



Island Passages

UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CONGREGATION OF WHIDBEY ISLAND

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

January 2007

| Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
|--|---|--|--|--|--|--|
| | 1 New Year's Day | 2 7:00p Women's Discussion Group at Terri A.'s home | 3 | 4 Board meeting | 5 | 6 |
| 7 4:00p -5:00p Service: Where Is God in This? | 8 9:00a Worship Committee Meeting at Trinity | 9 7:30p Book Group (p. 2) | 10 10:00a - 12:00p South End Koffee Klatch (p. 3) | 11 | 12 | 13 9:30a -2:30p New UU Workshop (p. 3) 1:00p -3:00p North End Koffee Klatch (p. 3) 7:00p home showing of "An Inconvenient Truth" (p. 3) |
| 14 1:00p Memorial Celebration for Anne Fortner (p. 4) 2:00 choir practice (p. 8) 4:00p -5:00p Service: Honoring our Spiritual Ancestors | 15 Martin Luther King Holiday | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 7:00p home showing of "An Inconvenient Truth" (p. 3) | 20 |
| 21 2:00 choir practice 4:00p -5:00p Service: The Grandmother Galaxy | 22 | 23 newsletter deadline | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 7:00p home showing of "An Inconvenient Truth" (p. 3) |
| 28 4:00p -5:00p Service: Dealing with An Inconvenient Truth -- A Community Response | 29 | 30 | 31 | Additions and updates can be found on the calendar on the congregation's website: www.whidbey.com/uucwi/ | | |

**January 7th — Where Is God in This?
with guest speaker Bill Graves**

UUCWI member Bill Graves will recount some the dynamics he has experienced as part of a small minority of Unitarian Universalists enrolled in a Christian divinity school. Embedded in these experiences are fundamental questions and challenges confronting all those who identify themselves as religious liberals and who seek to relate to a post-modern world. Bill is a retired attorney currently in his third year attending Seattle University School of Theology and Ministry.

Lay Leader: Mavis C.

Membership Representative: Lois C.

**January 14th — Honoring our Spiritual Ancestors
with minister the Reverend Kit Ketcham**

On this Martin Luther King, Jr., weekend, it's a good time to consider what we have learned from those religious and spiritual figures who have preceded us in life. Reverend Kit Ketcham will speak about Afro-Atlantic religions, their roots and current use, and how they relate to us as Unitarian Universalists today.

Lay Leader: Evan W.

Membership Representative: Ken M.

**January 21st — The Grandmother Galaxy
with guest minister
the Reverend Shirley Ranck, PhD**

Old women are the fastest growing segment of our population. Who are they and what might they have to say to us about feminism, cultural diversity, and the environment?

The Reverend Dr. Shirley Ann Ranck is an ordained UU minister and the author of the popular feminist theology curriculum and book *Cakes for the Queen of Heaven*. She has served as minister in UU congregations from California to Alabama and from Maine to Washington. She is currently serving as interim minister at the North Shore Unitarian Church in West Vancouver, British Columbia. Before becoming a minister Dr. Ranck was a licensed psychologist who worked in

hospitals, clinics and a county jail for women as well as in private practice. She holds a master's degree in religious education, a Master of Arts in clinical psychology, a doctorate in urban school psychology, and a Master of Divinity from Starr King School for the Ministry. She is the mother of two sons and two daughters and has five grandchildren.

Lay Leader: Mary G.

Membership Representative: Baird B.

**January 28th — Dealing with An Inconvenient Truth: A Community Response
presented by the Social Action Committee**

How did you deal with our latest local "inconvenient truth?" What did you learn? Your new Social Action Committee invites all of us to deal with the Inconvenient Truth, described by Al Gore's movie, together. We see this as an evolutionary moment, an opportunity to find new ways of being. Moving from information to action means going against our prevailing culture. Individual action only seems too small and too difficult. Let's join together in community to address climate change and help create a new sustainable culture.

Membership Representative: Earl B.

Congregational News & Events

Book Group, January 9th

300 Years Ago, in 1706...

Benjamin Franklin was born. His life came to define the "Age of Reason", and at one time he was America's greatest scientist, inventor, diplomat and writer. A pragmatist and organizer, he helped shape the Declaration of Independence and define the character of the new nation.

On January 9, 2007, the UUCWI book club will discuss Walter Isaacson's new biography *Benjamin Franklin: An American Life*. The meeting will be at 7 :30 pm at Dave and Mavis C.'s home. All are welcome; RSVP. Come if you have read this or any of the many good Franklin biographies available, or Franklin's famous autobiography, or just want to be inspired to read them.

South End Koffee Klatch, January 10th

We'll meet 10-12 at Rockhoppers in Clinton. Great art, excellent coffee and conversation in a unique environment.

North End Koffee Klatch, January 13th

We'll meet 1-3 at the Whidbey General cafeteria. Come early and have lunch! Good conversation, good cheap coffee and food.

New UU Workshop, January 13th

Question: What do all the of the following have in common?

- the oldest continuously operating church in the U.S. (in Salem, Massachusetts)
- three of the first five Presidents of the United States
- the discoverers of oxygen and the theory of evolution
- the first female ordained by a denomination to the ministry in the U.S.
- the founders of Harvard University, the American Red Cross, the NAACP, and the ACLU

Answer: They all described themselves as Unitarians or Universalists.

One of the strongest threads that holds our denomination together is a shared history of innovation and influence out of proportion to our numbers. This workshop will delve into the fundamentals of that heritage, address who we currently are in terms of theology and organization, and discuss some of the benefits and expectations of membership.

The workshop is particularly intended for prospective or recently joined members. In fact our congregation considers this class to be so essential that its bylaws make attendance a prerequisite to membership (unless waived by the chair of the Membership Committee). The workshop is also for anyone wishing to understand more about our movement, whether newcomer or old-timer.

The workshop will be held 9:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. on Saturday January 13th at Grigware Hall at Trinity Lutheran. The workshop will be led by Bill Graves and friends. A light lunch will be provided. Please notify Bill if you are planning to attend so that proper arrangements can be made for lunch.

What Can We Do about the Inconvenient Truth of Climate Change? Events in January and February

When the documentary "An Inconvenient Truth" hit the movie theaters in 2006, it was an immediate, shocking revelation of the truth of climate change, aka "global warming." The former "next president" Al Gore, who made the film, presents solid statistics and predictions on the basis of a century of study and observation of weather patterns.

The newly reconstituted Social Action Committee has chosen climate change as its main focus for UUCWI's social action efforts. A series of showings of "An Inconvenient Truth" at homes around the island will be followed by an exciting service on January 28th presenting climate change as a spiritual and societal challenge and seeding ideas about possible local approaches to addressing climate change and reducing global warming.

Showings of "An Inconvenient Truth" will be as follows:

- January 13th, 7 p.m. at the V./E. household
- January 19th, 7 p.m. at the B./A. household
- January 27th, 3 p.m. at Marilyn S.' home

If you have not yet seen the film yourself, this is your opportunity to see it with a group of like-minded folks. Bring friends who might be interested. Call the hosts to let them know you will attend.

The committee is planning a workshop for February 24th from 9:00 a.m. to noon in Grigware Hall at Trinity. The focus will be to discuss the possible ideas that have arisen from the showings of the movie and from the service, and the congregation will have the opportunity to decide which of several options to address in the coming months.

For more information, contact Tom B., Donita C., Sandy M., Marilyn S. or the Reverend Kit Ketcham.

Memorial Celebration for Anne Fortner, January 14th

Anne Fortner passed away suddenly on November 28th. Her family held a memorial service in Texas, but there will be a memorial celebration here on Whidbey at 1:00 p.m. on Sunday January 14th at the Greenbank Progressive Hall. Please RSVP to Sandy Menashe (579-4950), who will be catering the event. Anne's sister, Gail Gwinn, is coordinating the event and wants it to be fun and informal. She is hoping people will have stories about Anne. Donations in Anne's memory can be made to the UUCWI Building Fund, the Girls and Boys Clubs of America, or Recovery, Inc.

~ Reverend Kit Ketcham

Auction, February 10th

Have you started thinking about what you might donate to the auction? It's coming Saturday, February 10th, and that's sooner than you think! This is traditionally our only fundraiser and is, as well, our most lavish and congenial congregational event. Last year folks donated all kinds of lessons, services, gourmet dinners, arts and crafts, and even a very popular worm bin. But you may come up with something entirely new — you're a UU! An Auction Promise Form is available in this very newsletter, or pick some up on the table in the hall at Trinity.

This year the auction will take place at Greenbank Hall. We've moved in order to be able to serve wine. We'll also have more floor space although the hall design makes childcare services impossible this year.

An exciting buffet is planned, beginning at 6:00 p.m., and will include the aforementioned wine, fancy, hearty, hot and cold hors d'oeuvres, and desserts (no need to eat dinner elsewhere). Bidding will begin at 7:00 p.m. Tickets for this popular event are \$12.00 each and well worth it. Come! Bring a friend (perhaps someone who doesn't realize that they're a closet UU). Buy your tickets early to assure yourself a place at this event. You may obtain tickets from Joan G. or Mary G.

Happy Holidays!!

The kids have been busy learning about many of the special celebrations that take place throughout the world this time of year – Kwanzaa, Hanukkah, Posadas, and St. Lucia's Day. We wrapped it up with a very special Child Dedication Service on Christmas Eve. We hope many of you were able to join us for this beautiful ceremony.

This time of year makes us especially aware of our spiritual being, and you may find that your children are wondering what our UU beliefs are about God and prayer. I'd like to share some ideas on talking to children about prayer that I gained while at the Religious Educator workshop on Worship last month. You may want to consider saying something like this to your child:

People have argued for thousands of years about the right way to pray. They have also argued about whether there really is a God who hears prayers and changes things. This is something you'll have to make up your own mind about. As you learn more about the world, you'll choose what to believe about God and prayer.

In the meantime, you can think of praying as a way to express some of your very own feelings.

Sometimes you feel thankful for nice things which have happened to you. If you express your thanks at bedtime, you may enjoy them all over again.

Sometimes you feel sorry for things which you have done or said. If you express your feeling of being sorry before you go to sleep, you may feel much better, and even think of ways to make things right.

Here are some bedtime prayer thoughts for UU kids from the UU Kids Book. You may also want to consider lighting a candle as your child expresses each thought.

Think about things you are thankful for today.

Think of something you feel sorry that you said or did, and any way you can make it right.

Think about something you hope will happen, and any way you can help it to happen.

Think about being in a place of beauty or a favorite place where you feel safe and good.

Think about the people you love and their love for you. See each person's face in your mind. Give them a goodnight's smile!

I hope this holiday season brings you hope, peace and joy.

~ Lorie Wood, Director of Religious Education

Services Auction Saturday, February 10th Auction Promise

Please explain in detail what you would like to offer. Include (when applicable) the date or date range for which you are offering the service, advance time notification needed, number of people item is for (e.g. Lasagna that will serve six), total number of buyers you desire (e.g. a dinner in my home for 10 people), length of time of service offered (e.g. four hours of yard work), and any other information that will make your offering as clear and interesting as possible. *Please use a separate Auction Promise sheet for each service/item.* Make a copy of this one, download one from our website, pick one up at Services on Sundays.

Name of service or item _____

Description of service/item _____

Donor(s) _____

Date(s) _____

Minimum bid \$ _____ per _____. Maximum quantity _____

Item will be available ___ night of the auction ___ on date indicated ___ to be arranged

Will sample be on display? ___yes ___ no ___N/A

Good Faith Fair Market Value of your offering (to conform with IRS regulations) \$ _____

Signed _____ Phone _____

E-mail _____

I prefer to be contacted about this via ___ e-mail ___ phone



The Services Auction

Join together with other UUCWI members for a *real* auction – complete with an experienced Auctioneer and bidding paddles! You can give and buy things that keep on delivering fun times and great ways to connect with others. All for the good of our Congregation's coffers.



Take some time to think about what you would like to offer. Be creative; think up something that would be *fun to give* as well as receive.



Below are some of the services & items that have been auctioned off in previous years. The most popular services & items clearly have been ones related to a *favorite activity or passion of the giver*, or ones that *involve getting together with other folks*. Hopefully this list will help you think up a marvelous way to offer something special just from *you*.

- Autumn Fruit Chutney (homemade)
- Baha on the Beach – for 8
- Beautiful dahlias planted in your yard
- Bocce Ball tournament
- Cat sitting in your home
- Cook Inlet Wild Alaska Salmon
- Extraordinary Mariner's Tickets
- Family fun at Goss Lake
- Fern Trivet/stained stoneware
- Garden Rototilling
- Garden fresh, organic vegetables and fruit
- Golf lessons
- Handmade cloth dolls
- Hand knitted scarf
- Hand knitted wool mittens
- Homage to Julia Child – A Provencal Dinner for 6
- Homemade Fruit Cake
- Lavender planted for you
- Lemon Curd (homemade)



- Mohair slippers
- Outdoor portrait session
- Piano lessons
- Pick-up-truck load of compost
- Poetic Pickin's – read poetry with 5 other folks over an organic dinner with great wine and dessert
- Pick-up-truck load of compost
- Poker Night, Philosophy, + Bar food
- Postcards from Russia
- Pruning lessons
- Sailing dinner
- Sea kayaking basics
- Swedish Smorgasbord, folk music & dance – for 12
- Six glorious months of fresh flowers
- Whidbey Island Sushi



OK, you get the idea? Now, come up with your own ideas and get ready to participate in a *fun-raiser*!

Send your completed form(s) to Joan G. or bring them to her on a Sunday. *Call or email* Lois C. , Joan G., Mary G., Paula K., Marjorie L., or Camille L. for *more information and volunteer opportunities*. (See UUCWI Directory for phone numbers & email addresses) More donation (promise) forms can be downloaded from our website, picked up at Services on a Sunday, or by contacting one of the above listed individuals.



President's Column

from Toyon C., UUCWI President

Happy half year. We've had a great beginning to our church year and as the first half draws to an end, it seems a good time to reflect on who we are.

The Board of Trustees was greatly saddened by the recent death of John Adams, our faithful secretary. We are grateful to have had the chance to work with John and for his passionate contributions to the planning of our new building. Our thoughts are with Gail at this holiday time.

It felt very good to be a part of our community as we came together to organize, attend and participate in a meaningful and heartfelt memorial service for John. How wonderful to know that such comfort, support and friendship are here.

We do offer these things — and more. How, exactly, can we succinctly explain this to others? How can we best say who we are, why we come together and what we hope to do? What can we refer to when we need to confirm that our plans are “on track”? For lack of a better term, we need a “mission statement.”

Several years ago many of us attended an all-day workshop on creating such a statement. It turned out to be a tough job. After much discussion about UUCWI history, activities, principles, and hopes we concluded with only a rough draft that has never been totally embraced or officially adopted. It says: “The Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Whidbey Island: Sharing a spiritual journey of service toward a loving and interconnected world.”

Can we say it better? Can you? The Board of Trustees is offering a competition to write a statement that will represent who and what UUCWI is. This statement will serve as a constant reminder to us of our vision and direction – helping to keep us on track in all of our endeavors. It will be used in our order of service, newsletter, literature, ads, conversations with others and website to inform others about us. The winner of this competition will receive recognition for finally providing the right words for us – and the satisfaction of having done this!

Please submit your ideas to me, or any member of the Board, by February 1st. What a great way to begin our second half-year!

Capital Campaign Phase II Report

We are pleased to report that since the letter to members and friends of UUCWI on November 21st we have received generous pledges from twelve UUCWI members. We have successfully funded the shortfall of \$20,000 in the Business Plan for the basic building as requested by the Finance Committee and Board of Trustees. We have received pledges of \$17,100 earmarked for green items exclusively, i.e., ground source heat pump and/or metal roof. These were estimated at around \$30,000.

Many of our members and friends have not responded yet. As the dust settles from the holidays we urge you to make your pledge to the Phase II Capital Campaign. The longer we wait to build our own church, the more expensive things become. We would love to build green as part of our witness to the south Whidbey community by honoring our commitment to being good stewards of the earth, our home.

We have the vision and the plans, and our Whidbey community needs the witness of our liberal religion. Now we need the ‘green’ money if we are to have our ideal building realized. Please send in your pledge.

~ Peggy B., Capital Campaign Chair

Did You Know?

Our Congregation has donated its annual “Fair Share” to both the UUA and our local district for over 10 years! Congregations are asked to donate \$20/member/year to the PNWD and \$53/member/year to the UUA. The Board has always felt it is important to support our parent organizations and we can be proud of our record on these contributions. However, this does mean that the first \$73 of each member's yearly pledge goes directly to these other UU entities and is not available for the operating funds of our congregation. (In the alphabet soup of the UU world, the UUA is the national Unitarian Universalist Association and the PNWD is the Pacific Northwest District of the UUA.)

~ Toyon C.

Choir News

So far our choir was lay-led on October 1st by Linda G., on October 29th by Michael B., and on December 17th by Nola A. We had a rehearsal November 19th with Michael but the group was so small that we decided not to perform on the 26th which was just as well since that was a snow storm day and only 12 hardy people made it. Thanks to Michael for doing special music.

Mavis C. will lead in January, with rehearsal on the 14th and 21st and performance on the 21st. Frank A. will lead in February and Marilyn S. in March. We have a large notebook with our "library" of choir pieces available for leaders. Thanks to all you who have come to sing, and special thanks to Nola for all her accompanying.

New Board Member Appointed

In compliance with the UUCWI Bylaws, the Board of Trustees has unanimously voted to appoint Dave C. to fill the position left vacant by the death of John Adams. Dave will serve as Secretary of the Board for the remainder of the church year.

Report on the December 9, 2006, Conversation on Global Warming and Heating System Options for our Church

Tom B. gave a PowerPoint presentation with charts and graphs detailing the coming crisis in climate change and its acceleration due to human use of fossil fuels. Twelve members of UUCWI attended and participated with questions and discussion.

Chart #1 - Question - how much temperature rise is tolerable before the effects on many ecosystem become dangerous? The current answer – around 2 degrees globally. Developing countries, such as Africa, will be hit hardest and earliest. Currently we are close to 1 degree. The chart showed food, water, ecosystems effects as temperatures rise.

Chart #2 showed CO₂ levels now at 385 ppm. The climate models indicate CO₂ must be stabilized at 450 ppm to hopefully assure staying below 3 degree temperature rise.

Chart #3 showed stabilized CO₂ at 450 ppm can be achieved if emissions peak by 2010 and decline

by 6-10% per annum thereafter. This is the REAL GLOBAL EMERGENCY that Al Gore is speaking about. Our choices are not good – a managed planet. Some experts believe we will not achieve stabilization.

Chart #4 - Contraction and Convergence. US contributes 20% annually to CO₂ emissions globally. We need to reduce our share to 5% by about 2050. The Convergence idea is to ration CO₂ emissions to achieve stability with citizens of all nations getting equal rights. Our generation and our children need to assume this responsibility. Example: One 2,000-mile air trip would use up an individual's 1 ton CO₂ quota in 2050. Electric trains are much more energy efficient than planes. Biofuels done right can net zero carbon emitters. Cost of food will go up as more farmlands are used for biofuel production. We will need to eat more vegetarian, give up on grain-fed meats – eat farther down the food chain.

Chart #5 – Remaining petroleum resources. Since 1980 no new significant oil fields have been discovered in the world. We have been consuming more than we are discovering for over 25 years.. Stated reserves in the Middle East are probably exaggerated to double what is actually in the ground. Most optimistic forecast: by 2030 oil production will peak and decline 2-4% per year thereafter. A significant reduction in our petroleum and natural gas use is not going to be "voluntary" - regardless of whether we heed the climate change forecasts.

Chart #6 – Canadian natural gas and propane production. It has peaked already and exports to the US are declining and becoming more expensive. We in Washington get our propane and NG from Canada.

Chart #7 - Current pricing. Propane is already more expensive than electricity or natural gas. Electricity with 'green' surcharge per kilowatt pays PSE to invest surcharge in wind generation etc.

Conversation about green heating options followed: South Whidbey resident Joe Clyde, who has a ground source heat pump in his home shared his experience. He is very pleased with the heat pump in his home. His energy bill is around \$50 a month. He likes the AC feature for the

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summer which is a sort of a reverse process. Waste heat from it will heat water too. It is non-polluting. There are estimated to be 1,000,000 ground source heat pumps in the US. The biggest expense is the trenching for the coils in the ground. It takes a while to come up to temperature; they leave theirs set for 70 degrees during the day and 64 at night. He recommends the local contractor, John Barlow, who he found to be honest and reliable.

Conversation: As a moral issue the heat pump is a no-brainer. The stumbling block is the up-front expense. Roy Bingman, our general contractor, gave quotes on heating options:

Propane: \$10,000

Radiant electric: \$10,000

Ground source heat pump: \$30,000

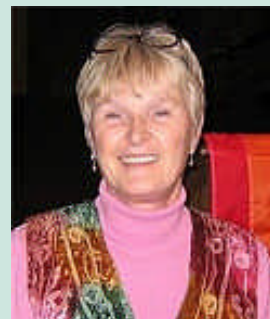
The extra \$20,000 investment in the heat pump would reduce our heating bills by about \$1000/year versus propane at current prices. This gives about a 5% return on investment. If propane costs rise faster than electricity in the future (probable) the advantage of the heat pump improves over time.

Attendees were asked for their comments:

- Ground source heat pump a 'green' jewel in our crown
- Yes if we can come up with the money in addition to the shortfall needed for the basic building
- Moral issue trumps all others
- Hopes we do it right – May install one in his home
- Yes, less energy used a great values asset to UUCWI; we're morally obligated to go with the smallest footprint
- Undecided at this point
- Favors heat pump
- Moral issue has become more significant; costs are a wash between green electricity and heat pump – worried about rising electricity costs in future
- Heat pump will not lock us into just 2 days of building use due to energy expense. Will make our building more attractive to other groups

~ Peggy Bardarson

From Our Minister



Dear Whidbey friends,

We have survived a lot together over the past month, haven't we? We've experienced the tragedy of losing two members, John Adams and Anne Fortner, to sudden, unexpected death, and repeated storms with snow and power outages, as well as individual losses and setbacks.

One of the positive things to emerge from a month of serious challenges has been the congregation's coming together to support grieving families and to make life a little easier for those most affected by the storms and power outages. To know that we have a circle of kinship that can support and sustain us during crisis is one of the most important gifts we can offer each other.

An idea has surfaced which the Caring Connections folks will address is a network of sources of help. To this end, they will be asking us to fill out a questionnaire about the kinds of help we can offer: food to a family in crisis? transportation to appointments? setup and cleanup at a memorial service? food for a memorial? housing for out-of-town family coming to a memorial or for an emergency? pet care in a crisis? a hot shower or warm room to sleep in, when the power's out? Be expecting the questionnaire and be thinking about what you can offer. Your kindness is a tremendous gift to others and to the universe, and you will benefit too!

Much love,

Kit

Member News & Notes

Wintersong

This year's musical participatory gathering for women (and men) who love song, spirit and connection will be Tuesday January 9th in the evening at Whidbey Institute. In the dark of winter and the special energy of New Year/New Beginnings, what a great time to gather and sing together, warm up the night, refill our spirits and send good harmony out into our world.

~ Linda G.

The Longing

for John Adams on December 6, 2006

I stand at the window of John's
Second floor studio this gray day
And stare at Puget Sound,
A sight he never tired of...
And the couple of gulls
Circling round.

Langley is cold and crisp,
This morning
Not the seventy-five degrees
Of Southern California
That I left a couple of days ago.

This room is full of John's work—
Of course, the traditional huge desk
Heaped and cluttered;
Lots of paintings of tough-looking
Football players
Huddled together before
Their big play, haunches
Ready to spring into
Action,
Next to a bower of flowers
Splashed across canvas
Delicately.

And look, one of Gail,
In her gardening clothes
Pushing a wheel barrow
Chuck full of cuttings.

I smile at the joy that
John painted into Gail's face and body.
Joy capturing Joy.

The beauty of the Sound
Once again commands my
Attention;
A sailboat,
The colors of the trees.

I look down to the front lawn
A quail walks regally
Pecking at the ground as
He goes,
When, suddenly, as if loosed from the
Paintings themselves,
A crowd of quail takes to the
Sky;
A wealth of feathers on the rise
And the morning turns
Warmer.

read at John's memorial service

Concert in March

Devin Ossman, flute, was our special musician November 19th, and he played for us on our land in August. From feedback I've gotten he has many fans in our congregation so I'd like you to mark your calendars. On March 3rd, at 7:30 p.m. he will be featured as part of the WICA Local Artist Series. Devin Ossman & Friends will be "an evening of solo flute and classical chamber music from the 18th, 19th and 20th centuries, original works and an all-star guest list including Siri Bardarson, Elizabeth Felt, Kathy Fox, Chris Harshman, James Hinkley, Randy Hudson, Michael Nutt, and others!"

~ Linda G.

Environmental Priorities at Langley Methodist

In recognition of Langley Methodist Church's status as a Greening Congregation, and in preparation for the upcoming legislative session, the December 31st service at 9:30 a.m. will include guest speakers Elizabeth Davis and Dave Anderson on "Environmental Priorities for a Healthy Washington." The priorities are a combined effort of Earth Ministry, the League of Women Voters of Washington, Washington Environmental Council, People for Puget Sound, and many other groups. The church is located at Third & Anthes Streets in Langley. Call 221-4233 for more information.

~ Nancy S.

From the PNWD District

The PNWD Annual General Meeting, February 16-18, 2007, in Boise, Idaho

Our theme — Knowledge, Compassion, Commitment — focuses this year's workshops on the ways knowledge nurtures compassion and both strengthen commitment. Spiritual insight nurtures our most profound values, and both together result in practicing our faith. We gather to find solutions to our common concerns and shape them to fit our individual congregations.

The Reverend William G. Sinkford, President of the Unitarian Universalist Association, will give the Keynote address on Saturday. Reverend Sinkford is renowned for inspiring UUs and many others who cherish values of knowledge, compassion and commitment and the desire to put those values into action to improve the world. He has raised the visibility of the UU faith across the country and overseas through ceaseless travel and pastoral work with ministers and congregations. He excels in speaking out on major issues in Washington, D.C., in visiting our brothers and sisters in the faith across the world, and in making our values known everywhere.

For more information, call 800-313-PNWD (7693) or visit www.pnwd.org/pages/agm.php.

From the UUA

Unitarian Universalist Association of Congregations 2005-2006 Annual Report on Giving Now Available

This year, Unitarian Universalists have boldly stood on the side of hope, love, compassion, and action. The generosity demonstrated in this year's Annual Report on Giving shows the ways in which Unitarian Universalists have helped better the world -- from the Annual Program Fund to Friends of the UUA; from support of Gulf Coast Relief to the Freedom to Marry Fund; from the Legacy Society to the Tapestry of Faith curriculum project; from our many scholarship funds to marketing projects in Times Square and around the country.

Read this year's Report on Giving and celebrate the life-saving and world-changing generosity of Unitarian Universalists: www.uua.org/giving/annualreport2006.pdf.

UUA General Assembly, June 20-24, 2007, in Portland, Oregon

The assembly's theme is "Choices That Matter." Featured presentations include

- The Pentagon Papers Then and Now: UUs Confronting Government Secrecy
- First Freedom First
- Too Much Like Right: Ben Cohen's Peace Priorities
- A Conversation About Race and Class: Who Is Worthy of Our Efforts?
- Amazing Grace: A Vocabulary of Faith

Significant time has been scheduled for the core business of the Association: determining what difference Unitarian Universalism should make in the world. This vital conversation, which will be conducted using Open Space Technology, is long overdue. General Assembly 2007 will be the first time congregational delegates have discussed the purposes of the Association since the consolidation of Unitarians and Universalists forty-five years ago.

For more information, please visit www.uua.org/ga/.

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

This newsletter is printed on recycled content paper.

Newsletter
January 2007

UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST
CONGREGATION OF WHIDBEY ISLAND
PO BOX 1076
FREELAND, WA 98249
(360) 321-8656

**Unitarian Universalist Congregation
of Whidbey Island**

2006-2007 Board of Trustees

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

Minister: Kit Ketcham (360-331-2163)

Chaplain: Sally Elder (360-675-3314)

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

Newsletter Information:

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

Short faxed items may be acceptable; call for more information. Items submitted after press time will appear in the following month's newsletter if appropriate. Time-sensitive late items will be posted with the announcements and/or on the calendar on our web site.

Current and past issues of this newsletter are available online at www.whidbey.com/uucwi/newsletter.html. Last names, phone numbers, and addresses are deleted from the online version for members' privacy.

Communications Committee:

Nancy S., Newsletter Editor
Mavis C., Church Coordinator