



Island Passages

UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CONGREGATION OF WHIDBEY ISLAND
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May 2003

S M T W T F S

I am only one. But still I am one. I cannot do everything, but still I can do something. And because I cannot do everything I will not refuse to do the something that I can. —Edward Everett Hale

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Work Party in Woodinville See item below.

4 4:00 PM Sunday Service and CRE at Trinity. Baskets for Books See item on page 3.	5 Coffee order deadline See page 2. 8:30 AM World Events Discussion Group at the Lighthouse Cafe.	6	7	8	9	10
11 2:00 PM Choir rehearsal at Trinity. 4:00 PM Sunday Service and CRE at Trinity.	12	13	14 7:30 PM Worship Committee meeting.	15	16	17 9:00 AM Work party at the church property. See "Building" item page 3. 5:00 PM Musical Potluck at the B.'s. See item page 3.
18 4:00 PM Sunday Service and CRE at Trinity.	19 8:30 AM World Events Discussion Group at the Lighthouse Cafe.	20 7:30 PM Book Group meets at the B.'s. See item page 3.	21	22	23	24 7:30 PM Movie Night. Details TBD. Call Ken for information or suggestions.
25 4:00 PM Sunday Service at Trinity. 5:15 PM Executive Committee meeting.	26	27	28 7:00 PM Board meeting at Trinity.	29	30	31

WORK PARTY IN WOODINVILLE On Saturday, May 3, a work party from our congregation will carpool to Woodinville to help the Woodinville UU Congregation in the ongoing construction of their new church. We were invited to do this in lieu of paying the normal fee of Janine Clark, a professional fundraising consultant who led our canvass training workshop here in March. The church they are building has been erected almost entirely by the volunteer labor of congregation members and friends such as our work party. *Please join us!* You needn't have carpenter or other special skills to contribute. Call or email Bill G. for details.

UPCOMING SERVICES Services are scheduled for Sundays, 4:00 p.m. at Trinity Lutheran church. Child care and nursery care are provided during the services (at Trinity) unless otherwise indicated.

May 4—“*Let's Sing!*”

Nearly every speaker who visits us exclaims how well we sing and how much we seem to enjoy it (uncharacteristic of UUs, they also say.) We do! On this Sunday we have a chance to indulge. The service will be almost exclusively singing our favorite hymns and enjoying our favorite readings. Malcolm F. has the Skinner Press book *Between the Lines*, which gives notes on every hymn and reading in our *Living Tradition* hymnal, with comments about the author, the music, the circumstances of its origin, etc. We hope members will choose a favorite hymn and/or reading, and be ready to present their favorites with a little introduction to it, including why you like it so much. The service will therefore be a series of brief talks and then the hymn or reading.

We will be supported by our annual visit from Al G.'s melodious quartet, who will give some of their favorites, and help lead us in ours. This is the first time we have tried something like this, and we hope it will have your enthusiastic support.

May 11 —“*Flower Communion*”

Join us as we participate in a favorite UU tradition, the flower communion, and recognize mothers on this their special day. Be sure to bring a flower to share during the communion.

Facilitator: Bill G.

Membership Representative: Baird B.

Usher: open *Refreshments:* Paula K.

May 18 —“*To Join a Fellowship of Heretics*”

with guest speaker, Stan Crow

The definition of a heretic is “to choose.” A heretic is one who chooses an opinion contrary to those which are generally accepted or established. Our founding mothers and fathers chose to break with creeds and doctrines which they could not accept. But they also chose a path of exploration based on their own life experience and ability to reason. Many of us have come to Unitarian Universalism after having rejected another established belief. Stan Crow will explore with us what we might learn from our forebearers in this unusual denomination about paths to belief.

Facilitator: Ken M.

Membership Representative: Malcolm F.

Usher: Linda G. *Refreshments:* open

May 25 — see item “Worship Service Opportunity” below

Facilitator: open

Membership Representative: Roy B.

Usher: open *Refreshments:* open

June 1—“*The Quest for the Historical Jesus:*

Jesus, the Man,” **with lay speaker, Al Grapel**

A number of portraits of the historical Jesus have been published in the past couple of decades as a result of the Jesus research that is currently under way. The portraits vary considerably and illustrate the range of ideas that are at play in contemporary Jesus scholarship as well as the different conclusions that can be drawn through historical reconstruction. A variety of these portraits will be summarized in this concluding presentation in the series on the “Quest for the Historical Jesus.”

The presenter will be Al Grapel, who has studied aspects of the historical Jesus with two prominent members of the Jesus Seminar. He has completed the coursework for a Masters degree in religious studies and psychology at Oregon State University.

Membership Representative: Baird B.

Usher: open *Refreshments:* open

WORSHIP SERVICE OPPORTUNITY

from Malcolm F., Worship Committee Chair

Here's a wonderful chance: Scheduling changes have resulted in a blank for May 25, so who would like to offer to speak? We've had several in-house talks this year, to the benefit of all. Kindly get your suggestions to anyone on the Worship Committee before May 14, our next meeting. (Otherwise the congregation may have to submit to another EcoEconomy presentation—important topic, but perhaps not every congregant is enthralled by it.) Thanks!

COFFEE ORDER

from Mavis C.

It's time to place another coffee order . . . I'll call in the order on Monday, May 5. So either send me an email, or sign up on Sunday, May 4, at church (email preferred). The coffee should be available for pickup (barring unforeseen problems) on May 11. Pay at the time of pickup . . . checks should be made payable to UUCWI. We order 1.5 lb bags at \$13.50 per bag. Blends available are Espresso, Italian, or French.

Important: Please indicate how many bags of which blend, and for each bag indicate either regular or decaf. Unless you specify ground, I'll order whole beans.

This is organic, fairly-traded, shade-grown, songbird-friendly, premium quality coffee! It is also a fundraiser for the social action committee. Thanks!

BASKETS FOR BOOKS

After surviving mountains of red tape, eighty-one extremely handsome, hand-woven baskets have finally arrived, and the Social Action Committee will introduce its “Baskets for Books” program at the regular church service on May 4. Photos of several of the baskets can be viewed on the UUCWI website.

UUCWI member Toyan Copeland is on Peace Corps assignment to southern Bolivia. She is working as the business agent for women who weave baskets from twenty-one Guarani villages. The Guarani are an indigenous people who are emerging from conditions of virtual slavery, which existed until less than two decades ago. Basket weaving and sale is a vital source of empowerment to the women who participate.

In sum, our “Baskets for Books” program is this: The Social Action Committee has funded an initial shipment of baskets. First opportunity to purchase them will be offered to UUCWI members at the May 4 service. After that we will market them through other organizations (ideas or group contacts that could be helpful in marketing are welcome) If the response is as expected, we will order more shipments. 100% of sales proceeds less sales tax will be placed in a scholarship fund to benefit the Guarani people. Since education of any sort became a reality for some of the Guarani less than twenty years ago, a total of only eleven persons from the twenty-one villages in Toyan’s State have received the equivalent of a high school degree and none has yet had the funding to go further for a technical or university degree. All expenses to send one of the eleven eligible students (to be selected by the Guarani People’s Assembly) for a two-year technical certificate costs \$1,945. Any amount we raise will be welcome seed money to the fund that is being created, but our goal is to be able to completely support at least one student by the end of this year.

We are very, very excited! Here is an opportunity to support the work of another UUCWI member, to support the empowerment of the women who create this craft, and to have an extraordinary impact upon the lives of one or more Guarani youth who, hopefully, will return and use the knowledge gained to benefit all their people for many years. Every basket is an individual work of art composed of palm fronds and naturally dyed corn husks. The high quality of the work is immediately self-evident.

If you have any questions or suggestions contact Bill G.

BUILDING COMMITTEE NEWS

Come join us at our work party on Saturday, May 17, 9:00 a.m. at the property—rake, haul and burn! Hot dogs will be roasted at noon. Please come.

Property closing papers were signed by Ken M. and Dave C. for the 1.2 acre addition to our property. Recording of the deed is scheduled for May 1. The next step is a review of our preliminary site plan by County officials. This should be done by early June.

MUSICAL POTLUCK

If you missed the fantastic Pastoral Services-sponsored musical potluck at Roy Z.’s last month, (where UUs ended up not only listening but dancing to the smooth sounds of David Tuttle’s sax), you have another opportunity for a community gathering. Carol and Roy B. will host the last musical potluck for this year on Saturday, May 17 from 5-9 p.m. Our own Mavis C. will provide harp music. (Can we dance to harp music??) Bring your choice of appetizer, salad, side dish, main dish, or dessert. Please RSVP to the B.s.

As always, please let a member of the Pastoral Services Committee know if there are any members or friends in need. Members are Gail A., Carol B. (chair), Al G., Jean H., and Roy Z. We are always looking for new members, so if you are interested, please contact one of the members.

INVITATION TO THE BOOK GROUP

Everyone is welcome to Peggy and Baird B.’s on Tuesday, May 20, 7:30 p.m. to discuss this month’s book, *A Gesture Life* by Chang-Rae Lee (RSVP at 331-1081). The discussion will be led by Francie W.

On June 17 we will hold our planning potluck at Francie and Bill’s. At that meeting we come with suggestions of books we have read and would like to recommend to the group. After hearing “plugs” for everyone’s favorites, we vote to select books we would like to read, and set up the schedule for next year. We typically do not meet in July or August, but start up again in September

NEWS FLASH! MINISTERIAL CANDIDATE SELECTED

The UUCWI Ministerial Search Committee has selected Reverend Lena Breen as the candidate to be our quarter-time consulting minister. Reverend Breen is currently serving as quarter-time minister for the Skagit UU Fellowship in Mount Vernon and would continue to serve in Mount Vernon if she is selected by UUCWI. Please take the time to meet her and hear her preach during the “candidating weekend” scheduled for June 6-8! A congregational meeting will be held following the June 8 service to vote on selecting her as our minister.

The MSC has listened to Reverend Breen preach, interviewed her, and talked to numerous references and mutual acquaintances. The committee is unanimous and enthusiastic in its recommendation that Reverend Breen be elected as our minister. She has many strengths, including outstanding qualifications in children’s religious education.

Here are some facts about Reverend Breen’s educational background: Bachelor of Arts, Western Washington State University, Bellingham, WA 1970; Adult Education Teaching Certification, University of Buffalo, Buffalo, NY 1979; Master of Arts in Ministry, Northwest Theological Union, Seattle, WA 1998; Board Certified Chaplain, 1998; Minister of Religious Education, UUA, Ordained 1990; Trainer of Trainers for the Our Whole Lives sexuality education program; and certified couples counselor. A certified Kripalu Yoga instructor, she has started her own studio in Mount Vernon.

Prior to accepting the post at Skagit in November, 2002, Reverend Breen held a variety of posts: *Visiting Minister*, Starr King School for the Ministry, Berkeley; *Interim Minister of Religious Education*, The Unitarian Church of Vancouver, BC; *Director of the Department of Religious Education*, UUA, Boston, *Faculty*, Leadership School for Religious Educators, The Mountain; *Chaplain*, Children’s Hospital and Regional Medical Center, Seattle; *Chaplain*, Juvenile Justice System, Seattle; *Consulting Minister*, West Seattle UU Fellowship, Seattle; *Consultant*, Lay Minister Pastoral Care Program, East Shore Unitarian Church, Bellevue; *Minister Associate*, University Unitarian Church, Seattle; and *Minister of Religious Education*, University Unitarian Church, Seattle.

Reverend Breen is author of *The 15 Minute Worship Packet for Children’s Worship*. She has chaired or served on a variety of UUA committees and currently is a member of the *National CENTER Committee and the Bi-National Advisory Committee*, for the Center for the Prevention of Sexual and Domestic Violence.

John A., Peggy B., Dave C. (chair), Don W., and Francie W. served on the Ministerial Search Committee.

MEET LENA! VOTE AT THE CONGREGATIONAL MEETING JUNE 8

June 6-8 is the “Candidating Weekend” for Reverend Lena Breen, the candidate to become UUCWI’s quarter-time consulting minister. This weekend is your opportunity to get to know her as she meets informally with UUCWI committees, the board, and our chaplain, attends one of our famous potlucks, and preaches the sermon on June 8. Immediately following the sermon there will be a brief congregational meeting for the purpose of voting on her candidacy. Anticipating the outcome, we have scheduled a pizza “celebration” after the vote. Check the website or call John Adams for a detailed and up-to-date schedule for the weekend.

KEN'S KOLUMN

from Ken M., Board President

We are entering an exciting phase in our continuing growth as a faith community. For the second time in our history as a congregation, we will consider hiring a part-time minister. This is an important decision, and one that needs to be made by the community as a whole. Reverend Lena Breen will come to Whidbey Island June 6-8 and visit with the Board, meet the congregation, and lead a Sunday service. After the service we will hold a congregational meeting and vote on Reverend Breen’s candidacy.

Back in December, we met for a “Preparing for Ministry” workshop offered by Anne Heller of the PNWD (bear with me if you were there). We were asked to make a list of the qualities we wanted in our spiritual leader. They included:

- Open and honest
- Accessible
- Open-minded
- Friendly
- Welcoming
- Involved
- Communicative

Anne then asked us to turn the list around and acknowledge that these are also the qualities a successful minister will need from us. If we expect this level of excellence from our candidate, we need to offer it in return. So I’m asking you to show Reverend Breen our best. Open your minds and hearts, be available, take the time to meet her and get to know her, show her how welcoming we can be (one of our best qualities I think), show up (our biggest weakness?), and communicate. If we do that, if we offer what we’re asking for, whatever decision we make, it will be the right one.

ECO-FOOTPRINT TABLE

The Social Action Committee provided a table at the Whidbey Institute Earth Day celebration on April 19. Nancy S. and Malcolm F. provided visitors with handouts to calculate their Eco-Footprint and conserve resources (Malcolm was there in spirit while the rest of him attended his son's wedding in California). Visitors showed almost as much interest in the role of this church in the project as they did in the Eco-Footprint, and overall it was a worthwhile venture.

A VIEW FROM THE DISTRICT

District Executive, Anne Heller

On June 7th this year, the Second Annual PNWD President's Convocation will gather in Bellevue, at the East Shore Unitarian Church. Congregational Presidents from all over the district will attend, to learn, to share information and experiences, to receive support from colleagues. This all day (9:30am to 3pm) event was attended by forty PNWD Presidents last year, who enthusiastically and unanimously voted to make it an annual gathering.

This year, Presidents will spend the morning training—learning what “growth” is, why (or why not) congregations should seek to grow, strategies for growth and the impact of transition on growth. The afternoon is dedicated to President's roundtables, by congregational size. These roundtables provide an opportunity for presidents of like-size congregations to talk and share problems, joys, challenges, and hopes. The Family-size Roundtable will be facilitated by PNWD Board Member (the) Rev. Nan Geer; the Pastoral-size Roundtable will be facilitated by PNWD Board Member Tom Buxton; and the Program- and Corporate-size Round Table will be facilitated by PNWD Board Member and Treasurer Brian Taliesin.

This is an important event for your congregational President to attend. Please encourage him or her to put the date on their calendar. Box lunches can be ordered; home hospitality will be provided for those coming from a distance (Alaska, Southern Oregon, Eastern Idaho), and a modest travel equalization honorarium is available by request for those coming from a distance that precludes driving. Please contact the PNWD office if you have not received a flyer, or to order a lunch, or to inquire about home hospitality or a travel equalization grant (email: districtoffice@pnwd.org or phone (800) 313-7693)

If your congregational election occurs in May or June, both the incoming and outgoing Presidents are welcome. For more information, please call District Executive Anne Heller. (email: heller@interisland.net or phone (360) 376-3425)

LEND A HAND

from the Pastoral Services Committee

As most of you know Gladys H. had surgery a couple of months ago and is progressing nicely. However, she and Mitch run a B&B in Coupeville which is a lot of work. They need help with yard work—*weeding* especially, as well as mowing and fixing their sign which has blown down.

You can drop by at The Inn at Penn Cove at your convenience to help weed for an hour or two (Gladys assures me that you'll know where the weeds are!!) or call first at 360-678-3640. It might help to have your own tools and gardening gloves. She and Mitch are usually there all the time. Thanks so much!!

PEACE DIALOG POTLUCK

On April 27, the Social Action Committee sponsored a Peace Dialog Potluck for members of the congregation and the community. The idea of Peggy B., the goal of the dialog was to plan further action regarding U.S. military action in Iraq and its aftermath. About 25 people attended and were able to gather in groups of 2 to 7 to discuss various topics of interest to participants: continuing peace action, the role of the U.N., media distortion and manipulation, political activity, and the erosion of civil liberties. Many participants felt that the end of military action does not mean an end to concern about the issues that have arisen from it.

Nancy S. facilitated the organization of topics and sharing of discussion points. Each group was able to develop a preliminary plan of action and share resources with participants. Plans included ideas such as reading news from global sources, writing letters to editors, developing email outreach lists, speaking out for our beliefs, promoting non-partisan voter education resources (such as Project Vote Smart), speaking to local groups, and continuing a community presence opposing military and related actions by our government.

E-MAIL CIRCULATION

If you are receiving a paper version of the newsletter, but are able and willing to receive it electronically, please contact Mavis (uuwhidby@whidbey.com). It will save money, paper, and effort! Thank you.

NEW MEMBERS

Margo D. has been a self-employed hair dresser for eleven years providing hair care for seniors and the home-bound. She has lived on Whidbey Island for 1 1/2 years and shares her home with three furry companions—her cats. Her two grown sons, Glen and Brian, live in Maryland. Margo has been on a conscious spiritual search for the past 16 years, with an emphasis on the metaphysical, and considers herself a meta-physician. She attended Unity Church for a year and then discovered Unitarian Universalism which gives her the freedom she needs for her spiritual quest. And she loves books. Please give Margo a warm welcome.

Marjorie L. grew up in the Northwest and was raised a Baptist, although she never did allow herself to be baptized. She was confirmed and married at the St Stephens Episcopal in Laurelhurst and later joined Trinity Episcopalian Church in Portland where she raised three daughters and a son. She found church dogma to stifling and was drawn to the UUs because many were peace demonstrators and could speak their feelings. Please welcome Marjorie, a wise and interesting woman.

Jack M. has just committed himself to UUCWI. He's moved from Salinas, CA, to Coupeville. Jack earned his Engineering Degree from SMU in 1957. He has worked with computers since graduation. His work history includes MIT's Project Mac, GE representative to the COBOL and FORTRAN language committees, management of operating system and compiler projects, and system marketing business ownership. His UU epiphany occurred when he discovered the CRE curriculum of Sophia Fahs. Here he discovered something he could believe in. He has been a member of congregations in Dallas and Phoenix. He has been active in UU Social Action groups. Please give Jack a hearty welcome.

STEWARDSHIP NEWS

The canvass is nearly over. Now is the time to be thankful for all who made it a success. The outreach was meaningful. The bonds of friendship and the sense of commitment to our church were strengthened through the face-to-face canvass process. The kickoff dinner with its "Stone Soup" theme was a hoot thanks to the innovations of President Ken and his side-kicks Don B., Elaine W., Siri S., Heidi H., and Linda G. Thanks to the many ladies of the congregation who provided decorations, and a delicious array of soups, salad, and bread—especially Mavis who coordinated it all. And thanks to Evan W. and Seth S. for their dramatic expertise. The financial results will be forthcoming in the next newsletter. Your co-chairs, Al G. and Baird B., appreciate the energy and dedication of this church community.

DIRECTORY UPDATE

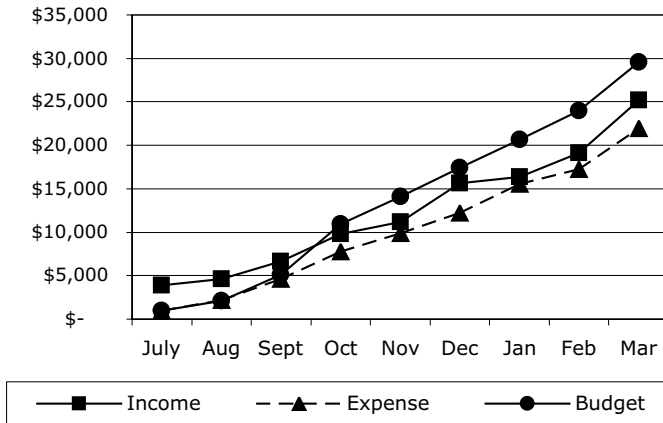
Below are some new or changed entries to add to your directory. An asterisk (*) indicates membership.

MEMBER CLASSIFIEDS

Two tickets available for cruise with naturalists to benefit Island County Beachwatchers on Saturday, May 17, (10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.) aboard the historic schooner "Adventurous" out of Bellingham. Lunch included. Tickets cost \$80 each—will accept best offer. Contact Francie W.

Our church piano has been "living" in Siri S.'s shop (somewhat heated) and house for over a year. No one has been playing it since Seth gave up piano lessons last year. Would anyone care to give it a foster home? It is a good piano. Siri's piano mover said it would respond well to about \$200 of repair, but that it would be worth it (perhaps that can be done when it is in the church space). It does need to be re-tuned. If interested, call Siri.

UUCWI BUDGET STATUS



Building fund: \$32,583 Property value: \$46,280
 Ministerial fund: \$950 General fund: \$15,456
 Social Action Fund \$1,000

The chart above shows cumulative values of income, expense, and budgeted expense through March 31, 2003 in dollars. The Congregation's income to date is close to that projected. However, expenses run only 74% of the amount budgeted. As a result of our constrained spending we no longer expect to incur, or even approach, the \$6168 deficit for the year that was approved by the congregation in the annual budget.

BOARD NOTES

The UUCWI Board of Trustees met for its monthly meeting on Wednesday, April 23. The treasurer's report was discussed and the Board determined the congregation's finances were sufficient to hire a minister if approved by the congregation.

Committee Reports:

- **Social Action Committee:** The Social Action Committee has made a \$50 donation to Hearts and Hammers.
- **Membership Committee:** We have 3 new church members. There has been discussion about forming a singles group, since this church may be a bit couples-oriented. As of now, we have 48 members, 33 pledging units, 6 pledging friends. Baird thinks membership will remain steady. The Board commended him for the job he has done.
- **Building Committee Report:** The closing is next week. The day at the land was good. People liked Roy's drawing and found it helpful.
- **CRE Report:** The first CRE weekend is Sunday, and we are beginning to see more children during service time. We have non-parent staff involved with the program, which is a plus.

- **Pastoral Services:** Gail reported Jean H. is in Coupeville thanks to Roy, Carol, and Mavis who provided transportation, and a good response from our congregation. Another church potluck with music is being planned for Saturday May 17. There will also be potlucks during Candidating Weekend.

- **Ministerial Search Committee:** Candidating Weekend will be June 6-8. Ideas were shared about how to handle the agenda for the weekend, how to provide a support committee for the new minister, and themes or education programs the new minister might be encouraged to provide.

- **Nominating Committee:** Sarah, Peggy, and Wendy are on this committee. Wendy will spearhead it. We'll have a report from the Nominating Committee as an agenda item for our May meeting.

- **Canvass Report:** Baird thinks our numbers will stay about the same. He thinks we'll fall short of our dream budget, but a new minister will help. Canvass comments will go to Elaine to be collated. Al gave us some history about how the canvass has improved over the years, due in large part to Baird's efforts. He feels we are poised to move in the right direction.

- **Capital Fund Drive Report:** Timing: When should it start? How should it coordinate with the regular pledge drive? The new minister should be involved. Peggy forwarded a review of resources to the Board, which was looked over. It was suggested that a special meeting with this Board, new Board, capital fund drive committee, and the minister would be the place for a discussion about what point the fund drive should start. A move was made and seconded to have such a meeting, perhaps in July. (Finalization of a date will be a future agenda item.)

Individual Board terms:

5 positions will need to be filled: This will go to the Nominating Committee.

Calendar Policy:

It was mentioned that we still have overlaps of meeting times. Committee chairs need to check proposed meeting times with the church coordinator, to let their Board liaison person know at the beginning of the year when the planned meetings times are, and to check with the church calendar before changing a meeting time. It is expected that anyone planning an event will check with Mavis to see if there is anything on the church calendar for that time. The Board Secretary also communicates with Mavis about any dates the Board mentions as possible times for meetings or events.

June Congregational Meeting:

May Board meeting will do the planning. The Ministerial Search Committee will handle most of the planning of the candidate's weekend. The new minister will speak on June 8.