



## 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/)

### November 2008

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						<b>1</b> 5:30pm: Services Auction (p2)
<b>2</b> <b>Service 10am: The Heart of Democracy (p2)</b> Choir Rehearsal after the Service	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b> 9am: Worship Committee Meeting	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b> 9am-3pm: Leadership Gathering at University Unitarian (p6)
<b>9</b> <b>Service 10am: Meditation (p2)</b> Social Responsibility Potluck after Service (p7). Island Strings 12:30 7pm: Center for Dev. In Central American (p5).	<b>10</b> 7:30pm: Book Group (p3)	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b> 9am-11 BOT Meeting	<b>15</b> 9am-noon: Orientation Class (p5). 1pm Fun Group (p4). 7pm: Conversa- tion on the 6th Principle (p3).
<b>16</b> 8:45am: Choir Rehearsal <b>Service 10am: Abraxas Communion (p2)</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b> 10am-12 noon: South End Koffee Klatch at Rockhoppers (p2)	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b> <b>Newsletter Deadline</b> 6:30-9 Community Youth Orchestra	<b>21</b> 6:30-9 Community Youth Orchestra	<b>22</b> 1-3pm: North End Koffee Klatch at Whidbey General Hospital (p2)
<b>23</b> <b>Service 10am: Counting Our Blessings (p2)</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>
<b>30</b> <b>Service 10am: A Perfect World (p2)</b>						

**Nov. 2, 2008: The Heart of Democracy****Speaker: Rev. Kit Ketcham**

So close to Election Day, we, as a nation, are gripped by the tensions of campaign tactics, national and global issues, and the general frenzy of competing ideologies portrayed in the media. It's easy to lose sight of the ideals of democracy when they are swamped by charges and counter-charges between candidates and stakeholders. Rev. Kit Ketcham will speak about what she sees as the heart of democracy.

*Worship Leader: Effie B*

*Greeter: Lois C*

**Nov. 9: Meditation****Speaker: Sarah Richards**

Meditation is a mental discipline by which one attempts to get beyond the conditioned, "thinking" mind into a deeper state of relaxation or awareness. It is a spiritual practice recognized as a component of almost all religions, and has been practiced for over 5,000 years. Unitarian Universalism uses many traditions as source material and is unashamed to draw on various ideas and techniques that can form one's personal meditation practice. We will be looking at the basic purposes of meditation, techniques used and the concepts behind them.

Sarah Richards has practiced Transcendental Meditation and Vipassana Meditation at various times in her life and has experienced a number of other practices. She organized a Meditation group at her previous UU Congregation that drew from many traditions. She has a Master's degree in Counseling and is now a farmer, meditating while weeding.

*Worship Leader: Joann R*

*Greeter: Ken M*

**Nov. 16: Abraxas Communion**

While based loosely on the traditional Eucharist, this Thanksgiving Communion from the Congregation of Abraxas is unique in many ways. Its theme is gratitude for the gift of life, the bounty of the earth, and commitment to a world of peace, justice and love. The service involves participants reading from various sources other than the New Testament and invites us to feed each other as a model for feeding the world.

*Worship Leader: Effie and Mark B*

*Greeter: Baird B*

**Nov. 23: Counting Our Blessings****Speaker: Rev. Kit Ketcham**

On this Thanksgiving Sunday, as the holiday season gets underway, we pause to count our blessings and consider how we might extend ourselves to bless others. Rev. Kit Ketcham will speak about "Great Fullness" and how it enriches our lives and the lives of all we encounter.

*Worship Leader: Evan W*

*Greeter: Earl Berg*

**Nov. 30: A Perfect World****Speaker: Toyon C**

Toyan C, UUCWI member, will be speaking on "A Perfect World" on Sunday, November 30. As their sixth principle, UUs affirm and promote the goal of a world community with peace, liberty and justice for all. Is that possible? What are we contributing toward attaining this goal?

*Worship Leader: Mavis C*

*Greeter: Lois C*

**News and Events****Koffee Klatches: Best Conversation on the Island!**

*North End:* 1-3 pm, Saturday, Nov. 22, at Whidbey General Hospital's cafeteria in Coupeville. Great conversation, cheap food, good company.

*South End:* 10am-12noon, Tuesday Nov. 18, at Rockhopper's in Clinton. Best conversation and coffee on the south end!

**Beach Party!**

BEACH PARTY dinner and annual Services Auction will happen on Sat., Nov. 1. The fun starts at 5:30pm with nibbles and drinks, dinner at about 6:15 and the auction begins at 7pm. The Silent Auction starts the minute you walk in the door, so be ready to bid on the items made and donated by your fellow congregation members. If you are coming to the dinner and have not let John or Camille L know, do so by Oct. 28th. Anyone may join us for just the live auction at 7pm. Be there or be square!

~Camille L

**Conversation on Principle #6:  
7pm, Nov. 15 at Kit Ketcham's Home**

During this congregational year, we are studying the Seven Principles of UUism. This month's Principle is #6, which reads: "We the member congregations of the Unitarian Universalist Association covenant to affirm and promote the goal of world community, with peace, liberty, and justice for all." How do we as individuals and as a congregation live out this principle? How can we reach this goal with so much conflict in the world? Is world community too utopian a goal? Come add your voice and your thoughts to the conversation. The date of this Conversation has changed; it will be held Nov. 15 instead of the 29th, because of the Thanksgiving holiday.

~Rev. Kit Ketcham

**Book Group**

The UUCWI Book Group will meet Monday, November 10th at 7:30 pm at the home of Joan G in Langley. The book being discussed is *The Plot Against America* by Pulitzer Prize winning author Philip Roth. In this book, Roth invents an alternative history in which Charles Lindberg, the renowned aviation hero, rabid isolationist and anti-Semite, defeats Franklin Roosevelt in the 1940 presidential election.

The tale that follows lets us take a chilling look at devastating events that could have occurred in America and perhaps encourages us to pause and consider the many possible histories existing beneath those that actually happen, especially those that can be linked to whom we elect as our President. Something about the author, reviews of *The Plot Against America* and possible discussion questions may be found at [http://www.litlovers.com/guide\\_plot\\_against\\_america.html](http://www.litlovers.com/guide_plot_against_america.html). Numerous copies of this book are available in both audio and print formats through the public library. Please let Joan know if you plan to come.

~Joan G

**From Our Minister**

Dear Whidbey Friends,

As the leaves float to the ground in my yard, the rain comes more often, and my cats nestle into their warm spots in the house, my thoughts tend to revolve around the meaning of autumn in my life. Like many of you, I am older than I ever expected to be--at least when I was a teenager and my elders seemed so much older than I. This is a wonderful time of life, I'm finding, and I hope you are too.

We are settling nicely into our new home, our own sacred space, and we are growing steadily, with more families coming through our doors in hopes of finding a religious home for children and parents. This is a wonderful challenge! This influx of new children has doubled and tripled the sizes of our classes and we find we need more help in our Religious Education classes. We will be asking YOU to volunteer time in RE classes on occasion, so that we can better serve the families who want to be part of UUCWI.

I hope you will say YES when Lorie or I ask you ever so sweetly to help out with RE once in awhile. It is a rare privilege to spend time with our children and you will be blessed by the experience. I promise! I will be helping out once in awhile myself and I am going to ask our board members to help out occasionally also. We need to set a good example for others and we need to demonstrate to our new families that we welcome them wholeheartedly. Parents will also be asked to volunteer time in RE.

So say YES when we ask you to help in RE one Sunday. We'll work with your schedule and you'll be so appreciated for your help!

See you in church!

Much love,

Kit





### ***The Prez Says:***

We have had two Opening Days for our new church facility. There were many skeptics who thought that we couldn't possibly be ready by Sept. 7, the

traditional Ingathering date for the start of the new church year after summer vacation. But we did it and worshipped in our facility at 10am for the first time on that date. It was followed by a scrumptious salmon bake with the salmon courtesy of Paula and Tim K.

But we kept a fall-back date for a second Grand Opening which we duly celebrated Sunday Oct. 19. The building was much more complete. The service was well organized under the leadership of Toyan C and our Minister, Kit Ketcham. We were blessed by the attendance of Holly and David Price and son, from Flat Rock Productions, our architects; Curtis Baker our lead carpenter was there with his wife Susan. Also present was Matt Hoar, who fabricated the magnificent beams in the sanctuary. Our Peoples Bank construction loan rep Carrie Cammock traveled all the way from Bow-Edison. Jan and Colin B, founding members of UUCWI, came all the way from Bellingham for the occasion.

Our worship was graced by an exquisite new chalice, a gift from Terra A and Tom B. It is tall and handsome and its flame stands proud out of the chalice bowl at least four inches. It is inspirational. The lovely Steinway grand piano, a long-term loan of Judy M, supported our singing. The handsome worship table, a gift from Lynnaea L, held the chalice and bouquets. Thanks to all who so generously contributed to these wonderful furnishings for our sanctuary.

We first gathered outside and in the foyer. At the appropriate moment the doors to the sanctuary were flung open and those assembled broke into song. We then processed into the sanctuary to the waiting seats with our banner leading the way. More thanks to all who sponsored our beautiful chairs and to Dave and Mavis C for the matching grant making it possible to purchase the full complement. There were 92 adults seated in the sanctuary and 26 souls in the classrooms. The service was followed by a potluck brunch. Many pitched in to clean up.

Speaking of the classrooms, our RE Director, Lorie W, reports there are almost 40 kids signed up for RE. If we can find transportation there are a number of middle school youth that would like to get together. We know that we need more volunteers to help with RE. The more of us that step up to the plate the less often we will have to do so. Involvement with the youth can be fun and rewarding. Just ask Dave C and John L.

Now is the time to activate our long range planning team. We will soon have to think about more space. A Gazebo off in the woods? Portables? A yurt?

The church is not quite finished. We still have work to do. The kitchen needs the final touches. The propane stove needs activation. Don't be surprised that we will be working harder than ever. It will bring us joy. The facility is now finished enough that we can fulfill our mission: to relieve suffering in the world and teach our children to have sound moral values and be able to make healthy and satisfying life decisions.

Up, up, and away.

*Baird*

### **Follow up on Banner Conversation**

On Oct. 15, fifteen UUCWiers gathered for a heartfelt and sympathetic discussion regarding the Torture Is A Moral Issue banner. The session was facilitated by Sarah R. We learned that the few who were troubled by the banner saw unintended implications in the wording. The group reached consensus that we'll procure new banners reading ***Torture ... Let's End It!*** The National Religious Coalition Against Torture has asked that we display banners again during November and January and the UUCWI Board has approved doing this.

*~Rev. Kit Ketcham*

### **Fun on Whidbey!**

For our first Fun on Whidbey event, we will be painting plates, pots and what-have-you in Freeland at the Paint It Yourself place on Main Street (near the Chamber of Commerce). We'll be there from 1 to 2pm on Sat., Nov.15. Children are welcome. Join us! Bring nibbles if you wish.

*~Judy K*

### **UUCWI orientation class**

A couple of times each year we offer an orientation class to better acquaint friends, visitors and new UUs with our history, values, principles and the men and women who have contributed to our movement. The first such class of this church year will be held on November 15th from 9am to noon at UUCWI.

If you are a new member of our congregation or if you are thinking about joining our congregation, this class is especially for you. If you have visited our congregation and would like to know more about us, you are encouraged to attend and ask questions! If you are already a member and just curious to learn more you, too, are encouraged to attend!

If you are planning to attend and will need child care, please let Kit or Lois C know of your needs. Questions?

Contact Kit at [kitketcham@comcast.net](mailto:kitketcham@comcast.net)

~Lois C

### **Center for Development in Central America**

Imagine a group of UUCWI members talking about world needs. Suddenly the idea grows to help directly, and six of us head for Darfur to see what we can do. Admirable? Indeed. A bit foolhardy? Yes, that too.

That's essentially what got CDCA started. It's a group from a North Carolina church (now called the Jubilee House) that set out 15 years ago to help Nicaraguans help themselves. They work with very poor people (most earn about a dollar a day) to help identify their needs, find local leaders, muster resources, all to help them become self-sufficient and sustainable.

Major projects (which were further driven by the devastations of Hurricane Mitch in 1998) are grouped under sustainable economic development; sustainable (mainly organic) agriculture; primary health care; education; and appropriate technology. Specific projects include a cotton gin and spinning plant; several health clinics, and many education groups mainly for women.

Two of the original group, Kathy and Pat Floerke, are visiting Whidbey on Sun. Nov 9, their third fund-raising visit here. They'll speak at Langley Methodist at 11 am, and at UUCWI at 7pm on Nov. 9. They'll show slides of their work,

describe it, and have many Nicaraguan products (wonderful Christmas presents!) for sale.

Please support these women in every way you can. This is a part of our Social Justice program.

~Malcolm F

### **Sanctuary Space**

Have you noticed? How serene and peaceful is the view through our sanctuary windows which look upon swaying trees and sky. Have you noticed as well? Our beautiful room has a bit of a sound problem.

Do you ever consider what might look attractive in that space between the narrow windows up front? The Visual Arts Committee (VAC) believes we just might ameliorate both the space and sound issues with one beautiful solution. We are visualizing a quilted triptych on that wall, something that would add to, as well as blend into, the ambiance already present.

Here is your golden opportunity to become involved! If you have ideas about that space, please present them to one of the members of our committee. Following the selection of a design, we are hoping there will be folks anxious to assist with the production of this project. This could become an important community-building project and this is only the beginning.

Feel free to contact any of the VAC members with questions or ideas. These members are Nola A, Peggy B, Joan G, Mary G, and Christi S.

~ Mary G

### **Choir News**

Anyone interested in joining the choir please come to our next rehearsal. We welcome new voices (and faces)!

November Choir Dates: Rehearse Nov. 2 after the service. Perform Nov. 16 at the service, and rehearse at 8:45am

~ Marilyn S

### Letter from Bill Graves

Dear Members of UUCWI:

During the past several years I have been listed as a "Chaplain" of UUCWI. Perhaps it's better late than never to admit that all my ministerial energies are being employed at Skagit Unitarian Universalist Fellowship. I also regret that I am not able to commit much energy of any other kind to UUCWI or be a part of the bloomin' and boomin' that is going on. I do miss you guys! However, I know UUCWI is very well served by Kit and Chaplain Sally Elder. I will be taking a leave of absence as Chaplain until my contract with Skagit ends at the end of June 2009, which it is destined to do. Then, I will return and resume chaplaincy duties if the Board and Kit are willing.

Affectionately,  
Bill Graves

### Report from the Landscaping Committee

We've created a beautiful new "green" sanctuary and the landscaping committee has agreed that we should move forward with green landscaping. Before coming to this conclusion we struggled with these questions.

#### *What is green landscaping?*

Green landscaping (often called naturoscaping) attempts to preserve and recreate the native vegetation that supports the natural ecology of an area. Native plantings of trees, shrubs and ground covers provide a healthy home for the animals, birds, butterflies, insects and other critters that comprise that ecology.

#### *Why follow green landscaping policies?*

As UUs we strive to honor and protect the earth, to be good stewards of the property we own and to live gently on the land. The impact of people on the native habitat of Whidbey Island is extensive and continues to increase. We have altered a large percent of our church property already with building, parking lots, driveway, pathway, septic system, etc., leaving little natural habitat. Therefore we must be particularly vigilant to offer a healthy ecology with the remainder of our green areas.

#### *Aren't native plants boring and not very pretty?*

There are hundreds of species of native plants that offer attractive blossoms, shapes, leaf patterns and branching structures. They bloom and fruit at

various times of the year, providing an interesting landscape from season to season. When we use native plants we begin to appreciate the variety within our natural forest ecology and learn what birds eat, where butterflies feed and other important lessons of sharing the land with non-human species. A rich native garden will offer the bonus of beautiful birds and butterflies.

*Can't we just put the native plants around the back and make the front more attractive with "pretty flowers"?*

Our front entry gives a first impression and indicates what we cherish and believe in. If we truly support green landscaping we must make that statement right out front!

*Can't we compromise with part natives and part "pretty flowers"?*

Where would we draw the line to any compromise with native vegetation? The simple solution is to stick with native planting. We humans only spend on average a couple hours a week at church, yet our wildlife live here 24-7. Their day-to-day needs for food and shelter surely outweigh our need for a brief view of "pretty flowers."

*Does green landscaping really make a difference on our size of property?*

A family of California quail was observed searching for food within our central green space. American Goldfinches frequent our meadow, chickadees, nuthatches and robins flutter through our shrubs and woodpeckers feed on our trees. Yes, our property can offer habitat to a large number of native species. They were here before we came and green landscaping will help assure that they will continue to have a home on our church property.

~Frances W, Chair

### Leadership Conference

Our congregation has registered to attend a conference on religious leadership Sat, Nov. 8, 9am to 3pm at the University Unitarian Church, 6556 35th Ave NE, Seattle. This is a chance for leadership training, to meet your UU neighbors and your peers in church leadership. All are invited. Lunch is provided. So far Kit and Baird are signed up. We'll car pool if possible. To sign up or for any questions phone Baird.

### Social Responsibility Council Potluck

Sunday, November 9, after church, the new Social Responsibility Council will have a Potluck.

Are you frustrated by lack of attention for your favorite Social Action project? Here's a chance to share your ideas about worthwhile projects for UUCWI to consider. This is a new way to come together to pool our efforts and witness. It is based on a successful program of the Jefferson UU church in Colorado. Interested people meet once a month for an after-church potluck. Their list of topics is huge: Hunger, Peace and Justice, Ethical Eating, Torture, Civil Liberties, Environment, Sustainable Living, Veteran Support, Mental Illness, UU Service Committee, "Guest at Your Table," Economic Justice, etc.

Did you know that the number of local people using the Food Bank is more than double over last year and over 1200 of that number are children?

We will meet after church for a potluck lunch on a monthly basis starting November 9. Plan to come and share your ideas to "change the world" locally and globally. We will devise our own list of Social Responsibility projects to focus on this year. All are welcome.

Call Peggy B for more information at 331 1081

*"Cautious, careful people, always casting about to preserve their reputation and social standing, never can bring reform. Those who are really in earnest must be willing to be anything or nothing in the world's estimation, and publicly and privately, in season and out, avow their sympathy with despised and persecuted ideas and their advocates, and bear the consequences."*

*Susan B. Anthony, Nineteenth-Century Reformer  
~submitted by Peggy B*

### Religious Education News

Hi Everyone,

What an amazing first couple of months we have had. Have you noticed all of the children at Sunday services? Our Religious Education program has nearly tripled since we opened the doors to our new building. We have nearly 40 children registered! So now we are in great need of teaching assistants for every program. So no matter where your interest lies, we have a place for you! Our program begins with Wonder

Play (newborn to age 2), Spirit Play (age 3-6), Spirit Play Too! (age 7-10), MAGS (Middle Ages Group (11-14) and (not yet formed) Youth (age 15-18). We have teachers in place for each group, but we need teaching assistants in every class. I would like to request that you consider helping out in one of our classrooms just one time a month. You have nothing to prepare, just share a little bit of yourself with our young people. You will find the time both rewarding and inspirational.

Also, the end of the year is rapidly approaching and with that comes our 2nd Annual Nativity Pageant. We need you! We need participants, costume designers, stage designers and more.

So if any of these seem to be a perfect fit, or even if it's a little outside of your comfort zone, but you want to try, please contact me either by phone 341-1321 or email, [redirector@whidbey.com](mailto:redirector@whidbey.com)

With Warmth from the Flame,  
*Lorie W., DRE*

### Voices for Justice

Join WA State UU Voices for Justice at the 3rd Legislative Conference, November 22, 10 am-3 pm, at the Olympia UU Congregation. Bring a group from your congregation to learn about issues that will face the 2009 Washington Legislature and how we can be an effective voice for social, economic, and environmental justice.

Former State Legislator Nita Rinehart and Representative Brendan Williams, 22nd District, will speak on how we can be effective citizen advocates for justice issues in a time of fiscal constraints.

Advocates will speak briefly on issues that will come before the 2009 Legislature, and explain why those issues should be on WA UU Voices' legislative agenda.

Coffee, bagels, and socializing begin at 9:30 am; and the conference opens at 10. Lunch will be provided.

Contact Carol McKinley at: [coordinator@uuvoiceswa.org](mailto:coordinator@uuvoiceswa.org) for information and to register.

Regular updates on the Legislative Conference will appear at: <http://www.uuvoiceswa.org>

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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.

**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](http://www.whidbey.com/uucwi/newsletter.html)

Last names, phone numbers, and addresses are  
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