



ISLAND PASSAGES

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

April 2007

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 2pm: Choir Practice Service 4-5pm: Women Healing Women in India	2 7pm Women's Discussion Group (p.3)	3	4	5 6:00p - 8:00p Board meeting	6	7 1-3pm: North End Koffee Klatch (p.7)
8 Service 4-5pm: Renaissance	9	10	11 10-12am: South End Koffee Klatch (p.7) 7:30pm: Book Group (p.3)	12	13	14
15 3pm: Choir Rehearsal (p.2) Service 4-5pm: What Really Happened Easter Morning?	16	17	18	19	20	21
22 3pm: Choir Rehearsal (p.2) Service 4-5pm: The Earth is Our Mother	23	24	25	26	27	28 9am-3pm: Orientation for New and Prospective Members (p.7)
29 Service 4-5pm: The Challenge of Global Warming	30					

April 1: Women Healing Women in India
Speakers: Cynthia Brix, MA, M.Div. and Will
Keepin Ph.D

Teachings from the women of India will be shared through storytelling, photographs, sacred scripture, and music. This service will be led by Cynthia Brix, candidate for the UU ministry and Will Keepin, the founder of Satyana Institute, an international, non-profit organization that provides service and trainings that combine the inner work of the heart with outer service in the world.

Cynthia and Will facilitate healing and reconciliation workshops and conferences in South Africa, India, Italy, and the United States.

Lay Leader: Mavis C

Membership Representative: Lois C

April 8: Renaissance
Speaker: Reverend Kit Ketcham:

Because of our multi-faith composition, Unitarian Universalists have a unique approach to Easter. Not only do we respect the Christian story of Jesus' death and resurrection, but we also consider the meanings of the Jewish Passover, the Vernal Equinox, and other spring traditions. Rev. Kit Ketcham will speak about the common threads of Renaissance and the Unitarian Universalist response to the traditional celebrations of spring. There will be an Easter Parade as a postlude, so wear your Easter bonnet!

Lay Leader: Terri A

Membership Representative: Ken M

April 15: What really happened Easter morning?

Speaker: Tom Walker

Join Tom Walker as he reflects, with humor and poignancy, upon the four accounts of Easter in the Bible, how they differ (did you know that?), and what they say in common about the meaning of the most holy day of the Christian Church. Tom lives on the Island, likes to play guitar, and loves his family. He was formerly a Methodist pastor, formerly destitute, formerly physically fit, and formerly a student of the Bible. Currently, he directs social services off island, sings with the Rural Characters, surfs the web and muses on the meaning of life. He resists categorization, delights in playing with the cat, and appreciates especially people whose minds are open, which is why he is happy to accept this invitation!

Lay Leader: Joann C

Membership Representative:

April 22: The Earth is Our Mother
Speaker: Reverend Kit Ketcham

On this Earth Day 2007, our children, teachers, and Rev. Kit Ketcham will present an intergenerational worship service, expressing our strong sense of connection to the earth and our responsibility for it.

Our youth will serve in leadership positions during the service, as well as providing music. The children of the congregation will offer a gift to each person attending the service, in recognition of their acceptance of the Seven Principles. Rev. Kit Ketcham will offer her reflections.

Lay Leader: Juli S

Membership Representative: Earl B

April 29: The Spiritual Challenge of Global Warming: A Leap of Faith
Speaker: Heidi H

In a strange irony, this talk was "snowed out" last November. It is being offered again, in a reworked form, in the hopes that more people will be able to attend.

Global warming, once a debatable theory, has become an indisputable reality. Even though most scientists agree that we are bringing this crisis upon ourselves, people continue their consumptive ways as if the problem will magically solve itself.

Those of us who take global warming seriously not only find it difficult to know what actions to take, but also must overcome a deep despair about the human future. Drawing on Buddhist principles, speaker Heidi Hoelting will address spiritual and emotional dimensions of this crisis.

Lay Leader: Tom B

Membership Representative: Earl B

News and Events

Music News

On the second Sunday in April, Peggy B will lead the choir, which will rehearse April 1, and perform April 8.

April 15 when Tom Walker is our speaker, Claudia Walker and daughter Amy will perform.

April 22nd (Earth Day) we'll have a CRE led service, planned by Lorie W. We're asking for volunteers of six choir members to partner with the children on at least some of the songs. Here are the ones we've chosen: "The Earth is Our Mother", "Ancient Mother" (traditional Native American),

"This Pretty Planet", and "The Garden Song" (Inch by inch, row by row). The plan is to practice together from 3pm on April. 15, and again on April 22. Evan W will play piano, Juli Sundberg will play cello, and the other children will join on instruments and percussion plus singing.

On April 29th special music will be provided by the Open Circle Singers, conducted by Peggy T.

~Linda G

Women's Group: Monday April 2

The Women's Dialogue Group is changing nights! For the next few months, we will meet on Mondays because of the Lyceum Discussions that will be occurring on Tuesday nights. Over half of the people who were at the last meeting wanted to go to Lyceum so it was agreed to switch to Mondays for a few months. Another change is that the group will continue to meet over the summer for those who are interested and in town.

We also decided to re-focus our energy on spiritual matters in a broad sense. The topic for the next meeting is "Renewal/Transformation." Joan and Lois agreed to collect some thought-provoking quotes on this topic and generate some questions to spur discussion.

Place: Lois C's home in Freeland

See you at 7pm for coffee/tea and 7:30 for discussion.

~Camille L

Book Discussion Group: April 11

The Bluest Eye is the story of eleven-year-old Pecola Breedlove—a black girl in an America whose love for its blond, blue-eyed children can devastate all others—who prays for her eyes to turn blue: so that she will be beautiful, so that people will look at her, so that her world will be different. With its vivid evocation of the feat and loneliness at the heart of a child's yearning, and the tragedy of it's fulfillment, The Bluest Eye remains one of Toni Morrison's most powerful, unforgettable novels—and a significant work of American fiction.

Please join the Book Discussion Group on Wednesday, April 11, 7:30pm at Sandy W's home to discuss this influential and provocative novel. Call 579-1577 for driving instructions. Though we usually meet on the second Tuesday of each month, we'll be meeting on Wednesday this month only to accommodate those who are attending the Lyceum series. ~Sandy W

CRE News –

What a difference just a short couple of months can make! Read on to see all the new and exciting things happening in the world of CRE!

Up and Coming

For those of you who may not have heard, we have implemented what is believed to be our first ever Coming of Age program. Typically C of A programs are designed for 14-16 year olds, so we have created a modified, less intensive, yet equally rewarding program, affectionately named the Up and Coming Program, for our two middle school youth. In monthly lessons led by Rev. Kit Ketcham, both Evan W and Juli S will be getting a taste of all the spiritual and learning opportunities typically found in a C of A program, modified to fit their level of development. I personally want to thank Dave C and Camille L for generously volunteering to be mentors for Evan and Juli. I know that all of them will come to cherish their new relationships and blossoming friendships. If you would like more information about this program or are interested in being a mentor in future C of A or U & C programs, please let me know. I can be reached by telephone at

360-341-1321.

Earth Day Service April 22

Once again, the CRE children and teachers are busily preparing for the Earth Day celebration April 22.. The children have learned many new things about our precious web of life and how it is important to not only know our Seventh Principle, but to live it each and every day. I'd like to encourage you to join us in this celebration of life! Protecting our earth for our children is really what it is all about, so please join us for this very special celebration at the intergenerational service!

Fundraiser –Heifer International Project.

Following the April 22 service, the children will have a table set up in the reception area to display the delightful craft items they have made to sell as a fundraiser for Heifer International. Last year, the children decided to raise money to buy trees as a gift to Heifer International through a penny drive. It was so successful that they challenged themselves to buy a lamb this year, which is four times the price. So in addition to the penny drive, the children started an aluminum can recycling drive, which has allowed us to help protect the earth and raise money for Heifer International. We are nearing our deadline and are still about \$60 short of our goal, so

the children decided to make some very useful items to sell to raise the remaining funds. Please stop by their table and see their wonderful wares—bird feeders, bookmarks, key chains and name tag holders and help the children give to this wonderful organization.

Some thoughts on curricula...

It occurred to me the other day that we spend a lot of time talking about the curricula, meaning ‘the books’, that we use to help children learn and incorporate UU beliefs and ideals into their lives, but that is only a small part of the curricula. In actuality, our entire congregation is the curricula. Yes, the explicit curricula are obvious—the books, the sermons, our announcements, everything we present, consciously and with intent, but there is much more we are teaching and learning through the implicit and the null curricula. The null curricula are those things left out of our concepts and understandings—those things that exist, but are simply not thought about or at best, ignored or not talked about becoming implicit, by not being paid attention to as part of the educational process. The implicit curricula are everywhere; it’s in things like attitudes, the design of a room, how time is spent and in the interaction with our young people.

The explicit curricula say that as UUs, we believe everyone has inherent worth and that we respect and value all people, but I’d like you to think for a minute on the implicit curricula our young people are receiving after the church services. During the coffee hour after services, they are often ignored or at best, reprimanded when they begin to behave inappropriately, so I wonder what the implicit curricula is that they are receiving. Could it be “I don’t matter, so no one cares what I do?” I know there is increasing concern over the energy the children are displaying after the services, and I am equally concerned. I feel that outside activities should be outside, but even after I have talked with the children repeatedly, the behavior continues. So then I started to think about the whole curriculum – the explicit (what I was purposefully telling the children: “Don’t run around in the church after services;” the implicit and the null). So I would like to challenge everyone to take a minute or two to talk with our young people before and after services and especially during the coffee hour. They are wonderful, caring and delightful children when given the chance. Let’s make sure our implicit, as well as our explicit curricula, say loud

and clearly, “WE VALUE YOU,” and I just bet that behavior will disappear.

With Warmth from the Flame,

~Lorie W, *Director of Religious Education*

Chaminade Chamber Concert

The Chaminade Trio house concert is coming on Saturday, May 12 at 7:30 p.m. at the home of Dave and Mavis C. Peggy B, Carol G, and Nola A will play music for violin, cello, and piano contrasting the classical beauty of Beethoven and the passionate romanticism of Schumann. Refreshments will be served after the concert. Tickets are \$20/person and all proceeds to go UUCWI. Seating is limited and this is always a fully subscribed event — so do make your reservations in advance. (No tickets at the door.)

~Mavis C

From the Worship Committee

Don't you just love coming to church and having so many wonderful people with whom to laugh and share stories; to know that someone cares that your best friend or maybe a beloved pet is ill; that you can almost always engage in a thoughtful conversation with someone as well read on a issue as you are?

Now imagine for a moment that you came to church and found no chairs awaiting you, no hymnals from which to sing beautiful songs, no altar reflecting the values and taste of UU's, no UUCWI banners, no sound system so you could hear the wise words being offered that day, and what if there were no refreshments over which to linger in rich conversation with your friends? Learning from Kit how to be a sleuth (a practice she described during her sermon on 3/18), I discovered that there are a few devoted members who set up and disassemble the sanctuary week after week. Members just like you and me, with busy lives, tired backs, places to go and people to see. Members who show up 30 minutes prior to services to arrange chairs, hang banners, set up the sound system, distribute hymnals, arrange a lovely altar, make coffee, lay out food, napkins, coffee cups. Then after the services, some of those same members stick around long enough to put everything away, restore the altar to the "look" of a Lutheran church instead of a UU congregation, wash dishes, vacuum. No job is big, but there are many little ones.

Will YOU help? With all us engaged, each member would only need to volunteer to help two times a year. Isn't that fantastic? We are big enough now that we would only have to help twice! Not 10 times or 20 times like a few brave and dedicated souls do all year long. Twice. Please say yes. The rewards are plentiful - you'll continue to have a lovely spot to worship in community with great friends. And you'll be able to have the satisfaction of saying YES! once more to life.

There is a sign-up sheet every week at church, on our little portable bulletin board. Please be generous with your time. It is the one resource that is uniformly distributed to every being on Gaia. We each have 24 hours a day. No more. No less. We are all given 24 hours, no matter our race, gender, sexual orientation, income level, or education. Can YOU spare an hour of your precious 24, for just 2 services a year?

~Terri

Recycling on the Church Property

There are four "garbage" cans by the shelter on the property – one for aluminum cans, one for plastic bottles, one for glass, and the fourth for actual garbage. Please be sure all recycled items are completely empty! It's icky dealing with cans or bottles when they still contain dribbles of soda or whatever. And please remove and discard tops from plastic bottles (such as water bottles) – they become projectiles and have injured people working with crushing machines. Thanks for your conscientious attention!

Do keep an eye on the calendar for work parties and come join in. It's lots of fun working beside other folk — getting to know them and the land better. And women are welcome, too! There are jobs for all skill and energy levels.

~Mavis, aka the Waste Warrior

Dear UUCWiers,

As we get closer and closer to the time when we will have our own home, when we can move to morning services, when we hope and expect that we will become the religious home for many of Whidbey's spiritual seekers, we have plenty of opportunities and challenges to meet.



One of those opportunities is to offer strong Unitarian Universalist worship and programming to the Whidbey Island community. As we've grown, we've recognized that people visit us to see what Unitarian Universalism is all about, that visitors want to know what kind of religious community we are, that they want to see if their hopes and dreams are like ours.

To foster this strong sense of UU identity in our worship, the Board, Worship Committee, and I have agreed that during our next church year, we will strive to create a more thematic worship year, using UU principles, history, aspirations, as we design each worship service.

During the coming church year, I will usually be in the pulpit twice a month, which is a modest increase in my preaching schedule. UUCWI and outside speakers will augment our worship schedule and we will work with UU themes in designing services. I'm hopeful that I can arrange a few pulpit exchanges with nearby UU ministers, so that we can hear what they have to say as well.

I want to urge all of us to be invitational in our contacts with friends and neighbors. Invite your others to experience UUCWI frequently. We want the Whidbey Island community to know what we're all about, to see us as a strong liberal faith tradition, to see by our actions what we stand for.

I'm looking forward to the challenges of preaching more often. Each sermon I write and deliver gives me the opportunity to learn something new, to express it in terms that will be well-received, and to find the ways I am personally connected to each issue. Preaching a series of three sermons in March has been an exhilarating experience for me. I hope you have benefited as well.

Much love,
Kit

President's Column

From Toyon C, UUCWI President

In case you've ever wondered what this Board of Trustees that you elect each year does, allow me to offer a few updates:

Most recently, we have begun planning for the coming church year. The current year ends on June 30, which is not that far away, and we need to have the important matters of finances and minister all taken care of before then.

Kit has been with UUCWI for four years as our part-time consulting minister. She started as a one-quarter time minister and, last year, her contracted time was increased slightly to nearly one-third time. At the request of the BOT, she has spent these additional hours organizing and inspiring the Social Action, Membership and Caring Connections Committees, and consulting with the CRE program. She has, in general, been available to us more than before – all while still delivering a total of 16 sermons over the church year.

Kit made her commitment to UUCWI known when she moved to Freeland this past year and, recently, terminated her part-time contract with the Vashon Island Unitarian Fellowship. We no longer are sharing her!

The BOT and Kit have just agreed that she will be our one-third time minister this coming year with a few additional sermons added to this. She has agreed to be responsible for a total of 21 sermons over 11 months, including a couple of "pulpit exchanges" with other UU ministers.

In addition to her direct work with UUCWI – including "koffee klatches", monthly meetings with the BOT and Worship Committees and visiting with members who seek her counsel or solace, Kit is organizing a clergywomen's support group on the Island. We are fortunate to have this energy and talent representing us!

The BOT has spent considerable time reviewing the financial forecasts for UUCWI – for the costs of both operations and the construction of our new home. We have needed and heeded these to assure ourselves that we are headed in a good direction. These projections, which were brought to us by the dedicated Finance Committee, have now been sent to PNWD (our District chapter) for review and approval in conjunction with our application to UUA to serve as a guarantor on our upcoming building loan. The BOT will, of course, call a

meeting of the congregation to vote on this before any loan is finalized.

The BOT has been communicating with the Building Committee about the people and processes to be in place when construction of our home begins. Who will be in charge of what? Who will keep track of what happens and how much it costs? We are nearly ready to begin!

The BOT will soon appoint two official delegates to General Assembly (June 20-24 in Portland, OR). If you are planning on attending this annual national UU conference and would like to vote on our behalf on the various matters to be considered there, let a BOT member know soon.

On a personal note, I would encourage every UUAer to attend GA. I attended two years ago and it was informative, interesting and inspiring. I loved it! I joined a rally against the death penalty (and this was in Texas!), met with other UU Board Presidents, listened to wonderful speakers and music and marveled at how incredibly well-organized it all was. The highlight for me was the worship service on the final day. I still remember that rousing sermon and there's something very special about singing a favorite UU hymn with 3,000 others!

The BOT has set May 27 as the date for the Annual Congregational Meeting. Mark your calendar! The Nominating Committee, headed by Tim Keohane, is putting together a slate of candidates for officers and trustees to be voted on by all members.

We will also be adopting the operating budget for next (church) year. This brings us back to money talk. If you haven't already met with a canvasser to make your pledge, please be thinking seriously about increasing the amount you give. We have important work to do – we are important! And we need help making our good works happen.

Building Committee News

The building committee has made great financing progress. The Loan Application to the UUA and the First Home Grant have been completed and submitted to Janine Larsen of PNWD. Upon her approval they will go off to the UUA. Kathleen B has obtained two commercial loan commitments, one verbal and one written. Hopefully the Congregational Meeting for the final stamp of approval for our building project will occur within the month.

The building committee had a pleasant and successful work party on the property 3/14/07. A required silt fence, approximately 500 feet long, was completed by those assembled. A general cleanup of the property was undertaken. The Wayside Pulpit was replenished. The recycling system was reinforced. Worker Bees were: Chris H, Mavis C, Dave C, Kit Ketcham, Roy B, Baird B, Wayne B, John L, Earl B and Tom B. (The Silt Fence subsequently passed County inspection.)

We will schedule the next work party for Saturday, March 31, 2007 at 8:30am.

Roy is still waiting for a response from the DNR for a permit for tree and stump removal from the drive, parking and church site. Roy has almost completed the necessities to apply for our building permit and will send the application in posthaste.

~Baird B

Audio Tapes and Online Versions of Sermons

Remember that the texts of some of our sermons are online (www.whidbey.com/uucwi) and that there are audio tapes for some sermons. Contact Mavis C to borrow these.

Orientation for New and Prospective Members

Bill G will hold a Unitarian Universalist orientation Saturday, April 28 from 9:00am to 3:00pm in Grigware (our usual social hall) at Trinity. Learn what it means to be a Unitarian and about its illustrious historical figures. The program is oriented toward new members but all are welcome. A light lunch will be served.

RSVP to Bill G, 341-1772

Koffee Klatches

North End: 1-3pm, April 7

Join Coupeville and Oak Harbor members and friends at the West Wind cafe at Whidbey General Hospital for good conversation, cheap food, and good companionship.

South End: 10-12am, April 11.

Join Kit and other UUCWiers at Rockhoppers Coffee Shop in Clinton for a morning of good conversation and great art.

Thanks from the New Editor

I'd like to thank Nancy S for all her help with the previous two newsletters while I did my best to learn how to put the newsletter together. Beginning with this month I've been on my own. Also thanks to Mavis C for requesting articles and directing them to me, and to Dave C for maintaining the web page:

www.whidbey.com/uucwi where this newsletter is also posted.

~Rebecca S