



Island Passages

UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CONGREGATION OF WHIDBEY ISLAND

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

April 2005

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2 9:00a -11:00a Canvass Training
3 Daylight Savings Time begins 4:00p -5:15p Service: Finding Meaning Where It's Not	4	5	6	7	8 9:30a Social Action Committee meeting at Trinity	9 10:00a -12:00p Adopt-A-Road Clean-up (p. 3)
10 2:00p Choir practice 4:00p -5:15p Service: Sufism: A Bridge between Islam and Unitarian Universalism	11 9:00a Worship Committee meeting at Trinity	12	13	14	15	16 9:00a -11:00a North End Koffee Klatch (p. 2) 6:00p -8:30p Canvass Kickoff Dinner (p. 3)
17 Canvass begins 4:00p -5:15p Service: In Andy's Garden: Digging Deeper	18 7:00p -9:00p Board of Trustees meeting at Trinity	19 7:30p Book Group (p. 3)	20 newsletter deadline	21	22	23 9:00a -1:00p Work Party at the Church Property (p. 3)
24 2:00p Choir practice 4:00p -5:15p Service: Environmental Justice on the Ground	25	26	27	28	29	30 Canvass ends

Additions and updates can be found on the calendar on the congregation's web site:
www.whidbey.com/uucwi/

**April 3rd — Finding Meaning Where It's Not
with guest speaker Ben Lillie**

Though in life many things appear directed and purposeful, they are actually the result of chance. However, few people really understand the nature of randomness — it is not the absence of order, but rather presence of all possible kinds of order.

Ben Lillie will share examples and stories of apparent order in randomness, how it can impact daily life, and its possible influence on spiritual experience. Mr. Lillie was a Unitarian Universalist kid and is now finishing his doctorate in theoretical elementary particle physics at Stanford University.

Service offering recipient: Helping Hand (see at right)

Lay Leader: Frances W.

Membership Representative: Tim K.

**April 10th — Sufism: A Bridge between Islam
and Unitarian Universalism
with guest speaker Nayer Taheri**

In this sermon Nayer will be presenting on many similarities that Unitarian Universalist spirituality and Sufism (mystical aspect of Islam) share. Also, she will explain how self-cultivating tools help us to deepen our search for meaning in our life experiences and how these tools, in a metaphysical way, influence our relation to and reflection on the universe.

Nayer was born in Tehran, Iran, and immigrated to the United States in 1994. She is currently a seminary student at the Starr King School for the Ministry in Berkeley, California. She is a progressive-feminist Muslim, a student of Sufism, and a Unitarian Universalist.

Lay Leader: Toyon C.

Membership Representative: Malcolm F.

**April 17th — In Andy's Garden: Digging Deeper
with the Reverend Kit Ketcham**

What did you learn about religion and God as a child? Unitarian Universalists often struggle

with the need to sort out the useful from the not-so-useful religious beliefs and practices learned in childhood. Reverend Kit Ketcham will offer her perspective on this challenging task.

Lay Leader: Joann C.

Membership Representative: Roy B.

**April 24th — Environmental Justice on the Ground
with guest speakers Yalonda Sinde
and Kate Villarreal**

Toxic waste dump sites, pollution, poor housing conditions, lack of access to organic food, noise pollution, and other environmental and health hazards are often concentrated in poor communities, indigenous communities and communities of color. Environmental justice addresses the disproportionate impacts of environmental degradation and poverty. Environmental justice often overlaps with other social justice issues, which is why the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee has selected environmental justice as one of its three focus areas.

Yalonda Sinde is Executive Director and Kate Villarreal is Community Organizer of the Community Coalition for Environmental Justice in Seattle.

Lay Leader: Malcolm F.

Membership Representative: Baird B.

Congregational News & Events

Special Offering for Helping Hand

The April 3rd offering will be shared with Helping Hand, which provides counseling, family crisis support and referral services on Whidbey Island.

Schedule Change

The Welcoming Congregation workshop will not meet on April 16th because of the Canvass Gala that night. Workshops will resume in May, with the schedule of remaining workshops listed on the online calendar on our website.

North End Koffee Klatch, April 16th

NEKK will meet on April 16th, 9-11 a.m. at the Whidbey General Hospital cafeteria! Join us for conversation and coffee.

Road Cleanup, April 9th

All are invited to join the Social Action Committee in picking up litter along our "Adopt-A-Road" section of Mutiny Bay Road on Saturday, April 9th from 10:00 till noon.

Helpers need to view a safety video — if you haven't yet seen the video but want to help, please contact me ASAP.

The video is on a CD

that I can share. Anyone who wants to join in the fun should let me know by April 6th so that I'll be sure to get vests, hard hats and litter-grabbing tools for all.

~ Nancy S.

STAND BY YOUR FAITH Kickoff Dinner, April 16th

Mark your calendar: This year's kickoff dinner for the church operating budget canvass will be Saturday night, April 16, 6:00 to 8:30 p.m. We'll have fun and games.

"Stand By Your Man" was made famous by Tammy Wynette. We'll have our ingenious song spinners make it come out STAND BY YOUR FAITH, and we'll all be able to sing our hearts out. Stand by your church and help make this annual event a success. The canvass starts the next day, April 17th and should be wrapped up in two weeks.

- Time: 6:00-8:30 p.m.
- Free
- No solicitation.
- Child tending provided
- Good food, song and fellowship

Book Group, April 19th

The book group will meet on Tuesday, April 19th at 7:30 pm at the B.s' to discuss *The Da Vinci Code* by Dan Brown. Reviewer Jeremy Pugh says, "Brown has created a page-turning thriller that also provides an amazing interpretation of Western history. Brown's hero and heroine embark on a lofty and intriguing exploration of some of Western culture's greatest mysteries — from the nature of the Mona Lisa's smile to the secret of the Holy Grail. Though some will quibble with the veracity of Brown's conjectures, therein lies the fun. *The Da Vinci*

Code is an enthralling read that provides rich food for thought." As an optional supplement, some people might want to read one of the sources for the *Code*, perhaps *The Woman With the Alabaster Jar* by Margaret Starbird. Please let Baird know if you are coming.

Work Party at the Church Property, April 23rd

Come and join us on Saturday, April 23rd from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. for clean-up and spruce-up of the property, trail building and road building. Bring gloves and tools, and we'll have hot dogs at noon.

Also, for those unfamiliar with the site of our new church building, we'll have tours of the property, and the building location will be ribboned out.

See you there.

~ Roy B., Building Committee Chair

Notice of Congregational Meeting, May 15th

The annual UUCWI congregational meeting will be held at 5:30 p.m., after the service, on May 15, 2005, at Trinity. The agenda will include approval of a new budget and election of officers, trustees and a new nominating committee for the next fiscal year beginning July 1. The nominating committee is busy organizing this slate.

Depending upon progress between now and the meeting, there may also be important propositions for congregation members to approve related to our building project. If you are aware of other business to be transacted, please contact Dave C.

Chaminade Trio Concert, June 4th

Plan ahead to attend another wonderful concert by the Chaminade Trio on June 4th. Peggy Bardarson on violin, Carol Graef on 'cello and Nola Allen on piano will perform a variety of pieces sure to please. Once again, Dave and Mavis C. will host this concert.

Volunteer Questionnaires

There are many different ways to volunteer with the congregation's work, and each of them is valued. As part of the canvass, members will have an opportunity to complete a questionnaire describing your intended contribution of volunteer effort in the coming year. Consider taking on a new job next year — several committees would welcome new "blood." Please return your completed forms to me.

~ Nancy S., Volunteer Coordinator

From Our Minister

Dear UUCWI friends,

Because of an invitation to return to my home church in Colorado to be their Pledge Campaign special speaker, I will be with you on April 17 instead of my usual second Sunday. That is the Sunday following our annual Pledge Campaign kickoff dinner and gala celebration.

Spring seems to be Pledge Campaign time in many Unitarian Universalist congregations. Vashon Island UUs are gearing up for their pledge campaign, and Whidbey Island is no exception. I hope you will consider increasing your pledge to the congregation because UUCWI is an investment in the future of the island, the state, the nation, and the world. What we do here matters, and we need to support it.

Our UU values have changed the world for the better over the past couple of centuries; just look back at history and see how Unitarians and Universalists have contributed to social changes in the world, from voting rights to battling poverty, sexism, homophobia, and racism. We are part of that picture, and our time and resources, which we pledge at canvass time, are how we do it. It's how we combat the forces of ignorance and fear in the world.

The religious right is scared, and that's the reason they are fighting so hard to keep marriage traditional, GLBT folks in the closet, and our children uneducated. They are fighting to keep things the way they used to be, when women were possessions, sexual minorities were seen as perverts, and children were taught what to think, not how to think.



Many progressive religious folk believe that underlying some of the behaviors of political and religious ultra-conservatives is a male fear of being seen as feminine, a belief that the best thing about being a man is NOT being a woman, leading them to repudiate anything which can be seen as sensitive, subordinate, or "sissy".

Stephen Ducat has written a book entitled *The Wimp Factor* which addresses this theory of masculinity gone awry. He offers interesting and unusual evidence for his ideas. Check it out if you're interested. It's available from Beacon Press, our Unitarian Universalist publishing house.

Much love,

Kit

Fifties Fantasy Dance, May 21st

When was the last time you danced to LIVE "good-time" rock n' roll?? Don't you miss the oldies such as *The Lion Sleeps Tonight*, *Dock of the Bay*, *Take it Easy*, *Runaway* and *Margaritaville*?

When was the last time you wore your poodle skirt and bobby socks?? Get out that clothing from the 50s or 60s or 70s!! (or wear what you want!!). Here's your chance!! Save May 21st from 7-10 pm at Freeland Hall for "Fifties Fantasy." We'll hear Leap of Faith, a band made up of four guys and a gal from Shoreline and East Shore UU churches:

- Mary Anderson, vocals, percussion
- Rick Anderson, vocals, guitar, bass
- Andy Landis, vocals, guitar, keys
- Craig Nelson, vocals, guitar, bass
- Ben Tompkins, drums

These band members are DONATING THEIR TIME as a fundraiser for UUCWI.

We'll dance to the hits we all grew up with — irresistible for all ages, from toddlers to grandparents. Your favorite songs — from the 50s to the 90s — will be performed in a crowd-pleasing, all-ages format.

You can purchase tickets from Gail A. ahead of time or at the door: \$10.00 per person; \$25.00 per family. The community is also invited.

Also, please let Gail know if you'll be able to help with putting up posters, set-up, refreshments, wine bar, decorations, or clean-up. She'd be most appreciative!!



Building Committee Update

The Building Committee has been meeting every two weeks, working on a revised concept for our new church home, reviewing the site plan, and developing costs for the project.

Some of the recent recommendations:

- Play Area: Relocate the play area to a safer location near the building; the exact location to be determined later.
- First-Phase Building: Relocate the first-phase building to the south, with the classrooms on the left as you enter the building, and the meeting hall on the right.
- Future Sanctuary: The future sanctuary building would then be located to the north, nestled in the trees at the prime portion of the property.

The committee considered a walk-out basement option; there appeared to be no advantage to this option when the construction complications were considered, including the deck off the meeting hall, handicapped access, grading problems and retaining wall construction.

The committee continues to meet with contractors, building designers and county officials in order to firm up the design concept and develop costs. We will report back to the congregation as we complete the revised concept.

~ Roy B., Chair

Treasurer's Report

The church's fiscal year (July 1 to June 30) is 67% complete as of the end of February. Operating fund income and expense through February 28th are:

Income: \$26,363, or 65% of budget

Expense: \$24,670, or 52% of budget

As you can see, income is very close to the budgeted amount, and expense is somewhat below the budgeted amount.

In addition to the above figures, the Services Auction raised \$3,317 toward the church's operating fund programs. The Rainey Lewis concert raised \$385 for the building fund. Thanks to everyone for your support of the church programs!

~ Roy B., Treasurer

Social Action Committee News

The Social Action Committee continues to survey and act on issues relating to social justice, both locally and globally. To help us keep in touch with actions and issues that national UU groups are addressing, two of our members will serve as liaisons: Patricia B. as UU United Nations Office Envoy and Nancy S. as Unitarian Universalist Service Committee Representative. You can expect regular updates regarding these groups.

Our Baskets for Books project continues strongly (see the letter below). Bill G., Toyon C. and Nancy S. sold baskets at the World Friendship Day celebration at Greenbank Farm on March 1st.

We continue to designate a portion of our service offering to a local or UU service organization each month. In the seven months since we began this practice, our congregation has donated more than \$1200 to these groups, including \$326 to the UUSC Guest At Your Table project. The compassion and generosity of this congregation are inspiring, and I want to pass on the sincere thanks that we receive from the recipients of your offerings.

Notes from committee meetings with further information are posted on our website.

~ Nancy S., Chair

Baskets for Books Letter

During the past two years the Social Action Committee of our congregation has been importing and selling baskets hand woven by indigenous peoples of southern Bolivia, known as Guaranís. All profits from the sale of these baskets have been returned to the Guaraní people by funding a scholarship fund. The scholarship fund is administered by Hermana (Sister) Maura McCarthy, a nun who has devoted her life to working with the Guaraní people. The following is from a letter received from Hermana Maura several weeks ago.

Dear Friends:

In the 1980's most of the Guaraní Indians of the Pilcomayo River region in southern Bolivia could neither read nor write. The very first school serving these people was opened by the government in the village of Naurenda in 1982. The landholders, known as patrons, opposed the building of schools necessitating that this school was built at night. The first bilingual (Guaraní and Spanish) teacher

arrived in 1993. They were able to help, not only with the education of children but also with the organization of work groups who wanted to break away from the patrons.

Despite all the efforts to promote education of children and adults, only a third-grade education was possible for the Guarani until 1996. In that year an open boarding school was opened at Naurenda which provided the first opportunity to earn a high school equivalent diploma. In 1998, there were 13 students in the open boarding school. In 2004, there were 75 students boarding with families in the area and being supported by donations from other sources.

The funding from the Whidbey Unitarian Church has been used exclusively for helping graduates from the Naurenda high school to attend a bilingual normal school in Camiri, known as INSPOC. There were 2 students this past year — Lorgio Bustos of Tentaguasu, and Marcelo Ordenez, originally of Yacuiba. Both Lorgio and Marcelo successfully completed their first year at the normal school studying to become teachers and are eager to continue. This coming year, there will be a minimum of 10 new Guaraní students who have graduated from Naurenda and will enter the normal school supported by the Whidbey Scholarship Fund.

This past year, because Lorgio received a partial scholarship to INSPOC for maintaining high grades, we used just \$800 from the Whidbey Scholarship Fund. There is now \$5,169.69 in the scholarship fund. We will be using the fund for the paperwork for Bolivian identification papers and admission fees for the new students and the rest for board, room, and materials for the old and new students. Again, to all of you of the Whidbey Unitarian Church, “Yasoropai tuicha jare Tumpa ndeveno” “Many, many thanks and may God be with each of you.”

Hermana Maura McCarthy

New Members

The following people have recently signed the Membership Book:

Dan and Lois A., Wayne and Kathleen B., Tom B. and Terri A., Linnea O., Heidi H., and Joe T.

Let us give these new members our welcome and whole-hearted support.

~ Baird B., Membership Committee Chair

Giving Gladly

By Dave C., UUCWI
President



Aren't you glad that it's that time of year again when you get a personal visit from a nice person reminding you to pledge money to the UUCWI operating fund? No? Our faith shouldn't emphasize money, you say? Well, you're right. Pledging once a year prevents weekly and monthly appeals and lets the church plan its services for the year ahead. It is good that every year we contemplate what UUCWI means to us. It is good that we consider, annually, to what purposes we will put our resources, both individually and as a community. So give gladly.

It is gratifying that we have so many volunteers donating their time without pay. Nevertheless, the church does have expenses. Do you enjoy having Kit as our spiritual leader? Then please help make her job here secure. Do you enjoy hearing Jamal's intriguing multilevel stories? Does it make you smile to listen in on the children's story each Sunday? Are you uplifted by the choir and by the talented musicians who provide our special music? Our music, speakers and children's programs depend wholly upon your support. Be glad you have created these opportunities by your giving.

We depend upon the district's resources for planning many of our programs, and we hope to benefit from district grants or loans in building our new facility. Happily, we pay our full dues to the PNWD. In the not-so-distant future, we'll face maintenance costs — insurance and utilities — for our new building. In addition we'll need to make loan payments for the portion of the building costs that are not covered by capital fund pledges. We'll need furniture and a decent piano. Be glad you can make all these things possible.

It is a source of pride and joy that our Social Action and Caring Connections committees are so active, and I sincerely hope your support will match the needs they identify. I'm grateful to be in community with generous and caring people like you, who give so gladly and generously.

Worship Committee Notes

At its March meeting, the Worship Committee decided to initiate two new initiatives on a trial basis:

1. A Worship Suggestion Box: In lieu of an annual poll in which it is difficult to remember thoughts on services many months previously we are going to encourage sharing contemporaneous thoughts by putting a written note into our Suggestion Box which will be available at every service. Any comments will be kept confidential within the Worship Committee. Your noting of constructive suggestions or acknowledging something that moved you positively will help us improve services in the future.

2. Discuss a Sermon? Has a sermon ever provoked a question or comment in you that you'd prefer to express rather than squelch? After each service starting immediately we will encourage the speaker to move to the rear of the sanctuary to answer any questions or simply to enter into a dialogue with anyone who is interested.

If you like these ideas, please let us know.

~ Bill G., Chair

From Other Churches

Hope in Hard Times Film

Langley United Methodist is presenting Mark Dworkin and Melissa Young's film *Hope in Hard Times* in a second showing Saturday, April 2nd, at 7:30 p.m. at Langley United Methodist Church. It's described as an excellent, uplifting view of people making positive change. The 74-minute film highlights what regular people can do locally when faced with economic and political crisis.

The film was presented for the first time on Whidbey in January to a standing-room-only crowd at the Bayview Cash Store, and there have been many requests for a repeat screening. Donations are requested.

Skagit UU Fellowship Program April 9th

The Reverend Barbara Allen, CMP, will present a program titled, "Crone Mystery Revealed" on Saturday, April 9th, from 12:00 to 3:00 p.m. Billed as revealing important and surprising insights from recent archaeological and anthropological research, the program will focus on the roles of women in leadership, agriculture,

medicine, written language, mathematics, science, and enlightened government. More information is online at suuf.tripod.com/id10.html.

From the District & UUSC

PNW District Trustee

As Secretary of the Board of Directors of the Pacific Northwest District of the Unitarian Universalist Association it is my pleasure to announce the results of our election at the Annual General Meeting of our district on February 18-20, 2005, for the position of Trustee to the Unitarian Universalist Association Board of Trustees. At the meeting the delegates elected the Reverend Elizabeth L. Greene to the trustee position.

Faithfully,
The Reverend Douglas E. Wadkins
Secretary

Holiday Card Design Contest

UUCWI members are invited to participate in the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee (UUSC) Holiday Card Design Contest 2005. Visit www.uusc.org/holidaycards to learn more.

Each year, Unitarian Universalists nationwide purchase UUSC holiday cards, sharing warm wishes with their loved ones and helping our vital human rights work worldwide. This year, one of these cards could be designed by you! We urge creative UUs of all ages who are passionate about social justice to submit a design for a new UUSC holiday card for the 2005 holiday season.

Text suggestions are also welcome. The winning card designer names and congregations will be printed on their cards, which will be purchased and shared by UUs nationwide during the 2005 holiday season.

Before submitting your design, please review the Submission Guidelines at www.uusc.org/holidaycards. Submissions must be received by UUSC on or before May 6, 2005.

Mail submissions to
UUSC Holiday Card Contest
130 Prospect Street
Cambridge, MA 02139-1845

Email submissions to
volunteerservices@uusc.org.

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**Unitarian Universalist Congregation
of Whidbey Island**

2004-2005 Board of Trustees

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Roy B., Treasurer
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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 (206-781-3098)
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 20th of each
month to editor Nancy S., uucwi@whidbey.com.

Short faxed
items may be acceptable.

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

Communications Committee:

Nancy S., Newsletter Editor and Webmaster
Mavis C., Church Coordinator
Patricia B., Publicity Coordinator