



Island Passages

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

October 2008

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2	3	4
5 Service 10am: Songs and Stories about Life (p2)	6	7 9am: Worship Committee Meeting	8	9	10 9am-3pm BOT Meeting 7pm Movie Night (p6)	11 1-3pm: North End Koffee Klatch at Whidbey General Hospital (p3)
12 Service 10am: Voting Rights (p2) 11am: Choir Practice	13	14 7pm: Book Group (p4)	15 7pm: Moral Principles Conversation (p5)	16	17	18
19 8:45 am: Choir Practice Service 10am: The House that All of Us Built Together: Democracy in Action (p2)	20 Newsletter Deadline	21 10am-12 noon: South End Koffee Klatch at Rockhoppers (p3)	22	23	24	25 7pm: Conversation on the First Principle (p5)
26 Service 10am: Experiencing The Day of the Dead (p2)	27	28	29	30	31	November 1 Services Auction

Oct. 5: Songs and Stories about Life**Speaker: Rev. Annie Holmes**

Our guest speaker today is the Rev. Annie Holmes, of the Umpqua UU Church. Born and raised in Manitowoc, Wisconsin. Annie's religious search has included seven years in a Franciscan order in Manitowoc, fourteen years as a Lutheran, which included some Lutheran ministerial studies, a Masters of Arts degree in World Religions, and a Masters of Divinity degree from Meadville-Lombard Unitarian Universalist Seminary in Chicago.

*Worship Leader: Rev. Kit Ketcham**Membership Table Greeter: Lois C***Oct. 12: Voting Rights****Script Readers: Sandy Welch, Mary G, John Long**

In this election year, we remind ourselves of the struggles and sacrifices of those, many of them Unitarian and Universalist, who worked so many years for women's suffrage and civil rights. We'll also clarify what we as a faith community passionate about social justice can and cannot do to lobby for issues and remain true to the rules of separation of church and state. Mavis and friends will present this service.

*Worship Leader: Mavis C**Membership Table Greeter: Ken M***Oct. 19: The House that All of Us Built Together: Democracy in Action****Speaker: Rev. Kit Ketcham**

Over the past several years, the combined efforts of a myriad of UUCWiers created our new home. We have experienced differences of opinion, joy, sadness, frustration, and satisfaction in the process. Democracy is a messy business and building a home together is an exercise in democracy. On this Grand Opening Sunday, we invite our larger community to worship with us and think about how this new home reflects our Fifth Principle.

*Worship Leader: Toyan C**Membership Table Greeter: Baird B***Oct. 26: Una Experiencia del Dia de los Muertos (Experiencing The Day of the Dead)****Speaker: Bill Graves**

Bill Graves, Ministerial Intern, Skagit UU Fellowship, will be our speaker.

Throughout most of Latin America the Day of the Dead is a three day fiesta over Halloween, All Saints and All Souls Days, honoring the lives of deceased relatives, confronting one's own mortality, and celebrating the continuation of life. The mood is definitely joyous in spite of the subject matter. Bill Graves, who has participated in and been moved by these festivals in both Mexico and Bolivia, will offer a gringo's reflections and invites everyone to help construct our own day of the dead altar by sharing a photo and/or an object associated with a dear departed one who still influences your life.

*Worship Leader: Marilyn S**Membership Table Greeter: Earl B***News and Events****Building Committee Report**

The last 10% of the project seems to be taking forever, but people who have built their own houses say this is normal and to be expected. We DID pass our final electrical inspection – which is a huge milestone. We're now awaiting inspections of the septic system, the overall property drainage plan, and the sign. Once those are passed, we'll call for the final inspection.

We've had a professional with heavy equipment grade the drive and parking areas and bring in a minimal amount of gravel. With our limited budget, that's all the hardscaping we can afford this year. The landscape committee is developing exterior planting and lighting plans. The construction account can probably fund some of this work, but more resources may be needed.

Meanwhile, mirrors, trim and other finishing details are slowly being checked off our "To Do List".

We're still awaiting the large, especially-ordered doors for the sanctuary. They are scheduled for delivery and installation Sept 23-24. We also need to install vinyl in the third classroom once most of the trim is installed and the room is clear of tools and no longer needed as a "shop".

The closing date for our UUA loan has been set for Sept 30th. Toyon shepherded all of the paperwork that the Boston lawyers requested and we have the “thumbs up” that our loan is approved for funding. Baird and Paula will be signing the documents for the congregation.

Sincere thanks to all of you who so generously stocked the kitchen! Again, due to our limited budget, we do not have a dishwasher, but we’ve allowed space for it and the proper wiring has been installed. In a situation like ours, the only washer that makes sense is one of the fast-turnaround models that can process a lot of dishes quickly. But they’re expensive, so it will have to wait. During the interim we’ll stock a good supply of rubber gloves!

As we transition from construction to maintenance, we need volunteers to help keep the building shipshape. Contact Baird to pick a week or two you could act as custodian – and know you’ll have everyone’s sincere appreciation! And let’s all pitch in to keep things neat and clean and make the cleaning crew’s job as easy as possible.

~Mavis C

Koffee Klatches: Best Conversation on the Island!

North End: 1-3 pm, Saturday, October 11, at Whidbey General Hospital's cafeteria in Coupeville. Great conversation, cheap food, good company.

South End: 10am-12noon, Tuesday Oct. 21, at Rockhopper's in Clinton. Best conversation and coffee on the south end!

Choir News

On rehearsal only days we'll meet to rehearse after the service, at 11am. On performance days we'll rehearse before the service, promptly at 8:45am.

The first rehearsal, with Linda leading, will be on Oct 12 after the service. The performance will be on October 19, which is the official grand opening day for our new building.

Marilyn will lead the choir in November, Peggy in December, Frank in January, and Nola in February.

Please let Linda know if you want to lead in other months.

~Linda G

From Our Minister

Dear Whidbey Friends,

It's been so exciting to experiment with our first meetings in our new home, and as we welcome new folks coming through our door each week, it's important to think about how we receive them, how they experience us, what we can do to help them feel comfortable right away.

I've been pleased to see so many of you step forward to welcome visitors, to show them around a bit, to offer friendliness to new children, and to help them feel comfortable. We don't want to overwhelm new folks, especially if they're shy, but we do want them to know that we're glad they're there.

We want visitors to know that UUCWI is a safe place for them and their children; we want them to join us in worship and in our many activities; we want to know their thoughts about life; we want to be helpful to them in their lives; we want to give them a place to act upon their values.

We don't want visitors to feel ignored; we don't want them to feel unsafe; we don't want new folks to go away thinking we are cliquish; we don't want them to feel overwhelmed or smothered either.

But hellos and smiles are always valued. If we see someone new standing alone, let's go say hello. One way to start a conversation is "Hi, I don't think I know you yet." If others are conversing with a new person, you can just join the group and listen. It's not hard and it helps our visitors see us as a safe and friendly place.

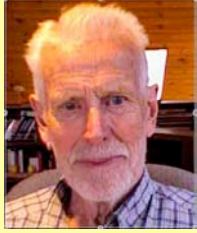
If you're a person who likes to catch up on church business after a worship service, try to put business aside until after coffee hour. The Caring Connections committee is considering having their next meeting at lunch after services. They can get their meeting time in and have a great meal as well. Maybe this strategy would work for you and your committee or the person you need to talk to.

I'm looking forward to a wonderful year together with you all in our new home.

Much love,

Kit



The Prez Says:

After the Board of Trustees meeting September 12, we adjourned into a mini-retreat facilitated by our own pro, Marilyn S. We first shared our spiritual journeys as we searched for our own faith. . Self-

disclosure was a powerful force in the bonding that took place.

We had lunch together at the church and watched an inspiring video from the Jefferson Colorado UU Fellowship on how to deal with visitors. Our congregation is pretty good about being open, outgoing and friendly to people who visit us. We have learned that after service is not the time to do church business. It is not the time to devote oneself exclusively to one's friends.

The very presence of the visitor means they have been pre-screened in a way. They are interested in what we have to offer. They are curious as to who we are. They may be hungering for liberal religious faith. They may already have decided to join us. It is up to us to establish an open, warm and accepting relation with the visitor or newcomer.

If you gift the visitor with a loving, caring concern, you may well find yourself changed for the better. Let this be our new Ethos: We are a caring, loving, accepting community. How can we be of service to you?

Baird

Book Group

The UUCWI Book Group will meet Tuesday, October 14 at 7 pm at the Bs' home in Freeland. The book being discussed is ***Summer at Little Lava***, which is an account of a summer spent in a remote, tumbledown cottage in Iceland by a writer who was recovering from a family tragedy. The author is D. Fergus who has written for the New Yorker and other publications.

It happens that we visited this place in late June this year as part of a 10 day stay in Iceland with our daughters, Siri and Lisa and their children Seth and Lily. It is the homestead where Baird's grandfather, Sigurdur B, farmed and raised

a young family, before emigrating to Canada after the death of his wife and three children in a measles epidemic. We have pictures to show of this lonely and barren place which has its own kind of beauty. All are welcome whether you have read the book or not. Call the Bs for more information at 331-1081.

~Peggy B

The Auction Is Coming November 1

Do you know that our annual auction is now on Nov. 1st? THIS Nov. 1st? Yes, the time of year has been changed to better share our resources of all kinds with the Stewardship Drive in the spring.

This year's theme is "Beach Party." Break out the Hawaiian shirts, sunglasses, and thongs. (Of course, I mean the kind worn on the feet!!!) To have an auction, we need items and events for Ken (the Big Kahuna) M to auction off. Download the promise form from our website or get one from Moondoggie or Gidget (otherwise known as John and Camille L) at Sunday services and TURN THEM IN no later than October 26th, only five weeks away! Come to the beach party--we'll have a surfin' good time!

~Camille L

Chalice Lighters

This is a help-one-another program among UU Pacific Northwest District member congregations whereby individual congregation members commit to respond to three annual requests for money (minimum \$10 each time). These contributions help PNWD congregations with capital improvement projects. We benefited from a building grant of \$8000 in 2005, and are eligible again soon.

To qualify for a grant, a congregation has to have an impeccable record:

1. Fulfill two PNWD Honor Society criteria having to do with sending assessed funds to PNWD.
2. Have at least 30% of its members be participating Chalice lighters.
3. Have a formal growth plan and show progress in it.

As of last year we qualify on all three grounds, but our growth in new members means we need to add participants to remain eligible. The board

would like to apply for another grant (for perhaps a better sanctuary sound system and sound treatment or parking lot paving or lighting).

It's easy: sign your name on their form, and agree to respond to a maximum of three appeals a year (total minimum \$30 per person).

Malcolm F is this year's coordinator. Chalice Lighter and PNWD literature is on the rack outside the church office Please sign up!

~Malcolm F

Taking Stands on Moral Issues:

A Conversation

This past spring, UUCWI leaders, feeling strongly about the issue of torture in our world, polled the congregation by email to find out if there was sufficient support to display a banner with the words "Torture is a Moral Issue". There were several very positive responses and no negative responses to the poll and so, acting in good faith, the banner was purchased and erected at the entrance to our property.

The banner was up for several weeks and many positive responses came in again, but so did some negative responses, from people who had not responded to the email poll, either not receiving it or not realizing its importance. Most folks with a more negative take wondered about the message the sign might send to our already-stressed military families.

On October 15, at 7 p.m. in our new sanctuary, we will have a chance to discuss the issue of torture as a moral issue, in a safe environment, facilitated by our own Sarah Richards. We hope that all who would like to weigh in on this topic will do so. It is also our hope that we can talk about what it means to take a congregational stand on moral issues and what the parameters of such a stand should be.

How should we determine, democratically, whether the congregation should take a public stand on an issue? How can we assure our members and friends that it is okay to have a different point of view? How can we disagree without harming our community? How much support should there be before taking a stand--- 51%, 75%, 100%, consensus? Or something else?

The information gained from this evening of friendly conversation will aid our Board in creating policies for the future, so that all opinions

can be heard and decisions made which reflect the values of the community.

Sarah R is a longtime member of UUCWI and the owner of Lavender Wind Farm. She has an extensive background in group facilitation and counseling.

Please put Oct. 15, 7 p.m., on your calendar and come join this conversation. Refreshments will be served.

~Rev. Kit Ketcham

Conversation on Principle #5: The Right of Conscience and Use of the Democratic Process

Our October Conversation on the Principles will address Principle #5, which is appropriate for this election season. We will meet at Kit's, with socializing at 7 pm and conversation at 7:30 pm. on Sat. Oct. 25. Call 331-2163 for directions.

~Rev. Kit Ketcham

We Need YOU! To Usher and Help Maintain the Building

If everyone volunteered to usher once each year, the job would be covered! Please contact Earl B to sign up for a day. We also need folks to sign up for one or two-week shifts keeping the building shipshape. (We cannot afford to pay a custodian at this point.) Contact Baird to pick your week.

A History of Our Congregation

Malcolm F has been engaged to write a history of our congregation. As we mark the end of the first phase of our congregational life and take possession of our new building, we need to have a record of our vibrant journey for those who follow. Welcome him into your home as he undertakes this important work.

~Baird B

A New Idea for UUCWI Activists (longing to find something to sink their teeth into and work with others)

As a congregation we are diverse in our interests in the areas of Social Action and Peace and Justice. Some like to study and educate, some like to take action and demonstrate. The small but persistent Peace and Justice Committee met regularly last year and managed to produce a tee-shirt and a presentation on Justice Sunday. There are so many ways to go at these issues that it was a little overwhelming for four to six people, to say the least.

We are proposing to convene a Social Responsibility Council patterned on a model from the Jefferson UU Church in Colorado which would meet at an after-church potluck once a month to share ideas, make plans for projects and generally discuss in what ways we can witness to our community. The Board has had a presentation on this idea and Kit has mentioned it in her sermon on Sept. 14.

Some of the areas of interest from the Colorado list are: Peace, Liberty and Justice, Clean Elections, Eating Ethically, Peace and World Community, Highway Clean-up, Unitarian Universalist Service Committee projects such as "Guest at Your Table," Firewood for our congregants in need, Sustainable Living, Support Groups for veterans and those families with mental health issues. The list is endless and we can devise our own priorities.

Please look for an announcement of the first get-together of the Social Responsibility Council in November.

~Peggy B

Fun on Whidbey!

With a myriad of events, concerts, fairs, movies and exhibits on our gorgeous isle, it will be tough to choose just one activity per month for us to attend as a UU community. But we can do this! These once a month activities, open to children and adults, will occur either in the evening or during the day, but always on the weekends. We'll begin in November. Email Judy K if you'd like to be notified. It is not necessary to RSVP. She is open to suggestions with a month's notice.

Traffic Revision!

In order to keep the front of our building as child-safe, people-friendly, and dust-free as possible, a new traffic flow is being implemented. When you drive in, go either right or left and park. To exit, turn around and go out the way you came in. Do not drive around past the front of the building to exit unless you need to drop someone off at the front door, or make a delivery. In that case, follow the former one-way traffic flow (counterclockwise) past the front of the building.

Hymnals

If you would like to purchase a hymnal for the sanctuary, or would like to purchase your own, contact Mavis before October 1. Hymnals are \$28./each, plus a small amount of shipping. We can also include in the order any other books or materials you would like to purchase from the UUA bookstore. Contact Mavis at uuadmin@whidbey.com

Community News

Unmet Needs of Returning Veterans

Many of our returning servicemen and women are not returning physically or mentally whole from Iraq or Afghanistan. They are often just youngsters whose families must provide the rehabilitative services needed, since our military forces do not include sufficient funding for the lengthy rehabilitation that is often necessary. Traumatic brain injury, post-traumatic stress disorder, quadriplegia are some of the disabilities these families are struggling with. Fortunately, there are many ways your skills can be put to good use to help. The website www.unmetneeds.org is the place to begin.

~ Judy K

Interfaith Vigil of Peace and Hope

On Sunday afternoon of October 19 at 3:30pm, St. Augustine's-in-the-Woods will host the fifth annual Community Interfaith Vigil of Peace and Hope. St. Augustine's Episcopal Peace Fellowship is again sponsoring the event. The initial inspiration for the interfaith peace vigils originated with the Northern Oregon Buddhist community's call in 2004 for prayer and chanting in commemoration of Hiroshima and Nagasaki.

This year's interfaith vigil will again commence with opening prayer and sutra chanted by the Tahoma One Drop Zen Buddhist Monastery of Freeland. In addition to the Tahoma One Drop participation the vigil will also feature Muslim Sufi Minister Jamal Rahman of the Interfaith Community Church (Seattle). Muslim Sufi Minister Rahman will read or chant Qua'ran scripture readings. He will also offer a short commentary and prayer. Jamal Rahman is familiar to South Whidbey and has participated in all the interfaith peace vigils held at St. Augustine's. The Rev. Rachel Taber-Hamilton will provide a First Nations Smudging/cleansing ceremony. Jack Tingstad will read a message from the Dalai Lama. The Hebrew scripture will be read in Hebrew.

The Vigil will also include Christian contributions presented by individuals from several South Whidbey churches and faith communities. Tom Ewell of the Society of Friends will provide a pacifist witness. The Rev. Dan Erlander will read a short witness from Dietrich Bonhoeffer. Women in Black will be represented by Gloria Koll. Prayers from the gathering will be led by Deacon Bob Huber. The Rev. Kit Ketcham of the Whidbey Unitarian Universalist Congregation will provide the closing thoughts.

Moments of silent reflection and music will provide interludes between the readings, prayers and commentaries. The gathering will be led in singing by Karl Olsen of Trinity Lutheran. Island churches, faith communities and peace groups involved in the vigil planning and participation are the Tahoma One Drop Zen Buddhist Monastery, Langley Methodist Church, St. Hubert's Roman Catholic, Trinity Lutheran, Society of Friends, St. Augustine's Episcopal Peace Fellowship, Whidbey Unitarian Universalists Congregation, Unity of Whidbey and Coupeville Peace and Reconciliation.

Although expressing different worship traditions and understandings of the Almighty, the different faiths have as a common denominator a call for justice and peace. The Vigil of Peace and Hope is a wonderful opportunity to share in different worship traditions.

Saratoga Chamber Orchestra

The Saratoga Chamber Orchestra will present their fall concerts on Monday, October 6 at the Coupeville Performing Arts Center and on Tuesday, October 7 at 7:30 pm at WICA, performing works by Mendelssohn, Matthew Arnold, and Bach/Blake. Guest soloist in the Bach concerto will be Randolph Kelly, principal violist of the Pittsburgh Symphony. Members of the orchestra who are familiar performers at UUCWI include Linda G, Peggy B, Siri B, Gloria Ferry-Brennan, Kat Fritz, and Talia Marcus.

Tickets are available at the door.

~Peggy B

Sweeney Todd

Sweeney Todd, the musical by Stephen Sondheim, will be presented by WICA and performed at South Whidbey High School, starting October 17 at 7:30pm. There will be eight performances in all. Seth S and Siri B will be playing in the orchestra. Call WICA for information.

~Peggy B

Fear of Death and Political Preferences

On Wednesday, October 8 at 7pm, Vashon Island Unitarian Fellowship will sponsor a special conversation with Sheldon Solomon at the McMurray Middle School, 9329 SW Cemetery Rd, Vashon.

Sheldon is Professor of Psychology and Interdisciplinary Studies at Skidmore College in New York. His engaging wit and style have endeared him to students and audiences throughout the world.

Prof. Solomon will present research demonstrating that subtle reminders of our own death, such as the events of 9/11, increased Americans' support for President Bush and his policies in Iraq, and more recent studies documenting the psychological commonalities between conservative Americans and Islamic fundamentalists. The implications of these findings for democratic political institutions, the 2008 presidential elections, and constructive approaches to the "war on terrorism" will be considered. For more information, please phone Wendy Wharton at 206-799-9433.

Thirteen Ways of Looking at UUCWI

I

Principles replace dogma.
 Many sources, not one.
 Like rays of sunlight
 Coming from all directions at once.
 Visitors welcome.

II

Throw out the bathwater,
 Keep the Baby.
 Dogma falls away
 Like a cat, shedding.

III

Strong minded individuals
 All with their own beliefs,
 Together part of ongoing community
 Not always agreeing on where it's going
 Like an uncoordinated centipede.

IV

Fun
 Laughter
 Tears
 Frustrations
 Accomplishments
 Annual auction
 Pledge drive dinner
 Salmon Bake
 Of course, potlucks

V

Who are we?
 How do we want to be known?
 We're the ones who???
 What IS our mission?

VI

New home
 Years in the making
 Sweat equity
 Fellowship of the chop saw
 Bamboo babes
 Yard sale desk
 Kitchen shower
 New home

VII

The Sanctuary
 Tall windows
 Hanging lights
 New chairs
 Bamboo floors
 Sacred space

VIII

Are we too comfortable?
 Where are the edges?
 Dare we look over?
 After we've looked, then what?

IX

An elected Board of Trustees at the helm
 Numerous committees hoisting the sails
 Free spirited individuals becoming a crew
 All creating a home for liberal religion

X

The centipede
 Gets coordinated
 Sometimes.

XI

Monthly Board of Trustees meeting
 Chalice lit
 Agenda begins
 Discussion ensues
 Decisions made
 Issues without answers
 Committee created.

XII

A party
 Tomahawk throwing, darts, horseshoes, Bocce ball, mancala, 5 Man Morris.
 Black bean soup, cheese corn bread, salad, way too much dessert.
 Trophies with note tagged on -
 We value the inherent worth and dignity of every athlete.
 One stupendous auction item!

XIII

Love is the spirit of this congregation and service is its practice. This is our great covenant: to dwell together in peace, to seek truth in love, and to help one another.

~Marilyn S

**Unitarian Universalist Congregation
of Whidbey Island
2007 - 2008 Board of Trustees**

Baird B, President
Paula K, Treasurer
Pat L, Secretary
Lois C, Trustee
Camille L, Trustee
Amy Cy, Trustee
Joann R, Trustee

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

Minister: Kit Ketcham 360-331-2163

Chaplains: 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.

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/newsletter.html

Last names, phone numbers, and addresses are
deleted from the online version for members'
privacy.

Communications Committee:

Rebecca S, Newsletter Editor
Mavis C, Church Administrator
Dave C, Webmaster

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