



Island Passages

UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CONGREGATION OF WHIDBEY ISLAND

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

August 2004

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 10:00a Service: Why I Am a Unitarian Universalist	2 8:30a World Events Discussion Group at the Lighthouse Café	3	4	5	6 9:30a Social Action Committee meeting at Trinity	7 10:00a -12:00p Adopt-A-Road Clean-up (p. 2)
8 10:00a Service: Garage Sale of the Mind and Spirit	9	10	11	12	13	14 9:00 -12:00p Work Party at Our Property (p. 3) 7:00p Movie Night: (p. 3)
15 10:00a Service: Singing the Spirit	16 8:30a World Events Discussion Group	17	18	19	20 newsletter deadline	21
22 10:00a Service: Repeat visit by Ryan Drum, naturalist	23	24	25	26	27	28 6:00p Sing- Along and Potluck
29 10:00a Service: Outdoor Service	30	31				

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

All August services will be held at 10:00 a.m. outdoors on our property on Highway 525 2 miles north of Freeland. Umbrellas are recommended in case of rain.

**August 1st — Why I Am a Unitarian Universalist
with minister the Reverend Kit Ketcham**

Rev. Kit Ketcham will speak about her journey as a UU and how it led her into ministry.

Lay Leader: Mavis C.

**August 8th — Garage Sale of the Mind and Spirit
with guest minister
the Reverend Laurie Bushbaum**

To grow and change is part of what it means to be human. Sometimes it is hard to clean our closets and get rid of the material clutter in our lives. It is even harder to let go of beliefs that no longer serve our spirits and minds. But in a diverse world, it is a good thing to let go.....and make room for new possibilities.

Rev. Laurie Bushbaum has been a UU minister for 20 years. She has served as both a parish minister and a minister of religious education. She currently serves as contract minister to Michael Servetus Unitarian Church in the Minneapolis area. She is married to Michael Altmann and they have two children: Elliot and Alice. She loves to quilt, bike, ski, and kayak, and she is training for her second triathlon this summer. Last summer she and her family traded places with a Norwegian family; this summer they are very excited about exploring Whidbey Island and Seattle.

Lay Leader: Bill G.

**August 15th — Singing the Spirit
with visiting UU ministers
Barbara Wells ten Hove and Jaco ten Hove**

This Sunday we worship with former Northwesterners Barbara Wells ten Hove and her husband Jaco ten Hove. They will present a number of songs and reflections on the power of music. Barbara & Jaco are currently co-ministers at Paint Branch UU Church in Adelphi, MD (near College Park). They served separate churches in the Seattle area in the 1980s and 90s.

Lay Leader: Malcolm F.

**August 22nd — Repeat visit by Ryan Drum,
naturalist**

Lay Leader: Linda G.

**August 29th — Outdoor Service
with Rachel Taber-Hamilton
Member, First Nation Sha'shanee Tribe**

Rocks and stones have held significance for the human race from the earliest cave paintings to modern marble sculpting. Perhaps this is the reason we return home from a beach walk to find our pockets full of wonderful rocks we've picked up. They certainly meant something when we found them, but what should we do with them now?

Well, here is an idea! On Sunday, August 29, an outdoor service will be lead by Rachel Tabor-Hamilton, an ordained Episcopal priest who is a member of the First Nations of the Sha'shanee (Shackan) people of Canada. Rev. Taber-Hamilton will lead us in a ritual on our property, rain or shine, as we form a deeper connection to the land which will hold our future gathering place — the center where we connect to others sharing our journey.

As part of this ceremony we will ask all participants to bring a rock, shell or small object that has meaning for them. We will be placing these objects in a unique pottery vessel created by Christi Shaffer to reside on our land. So, keep that wonderful shell you found in Hawaii, or that luminous stone from a bazaar in Morocco, and put it aside to bring along on August 29th. The Capital Campaign Committee will be facilitating the service and look forward to seeing you there!

Lay Leaders: Members of the Capital Campaign Committee

Congregational News & Events

Road Cleanup, August 7th

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, August 7th from 10:00 till noon.

This activity provides exercise; a better living space for people, animals, and plants; and some publicity for our congregation. We have

litter grabbers to ease the stress on backs, and safety vests, hard hats, and litter bags are provided by the county. Helpers do need to view a safety video once before helping. If you didn't see the video last fall but want to help, please contact me ASAP.

We had a good turnout in June and were able to clean the whole road by noon.

~ Nancy S.

Work Party at Our Property, August 14th

The Building Committee is sponsoring a work party at the church property, 2 miles north of Freeland from 9 am to noon, on Saturday, August 14. We'll clean-up, rake-up and otherwise maintain the site for the summer services. Bring some basic implements, such as rakes, paint brushes, shovels, and don't forget the gloves. Hope to see you there!

~ Roy B.

Movie Night, August 14th

August's evening of film, fun, and conversation will take place Saturday, August 14th at 7:00 p.m. at the home of Kent V. and Sally Anne E. For more information, directions, or to RSVP call or e-mail Kent or Ken M.

Romero is the true story of the Catholic priest, Archbishop Oscar Romero, who lived in El Salvador during the political unrest in the 1980s. The government has launched a "terror campaign" against the guerillas in an attempt to crush them. Archbishop Romero's protests against government actions are perceived as disloyal to the regime. As an example to others, the government begins to destroy churches and murder priests. Despite persecution, Romero continues to speak out against the atrocities the government is committing against the people of El Salvador, until his untimely death.

This beautiful film by Australian filmmaker John Duigan speaks volumes in our current political climate. Raul Julia plays perhaps the greatest role in his all too short career. We will discuss political art, filmmaking, cultural media, and whatever else comes up. Hope to see you there.

As always, bring whatever munchies and beverages will enhance your viewing pleasure, and we'll make the popcorn.

~ Ken M.

Voter Registration Events

The Social Action Committee has been involved in voter registration activities for the last few months. In addition to writing letters to the editor of the South Whidbey Record, we've also arranged a couple of voter registration booths at local events. Our next event will be at the National Night Out in Oak Harbor on August 3rd. Our primary mission in Oak Harbor will be to promote this congregation, but we'll also encourage voter registration and education. If you'd like to spend an hour or so between noon and 8:00 pm chatting with visitors and answering questions, please contact me right away.



Toyan C. and Malcolm F. man at a booth at Choochokam in July where they registered half a dozen new voters.

The committee also tried to arrange a booth for nonpartisan voter registration at the Island County Fair August 19-22nd. However, the fair was already "full, full, full" according to the response I received, and both major parties are already planning voter registration drives at the fair. If you'd care to help the party of your choice with registration, please contact them directly (there is no booth planned at this time for the Libertarian or Green Parties):

Democrats: <http://www.islandcountymocrats.com/> or 360-678 6854

Green Party: <http://www.wagreens.us/> or (206) 781-3848

Libertarians: <http://www.lpws.org/> or (425) 641-8247

Republicans: <http://www.islandcountygop.org/> or 360-297-1197

~ Nancy S.

Social Action Committee Chair

CVM – What’s That!?

By Dave C., UUCWI President

The first “SPECIAL EVENT” in this new Church Year will be our first-ever “CVM Workshop”.

What’s that, and what will we accomplish?



It’s a one-day gathering in which we’ll produce three key defining declarations:

- A statement of Covenant: an explicit values-based expression of how we agree to interact and work together toward our shared purpose and goals.
- A Vision statement: an expression of united purpose, shared meaning and desires; the reason for UUCWI to exist.
- A Mission statement: a specific assertion of what work we want to do in the world and with whom.

Why do this?

A successful workshop will create a renewed sense of direction and involvement in UUCWI.

- This is a precious opportunity to bond, to understand each other’s values and motivations and to rediscover how much we share. Come for the camaraderie!
- The workshop is a critical step in defining ourselves as a congregation, enabling us to set appropriate goals, and to move purposefully toward them.
- We have discussed needing a new building [the cart] for our services and our programs [the horses]. Not only does this 3-in-1 workshop help put the horses and cart in the right order, it is intended to result in those horses moving in the same direction!
- In order to receive financial assistance for our new building from the PNWD, we need to have Covenant, Vision, and Mission statements. PNWD expects at least 75% of our members to participate in developing these statements.

What will the day be like?

The workshop will be lively, engaging, informative and very specific. Rev. Nan Geer, PNWD Minister extraordinaire and a dynamic

leader, will facilitate. There will be coffee to wake you at the 9 am kickoff, lunch will be provided, and we expect to wrap up at about 3 pm. Let us know if you need childcare to be provided.

Why should I come?

Your voice, and the voice of every member, is needed. This direction setting is not something you can delegate to your elected leaders. Bring your dreams and judgment, put your fingerprints in the clay, share the blessing of common purpose. You’ll enjoy Nan’s skilled consensus-building process and leadership. You’ll strengthen your sense of community. Don’t miss it!

The CVM workshop will be from **9 am to 3 pm on Saturday, September 18 at the Masonic Building at Bayview** – a new venue for us. Please put it on your calendar now. See you there!

Book Group Program

The UUCWI Book Group has a wonderful program planned for next season and we hope that any interested people will join us. After our meeting on June 15th, the group reaffirmed its original purpose: to read books that provide intellectual stimulation; to meet to establish camaraderie among members; and to discuss (but not argue) regarding great book ideas so that no one person dominates the conversation. We also decided to choose books for shorter periods of time, rather than a year at a time.

Below are the books scheduled for next year. More information, including meeting places and facilitators, will be posted in the September newsletters.

- September 21 — *Hope Dies Last* by Studs Terkel
- October 19 — *Ciao America* by Beppe Severgnini
- November 16 — *Stranger in a Strange Land* by Robert Heinlein
- December 14 — Annual Holiday Party and Book Exchange
- January 18 — What If All of UUCWI Read the Same Book? — *A Chosen Faith* by John Buehrens and Forrest Church at Trinity Lutheran
- February 15 — *The Best Democracy Money Can Buy* by Greg Palast
- March 15 — *The Life of Pi* by Yann Martel

Choir Announcements:

Choir director Heidi Hoelting recently attended a two-day choral reading conference presented by Pepper's Music Company, a national publishing outlet. Sessions exploring the most recently published choral literature for junior and senior high school and church choirs yielded a motherlode of tasteful, singable settings of words suitable for a U.U. choir.

All current members of the choir and those considering joining are invited to attend a potluck social hour and brief organizational meeting on Saturday, August 28th or Sunday, August 29th at 1:00. Heidi will call with final details. She can be reached at 341-8554 for questions. We'll do some brainstorming about the direction we'd like the choir to go. This should be a great year for singing!

Choir will meet at Trinity on September 12th and 19th for rehearsals at 2:00 and a performance on the 19th at 4:00. Get those voices warmed up and ready to go!

~ Heidi Hoelting

Wanted: Committee Information

Details about upcoming committee meetings, summaries of past meetings, and general news of committee activities are needed for this newsletter. If the newsletter is to remain the best, most comprehensive source of information for members and visitors, we need to share what we're doing and planning.

A bonus to submitting events to the newsletter is that they're automatically added to our online calendar at <http://www.calsnet.net/uucwi/>. Conversely, if you want to add events to the online calendar yourself, they'll also be included in the newsletter. The online calendar is our master calendar for the congregation; if your committee meeting and events are included, others can find details and avoid scheduling conflicts.

Submissions should be sent to me by the 20th of each month for inclusion in the next issue of the newsletter.

~ Nancy S.

Newsletter Editor and Webmaster

A Green Sanctuary? Survey Responses:

At the end of my sermon on June 6, I asked people to imagine and write down one architectural/design feature they would particularly like to see incorporated into the planning for our new sanctuary. I received 19 responses which I would like to summarize.

Grounds: Several people wanted to maximize the retention of trees and to work on improving their health as well as to use all native plant landscaping. Sentiments were expressed favoring incorporation of a meditation area, a memorial glen, a campfire site, an outdoor sleepover site and log pillars at the entry way.

Structural: There were calls for use of building materials that will last 500 years, use of standing dead timbers, straw bale construction, and 2 votes for a living roof.

Furnishings: People wrote in favor of water efficient toilets, waterless urinals, super energy-efficient windows, composting toilets and a commercial quality kitchen.

Design: People want a natural, outdoor feel, a unique character (no ranch-style house with a steeple), a sacred space that "removes us from our ordinary lives", environmental sensitivity in all aspects, a wide foyer, a prominent display of the flaming chalice at the entrance, display of an ecumenical quote by Jamal Rahman, a place for crying babies. Specific criteria for an RE space and for a space that is conducive to music were received. Thomas Berry Hall and a longhouse located in the Japanese gardens at Bloedel Reserve were cited as good design examples.

~ Bill G.

Coffee Sales Discontinued

The Social Action committee has decided to discontinue our sale of organically grown, bird-friendly, fair trade coffee for a variety of reasons.:

- We feel that we have accomplished our main goal of raising awareness of how coffee purchases relate to social justice, the environment, and birds in particular.
- There are now several options for purchasing bird-friendly, organic, fair trade coffee locally.
- Coordinating sales and deliveries has become difficult and time-consuming.
- Our sales have dropped recently.
- We regret losing the income, but with reduced

sales, the income was not expected to be substantial.

We appreciate the support and assistance that congregation members have shown in the past, and we encourage all to continue to purchase socially and environmentally responsible coffee.

~ Nancy S.
Social Action Committee Chair

Social Action Committee Update

As shown by other articles in this newsletter, the Social Action Committee has been busy with voter registration and our road cleanup. We also received mention in a recent Eastshore UU newsletter:

The Women's Perspective was able to raise \$2,440 which will be passed on to the Guarani women, men and children in the form of scholarships. This money will enable at least four villagers to gain enough education to return as teachers to their village. Their quality of life will be greatly improved because of this project which was initiated by the Whidbey Island UU congregation.

Notes from our July meeting are posted on our website: <http://www.whidbey.com/uucwi/committees.html#social>.

~ Nancy S., Chair

Member News & Notes

House Hunting

Joan G., who currently lives 6 miles north of Oak Harbor, is looking for a new home further south on Whidbey and would appreciate as many eyes and ears as can be mustered to help her locate one.

The "neighborhood" surrounding her desired new home is as important to her as the home itself. She would like her new neighborhood/community to reflect a love of water, trees, flowers and wildlife by the people that live there. She'd like the home itself — cottage style preferable — to be 1000-1500 square feet in size, good construction, and needing no major improvements. Wood floors

and lots of windows (which help bring the outdoors indoors) are highly desirable. Another requirement is that the home not be subject to any restrictions typically associated with developments, i.e. covenants or building and use restrictions.

In her mind's eye she says she sees a cute little older vacation or summer home somewhere on Whidbey, perhaps on the waterfront, OR a similarly cute older home in the towns of Langley or Coupeville, with at least a view of the water.

Joan can be reached at 360-240-8803 or 360-969-0890 (cell).

Freecycling

What is Freecycling?

Freecycling is recycling of usable goods — a sort of barter system.

How does Freecycling work?

One rule: everything posted must be free. Whether it's a chair, a fax machine, piano, or an old door to be given away, it can be posted on the network. Or, maybe you're looking to acquire something yourself? Respond to the posting directly and you just might get it. After that it is up to the giver to set up a pickup time for passing on the treasure.

Non-profit organizations also benefit from the Freecycle Network. Post the item or items you want to give away and a local organization can help you get it to someone in need.

Who can Freecycle?

As Abe Lincoln once said, "Think globally, recycle locally." The Freecycle Network is open to all cities and to all individuals who want to participate. Freecycle groups are run by local volunteer moderators from across the globe who facilitate each local group — grassroots at its best!

Whidbey Island Freecycle: <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/whidbeyfreecycle/> (Editor's note: You need to join Yahoo Groups to participate.)

~ submitted by Erin C.

On the Lighter Side

If you're not familiar with the work of Steven Wright, he's the guy who once said: "I woke up one morning and all of my stuff had been stolen...and replaced by exact duplicates."

Here are some more of his gems:

- I'd kill for a Nobel Peace Prize.
- Borrow money from pessimists — they don't expect it back.
- Half the people you know are below average.
- 42.7% of all statistics are made up on the spot.
- A conscience is what hurts when all your other parts feel so good.
- A clear conscience is usually the sign of a bad memory.
- If you want the rainbow, you gotta put up with the rain.
- All those who believe in psychokinesis, raise my hand.
- The early bird may get the worm, but the second mouse gets the cheese.
- I almost had a psychic girlfriend but she left me before we met.
- OK, so what's the speed of dark?
- How do you tell when you're out of invisible ink?
- If everything seems to be going well, you have obviously overlooked something.
- Depression is merely anger without enthusiasm.
- When everything is coming your way, you're in the wrong lane.
- Ambition is a poor excuse for not having enough sense to be lazy.
- Hard work pays off in the future, laziness pays off now.
- I intend to live forever -- so far, so good.
If Barbie is so popular, why do you have to buy her friends?
- What happens if you get scared half to death twice?
- My mechanic told me, "I couldn't repair your brakes, so I made your horn louder."
- Why do psychics have to ask you for your name?
- If at first you don't succeed, destroy all evidence that you tried.
- A conclusion is the place where you got tired of thinking.

- Experience is something you don't get until just after you need it.
- The hardness of the butter is proportional to the softness of the bread.
- To steal ideas from one person is plagiarism; to steal from many is research.
- The problem with the gene pool is that there is no lifeguard.
- The sooner you fall behind, the more time you'll have to catch up.
- The colder the X-ray table, the more of your body is required to be on it.
- Everyone has a photographic memory, some just don't have film.

~ submitted by Malcolm F.

UU Tour of Poland

The 2nd Unitarian *Tour of Poland Past and Present* will be September 14 - 27, 2004. The tour will commemorate the 400th anniversary of death of Faustus Socinus (Fausto Sozzini, 1539-1604), the prominent Italian reformer, religious thinker and great Unitarian pioneer who lived and died in Poland. The Tour consists of visiting interesting places of northern and southern Poland. For more information, contact Mr.

Marek Zawadzki, martranstur@poczta.onet.pl.

~ submitted by Malcolm F.

From the UUA

UU Faith Works Online

The Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA) provides *UU Faith Works* online, with articles and resources for religious education and leadership development at all levels. The purpose of the Faith Works packets is to share resources that inspire faith development, educate for religious identity, connect ethical and spiritual practices, and empower religious educators, ministers, and lay congregational leaders in their roles and responsibilities of serving Unitarian Universalists throughout their lives. See <http://www.uua.org/re/faithworks/>.

UU Events Calendar

The UUA provides a detailed, color-coded calendar of events at <http://www.uua.org/calendar/>.

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of Whidbey Island**

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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)

Our minister is available for rights 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; call for more
information. 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.

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