



Island Passages

UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CONGREGATION OF WHIDBEY ISLAND

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

August 2005

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2	3	4	5	6 2:00p Memorial Service (p. 5)
7 10:00a -11:00a Service: Flirting with the Truth	8	9	10	11	12 11:00a -12:30p Social Action Committee meeting at Trinity	13 Board of Trustees retreat (p. 2)
14 10:00a -11:00a Service: Heart to Heart	15	16	17	18	19	20 9:00a -1:00p work party at our property (p. 4)
21 10:00a -11:00a Service: Heaven under Our Feet	22 newsletter deadline	23	24	25	26	27
28 10:00a -11:00a Service: Good Guilt, Bad Guilt	29	30	31			

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

Note: Services this month will be held outdoors at 10:00 a.m. at the church property on the west side of Highway 525 between Bush Point Road and Mutiny Bay Road near Freeland. Please dress for the weather.

**August 7th — Flirting with the Truth
with guest speaker Malcolm Ferrier**

Getting at the truth is very tricky. One person's truth will often be very different from another's, even when describing the same event or set of circumstances. We all fall short of achieving the truth. But it is very easy to skirt round it — to flirt with it, if you like. What are shades of the truth? What are we up to when we don't quite manage to get it right? UU member Malcolm Ferrier will explore some ramifications of this very common practice in current society of not getting things correct.

Lay Leader: Mavis C.

**August 14th — Heart to Heart
with minister the Reverend Kit Ketcham**

Following a scary medical diagnosis in 1999, just before moving back to the Pacific Northwest to serve her Portland congregation, the Reverend Kit Ketcham received some valuable insights about life and love and our responsibility to each other as human beings. We will welcome a delegation from the Vashon Island congregation today. Let's do lunch!

Lay Leader: Carol B.

**August 21st — Heaven under Our Feet
with guest speaker Larry Daloz**

Thoreau reminds us that "heaven is under our feet as well as over our heads." We will undertake an ecological exploration of the trees and forest floor of the home of the future church. We will pay special attention to the mosses, lichens, and processes of succession through which our world is constantly renewing itself.

Laurent A. Parks Daloz is associate director and faculty of the Whidbey Institute in Clinton,

Washington. He and his spouse, Sharon Parks, moved to Whidbey Island in 1997, and since then he has become increasingly fascinated with local ecology and natural history. He claims to know the Latin names of quite a few mosses and lichens, but there are few around to challenge him, so we will simply have to take it on faith. He is author of *Mentor: Guiding the Journey of Adult Learners*, and co-author with Sharon Daloz Parks and Cheryl and Jim Keen, of *Common Fire: Leading Lives of Commitment in a Complex World*. He has published widely in adult education and holds an honorary doctorate from the University of New Hampshire in addition to an earned doctorate from Harvard.

Lay Leader: Bill G.

**August 28th — Good Guilt, Bad Guilt
with guest speaker Sarah Schurr**

Guilt — everyone is trying to get rid of it yet we all seem to have plenty. This sermon will explore what to do with unhealthy guilt and when a little guilt might be a good thing.

Sarah Schurr is a candidate for the Unitarian Universalist ministry, studying at Marylhurst University in Portland. She has been active in UU Campus Ministry, the Pacific Northwest District, and the Portland Vancouver Council of UU Churches. In her abundant spare time she is a medical social worker and the mother of two teenagers.

Lay Leader: Sarah R.

Congregational News & Events

Board of Trustees Retreat, August 13th

The new BOT will hold a retreat on Saturday, August 13, at Toyan's home. This is an opportunity for the Board members to get acquainted, share their thoughts and hopes about UUCWI and discuss priorities and goals for the coming year. The retreat will be facilitated by the Reverend Nan Geer of the Free Church Unitarian in Blaine, Washington.

From Our Minister



Dear Whidbey friends,

This summer has been a period of contrasts for me, and I am reminded of how typical that is in human living. We have a spate of warm sunny days and then a rainy spell. We have a discouraging moment and then a hopeful one. Our health is great and then we sustain an injury. We are independent and then suddenly needy. Our friends behave irrationally and then out of the blue they do something incredibly kind and sane. This is my experience in human living. Is it yours?

We would like to maintain life on an even keel, I think, with no serious downs and plenty of good times. But few of our lives are like that, and it sometimes feels like we are on an emotional rollercoaster!

My summer contrasts have been life and death contrasts. In June, I conducted a memorial service at Vashon for a woman in the congregation who died suddenly and unexpectedly in the spring. Her family and the Vashon folks were devastated; she was only in her 60's, in apparent good health, and an active member. In July, I performed a joyous wedding ceremony for a Vashon couple, uniting in marriage two people who had met in later life and had found the soulmate each had looked for over many years. Life and death, joy and sorrow, grief and relief.

In July, I was looking forward to being the chaplain at the PNWD's Eliot Institute, a family camp at Seabeck: good times with new and old

friends, beautiful surroundings, great speaker (the Reverend Meg Riley from the UUA), no cooking or cleaning---just good times. Upon arriving, I learned that a beloved member of the Eliot community had committed suicide about six weeks beforehand and many of those who were present were struggling with his death. So mixed in with the good times and beautiful space, there was grief and loss and bewilderment. I provided a memorial service for him with his friends, in the midst of that time of laughter and beauty.

I returned from Eliot to be with the Houston family and help them plan the memorial service for Jean, our dear longtime member and friend. And mixed in with that sorrow and grief, I saw love and service from the UUCWI community, as friends reached out with food and care to a family consumed by the details of dying.

In the hymn "Every Night and Every Morn" there is a wonderful line: "joy and woe are woven fine, clothing for the soul divine; under every grief and pine runs a joy with silken twine." May you too find the joy with silken twine woven into your human lives.

In August, I'll be back on the Island the 13th to 15th, preaching on the land on the 14th about a life lesson acquired through this same human process of joy accompanied by woe. Because of the board retreat on the 13th, we will not have NEKK or Welcoming Congregation, but I expect that these two activities will return in September.

See you soon!

Much love,

Kit

Baskets to Books Project Update

In June our Social Action Committee sent the Baskets to Books scholarship fund an additional \$1200. This fund supports indigenous Guarini students in Bolivia in continuing their education beyond high school. The scholarship recipients have agreed to return to their Guarini villages to teach or provide other services. Money for the fund comes from sales of baskets made by Guarini women, providing a means of support for their families.

Sister Maura wrote recently from Bolivia:

"Just today four more students will begin their normal school education in INSPOC in Camiri. We wanted to have many more start this year, but there was no more room. Next year, they have assured us of room for all of the high school graduates."

Basket sales are coordinated with congregations throughout our region. If you know of a congregation that may be interested in selling a shipment of baskets, please contact me.

~ Bill G.

Site Work to Start at Property, August 20th

On this Saturday, we will start work on clearing for water lines and sewer lines as we begin the job of building our new church home.

From 9:00 a.m. to early afternoon, we will need help to clear brush, logs and undergrowth so that we can later install the water lines and sewer lines with mechanical equipment.

Please join us for the fun, and bring gloves, axes, rakes, etc. We always stop at noon for a lunch break, which will be provided.

Hope to see you there.

~ The Building Committee

Looking at Building Plans Through Green Lenses

We are so encouraged by the congregation's embrace of green building principles and details and the work towards that goal by the Building Committee and our designers.

Now comes the fun and really creative work: carrying out each of the 28 specific green building one-liners (or justifying why we shouldn't do them) that the congregation unanimously approved at our June 26th building-review meeting.

Now is the time for everyone to join in the process — give your suggestions, implementation ideas and such to the Social Action or the Building Committees. Do you think a vegetated roof is worth doing? How about a passive-solar approach? Or using super-durable materials? Maybe solar tubes to get optimum natural lighting? These, individually, but even more in concert, will save us money and put UU principles into action

And don't forget about building layout. Consider how we will use the building to encourage much enjoyable personal interaction — alcoves, views, easy seating rearrangements, super acoustics.

The Social Action Committee has the list of the approved 28 green suggestions, plus multimegabyte files of details, cost/benefit studies (never less than a 20:1 benefit over a 15-year life). Ask Malcolm for a copy.

~ The Social Action Committee

Building Update

The congregation, at its meeting in June, approved moving forward with site preparation. Hence, we are now in the process of

- a) obtaining a permit from the Department of Transportation to move the entrance to the property about 100 feet south. This is required by the DOT to allow maximum visibility from the crown of the hill on the highway just north of the existing driveway.
- b) arranging a meeting with Davido Consulting Group to discuss their preparation of a grading, drainage and erosion control plan for the property. Such a plan is required by the county.

~ Toyon C.

Dialog Group Forming

From *A Harvest of Years* by Cynthia Trenshaw: "Sometimes on a sleepless night or in a moment of daydreaming, certain questions begin to pester those of us past midlife: These changes that I notice in my body - do they mean I am already old - or is there time to prepare for my aging? Who will care about me when I am old? What will happen when I can't care for myself? Will I still have my mind? Please, God, let me still have my mind. What if I actually DO live to be 100? Or maybe in the middle of a conversation, unspoken yearnings slip out of their hiding places just long enough for us to wonder: Who cares about who I have been, who I am now, and who I am becoming? Who shares my interests? Who inspires me? Who listens to my story, honors my history, and invites me into their story? Now that my family is scattered / preoccupied / gone, who feels like 'kin' to me? How can I pass on the wisdom I've accumulated through my life's experiences?"

Would you like to be part of an ongoing group of UUs to dialogue about these and other questions? Cynthia, author of *A Harvest of Years*, lives here on the island and would be happy to meet with us to get us started. (We would need to do this in the first half of September as she is traveling for a while after that.) In her booklet she tells about how her Circle of Caring developed and gives some guidance for how to proceed.

If interested please contact Sally E. or Marilyn S. and we'll set a meeting time, hopefully early in September.

~ Marilyn S.

President's Column

by Toyon C., UUCWI President

One of the best parts about this new position is the excuse it gives me to meet and talk with others. Now why I thought I needed an excuse, I'm not sure. But here I am and it is so good to know how many others are right here with me!

For example: I recently met with Siri Sobottka at her dining table to chat about our Children's Religious Education (CRE) program. Siri's continuing enthusiasm and willingness to lead this important committee were heartening.

One thing that definitely stood out to me at General Assembly (GA) was the importance of children and young people in growing congregations. I heard time and again that when we grow, we must be prepared to welcome numbers of younger people. We are building classrooms and they will come!

Younger ones are an important part of the families who join us. It is up to us to continue to offer them ever-expanding classes and programs that stimulate thoughts and actions in keeping with the UU principles and that make them want to remain a part of our organization.

Young Religious UU (YRUU) was well-represented at GA. About 100 lively and articulate people in their mid to late teens sat together, participated in programs, appropriately articulated their views and generally made me excited to know that they are a part of UUA! I believe we will experience this same kind of energy once we are ready for it.

Siri and her committee members will be designing programs, curricula and more. As in the past, they will be drawing on their talents and training; utilizing some of the many UUA resources available for this; and involving other members, friends and parents to make UUCWI truly intergenerational.

A home of our own will certainly be an important part of making this happen. Classrooms where projects can be left on view from one week to the next; services and classes in the morning (when more children are available); property to play on. More good reasons to look forward to having our own home soon!

Seabeck, September 23-25

Seabeck, the annual UU Family Camp on beautiful Hood Canal held in conjunction with Woodinville and Edmonds congregations, will take place September 23-25th. Each year the camp focuses on a different theme. This year the adult program will be presented by Victor Bremson, a semiretired high-level business consultant and now philosopher-scholar. He is going to explore with us "Terrorism, Patriotism and Tyranny. How do we deal with these problems in the new millennium? All three of these issues scare us. How do we overcome our fears? How do we find new responses to each of these? What is a UU to do?"

There are activities for the whole family: a wonderful talent show Saturday night; hikes along the beach or in the adjacent woods; rowing on the canal; and a memorable worship service in the Chapel in the Woods on Sunday morning, plus as much free time as you like.

A registration form is available from John A.

Member News & Notes

Memorial Service: August 6th

Jean Houston died July 24th at her home with her family in attendance. A memorial service is planned for Saturday August 6th at 2:00 p.m. in our chapel at Trinity with an informal tea to follow.

From the PNW District

2006 Pacific Northwest District Meeting

Information about the February 17-19 meeting in Port Townsend is available at www.pnwd.org/pages/agm.php. There's still time to submit a proposal for a workshop — suggested topics are listed on that page, although other topics are welcome.

From the UUA

General Assembly News

Information about UUA elections, Study-Action Items, Action of Immediate Witness, the Statement of Conscience, and annual reports are available at www.uua.org/ga/ga05/business.html.

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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)

Chaplain: Sally Elder (360-675-3314)

Our minister and chaplain are available for rites
of passage ceremonies (including ceremonies of
commitment or union) and pastoral visits.

Newsletter Information:

News, announcements, events, and other items of
general interest to members of the congregation
should be submitted in writing by the 20th of each
month to editor Nancy S., uucwi@whidbey.com.

Short faxed
items may be acceptable; 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
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