



## 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/)

## October 2007

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	<b>1</b> 9-11am Worship Com.	<b>2</b> 7:30-9pm Member- ship Com. at Debbie Z's, North End Study Group time tba (p5)	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>7</b> 2pm: Choir Rehearsal Service 4-5pm: An Attitude of Gratitude (p2)	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b> 6pm: Book Group Dinner (p3)	<b>10</b> 9-11am Board of Trustees at Trinity	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b> 1-3pm: North End Koffee Klatch at Whidbey General Hospital (p7)
<b>14</b> Service 4-5pm: One Woman's Heart (p2) 5:15pm: Special Meeting to approve dissolution of bank loan (p6)	<b>15</b> 4-5pm: Religious Education Com. at Trinity	<b>16</b> 10am-12 noon: South End Koffee Klatch at Rockhoppers (p7)	<b>17</b> 6:30pm: Women's Group Potluck (p2)	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b> Newsletter Deadline
<b>21</b> Service 4-5pm: Source #2: Words and Deeds of Prophetic Women and Men (p2)	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b> 7-9pm: Conversation on Source #2 meets at Kit's house (p4)
<b>28</b> Service 4-5pm: Now is the Time (p2) Association Sunday	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>

**October 7: An Attitude of Gratitude****Speaker: Rev. Kit Ketcham**

This service was originally intended to be offered on August 19 as we began our new year together as a faith community, but because of the weather, we were small in number and met at the B./A. residence instead of on the land. Rev. Ketcham will speak about how we nurture and grow the Beloved Community as we nurture each other.

*Lay Leader: Toyon C.*

**October 14: “One Woman’s Heart”****Speaker: Angela Riggins**

On this Solidarity Sunday, the Sunday nearest to Oct. 11, National Coming Out Day, our guest speaker will be Angela Riggins, who will share a journey about being an ordained Evangelical/Pentecostal minister in the boot heel area of Southern Missouri. The struggle of 'coming out' forced the loss of her church family, ministry and immediate family all in one night. Trying to find the God of the Universe in all things became very difficult. Challenging Christian friends wanted her to believe this lifestyle was one of choice not birth. Now, the God of the Universe that she has found has been bringing all things full circle, healing her family, and opening doors once again.

*Lay Leader: Rev. Kit Ketcham*

**October 21: “Source #2: Words and Deeds of Prophetic Women and Men”****Speaker: Rev. Kit Ketcham**

Unitarian Universalism has at its heart several major sources of wisdom and right action. In a series of sermons during this religious year, each Source will be examined for the ways in which it shapes our individual and collective belief systems. Rev. Kit Ketcham will speak on some of the women and men whose thoughts and deeds have influenced the development of Unitarian Universalism. (An evening conversation on Source #2 will follow on Oct. 27; see details on p4 of this newsletter.)

*Lay Leader: Mavis C.*

**October 28: “Now is the Time”****Speaker: Rev. Kit Ketcham**

On this Association Sunday, members of UUCWI will offer their reflections on the many

inspirational and spiritual gifts of Unitarian Universalism, as we look ahead to our own future here at UUCWI and the ways we reach out to the larger community with our message. A special offering will be taken for use in growing our faith locally and nationally.

*Lay Leader: Rev. Kit Ketcham*

**News and Events****Women’s Group Potluck:****Wednesday, October 17 at 6:30pm**

Come to Camille L.’s house at 4878 Saratoga Rd. near Langley at 6:30pm with a potluck contribution. (Coffee, tea, water, utensils and DESSERT provided.) Chat, play a game, eat, drink and have a discussion about what it means to be a woman today and spin this year’s topics from the ideas we come up with that night. If you haven’t come in a while, come for the fun and connections and if you’re new, come for those reasons and to find out what the discussion group is all about!

*~Camille L.*

**Building Committee Report**

What a wonderful groundbreaking celebration we had on September 9!! We hope you all saw the front-page article about it in the South Whidbey Record on September 12. Many thanks go to all who helped with that event and brought such wonderful food. And special thanks to Tim and Paula K. for providing the delicious wild Alaskan salmon!

Foundation work began on September 17 and as this is being written, concrete is being poured!

Meanwhile, Tim K. has offered to be our Sweat Equity Coordinator. Several years ago, during the capital campaign, many people filled out a Sweat Equity Pledge. If you were not here at the time, or would like to revise yours, please contact Tim to request a new form. We’d love to have your help!

When it comes time to call for sweat equity, Tim will make every effort to schedule the right number of people with the right skills for each job. We want to use our volunteers efficiently and with care and consideration. You can contact Tim in Coupeville or via email. *When you do work on the project, be sure to sign in and out!! This is very important for insurance reasons.*

The first sweat equity job is a relatively small one, involving some sanding and varnishing of the wooden pieces that will become the trusses in the meeting hall, requiring only a couple of people for a few days. All the foundation and framing work will be done by contractors. (They can do it more quickly and efficiently than we can!) But when it comes time to do the siding, we'll probably need as many able hands as we can get.

So, the schedule is a moving target, but we're making progress! ~ *The Building Committee*

### **Book Group meets Tuesday October 9 at 6pm to discuss *The Painted Veil***

Due to unforeseen events in September, our discussion of *The Painted Veil* was postponed to our October meeting (and discussion of *The Soul's Code* cancelled). So there's still time to read this wonderful book published in 1925 by Somerset Maugham and then come and enjoy the movie and a pot-luck dinner at the C.'s on Tuesday October 9th! Following dinner and the movie, we'll discuss the book -- and the movie -- and compare. We'll take a close look at Maugham the writer too and, of course, there's lots to talk about with respect to how and why the film director and producers handled Maugham's story as they did.

Already seen the film on the big screen? Come anyway! Never participated in our book group before? Make this your first time!

Dinner and the movie will begin at 6pm. Mavis will make lasagna for all. Please bring a salad, dessert, bread, wine or other beverage to help fill out the meal!

*Please RSVP so that Mavis knows how many to make lasagna for! See you there!*

P.S. from Sherry A.: The topic for November is political candidates. This is an opportunity to read a book of your choice written by or about a political candidate for the 2008 election and then share with the group what interested you the most. There are many titles out there. Hillary Clinton and John McCain have four; Barack Obama and John Edwards have two; Sam Brownback, Christopher Dodd, Rudy Giuliani, Dennis Kucinich, Bill Richardson, Mitt Romney and Tom Tancredo each have one.

~*Joan G.*



*From Our Minister*

Dear Island Friends,

I've been thinking a lot lately about what it means to be a Unitarian Universalist here on Whidbey Island. We recently made a very public statement of our presence here on the island, inviting all to come take a look at what we are doing, when we held our groundbreaking ceremony in September. This means that we now have a reputation to uphold, since we are now more visible than we have ever been.

That visibility implies some things: that we want people to come be with us; that we want to welcome all who are interested in liberal pluralistic religion; that we have a message that can change the world for the better; that we are eager to share that message; that we are committed to the betterment of individuals, the island community, and the world.

We've never been a hoity-toity bunch. Yet it's possible, maybe even likely, that some perceive us as being a bit exclusive, emphasizing education and wealth above our common humanity. This is the reputation that Unitarians had in the long-ago days when Boston Brahmins dominated Unitarianism; luckily, the Universalists brought a less snooty attitude into the mix and today we have a much broader, healthier melange of people in our congregations.

This is not to say that we don't still struggle with the issues of class and race. And I think it's a worthy topic for us to address. When I read the article in the UU World recently entitled "Not My Father's Religion", I was struck by the ways I both agreed and disagreed with it.

It occurred to me that when people feel a bit left out in a conversation between UUs, it may be that we are unconsciously emphasizing the many ways we are different---the education, the travel, the money, the job or career---instead of focusing on the many commonalities we share as human beings. Our common ground is pretty easy to define. It's honesty in public life, concern for fairness in the workplace, in health care, in housing and in civil rights. It's peace issues, even though we may have different approaches to

solving conflicts at home and abroad. It's the wellbeing of our children, no matter where they go to school. It's satisfying and honest work, whether that's in an office, outdoors on the land, or in an institution.

I'll be preaching on this in a few weeks; I > hope you'll be able to attend that day! I miss you when you're gone.

Much love,  
Kit

### **Auction News**

SAVE THE DATE! Saturday, February 2, 2008 is the date for our AUCTION and CHILI COOKOFF! Dust off your cowboy hat and boots, get out that special chili recipe and enter the contest for prizes and fame. This great dinner will be followed by our annual auction. Start thinking about your donations to the auction—they do NOT have to be cowboy themed!

*~Camille L. for the Auction Committee*

### **Conversation on Source #2, Sat. Oct. 27 at 7pm**

Conversation on Source #2 will feature a "reader's theatre" experience of one of the playlets from Charles Erskine Scott Wood's "Heavenly Discourse." The script has several characters, ranging from Voltaire and Rabelais to Margaret Fuller and Carrie Nation, plus God and Jesus and assorted others. We will meet at 7pm on Saturday, Oct. 27, for beverages, snacks, and good conversation about this Source of Unitarian Universalism, at Kit's home, 1225 Bush Point Road, Freeland. Call for directions (331-2163).

*~Rev. Kit Ketcham*

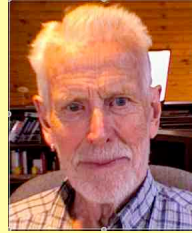
### **Ushering**

One or two ushers are needed for each service and we need YOU to volunteer! Ushers arrive between 3:15-3:30, set up the sanctuary for the service, greet people at the door and put the sanctuary back in order afterwards. The list of what to do is in the cupboard at the rear of the sanctuary with the hymnals. Please email Mavis ([mavis@cauffman.net](mailto:mavis@cauffman.net)) if you can volunteer or sign up at the next service you attend.

*~Camille L. for the UUCWI Board*

### **Help Wanted**

Church Administrative Assistant for UUCWI. 40 hours a month, computer skills essential, \$6,600 annually (12 months). Contact Pat L., 360-240-0540.



### **The Prez Sez . . .**

#### **GOD**

Let's talk about inspiration. I'm always moved when attending "This I Believe" Sunday. The most astounding beliefs and tales are revealed. These brave people are exposing who they are, baring their souls. Ah, what Courage! But then, they are proud to tell who they are.

When Ken M. stoutly proclaimed "I'm an atheist," it amazed not a few. What he proclaimed to believe in, his essence, was the inspiring part.

I had great wonder about the cosmos when I was a boy growing up in Carmel: the beach, the roar of the surf, the heavens on a clear night, loving parents. I could sense and feel these. When it came to things of the Bible, something my parents shared little, I first had disbelief and then outright disdain. I was not going to be taken in by the biblical nonsense of the adult world and their God, a white man with a long beard who dispensed favors. What I was told about God I put down as a lot of hooey. I became an atheist.

But I do have these feelings and physical reactions when I see or hear something of great beauty or sublime truth. My throat constricts. Tears well up. I am about to sob. I can't continue. Such as when I first heard Quando el Pobre (When the Poor Ones):

**When the poor ones, who have nothing,**

**Still are giving;**

**When the thirsty pass the cup,**

**Water to share;**

**When the wounded offer others**

**Strength and Healing;**

**We see God, here by our side,**

**Walking our way;**

**We see God, here by our side,**

**Walking our way.**

When singing this I feel God. Am I still an atheist?

*~Baird B.*

## What Does Membership Mean?

*Coming together is a beginning;  
keeping together is progress;  
working together is success.*

*Author unknown*

Becoming a member of the Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Whidbey Island means that you have signed a pledge card, signed the Membership Book and have attended one of our membership classes. Is that all there is to being a member? What does it really mean?

We have often heard people describe Unitarian Universalism in negative terms – i.e. what it is not. We don't require belief in a creed or dogma. We don't require that you confess your sins. We don't require that you tithe. We don't require strict obedience to some authority figure. Some interpret this to mean it is pretty easy to be a UU.

“But friend, we ask you to be each other's shelter. We ask you to be sanctuary to each other. We ask you to be human beings.” So says Rev. Victoria Safford of the Unitarian Society in Northampton, MA. We ask you to care for one another, to notice when someone is ill or in need of comfort. We ask you to help to teach each other's children. We ask that you be in community.

We ask you to run this place, to organize and join and chair committees, to come to work parties, to make coffee occasionally, to bring flowers and to usher occasionally too. Who else is going to do this? We do not have hired staff to do these jobs. It is up to us. We ask you to read congregational policies, initiate change when needed, and then to be part of our democratic process.

We ask you to celebrate with us – to take pride in being a Welcoming Congregation. Come to our annual meetings and our service auction and the salmon bake. Be a part of this community. We ask that you know that unless each of us is fully engaged here, we are not becoming all we know we can be. We ask you to fully belong.

We ask you for a financial pledge each year. It takes time and talent to run a congregation – ours! And it takes money to pay the rent and to purchase the time and talent of other people who can do what we cannot: our musicians, printing, insurance, administrative support, teachers, minister. We ask that you help pay for our

congregation. No one else will. We treasure our loving community and want to see it thrive. We are each other's shelter. We are each other's sanctuary. Amen, shalom, salaam, blessed be.  
~Lois C., Membership Committee Chair

## North End Study Group

Come to discuss books and issues on the theme: Build Your Own Theology. Tuesday, October 2. Contact Sally E. for time and place.

## Choir News

Oct 7 will be our first choir rehearsal, to be started promptly at 2pm. We'll perform on Oct 21. Special thanks to those who have agreed to take a turn leading the choir. Nola will lead in December for our music service Dec 16 (rehearse Dec. 9) and CRE will present a Pageant on Dec 23. Frank will lead in November (rehearse Nov 11, perform Nov.18). Please put these dates on your calendar!

Our UU Music Committee now consists of: Peggy, Frank and Linda, with Marilyn taking a break for health reasons. We welcome new members if anyone is interested.

Linda has revised her job description, reflecting the new reality. Any choir members who want to help with CRE music are welcome. I meet with the children from 3:30 to 3:50pm weekly.

Judith Burns, wife of Leah Burns, the new conductor of the Saratoga Chamber Players, will be helping us on piano on some days when Nola can't make it.

Saratoga Chamber Players has an ambitious concert season planned, starting Saturday, October 6, 7pm, in the Performing Arts Center in the Coupeville Middle School.

On Sunday, October 7, at 7pm in the South Whidbey High School Auditorium, the same program will be performed.

It is an all-Stravinsky concert, featuring "The Soldier's Tale", "Pulcinella Suite" and the "Bluebird Variations" from Tchaikovsky's "Sleeping Beauty Ballet" arranged by Stravinsky.

UU members playing include Siri, Peggy, Michael, and Linda.

Music for October:

Oct. 7 Mavis, on the harp, Oct. 14 tba, Oct. 21 choir, Oct 28 Elaine Woods and her group

~Linda G.

## Religious Education News

Hi Everyone,

Well, here we are in the new RE year. We have our great group of kids with us again. I'm sure you'll see them from time to time. You might even see a new face or two. If you see a cute three year-old boy around, it's likely to be Felix. He has joined the pre-school class and we're so happy to have him. What a great addition he is!

Speaking of the pre-school class, we have some exciting events on the horizon that will directly affect these little ones. UUCWI is sponsoring a Spirit Play training Nov. 3. Spirit Play is a UU program for preschool and elementary aged children. Many congregations in Puget Sound are using or planning to use this curriculum, and so the training has attracted Directors of Religious Education and Religious Education teachers from UU congregations throughout the Puget Sound area and as far away as Spokane and Eugene, OR.

We will have a full house of 13 participants, plus four of our own: Jennifer T., Frances W., Mavis C. and me! By hosting this training, we were able to provide this training to UUCWI at no cost to us. For more information on Spirit Play, please check [www.spiritplay.net](http://www.spiritplay.net). We are slated to kick off Spirit Play at UUCWI in January 2008. We are hoping that some of our artistic, or even not so artistic folks, will want to step up and help us create manipulatives for the stories. So tap into your right brain and get the creative juices flowing, and I'll have more information for you after the training!

In other news, Evan will be joining the Middle School Conference at the end of September. We're thrilled that he is getting this opportunity. Be sure to check in with him on how it went. While this isn't a first for UUCWI, it's the first time in a long time. I'm especially appreciative of the folks over at Evergreen UU in Marysville for sponsoring Evan. That's it for now, but as usual, stay tuned. We have a lot more planned for the 2007-2008 RE year!

With warmth from the flame,

~Lorie W., Director of Religious Education

## UUCWI Directory

The new UUCWI Directory of Members and Friends will go to press the first week in October.

If there is anything about your entry in last year's directory that should be changed, or if you were not included and would like to be, please let Mavis know.

## Legal Notice of Congregational Meeting

There will be a congregational meeting Sunday, October 14, 2007 at 5:15pm after the church service at Trinity. In order to obtain our \$250,000.00 from the UUA, they require we use specific wording of a congregational vote to obligate us to the terms of our loan. We voted positively on this at the last Annual Meeting, but more exact wording is required:

*Congregational Vote:*

"To borrow from Unitarian Universalist Association (Association) the sum of Two Hundred fifty Thousand Dollars (\$250,000.00) to be paid in or within seven (7) years, said loan to be secured by a right of reverter in the congregation's property, a mortgage, deed of trust, and/or such other security interests as the Association may require in connection with said loan, and shall be upon such other terms and conditions as required by the Association; and to authorize the President and the Treasurer of the congregation to sign, acknowledge and deliver on behalf of the congregation any and all documents deemed necessary by them, in their sole discretion, to complete the loan, including, but not limited to a promissory note and a mortgage (or deed of trust), and, if the by-laws do not already contain such a provision, to add a provision to the congregation's by-laws providing that all property of the congregation be granted to the Association in the event of dissolution."

In addition we must replace the wording of Article XIII-*Dissolution of our by-laws* with the following: "In the event of the dissolution of the congregation, all outstanding debts shall be paid and the remaining assets, both real and personal, and including all property heretofore and hereinafter donated to said congregation, shall become the property of the Unitarian Universalist Association, 25 Beacon Street, Boston, Massachusetts, or its successor, subject to all applicable laws."

~Baird B. for the UUCWI Board

## Hospitality

Have you had an opportunity to view the DVD "Ideas for Growth"? If you serve on any of our congregation's standing committees, ask your chair or Board liaison for a copy of this inspiring DVD developed by the Jefferson Unitarian Church of Golden, Colorado. There are several copies being circulated via our committees. If you aren't on a committee and want an opportunity to view this DVD please contact me. Among other things, the DVD's message reminds us all of the need to be mindful of how we greet and welcome visitors to our midst. Each week a member of our Membership Committee sets up the visitor's table in the hall just inside the door and greets visitors as they enter. But it would be helpful to have a few more greeters. If you would like to occasionally serve as a greeter to help our visitors feel warmly welcomed please contact me. And, even if you aren't an 'official' greeter, please watch for newcomers and introduce yourself during the coffee hour. It can be a little unnerving to walk into a room full of strangers. Let's not allow a visitor to feel like a stranger once he or she walks through our door.

~Lois C., Membership Chair

## Letter from Heidi H.

Dear UU family,

I would like to share some exciting news with you. I have just accepted a position as Music Director for the West Seattle Unitarian Universalist Fellowship, beginning September 1. The West Seattle Fellowship has bent over backwards to make it possible for me to make this commute, including offering me free lodgings for a couple of nights a week.

I will be in Seattle Mondays and Sundays for choir rehearsals and services, every week. Unfortunately, that precludes my continuing to be involved with UUCWI as I have been. I will miss you all greatly, but hope to stay in touch. I may be able to continue with the social action committee and women's group, but will not be able to contribute to the services anymore.

I love you all very much and want to thank you for making it possible for me to share my music, ideas, and life journey with you. Having been the wife of a builder for 31 years and bearing up under all the stress that entails, I can't muster

any enthusiasm for helping build the new church (forgive me), but when the building project is completed, I may be able to offer my music skills once again.

Love to you all, Heidi H.

## Koffee Klatches: Best Conversation on the Island!

*North End:* 1-3 pm, Saturday, Oct. 13, the North End Koffee Klatch will meet in the Whidbey General Cafeteria.

*South End:* 10am-12noon, Tuesday, Oct. 16, the South End Koffee Klatch will meet at Rockhoppers in Clinton.

## Maher Project Presentation

On Friday evening, October 5, at 7pm at the Marsh House on Maxwellton Road, Sister Lucy Kurien and her Co-director Hira Mullah will be speaking about their non-sectarian shelter project in India. Please bring your friends to hear about their remarkable work on behalf of destitute women and children. Cynthia B. and Will K. are hosting a country-wide fund raising tour for the Maher project.

## THE SACRED HOOP

Black Elk. Native American.

*(Read at the Ground Breaking Ceremony by Baird)*

Then I was standing on the highest mountain of them all,  
 And round beneath me was the whole hoop of the world.  
 And while I stood there I saw more than I can tell  
 And understood more than I saw.  
 For I was seeing in the sacred manner the shape of all things of the spirit.  
 And the shapes as they must live together like one being.  
 And I saw that the sacred hoop of my people  
 Was one of many hoops that make one circle,  
 Wide as daylight and starlight.  
 And in the center grew one mighty flowering tree  
 To shelter all the children of one mother and one father.  
 And I saw that it was holy.

**Unitarian Universalist Congregation  
of Whidbey Island  
2007 - 2008 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

**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.

**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/  
newsletter.html](http://www.whidbey.com/uucwi/newsletter.html). Last names, phone numbers, and  
addresses are deleted from the online version for  
members' privacy.

**Communications Committee:**

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Mavis C., Church Administrator  
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