



## Island Passages

UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CONGREGATION OF WHIDBEY ISLAND  
 P.O. Box 1076, Freeland, WA 98249 360-321-8656 [www.whidbey.com/uucwi/](http://www.whidbey.com/uucwi/)

## May 2007

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2	3	4	5
6 Service 4-5pm: Flower Communion Service (p2) <b>Bring a flower if you would like to participate!</b>	7 7 pm: Women's Group (p2)	8	9 10am-12 noon: South End Koffee Klatch (p4)	10	11	12 1-3pm: North End Koffee Klatch (p4)  7:30 pm: Chaminade Chamber Concert
13 Mother's Day  Service 4-5pm: Leaping from Our Spheres: the Contributions of Women in UU History (p2)	14 9 am: Worship Committee	15 7:30 pm: Book Group (p3)	16	17	18	19
20 Service 4-5pm: Leaving the Island (p2)	21 Newsletter Deadline	22	23	24	25	26
27 Service 4-5pm: Sharing our Memories (p2)  <b>Annual Meeting following the service</b>	28 Memorial Day	29	30	31		

**May 6: Flower Communion Service****Speaker: Bill Graves**

Join us in a UU Spring tradition, the flower communion, first performed by Dr. Norbert Capek on June 4, 1923, in Prague, Czechoslovakia. Be sure and bring a flower to share during the communion. The service will include a homily by Bill Graves who was recently appointed by the Board of Trustees as a Chaplain of the congregation.

In her recent poem *Messenger*, Mary Oliver writes: "My work is loving the world . . . [with] shouts of joy". Bill will suggest that this poem outlines a concept of faith that Unitarian Universalists might embrace as their own. It is a faith based on awe that invites gratitude and a sense of obligation. That is the essence of what we celebrate in the traditional flower communion.

*Lay Leader: Mavis C*

*Membership Representative: Lois C*

**May 13: Leaping from Our Spheres, The Contributions of Women in UU History****Speaker: Reverend Kit Ketcham**

On this Mother's Day, Rev. Kit Ketcham will explore what Unitarian Universalist women have offered to our faith tradition. Many notable figures in American religious history have been Unitarian and Universalist women: Olympia Brown, Julia Ward Howe, Margaret Fuller, Denny Davidoff, Marjorie Bowens-Wheatley, and scores of others who "leapt from their spheres" to change history.

*Lay Leader: Baird B*

*Membership Representative: Ken M*

**May 20: Leaving the Island****Speaker: Reverend Kit Ketcham**

Living on an island puts us in the enviable position of inhabiting a beautiful, separate, natural world and community. But it can isolate us, as well. Last winter's damaging storms taught us how dependent we are on each other, how important it is to prepare for emergencies with extra supplies, neighborhood connections, and sheer grit. Rev. Kit Ketcham will speak about real islands and metaphorical islands and how they both comfort and isolate us.

*Lay Leader: Carol B*

*Membership Representative: Baird B*

**May 27: Sharing Our Memories****Speaker: Reverend Kit Ketcham**

This Memorial Day Sunday will be a time of sharing our memories and tributes to those now dead whose lives have shaped our own. Please bring photos, poems, stories, and mementoes for an altar and a time of sharing with one another. Rev. Kit Ketcham will conduct the service; all are invited to participate in the sharing.

*Lay Leader: Kit Ketcham*

*Membership Representative: Earl B*

**News and Events****Women's Group: May 7**

The UUCWI Women's Discussion Group will meet on Monday evening May 7th at Mary G's home. Come at 7 for a cup of tea or coffee; the meeting itself will start at 7:30 and end at 9:00pm.

This month we'll explore what we believe to be the purpose of our individual lives. How is this purpose determined? Are our talents & passions inborn? Are they taught? Or a result of familial & societal influences? Look for an email a few days before the meeting that will have some quotations and questions to stimulate your thoughts. If you are not currently on the email distribution list for this group and would like to be, please contact Camille L.

For directions to Mary's home, please give her a call. Car pooling is encouraged.

*~Joan G*

**Building Committee Progress Report**

Spring is here and things are happening on our property besides the sprouting of nettles and blackberries as we prepare to build.

Contractor Eldon will begin the clearing and road building on Monday, April 23. On May 7 the trenching for the Ground Source Heat Pump will get underway with Heavy Equipment Operator, Tex B, volunteering for the job (son-in-law of Baird and Peggy). Thank you Tex!

Chris H has put in a scenic trail to the North. It is worth a meander. Hopefully the clearing will not obscure it. If it does, we can trail build anew. He has in mind other ways to enhance access to our lovely woods. Go to see it soon. Our thanks to Chris.

Treasurer Kathleen B has secured the offer of a loan from Peoples' Bank. This will be voted on at the Congregational Meeting on May 27.

We appreciate Kathleen's diligence on this and are grateful for her experience in her 30 year career in banking before her retirement to Whidbey.

Applications to the UUA for the First Home Grant and Loan Guarantee are in the works. We eagerly await their approval.

The Bldg Committee met with RE Director Lorie W and managed to create three classrooms where there were formerly two. They didn't push out the walls of the building. The congregation will be asked to approve the final building plan at the meeting on May 27.

Your Building Committee has been meeting weekly since February. They are Roy B, Peggy and Baird B, Wayne B, Tim & Paula K, Marjorie L, Tom B, and Sandy W. Many other church and board members have assisted in work on the Business Plan and preparing the Loan Applications. Kitchen and Aesthetics Committees have been working on details related to those considerations. For now the kitchen will be a very bare bones room, but spacious, with room to expand niceties as funds become available. Paint of the non-toxic (non VOC) type will be used throughout. Color schemes are being worked on. Mary G is designing a stained glass piece with a chalice for the round window.

This report just skims the surface of the considerations and decisions that the Building Committee has been working on with such diligence. We are fortunate to have had their dedication.

As our dreams become realities we will be better able to share our liberal religion with our Whidbey Island.

~Baird B

**Book Group: Tuesday, May 15, 7:30 p.m.**

We'll meet at the Baird and Peggy's to discuss *How Israel Lost: The Four Questions* by Richard Ben Cramer. If ever a book on Israel and the Palestinians was a good read, it's this introduction to the half-century-long conflict. Cramer, who won a Pulitzer in 1979 for Middle East reporting, divides his book into four parts, dealing with four questions on the model of the four questions asked by children at the Passover seder.

**RSVP 331-1081**

*From Our Minister*

Dear UUCWers,

During April, I attended a three day ministers' retreat at Palisades, near Federal Way. Palisades is a beautiful Catholic retreat center overlooking Dash Point and Maury Island. Its gardens, views, and comfortable rooms are always a treat and it is always refreshing to reconnect with my colleagues in the district. Our speaker was the Rev. Laurel Hallman, of First Unitarian Church in Dallas, and she and I have memories in common of my former brother-in-law Ev Gilmore, who was a longtime member of First Unitarian Dallas before he died 18 months ago. Laurel's workshop was fine, but what I really treasured was the chance to tell "Ev" stories. Ev Gilmore was the principal tubaist for the Dallas Symphony for many, many years, and my favorite memory of him is the time when, at a family gathering in Denver, he on tuba and a friend on banjo played the duet from "Deliverance", with the banjo plunking out the lead refrain and Ev duplicating it on the tuba. As the banjo sped up, so did the tuba, and the result was the funniest, most clever musical creation I've ever heard. I always wished we had had a video camera.

Laurel's favorite memory was of Ev's memorial service, when the large chancel at First Church was filled with fellow tubaists, come from all over the country to honor Ev. There were so many tubas that Laurel had to sit in the first pew, rather than on the chancel. I wish I could have been there.

On Memorial Day Sunday, we will have a chance to honor those loved ones who have died after shaping our lives by their presence. I hope you will come to this service prepared to share your memories and your tributes to those beloved ones, bringing mementoes and stories, poems and songs, so that we can honor them with you. See you in church!

Much love,  
Kit



## President's Column

*From Toyon C, UUCWI President*

I have just one more column to write as the President of UUCWI – which is to say it's nearly time for our annual meeting.

The Annual Meeting of the congregation will be held on Sunday, May 27, 2007, following the regular service that day. Save the date! We will be electing new officers and two new trustees and approving the operating budget for the coming church year. Also, we will be voting on approval of a loan for our new building and on proceeding with the actual construction! You will soon receive a packet of information about this in the mail.

Your presence at this meeting will be important. Attendance by at least 30% of all members is needed for a quorum. Those in attendance will make the important decisions. The use of the democratic process within our congregation is in keeping with our UU principles (the fifth principle, to be exact). Please be a part of it.

It was heartening to see the young people of UUCWI lay lead and participate in the Earth Day service. They are inheriting this warming globe and their talents, awareness and enthusiasm were encouraging.

We all acknowledge that this planet needs help and that we must do our part to save it. It occurred to me that we are doing that in some special ways. Yes, of course, we recycle and do those things that we know are important. In addition, as was demonstrated on Earth Day, we are encouraging youngsters to be aware and to care.

The wonderful teachers, the committee meetings, the pledges, the response to CRE fund drives and projects – all contribute to an education program that includes an understanding of the importance of each individual in this interdependent web of all existence. Won't these young people become an even more effective part of the solution to the many woes of this planet? Can't we say we helped make this happen?

By the same token, it occurs to me that the many things I do for myself – at UUCWI and elsewhere - are important for the bigger world. With all that seems to need attention and care so badly, I think it more important than ever that I

attend to my own soul. This world needs the very best from each of us. We should be sure we have our best to offer.

Thanks for making UUCWI the best that it can be.

## Audio Tapes and Online Versions of Sermons

Remember that the texts of some of our sermons are online at [www.whidbey.com/uucwi](http://www.whidbey.com/uucwi) (click on **Ministry** and scroll down to sermons) and that there are audio tapes for some sermons. See Mavis C to borrow these.

## Koffee Klatches: Best Conversation on the Island!

*North End:* 1-3pm, Saturday May 12

The North End Koffee Klatch will meet at Whidbey General Hospital's West Wind Cafe, from 1-3 on Saturday, May 12. Conversation around the tables is always fascinating, roving from local politics to environmental concerns, interesting web discoveries, and theology. The food is good, healthful, and cheap. You don't have to live on the North End to attend this great gathering!

*South End:* 10am-12noon, Wednesday, May 9

The South End Koffee Klatch will meet at Rockhoppers in Clinton from 10-12 on Wednesday, May 9. This is a great time to have good conversation with smart people and innovative ideas. And the coffee is terrific! Superbarista Rene serves up both java and jive in this folk-art bedecked coffee house. You'll love it!

## Coming Soon: Small Group Ministry

A new program will be introduced to our UUCWI community soon. This program, variously referred to as Small Group Ministry, Covenant Groups, or Chalice Groups, is a means of connecting more deeply with others in the congregation while at the same time getting better acquainted with ourselves.

UU minister Rev. Calvin Dame, a staunch proponent and leading authority on Small Group Ministry states "People come to our congregations for many reasons. People come seeking intimacy and spiritual growth, they come hoping to find the warmth of community and they come hoping for a place where they can explore questions of faith.

And people come hoping for a way to live out their faith, hoping to be able to make a contribution and to witness and work for justice.”

A small group ministry program is an ideal way of addressing each of those needs.

How does it work? [I'm so glad you asked.] Small groups of 6 to 10 people agree to meet regularly over a set period of time to explore a variety of topics such as the nature of our religious journey, what it means to be truthful, how fear impacts our lives, aging, forgiveness, the nature of love, and many, many more. Trained facilitators help guide the discussion through an established format. Small group ministry is about connecting people, deepening our spiritual lives; creating community, strengthening our congregation and creating opportunities to serve. The aim is to provide real questions to engage real people in discussions that matter in the living out of our real lives. In the process of these discussions, group members deepen their relationships with one another and with the larger community.

Be watching for further news about this program! We will be offering opportunities to sign up within the next couple of months.

~Lois C

### **Time Banking**

Some talk was generated about time banking amongst members and friends of UUCWI a few months ago, following a talk given by one of our guest speakers -- Lynnaea L. The idea was not new to me of course, but I hadn't thought about it for tens of years, primarily because I had not been affiliated with a community or living in a community during those years where time banking could have been practiced. In these renewed discussions however, the possibilities for time banking happening within our UUCWI community did not seem impossible at all.

Upon request from a few of those who participated in these discussions with me, I asked the Caring Connections Committee (of which I am a member) if this was something we thought we could sponsor, organize, nurture. We unanimously agreed that given that small number of folks (5) on this Committee and the projects we already have on our 'plate', that this was something we could not take on ourselves, but perhaps could, through a newsletter article about time banking, generate still more conversation and interest, and

encourage someone to take on the creation of a Planning Group for exploring the possibilities for time banking within UUCWI.

What is time banking?

The most simple and clear definition I've found for time banking simply describes it as a way for people to come together to help others and help themselves at the same time. Participants 'deposit' their time in the bank by giving practical help and support to others and are able to 'withdraw' their time when they need something done for themselves that someone else has the skills and/or knowledge to provide. Time banks value all the different kinds of help and skills we can offer each other and in most time banks everyone's time is valued equally.

Beyond this, there is almost an immeasurable amount of detailed information available -- how to get started, how it works, how to track time, examples, and why time banking is such a powerful tool for social change, for creating community -- better communities. So, I've decided, after surfing the internet and library catalog for information, that I'd like to suggest to all of you reading this brief article, that you visit the Time Banks USA website at

<http://www.timebanks.org/> to get an initial in-depth look at what time banking is all about. On this comprehensive website you will read and hear about how time banks can weave community one hour at a time; about how every hour you spend doing something for someone in your community, you earn one Time Dollar which you can then spend on having someone do something for you, how time banking has profound effects, how it changes neighborhoods and whole communities.

So, what do you think? Are you interested? Are you willing to further explore this idea and to call together a small group of folks to further discuss possibilities for us? Take a leadership role?

All of us on the Caring Connections Committee will be looking forward to an announcement some Sunday soon that indeed there is enough interest in time banking within UUCWI that a planning meeting has been scheduled by one or more of you and all those interested in this concept are invited to attend and get involved.

~Joan G, Caring Connections Committee

