



Island Passages

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

February 2007

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 6:00p - 8:00p Board meeting	2	3
4 2:00p Choir Practice 4:00p -5:00p Right Use of Money	5	6 7:00p -9:00p UUCWI women's dialogue group (p3)	7	8	9	10 1:00p -3:00p North End Koffee Klatch (p6) 6:00p Dinner and Services Auction (p.3)
11 4:00p -5:00p Service: Our Love is Here to Stay	12	13 7:30p Book Group(p4)	14 10:00a - 12:00p South End Koffee Klatch	15	16	17
18 2:00p Choir Practice(p2) 4:00p -5:00p Service: The Future of Our Faith	19	20 Newsletter deadline for March	21	22	23	24 9:00a -12:00p Workshop on Global Warming: Climate Change Action Planning Workshop (p4)
25 4:00p -5:00p Service: Hope Behind the Headlines: An Optimist Reflects on the Future of Islam and Fundamentalist Religion	26	27	28	Please note that there is a new newsletter editor: Rebecca S		

February 4th—Right Use of Money

Speaker—Reverend Lynnaea Lumbard, Ph.D.

Drawing on ancient sources from the Bible and the Koran, as well as modern visionaries like Lynne Twist (the Soul of Money), Bernard Lietaer (the Future of Money), and Tracy Gary (Inspired Legacies), we will explore some of the hidden beliefs and assumptions we have about money and their impact on our communities, our environment and our future.

Reverend Dr. Lynnaea Lumbard is an Interfaith Minister and a Transformational Psychologist, recently moved to Freeland from Boulder, Colorado, with her husband Rick. She has been a leader in the field of spiritual psychology for many years.

Lay Leader: Heidi H

Membership Representative Lois C

February 11th—Our Love is Here to Stay

Speaker—Reverend Kit Ketcham

The connections we make as a community are strengthened by joy and sorrow. As it is with a love partnership, so it is with a religious community.

Lay Leader :Hildred C

Membership Representative: Ken M

February 18th—The Future of Our Faith

Speaker—Barbara Cornell

If the UU Congregation of Whidbey Island was suddenly no more, what would you miss the most? Today we'll consider the things we love most about our faith. Who will carry on this spiritual legacy to the future? As you observe the faces around you, how many generations are represented? What is relevant to children and young parents? Who will be your leaders in 10 years? 20 years? 30 years? Identifying those

aspects of our faith that are worth enriching can make all the difference.

Barbara Cornell is an M.Div. student at Seattle University. She is currently in her 15th year serving the Shoreline Unitarian Universalist Church as their Religious Educator. She and her husband Dane have two children.

Lay Leader: Toyan C

Membership Representative: Baird B

February 25th — Hope Behind the Headlines: An Optimist Reflects on the Future of Islam and Fundamentalist Religion

Speaker—Walter Andrews

We are inundated these days by a torrent of dire warnings about the dangers of “fundamentalism”—especially “Islamic fundamentalism”—about a frightening “clash of civilizations” and the inherent evils of religious thinking in general. We are induced to imagine for ourselves an ugly future filled with fanaticism, terrorism, endless war, and rumors of war, in which religion is the ultimate enemy.

Walter G. Andrews, (semi) retired professor of Near Eastern Languages and Civilization at the University of Washington and long time UU, has been studying the cultures and societies of the Middle East for the past 45 years and he would like to draw on some history, some theory, and some educated prognostication in order to give you an opportunity to imagine something more hopeful—a perspective that could serve as the grounding for more positive and effective thinking about the Islamic world, spirituality, and the future.

Lay Leader: Bill G

Membership Representative: Earl B

News and Events

Music News

For February UU Services here is Special Music we can look forward to. On February 4th

we'll have recorder music, a group led by Michael B. On February 11th Randal B will play Irish fiddle. He is internationally known & lives here on South Whidbey. He'll have his CDs for sale.

The choir will be led by Frank A and will rehearse February 11th and perform February 18th. Heidi H will provide special music on February 25th.

~Linda G

Lucky Winner of Limerick Contest Is Named by the Auction Committee

There was a young woman named Lael
Who wanted to learn how to sail
Here's how she fared,
She got lessons from Baird
And later got flowers from Gail

The lucky winner of our contest and the recipient of \$25.00 in Auction Money is Linda G. Congratulations, Linda. Yours was the best out of the millions we received.

The Auction Committee is hoping everyone will purchase their \$12 ticket before the night of February 10th so we can more accurately plan the food to be served.

Please get your Auction Promise forms in soon if you haven't already done so as we want to prepare a complete list from which to bid. (Please give them to Joan G, Mary G, or any Auction Committee Member)

PLEASE NOTE: We will be setting up at Greenbank Progressive Hall the afternoon of the Auction and will need to have all the object items available prior to the start of the auction. You can either bring your objects to the hall between 3:30 and 5:00 PM on the day of the auction or call Mary G and she will pick them up during the prior week (579-2838).

Remember this is a FUNraiser as well as a fundraiser.

Let's make this the best auction yet!

~ Mary G

Women's Group : Tuesday, February 6

Join us at the home of Marilyn Saunders for the monthly UUCWI women's dialogue group. 7 PM for coffee and conversation. Meeting from 7:30 to 9:00 PM.

~Marilyn S

From our Minister

Dear UUCWiers,



Are you tired of winter yet? As I write this, the skies are leaden and the wind is blowing; and that's an improvement over a few days ago when temperatures were frigid and snow was on the ground. This has been one heck of a few months, both weather-wise and in folks' lives.

But as we move into February and begin to think about spring (yep, those crocuses are about to start croaking!), it's exciting to contemplate the next steps in our building project. Once we have agreed, as a congregation, to move ahead with signing a mortgage, we can schedule a wonderful groundbreaking ceremony to celebrate this new phase in our life together.

At the same time, the Social Action committee is engaging us in thinking about how we as a congregation and as individuals can address the climate change crisis. Our Caring Connections group will also be giving us information about neighborhood groups and small group ministry.

There's lots going on here at UUCWI. If you think back over the past few years, it's thrilling to see how healthy and vibrant this congregation has become. New leadership with new ideas, inspirational worship services, and a sense of beloved community have helped to shape UUCWI into a congregation with an identity of strength and wellbeing.

We have grown together as we've faced crisis and unexpected death. We have come to depend on one another in times of need. We have weathered storms and have emerged healthier and more unified. Our potential for growth increases as we strengthen our programs and our outreach into the community.

As some of you know, I have informed the Vashon congregation that I need to simplify my life and will not be able to serve them next year. That means that I can concentrate on my work with you more easily; it will be wonderful to have a less complicated life!

Looking forward to spring with great anticipation,

Kit

Book Group: Tuesday, February 13

Plainsong by award-winning author Kent Haruf. will be discussed at the home of the B's. From the book jacket: "A poignant story of family and romance, tribulation and tenacity, it is set in the High Plains east of Denver. In a small ranch town, a high school teacher is confronted with raising his two boys alone after their mother sinks into depression and leaves.

A teenage girl, her father long since disappeared, is pregnant and alone, thrown out by her sluttish mother with nowhere to go. And out in the country, two brothers, elderly bachelors, work the family ranch, the only world they've ever known. From this Haruf tells a haunting story of the town and countryside that binds them together as their fates somehow overcome the powerful forces of place and station".

This is probably the best novel I've ever read and there is a sequel, Eventide which follows the lives of the central characters further. It is a quick read too. I urge you to read one or both of them and join us on the 13th at 7:30PM.

~Peggy B

Climate Change Action Planning Workshop

*Sponsored by UUCWI Social Action Committee at Trinity Lutheran Church –Grigware Hall
Saturday February 24, 9:00 AM-12:00*

We have viewed "An Inconvenient Truth" by Al Gore. At worship on January 28 the Social Action Committee presented the idea of focusing our projects on the subject of Climate Change. In that service, the Committee distributed a handout of project ideas to start a conversation in the congregation- what would we all like to do?? The purpose of this workshop is to begin that conversation in earnest. What other ideas do you have? We will use "Open Space" process to introduce other ideas from the congregation, then put "meat on the bones" of those that generate support from those participating in the workshop. At the end of the meeting we will use a multi-voting process to see which ideas rise to the top and show promise of garnering the requisite interest and energy from our members.

Most of us are aware of the urgency to address Climate Change in our society. But working on this challenge as individuals often seems daunting

and lonely. Approaching it in "community" can transform that difficulty into an opportunity to embody our shared values and goals in projects that are personally satisfying, fun and public witness to our Faith. Please join us on the 24th to help our congregation embrace this opportunity.

~Tom B

Children's Religious Education News

Wow! What exciting news I have this month. We have grown, again! We are now offering four CRE classes – nursery care, a pre-school class for 3-5 year olds, an elementary class for 6-10 year olds and a youth program for those 11 and up.

I'd like to take this opportunity to welcome John L and Dave C to the CRE program. They are part of the new team we are developing for the youth program. John has some exciting ideas and we're absolutely thrilled to see so much enthusiasm for our developing youth program from both Dave and John. We'd love to have a couple more team members, so if you're interested in kids, and who isn't J, send me an email or call me at 341-1321, and I'll tell you more about this wonderful opportunity.

I also must commend our very own Evan Welch on his fantastic job at being the lay leader Jan. 14. It's so exciting to see the children becoming a more active part of the church congregation.

Speaking of being more active, we have a couple of exciting events coming up. As you all know, the children have been raising money through a recycling program and a penny drive for Heifer International. The kids bought trees last year through the program and this year they are working on purchasing a lamb, which is four times the cost. So in addition to their ongoing fundraising efforts, they are going to have an arts and crafts fundraiser selling some adorable things they have made themselves. We'll have more on that as the time gets closer.

Also, Earth Day is drawing near, no, maybe not on the calendar exactly, but definitely in the CRE program. Since we will be a major part of the intergenerational service that day, we are looking ahead. Actually the great thing is, the kids have become so aware of the need to respect nature's web of life, for them, every day is Earth Day.

Towards the end of next month, we'll be actively working on learning more about caring for the environment, the need for conservation, etc., so I'd like to extend an invitation to anyone who might be interested in sharing their expertise with the kids to broaden their knowledge and understanding.

With the great success of Malcolm F's talk on energy conservation and Francie W's lesson on local birds, we are really hoping for more participation from our adult congregation. The kids learned so much, and it was such a great opportunity for them to get to know some our adult members on a more personal level. You can volunteer via our sign up sheet found on the table outside the sanctuary door each week, which sadly has remained relatively empty, or you can talk to me directly via telephone, email or before or after services.

And last, but not least, we now have a CRE music program! For those who don't already know, I'm a bit musically challenged, but fortunately our congregation is not! Linda G has selflessly agreed to bring music to our CRE program. She'll be meeting with each class on a monthly rotational basis. So look forward to hearing a lot more music in the halls! Thank you Linda!

Well that's the latest from CRE, and if you would like to be part of our program through our many volunteer opportunities, don't hesitate to let me know. We have something for everybody.

~Lorie W

President's Column

From Toyon C, UUCWI President

If you want a good reminder of why we should be proud of who we are, how we got here and where we are headed, take a gander at the UUCWI Growth Plan on our website. This concise and informative treatise was crafted several years ago as part of our first grant application. It has recently been updated to accompany upcoming grant and loan requests.

The Plan tells how our organization, goals, and initiatives are working together to build a permanent base for Unitarian Universalists on Whidbey Island. It explains that "It is our goal to establish a center for liberal religion, social justice, and environmental awareness on Whidbey

Island" and notes that our dedication and hard work are making this so. The UUCWI history, statistics, facts and philosophy are succinctly stated, easy to read and worth passing on to others. We have Ken M, Dave C and Tom B to thank for this! It's good stuff.

And, of course, we must add money to the dedication and hard work noted by the Growth Plan. It takes cash to pay for a place to meet; a minister; guest speakers and musicians; CRE staff, materials and programs; a church coordinator and bookkeeper; mailings; advertising; and more. These, in addition to our valuable volunteers, are the essentials. We can't be without them –and we can't have them without the dollars to pay for them.

Fortunately, we know how to raise money and have fun at the same time. We're counting on our annual auction, on February 10th to raise close to \$6,500. That's what our budget says must come from "Fundraising". We need this! And we're certain to have laughs and good times while bidding our way to this goal.

This money business is a serious matter. The original budget for this year predicted we would raise \$48,000 in pledges from members and \$6,000 from fundraising activities. Instead, we received just \$43,500 in pledges - nearly \$5,000 short of what we needed. Continuing the expansion of the CRE and other programs and reinstating a paid choir director position will only be possible with continuing and increasing generosity by all. The auction and, next, the annual canvass will be very important! Friends and members have been generous in contributing to the building fund. We need that same generosity to cover our operating costs. Donate to the auction, attend the auction, bid at the auction, and have fun! We'll talk more about money matters next month.

Operating Fund Canvass Kickoff Dinner

Saturday, March 17, from 6:00 to 9:00 PM.

Mark your calendars for the annual Canvass Kickoff Dinner, at Trinity Lutheran Church in Grigware Hall. This is the starting gun for our Annual Operating Fund Pledge Drive. The Operating Fund is how we pay for all the great programs, personnel, and facilities UUCWI has to offer. In fact, without operating capitol, there is no UUCWI.

But don't whip out your checkbook just yet. This dinner is all about getting together, sharing some food and fellowship, maybe sing a few songs, tell a few jokes, you know, do what we do best--be together. But we can't be together unless we show up. There's no cost for the dinner, no tickets to buy, and nothing to bring, so no excuses. RSVPs to Ken M. See you there.

The UUA General Assembly Comes To Our District

From June 20-24 this year UUA General Assembly will be in Portland, Oregon at the Convention Center. There will be an opportunity for more of us than ever to join as many as 5000 UUs in celebration of our community. If you think you might like to attend, talk now to someone who has been before. And then consider volunteering.

If you volunteer to work for 24 hours, or 16 in the children's program, you will receive free registration. Volunteer applications will be available by March 1st and must be sent to Rosie Hamilton, in Portland, March 1-31. Applications will be available March 1. Please contact Rosie Hamilton -503-293-5453 or rosiephilH@msn.com or see <http://www.uua.org/ga/> for more information. Hope to see you at GA.

~Rosie H

Koffee Klatches

North End: 1-3PM, Feb. 10, West Wind Cafe,
Whidbey General Hospital in Coupeville
South End: 10-12AM, Feb. 14, Rockhoppers
in Clinton

New Member:

Lynn S

My family had one "Sunday" rule when I was growing up. That rule was made really by my Mom, the granddaughter of 2 deaf German Jews who immigrated to America. Mom, like her mother before her, ultimately became a Christian Scientist, a decidedly non-mainstream religion led by an American woman. My Dad was a non-practicing Methodist. The rule was this: My brother and I had to go to some place of religious significance (It was mutely implied that joining Catholic "idol worshipers" was not an option) once a week, any day, and they would provide transportation.

Well growing up in rural New Hampshire, of course we picked the only church in town, the Congregational Church, that all our friends attended, well almost all; the Catholics had to go to the next town. The sermons were boring, but Sunday School was basically innocuous and socially fun. When I got into High School, Mom had started driving to the Christian Science Church, 2 towns away, so I would ride with her. Sunday School started later so I didn't have to wake up so early...and there I exercised my adamant intellectual doubt in the proof-less existence of god. I sneeringly concluded that the only real reason people went to church was social.

I have remained church-less for 40 years until coming to Whidbey Island as a parent. I spoke with every pastor and religious leader on South Whidbey and found only three churches that did not teach 'original sin' and 'must repent to be saved' philosophies, and only two with a children's program....sometimes. So here we are: I am here to meet some of my unabashedly social and intellectual/spiritual needs and my daughter Melissa can attend an on-going ethics-based religious education program!



ORGANIZING OUR RESOURCES FOR EMERGENICES

A QUESTIONNAIRE

from the Caring Connections Committee

To better serve UUCWI in time of crisis or emergency, the Caring Connections Committee asks members and friends to complete this questionnaire and return it to the address at the bottom.

1. In an emergency situation such as a sudden death or family crisis in the congregation, which of the following would you be willing to provide? (Please check as many as feasible)

- Food for a family in crisis
 Transportation to appointments, etc.
 Pet care
 Emergency housing
 Visiting a sick person or bereaved family
 Physical strength (dealing with wheelchairs, etc.)
 Other _____

2. For a memorial service, which of the following would you be willing to provide?
(Please check as many as feasible)

- Finger foods for a reception
 Set up of the reception space
 Clean up of the reception space
 Other _____

3. In an emergency situation resulting from an extended power outage or disaster related problem, which of the following would you be able to provide, assuming availability? (Please check as many as feasible)

- Food & water
 Transportation
 Pet care
 Overnight housing or daytime shelter
 Physical strength & tools (e.g. chain saw)
 Hot showers
 Freezer space
 Other _____

4. Would you be interested in attending a workshop which would help you think about how you would like your own memorial service to be designed? Yes No

Names on lists to meet the needs listed above will be used in sequence to assure that needed support is spread broadly amongst all members of our Congregation able to participate.

Your Name(s): _____

Land phone: _____ Cell phone: _____ Email _____

UUCWI
Caring Connections Committee
PO Box 1076
Freeland, WA 98249

**Unitarian Universalist Congregation
of Whidbey Island**

2006-2007 Board of Trustees

Toyan C, President
 Dave C, Secretary
 Kathleen B, Treasurer
 Frank A, Trustee
 Tom B, Trustee
 Mary G, Trustee
 Sandy W, 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)

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 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
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