



Island Passages

UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CONGREGATION OF WHIDBEY ISLAND

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

November 2003

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2 2:00p Choir Practice 4:00p -5:15p Service & CRE	3 8:30a World Events Discussion Group at the Lighthouse Cafe	4 Election Day	5	6	7	8 9:00a -11:00a North End Coffee Klatch at Miriam's Espresso in Coupeville (p. 3) 7:00p Movie Night: Vertigo (p.3)
9 4:00p -5:15p Service & CRE	10	11 Veteran's Day 10:00a Caring Connections meeting at Carol B.'s home (p. 4)	12 7:30p -9:00p Worship Committee meeting at Malcolm F.'s home	13 7:30p -9:00p Social Action Committee meeting at Malcolm F.'s home	14	15 9:00a -1:00p Work party at the church property (p. 3)
16 4:00p -5:15p Service & CRE	17 8:30a World Events Discussion Group at the Lighthouse Cafe	18 7:30p Book Group Meeting: The No. 1 Ladies Detective Agency at Elaine W.'s home (p. 3)	19	20 newsletter deadline	21	22
23 2:00p Choir Practice 4:00p -5:15p Service & CRE	24 9:00a Membership Committee meeting at Baird B.'s	25	26	27 Thanksgiving Day	28	29
30 4:00p -5:15p Service & CRE	<p>Additions and updates can be found on the calendar on the congregation's web site: http://www.whidbey.com/uucwi/activities.html</p>					

**November 2 — *The Price of Adulthood*
with guest minister the Reverend Barbara
Davenport**

Is the price of adulthood the loss of the soul? Spiritual hunger is rampant in America as evidenced by the rise in boredom, anxiety, depression, and disconnection from one another and mother earth. Spiritual development is not only necessary for psychological health but a key to a life of passion and depth.

Barbara is a Harvard Divinity School graduate and now serves as a consulting minister with the Skagit UU Fellowship in Mt. Vernon and the South Fraser Unitarian Congregation in Surrey, B.C.

Facilitator: Carol B.; Refreshments: Sandy W.

Membership Representative: Baird B.

Children's Religious Education: Deciding Together Democracy, Activity-Democracy Game Show Abundance—what are you grateful for? Guided Visualization and kids learn how to do their own.

**November 9 — *Hope Has Human Hands*
with the Reverend Kit Ketcham**

Kit will reflect upon the meaning of Hope as a theological concept and how it relates to our Unitarian Universalist principles. What gives you hope? How do you give hope to others? There will be a story for all ages.

Kit is Consulting minister to the Unitarian Universalist Congregations of Vashon and Whidbey Islands, Puget Sound, Washington.

Facilitator: Nancy S.; Potluck Coordination: Paula K. and Elaine W.

Membership Representative: Malcolm F.

Children's Religious Education: It's a Small World Children will attend the beginning of the adult service. Creating Peace. Activity: Celebrating Diversity (Tell us about your family heritage, countries where your family originally came from)

**November 16 — *Dances of Universal Peace*
with guest speaker Halim Dunsy**

The Dances of Universal Peace are a joyous, multi-cultural way to touch the spiritual essence within ourselves and others. The Dances use sacred phrases, chants, music, and movements from the

many spiritual traditions of the Earth to promote peace and create an integrated experience of body, mind, and spirit. Dances and songs are easy to learn and are taught to the whole group each time. For more information about the dances worldwide, see www.dancesofuniversalpeace.org.

Halim is a dance musician and certified leader of the Dances of Universal Peace. His home circle is on Whidbey Island.

Facilitator: Ken M.; Refreshments: open
Membership Representative: Roy B.

Children's Religious Education: Creativity Session with Guest Teacher Siri S., Music Jam Session

**November 23 — *Finding Gratitude*
with guest minister the Reverend Alicia Grace**

For this Thanksgiving service, Alicia will preach about finding gratitude in the most unlikely of places. Together, we will celebrate the heart of this special holiday.

Alicia serves the Evergreen UU Fellowship in Marysville.

Facilitator: Sarah R.; Refreshments: Wendy F.

Membership Representative: Baird B.

Children's Religious Education: Creativity Session with Guest Teacher Siri S., Music Jam Session

**November 30 — *Why Are Some People So Mean?*
with guest minister the Reverend Alan Merson**

This will be an interactive session whose success depends on the willingness of the congregation to participate fully in answering that question. While I obviously have some thoughts on the issue, emanating principally from a theological perspective, I am most anxious to receive the considered wisdom of UUCWI members. This is not a trivial question. It is, in fact, a question upon whose answer may well depend the future of our species. I hope to explore the discontinuity between the universally expressed values of love, acceptance and compassion present in every great religious tradition and the real world actions of many who claim adherence to those values, but whose actions appear driven by the basest of

human impulses. So come prepared to offer your opinions.

Facilitator: Sandy W.; Refreshments: Nola and Frank A.

Membership Representative: Malcolm F.

Children's Religious Education: Social Action Project Planning for month of December. Simple Social Action Initiation: What project will we do to help others?

We can do a simple, short-term project to help (should we volunteer in a soup kitchen, bring in donations of clothing, toys, warm blankets, help kids, animals, — ask our neighbors and friends if they want to donate? Sing songs and visit people who are housebound?). Review the social action link on the church website and bring your ideas and plan to start soon. I'll bring a list of possibilities too.

Nursery care is now provided regularly by Carol W. at all Sunday services.

Congregational News & Events

North End Coffee Klatch Begins November 8!

Meet other North Whidbey Islanders at Miriam's Espresso in Coupeville (across from Coupeville Elementary, next to Video Village) from 9-11 on Saturday morning Nov. 8. Rev. Kit Ketcham will meet with North Island UUs on the Saturday before the Sunday she preaches, in an informal conversational time. Come and meet Kit and spend time with other North Whidbey UUs. Mark that "Saturday before the second Sunday" date on your calendars! Bring friends who might be interested, if you like. See you there!

Movie Night November 8

Our monthly evening of film, food, and discussion will be held Saturday, November 8 at 7:00 p.m. at the home of Dave and Mavis C. The film will be Alfred Hitchcock's noir masterpiece *Vertigo*. This is a rich film for discussion. Hitchcock crafted every shot, giving us an opportunity to discuss film concepts such as mise en scene, montage editing, and the term

coined by the maestro himself: the McGuffin. The plot is tight and yet baffling. The cast is superb, with James Stewart in a more sinister role than we're used to seeing him, and Kim Novak in the best performance of her career. As always, bring whatever munchies and beverages will enhance your viewing pleasure and we'll make the popcorn.

Work Party at the Church Property November 15

Join us Saturday, November 15 at the church property (a couple of miles north of Trinity on the west side of Highway 525) for a little clean-up. Bring shovels, gloves, and rakes. We'll be there from 9:00 am to 1:00 pm, with a hot dog break at noon. Even if you can't stay to work, this is a great time to stop by and see how things are shaping up. See you there!

Book Club Discussion November 18

November's discussion will be of *The No. 1 Ladies Detective Agency* by Alexander McCall Smith. Publisher's Weekly says, "A series of vignettes linked to the establishment and growth of Mme Ramotswa's *No. 1 Ladies Detective Agency* serve not only to entertain but to explore conditions in Botswana in a way that is both penetrating and light thanks to Smith's deft touch." The group will meet at 7:30 pm on November 18 at the home of Elaine W.

21 Chalice Lighters At UUCWI

21 members of UUCWI stepped forward and answered the recent drive by signing up to participate in the Pacific Northwest District's "Chalice Lighter" program. A participant in this program agrees to respond three times per year to a call to contribute at least \$10 to another UU congregation in the district to assist that congregation in realizing a major project such as new construction of a new facility. We admittedly had an ulterior motive. Since we now have over one third of our congregation enrolled in the program we are eligible to apply for contributions to our own building project. Chalice Lighter calls have usually netted \$8,000-10,000 benefiting a recipient. So...well done guys! And, see Peggy B. if you feel left out.

From Our Minister

Dear Whidbey Islanders,

As the seasons change, the leaves turn color and drop onto paths and roadways, the wind picks up and whitecaps adorn the water. The rain comes in fits and starts, sometimes a gentle mist, sometimes a driving torrent that keeps our rainjackets cinched tight against its force. And then the sun comes out just long enough to blaze a rainbow against the dark sky.



Of all religious folk, we Unitarian Universalists seem particularly aware of nature's cycles, gifts, and challenges. This awareness arises out of our environmental interests, of course, as well as our understanding of the interconnectedness of all life. But I think it also arises out of our deep belief that nature is more than just pretty vistas, mountains to climb, rivers to protect.

We regard nature as a sacred text, a "book" which offers us knowledge, spiritual nurture, comfort in hard times, a yardstick for our behavior, a cornucopia of gifts yet demanding reverence and protection, not exploitation and manipulation of its lessons.

Many religions use the Bible, the Baghavad Gita, the Koran, and other literary works for their major sacred texts. We also use these works, but I think we rely more on nature's reliable communication with us for life's direction. We tend to trust nature's work more than human words, when it comes to shaping our lives.

So I'm enjoying the odes and epics and lessons and essays I see from my window or on my walks: the cormorants tirelessly diving for food, the wind in the sails of a boat scudding across the water, the cracking of brittle branches under the onslaught of the storm, the last greening of the plants as the rain returns. There are human lessons in each of these simple and natural events and I am soaking them up as though I am a thirsty plant in the downpour.

I hope your autumn has been full of sacred moments and that your spirit is refreshed and ready for the long lessons of winter.

Yours in faith,
Kit

PS. It looks like it will be easier for you to contact me for now if you use kitketcham@aol.com as my email address. Unexpected complications make my whidbey address unworkable right now. Sorry. I hope to get it adjusted properly soon.

Caring Connections

from Sandy W.

The Pastoral Services Committee has changed its name—we are now Caring Connections. Our new name reflects our revitalized mission to help the individual members and friends of the UUCWI community connect and care for each other. That's what community is all about, right? In coming months we'll be planning some social events to get to know one another better. We'll also be exploring some ways to promote bonds inside smaller groups within the congregation. We want everyone to have an accessible point of connection.

One of the greatest joys and benefits of belonging to a community is the opportunity to give and receive help. UUCWI has a wonderful history of rallying to the aid of an individual or family in need. Thank you to everyone who has stepped forward to help in these situations. But in addition to the occasional emergency, we feel there are probably many smaller, perhaps chronic, needs that could be addressed. In the next few weeks we'll be distributing a survey from which we hope to find out what skills, abilities, and needs are out there to be shared. We've done a similar survey in the past, but needs and abilities should be reassessed regularly, so please be thinking about what you can offer. Remember—real, deep, day-to-day connections can only happen in an environment of cooperation and reciprocity. Caring Connections will provide the structure—it's up to everyone to provide the heart.

Capital Campaign Committee Begins Planning

The Capital Campaign Committee met on September 24. It is making plans to assure that when it comes time to ask members and friends to contribute to building our own church home we will have a good idea of how much we need to raise from them and what will come from other sources such as grants and loans. No date has been set for a kick-off, but it will not be this church year. Much discussion focused on the need to grow, to advertise, to strengthen our current programs, and to take the necessary steps to becoming a Welcoming Congregation to the gay and lesbian community.

All UU grants and loans require 'growth plans'. Ken Merrel will summarize our recent steps toward growth, i.e., hiring professional leadership, starting regular Children's RE, buying additional acreage, etc. into a written plan. Bill Graves will lead the effort to enroll at least 15 of our members in the Chalice Lighter's grant program.

Marketing goals will be devised by Elaine W. to aid in our readiness for the "ask." We will investigate grants which would assist in building "green" rather than conventional construction.

Members of the committee are Roy B., Bill G., Ken M., Elaine W., Baird B., and Peggy B., convenor.

Children's Religious Education—A Truly Different Sunday School!

The wind whispers and beckons as autumn leaves crunch underfoot. Children rush to catch big yellow school buses as they venture off to school each day. There is excitement in the air with the approach of many holidays and spiritual events in our lives, and a deepening time as we prepare for the winter ahead. There is also a lot of excitement about the new UU Children's Religious Education Program now underway. In October, we continued to have our core group of children attending, as well as several guests that we hope will consider attending regularly. With busy schedules and lives, some attend every Sunday, others attend sporadically. Regardless of the class size, we certainly have many magical moments. This is a very talented, insightful, and creative group of kids! Our October sessions all related to "Remembrance." Our monthly activities included a curriculum session about Inner Peace and the life

of Mahatma Gandhi, a curriculum session with guest teacher Sandy W. about "Teachers and Learners", a holiday session about the history, cultural and spiritual significance of Halloween around the world, a remembrance activity (to remember loved ones that have died-most kids remembered both a pet and a person), and a Halloween party with prizes and treats. A special thanks to our October Guest Teacher Sandy W.--your Teacher's Charades was a huge hit! Check out our upcoming class sessions posted on the church website calendar. In November, we'll look forward to creative music sessions with Siri S., curriculum sessions on democracy and nature and pre-planning a CRE social action project. UU kids, we hope to see you there! Friends, neighbors, and classmates are welcome too.

--Jeanette L.

Thank you! Thank you!

Thanks to the CRE committee for their ongoing commitment and support for this CRE program. A very special thank you to a very dedicated outgoing chair Frances W. (who will continue as committee member) and to outgoing committee member Peggy B., for your countless hours of leadership in launching a CRE program for your congregation. Paula K. continues as a core CRE committee member. Your warmth, humor, and guidance are so very appreciated. A warm welcome to incoming chair Joann C. and new CRE committee member and parent, Erin C. Our consulting minister Kit Ketcham has attended to share her guidance as well. Parents who have attended in great support of CRE committee include Gretchen V., Siri S., and Sandy W. Former CRE teacher Nikki H. has attended and will be a future Guest Teacher. Carol W. is our child care provider for younger children and has been wonderful as an assistant to the CRE class when available as well. Thanks to the Board, Baird, Malcolm, Elaine, Dave, Mavis, Kit, and Al for your enthusiastic support and to the entire UU congregation as well.

--Jeanette L.

Over the Top

By Dave C., President



Saturday, October 18, four UUCWI volunteers showed up bright and early at the site where the Woodinville UU congregation is building their own church using sweat equity. Previously restricted, like UUCWI, to afternoon worship, Woodinville UU has been holding Sunday morning services in the new building since September 7. Also, they hired the Reverend Alex Holt as their half-time minister September 14. Now they report that attendance has increased so much that the new sanctuary now seems small, CRE is overflowing, and there isn't enough parking. These are nice problems to have.

The Woodinville congregation got its start as a mission church. Our own Bill Graves, as an agent of the UUA, played a key role in making it happen. It was the right decision, as the church thrived from the beginning. Unfortunately, when the lease was lost on the place that allowed them to meet Sunday mornings, their 125-child CRE program attendance dropped in half. That was one of the factors leading to the decision to build their own facility.

Our volunteers were answering an urgent appeal for help that circulated to PNWD congregational presidents and was forwarded to our own building committee, headed by Roy Bingham. Although the Woodinville church had passed its occupancy inspections, there was an October 25 deadline for converting the bank loan from a construction loan to a lower-rate mortgage, and the bank needed to see that the building was complete.

Our job was exterior painting. That hadn't been completed before the rains came, and Saturday was a now-rare sunny day. Along with a couple of Woodinville members and a contingent from the Latter Day Saints church next door, Baird, Roy, Bill, and I rolled and brushed the cedar shingle siding, completing the oil-based work in the morning — a job that had been expected to take all day. The Woodinville folks were so happy for the help that they insisted on cleaning the brushes for

us! At noon everybody knocked off for sub sandwiches that magically appeared, and we polished off the doughnuts remaining from the morning coffee break. In the afternoon we climbed the ladder to the roof and covered the cement board siding around the sanctuary superstructure with latex paint. By 4 pm every square inch that needed painting had been done.

A core group of the Woodinville folks had been working on the building every spare hour and every weekend since groundbreaking in spring of 2002, under the able and energetic direction of member "Builder Bob" Ditzler. Bob has a wonderful set of talents including knowing what needs to be done first, what requires care and what doesn't, where everything is, and how to do everything. He volunteered to give us advice when our building project begins.

It was enlightening to see the contrasts since the beginning of the summer, when a group of us had showed up to help. There had been dramatic progress. On our first trip, there was just a structure with a roof; we helped put insulation in the walls. Now, the structure had siding, wallboard, and working utilities, not to mention a paved entry road. But the project has taken a toll. In May, the Woodinville group seemed boundless in their energy. This time, they were noting that they hadn't gotten anything done this summer on their own homes! Fatigue was clearly setting in. But what was constant was the purposefulness and the fellowship. It was a group "building a church", not "laying bricks". They were building community as well as a structure.

Painting is particularly rich in instant gratification. Even for the Woodinville core group that had been working on the building for so many months, it was a stunning transformation. Bob sighed in relief and said we had put them "over the top" in meeting their bank inspection goal. It was a good feeling.

New Newsletter Editor

After many diligent years as our newsletter editor, Sandy W. decided it was time to pass the baton to another. The congregation can be genuinely grateful for all Sandy's hard work,

careful editing, and patient research during the past five years or so.

On October 13th, the Board of Trustees confirmed Nancy S.'s appointment as editor of this newsletter. News, calendar items, and other information for the newsletter should now be sent to her: uucwi@whidbey.com. It would be generous, but misguided, to assume that she will automatically know the times, dates, and/or locations of your committee or group events, even those that have been going since the beginning of the congregation! Please submit your items to her by the 20th of the month for inclusion in the following month's issue.

Nancy will be using a slightly different layout for the newsletter, including new fonts. If you have difficulty reading the newsletter, please let her know so that she can adjust.

UUCWI Will Fund Full Scholarship

The Social Action Committee is extremely pleased and proud to announce that receipts from sales of the baskets imported from Bolivia under our "Baskets for Books" program have been sufficient to finance a full scholarship to a two-year college level course in the same country leading to a technical certificate. Both the basket weavers and the scholarship recipient are from an area in southern Bolivia populated by Guarani people, an indigenous group. The recipient will be the first from this area to attend a course of higher education. The scholarship will be administered by a Catholic nun who has been working closely with these people for over twenty years. She has promised to keep us informed of the recipient's progress. The recipient will be chosen by the Guarani themselves.

Gross sales of baskets to date have totaled \$2653. Our cost to purchase and import the baskets have been about \$966, \$300 of which was donated out of the Social Action Committee budget. On November 1, Bill G. and Frances W. will carry to Bolivia a check for \$1920, the projected, full cost for a two-year scholarship. Bill and Frances will join UUCWI member Toyan



C. who is finishing her two-year stint with the Peace Corps in Bolivia. They will travel to the Guarani villages near Entre Rios to award the scholarship. Toyan will be returning to Whidbey Island in early December and is eager to work on continuing and expanding the project. In the meantime our basket inventory that remains can be viewed at The Art Store at Bayview. They make terrific Christmas presents!

We thank the congregation for its support from the bottom of our heart.

Alternative Christmas Shopping

Can't think of what to get your loved ones for Christmas? How about purchasing shares of a pig, or bees, or a water buffalo in their name? The Social Action committee is making it possible for you to join with the Heifer Project which distributes these and many other farm animals to help struggling people feed themselves and become more self reliant. Interested? You can find more information at http://www.heifer.org/end_hunger/index.htm. Already know about Heifer Project and want to join in? We will have catalogs and more information at the coffee hours after services during November and December.

Member News & Notes

New Member: Sally E.

"In the Ohio farming community where I was born, the First Christian Church (Disciples) was the center of community life. I grew up there where passages were celebrated from birth to death & included all social events in between. It was community.

My spiritual upbringing was not dogmatic. Instead we were encouraged to research history, ask questions, use our imaginations, and to dialogue.

I was active in the Episcopal church in Colorado for 20+ years, including being warden of St. George's Leadville, hospital chaplain, study group leader. I was accused of practicing witchcraft, too. I attended St. Thomas Catholic seminary in Denver and am grateful for my education there.

I graduated (MA) from Brite Divinity School (TCU) in 1994 and went directly to Alaska as

pastor with Christian Missionaries in the National Parks, which provides non-denominational worship services. While in Texas I'd enjoyed pastoring the Paradise Christian Church.

While teaching on the Arapaho reservation in Wyoming I joined in relationship with the Wyoming Quakers with whom I retain membership. There I trained with Chelsea Kesselheim to become an Alternatives to Violence facilitator in the Wyoming prison system. This & the Rez were big-time life altering experiences.

Guiding lights in my life since childhood are the scriptures 'Love you the stranger for you were strangers in the land of Egypt' and 'My people perish for lack of knowledge/wisdom.' The latter lights my fervent involvement in education.

Favorite courses in seminary were those that elucidated and appreciated all faith traditions. I remain indebted to the Benedictine tradition (and Sister Karen Bland) which values 'scholarship and service.' I am delighted to be with the WI Universalists with whom I can identify on the spiritual path to Mystery, Light, and Community."

New Member: Spiritual Bio of Patricia B.

I grew up in the Midwest, as a Protestant Christian. I didn't really question what I was told in that environment (including my father's likelihood of going to Hell because he didn't go to church with us.)

I went to college (Swarthmore) and took a Comparative Religion course and learned the history of Christianity. I couldn't and can't imagine anything less Christian, and promptly stopped calling myself a Christian. I'm still wary of that term, especially now in this us-and-them world climate.

The Quakers founded this college. I attended a silent Friends Meeting on campus and found myself comfortable there. My last Friends Meeting, in Charlottesville, Virginia, didn't even require a belief in God to join the Meeting. And best of all, Quakers always have, and still do, practice what they preach. The actions of Quakers, North and South, during slavery were nothing less than heroic, and the American Friends Service Committee and other service bodies continue that tradition. Both my upbringing and my education totally ill-equipped me for life in this culture by encouraging me to

think for myself, and that is a hard habit to break. They also nurtured my passion for justice -- another dangerous road. This was never more evident than in the summer of 1964 where I was in the

Deep South as an activist and reporter. Everywhere I went, and every demonstration I took part in, someone was killed.

No sooner had I survived that self-assignment than the Vietnam War broke out, and I quickly learned what lies that was based on. (Though I'd have been against it in any case; war is NEVER the way.) So it was back to the front lines again.

When people in this country finally woke up to the truth about that war, I thought that at least we wouldn't allow that to happen again. WRONG. So I spent some eight months on the corner in Coupeville trying to tell people what was really going on. Somewhat successfully even, as more and more joined us each day.

If anything, this war is worse, and this Administration more dangerous. And for the first time, I feel intimidated. I live in HUD-subsidized senior housing, and the entire staff of Senior Services (offices on-site) is former Navy and it has been made very clear to me that my tenancy here is at risk.

I came to the island five years ago and couldn't find an accessible Friends meeting place. The Methodist Church I attended just wasn't there for me. The week we actually attacked another nation without provocation, the pastor preached on Saint Patrick. We weren't even allowed to hold a private candle-lighting ceremony in the sanctuary there to synchronize with others all over the world.

Enter the UU. I saw the ad, looked up the website, and found it a perfect match. Deeds, not creeds. Inclusive not exclusive. And an Affirmation I could have written myself. I feel so found, and so grateful to everyone for just being here. I wanna join.

Stalwart Friend: Jeanne S.

Jeanne, the daughter of an ordained minister, grew up in an international YMCA family, living in many different cultures and countries, and is now delighted to call Whidbey Island home. While she hasn't been a church member anywhere for 40 years, she continues to seek her spiritual path, now with UU.

As a life-long educator she has taught preschoolers, graduate students, and everything in between. Formerly the director of a small graduate teacher education program, she currently works for Seattle Public Schools, in a support role for teachers, children and their families. She is also a facilitator for Courage to Teach, a program designed to support and nurture the soul of public school educators.

She has 2 young adult sons, one still in college, one off on his own worldly adventures. Of her move to the island, their comment was: "Mom, you should have done this years ago!" But things happen in their own time.

From the PNWD District

Cascadia Conference in February

The first ever Cascadia Conference will be held in Victoria, B.C. February 13-15, 2004, at the Victoria Conference Centre. Keynote Speakers will be The Reverend William G. Sinkford, President of the UUA, and & The Reverend Phillip Hewett, Minister Emeritus of the Unitarian Church of Vancouver. Cascadia will be a unique gathering. As well as the PNWD Annual General Meeting, Cascadia will present the first opportunity for members of the PNWD and the B.C. Regional District to renew our vital connections. The theme of the conference will be "Living our UU Principles." For more information, see the PNWD web site at <http://www.pnwd.uua.org>.

Changes to *Changes*

Recently the district board charged the Communications Task Force with examining the ways and effectiveness of how communications occur between the district and its member congregations. After a careful review of *Changes*, the district newspaper, they proposed significant modifications in distribution and audience focus.

They suggested that the district produce two forms of *Changes*. The first, published in hard copy every December, would be mailed to every UU member in the Pacific Northwest District. The primary goal of this winter issue would be to promote the February Annual General Meeting. The UU World magazine will provide the Oregon mail house with electronic mailing label data for a paper copy of *Changes* to be mailed to all reported UUs in the district. The winter issue of *Changes* would also be posted electronically on the PNWD website.

The second form of *Changes* would be published only in electronic format, with the fall and spring issues posted on the PNWD website. The primary goal of the electronic form of *Changes* would be to address the needs of the district leadership.

Please note that the fall edition of *Changes* is available at <http://www.pnwd.uua.org/Changes%20Winter03.pdf>.

-Diane Brinson, District Administrator

SAVE \$\$\$\$\$. If you register for next year's General Assembly before November 15, your registration fee will be reduced by as much as \$50 (adults) or \$25 (youth). Registration forms are now available online (<http://www.uua.org/ga/>). Regular registration period opens March 1, with rates at \$250 and \$140. GA '04 will be held in Long Beach, CA, June 24-28.

For the convenience of e-mail and online readers of this newsletter, blue text has been made into active links to web pages or e-mail addresses.

UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST
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**Unitarian Universalist Congregation
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 (206-931-6709)

Chaplain: Al Grapel (678-0919)

Both our minister and chaplain are 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 221-8664 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>.
Last names, phone numbers, and addresses are
deleted from the online version for members'
privacy.

Newsletter Committee:

Nancy S., Editor
Mavis C., Church Coordinator