaith exploration of spiritual love and service will meet on Tuesdays from September 26th through October 31st from 7:00 until about 9:00 p.m. at 6127 Heather Drive, Clinton. All are welcome. There is no charge, but donations are welcome. For more information visit www.satyana.org or call 579-4007.

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**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)

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 Snow.

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/
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