



# 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/)

## December 2004

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Additions and updates can be found on the calendar on the congregation's web site: <a href="http://www.whidbey.com/uucwi/">http://www.whidbey.com/uucwi/</a>						4 2:00p UUCWI Parents' Discussion (p. 3)
5 2:00p Choir practice 4:00p -5:15p Service: Anticipating Christmas with Music, Humor and Wisdom 4:00p -5:00p CRE: Intergenerational Service	6 8:30a World Events Discussion Group at the Lighthouse Café	7	8	9	10 9:30a Social Action Committee meeting at Trinity	11 9:00a -12:00p Leadership Council meeting 2:00p Koffee Klatch Tea Party (p. 3)
12 4:00p -5:15p Service: 4x4: Four Sources, Four Ways of Making Meaning 4:00p -5:00p CRE: In Harmony 5:15p All-Congregation Potluck after the service	13 9:00a Worship Committee meeting	14 6:30p Book Group Book Swap and Holiday Party (p. 3)	15	16	17	18
19 2:00p Choir practice 4:00p -5:15p Service: From Solstice to Sacred Birthday: How Christmas Came to Be 4:00p -5:00p CRE: The Web of Nature	20 8:30a World Events Discussion Group at the Lighthouse Café newsletter deadline	21	22	23	24	25 Christmas
26 4:00p -5:15p Service: The Spiritual Joy of Giving 4:00p -5:00p CRE: Everyone Is Special	27	28	29 Winter Eliot begins at Seabeck (p. 3)	30	31 New Year's Eve	

### **December 5th — Anticipating Christmas with Music, Humor and Wisdom**

On the second Sunday of Advent we will reflect on why we do Christmas again and again, with all its wonder and in spite of all its flaws. The medium of reflection will be humor, words of inspiration, and most of all music, wonderful music. The service will feature our own Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Whidbey Island Choir directed by Heidi Hoelting, as well as guest vocal and instrumental musicians, and ample opportunities for the entire congregation to sing along. Visitors are especially welcome.

*Lay Leader: Bill G.*

*Membership Representative: Malcolm F.*

- CRE Youth: Intergenerational Service (childcare and RE for primary ages but youth will stay with the service)

### **December 12th — 4x4: Four Sources, Four Ways of Making Meaning with the Reverend Kit Ketcham**

Reverend Kit Ketcham invites us to go four-wheeling with her through four religious and philosophical sources of thinking and asks four questions about how we see ourselves and our work in the world.

*Lay Leader: Sarah R.*

*Membership Representative: Baird B.*

*A potluck will follow the service.*

- CRE Youth: In Harmony from the *We Believe* curriculum

### **December 19th— From Solstice to Sacred Birthday: How Christmas Came to Be with the Reverend Kit Ketcham**

Reverend Kit Ketcham will speak about the evolution of the Christmas season, how it grew beyond pagan rites into the holiday Christians now revere as Jesus' birthday. We'll sing lots of seasonal songs!

*Lay Leader: Frances W.*

*Membership Representative: Roy B.*

- CRE Youth: The Web of Nature from the *We Believe* curriculum

### **December 26th— The Spiritual Joy of Giving with guest speaker Kathy McLaughlin**

Good Cheer serves about 1000 needy people on South Whidbey and has been doing so for 42 years. Most of their money comes from their two resale shops in Langley and Clinton, some from donations, a little from a state grant. Their chief service is giving food and presents to those who otherwise would have little of either.

Good Cheer Executive Director Kathy McLaughlin will talk to us about this wonderful program and offer poignant and inspiring stories. Kathy has lived on Whidbey for 20 years; for 15 years she owned and ran Ace Hardware, and then she went to Good Cheer. Her present post allows her to engage in her two passions of retail work and social action. It's a valuable service, with the numbers of needy going up each year.

*Lay Leader: Malcolm F.*

*Membership Representative: Tim K.*

*Offering Recipient: Good Cheer Food Bank (below)*

- CRE Youth: Everyone Is Special from the *We Believe* curriculum

## Congregational News & Events

### **Charity Donations**

Since September, we've been experimenting with sharing our service offering with a local charitable organization whose work aligns with UU principles. In these three months, we've given more than \$400 to the Court-Appointed Special Advocates (CASA) program, the Pacific Northwest District Churchworks Fund, and Friends of Friends Medical Fund. December's offering on the 26th will be given to Good Cheer Food Bank in Langley. Offerings to Good Cheer can be through our offering basket or in the form of nonperishable food donations.

The Social Action Committee is inspired by the generosity and caring attitude of our congregants. Thanks to all for contributing to these worthwhile organizations in UUCWI's name.

~ Nancy S., Committee Chair

### **UUCWI Parents' Discussion, December 4th**

Our CRE numbers are growing, and we hope to improve our service and outreach to both our primary and youth age children. You are cordially invited to discuss and brainstorm about current and future Children's Religious Education at UUCWI. Topics might include but not be limited to:

- Classroom volunteers
- Revitalizing our CRE committee
- Discussion of curricula
- Special intergenerational services

Siri S. will host the meeting at her home. Childcare will be provided.\*

When: Saturday, December 4, 2004, 2:00 p.m.

Where: Siri's house.

\*Please RSVP; Siri can provide childcare if necessary and with a week's notice. Thanks!

~ Siri S., CRE Coordinator

### **The Building Committee Needs Your Input: December 5th**

On December 5, following the Sunday service, the Building Committee will have a comment packet available for everyone in our church community for design ideas and thoughts.

The building layout included in the capital campaign brochure was only our first concept to get us started on the design process. Now we need YOUR ideas. So please pick up the comment packet and think about what you would like to see included in the final design.

~ Roy B., Committee Chair

### **Koffee Klatch Tea Party, December 11th**

The North End Koffee Klatch will meet at 2:00 p.m. at Anna's Tea Shop in Coupeville for "High Tea" with all the goodies associated with a grown-up tea party — fabulous desserts and snacks and tea. We have made a reservation for at least 6 people but can expand if any South Enders want

to join us. We must have your RSVP by December 9th; you can let Kent V. know if you are coming. Cost per person is \$15 and worth every penny, we've heard.

~ Reverend Kit Ketcham

### **Book Group Pot Luck: December 14th**

Join the UUCWI Book Club for its third annual Christmas Party and Book Exchange on December 14 at the C.' home. Please RSVP to Mavis.

The potluck

will start at 6:30 pm. If you are unable to make the potluck, you are welcome to attend the book exchange which starts at 7:30. Bring books you are willing to give away, and go home with different ones! The process is fun and it's a good way to recycle. Books that don't find new homes are donated to the Sno-Isle Libraries or Good Cheer.

### **Winter Eliot, December 29, 2004 - January 2, 2005**

Reverend Kit Ketcham invites all to Winter Eliot, the marvelous gathering at Seabeck for UUs from all over. Held during the New Year's Eve holiday season, this year's theme is *Visions of the Day to Come*. Kit went last year and had a great time. "It would be so much fun to have a few UUCWI folks at Eliot this winter!" she writes. She's also invited her Vashon Island congregation, and would love to have her "two favorite groups" meet each other. See the flyer on pages 9 and 10.

### **Get Ready for Soapbox Sunday: January 2, 2005!**

You too can preach! An upcoming service will offer volunteer participants use of the Sunday podium as their soap box to rouse the congregants, expound on a heartfelt viewpoint or explain an important issue related to our first UU principle: "We covenant to affirm and promote the inherent worth and dignity of every person." A wide variety of remarks pertaining to this topic are encouraged so long as:

- they are confined to three minutes or less;
- they do not advocate for or against particular political candidates or parties;
- they uphold the dignity of our pulpit and are not disrespectful of persons whose views differ from the speaker.

Subsequent "Soapbox Sundays" focusing on other of our UU principles will be considered for

the future. January 2nd is only a few weeks away, and now is the time to be thinking of what you might want to present. Those wishing to participate must submit the theme of what they wish to say and whether they anticipate using the entire allotted three minutes by December 10th. As time will be limited, so may be the number of speakers. Questions or interest in participation should be submitted to Toyon in person or by [email](#).

~ Bill G., Worship Committee Chair

### **Guest At Your Table: Through January 9th**

Our November 21st start of the *Guest At Your Table* holiday collection was a great success. A heartfelt speech by Evan W. introduced the collection for the UU Service Committee's work both in the U.S. and abroad. The collection will help fight injustice, promote fair trade, and work for peace in regions of conflict. See [www.uusc.org/](http://www.uusc.org/) for more information.

Ask Reverend Kit Ketcham or me for a box or envelope if you weren't able to get one at our GAYT opening event in November. The collection goes through January 9th, when the Social Action Committee will gather all the individual collections and send them to the UUSC.

~ Nancy S., Committee Chair

### **Welcoming Congregation to Begin in January!**

With blessings from the board and our Social Action Committee, we will begin our Welcoming Congregation work in January at Trinity from 2 to 4 p.m. on Saturday afternoon the 8th.

The curriculum consists of 14 possible workshops of two hours each. We will decide on January 8th how to schedule those sessions so that we can become officially — with certification from the UUA — a Welcoming Congregation in about a year's time (see the next article). Some of the workshop titles include, "How Homophobia Hurts Heterosexuals;" "Connections to Other Forms of Oppression;" "Gender Socialization and Homophobia;" and "Biblical Perspectives on Homosexuality."

Reverend Kit Ketcham will teach the course with help from others in the congregation.

### **What Is the Welcoming Congregation Program?**

The Welcoming Congregation Program is a completely volunteer program for congregations that see a need to become more inclusive towards bisexual, gay, lesbian, and/or transgender people. It consists of a series of workshops developed by the UUA. The goal of the workshops is to reduce prejudice by increasing understanding and acceptance among people of different sexual orientations. Many congregations offer the workshop series several consecutive times as an adult religious education curriculum open to all members and friends. In some congregations, the workshop series (and later the entire program) is sponsored by a Welcoming Congregation Task Force/Committee created for just this purpose, while other congregations sponsor the workshop series through their Interweave chapters. In either case, the workshops are best facilitated by those that have experienced the curriculum.

More information can be found on the UUA's webpage at [www.uua.org/obgltc/](http://www.uua.org/obgltc/), and Reverend Kit Ketcham is happy to answer any questions, as well.

### **Marriage Equality Rally, February 14, 2005**

The Religious Coalition for Equality is sponsoring a Marriage Equality Rally from noon to 1:00 p.m. on the capitol steps in Olympia. The 2005 legislative session will face the question of Marriage Equality and legislation to prohibit discrimination based upon sexual orientation. Critical decisions will be made about marriage in our state.

UUs are encouraged to join together to demonstrate to legislators that there are clergy, religious leaders, and other people of faith who support marriage equality, who support passage of legislation which will prohibit discrimination based upon sexual orientation, and who support the repeal of Washington's Defense of Marriage Act. Organizations and individuals alike will combine to deliver this message.

~ Nancy S., Social Action Committee Chair

**We first crush people to the earth, and then claim the right of trampling on them forever, because they are prostrate.**

~ Lydia Maria Child, Unitarian

## Your Chosen Faith

By Dave C., UUCWI  
President



Despite rumors to the contrary, we Unitarian Universalists don't believe in "nothing." But we do seem to revel in using negative terms when asked what UUs believe. Not creeds. Not always supernatural messiahs. Not just one tradition. Let's look in the mirror. What is it that we *do* believe?

This is an important question, especially if we're to reach out to share with our neighbors whatever it is we have that we value. Last week Malcolm Ferrier attended an inspiring district conference in La Conner on "radical hospitality". This week I attended a district leadership conference. Both emphasized the importance of how we come across to our visitors and to our communities. There are a lot of good ideas and practices from other congregations that we would do well to emulate.

Personally, the conference was a wake-up call to be prepared when asked what we believe, or what a UU is. Generally such queries don't seek an in-depth expose of our myriad theologies. What is needed is an "elevator speech", concise enough to be delivered before the questioner exits the elevator. So I've been thinking about that, and would like to share my reply with you. Your own answer may differ, of course, because your spiritual path has been different. Please send yours to me with permission to use it in a future column!

*What I value most about our congregation is that it is a tolerant and supportive environment for my search for Truth and meaning in life, free from the dictates of prescribed answers (a freedom that makes UUs unique). I am gratified to find trust in Reason, tempered with caring and compassion. There is a strong sense of Community here, dedicated to making the world a better place through conscientious action on environmental and social justice issues. I believe that these elements are essential to living well and meaningfully as a human being.*

I am going to make an effort to remember

these pillars of my faith and to share them when there's an opportunity. If there's interest, I can amplify. (I carry the card with David Rankin's "We Believe" ten points in my wallet, for emergencies, but I think the question needs to be answered first succinctly and without crib notes.) Or I'll describe my own spiritual journey, looking for areas of common interest and inviting participation in our activities. If that's successful, I'm sure you'll do the rest to assure a friendly welcome.

Perhaps you feel you're not quite ready for the challenge. What better time to prepare? Here's your opportunity: Read John Buehrens and Forrest Church's *A Chosen Faith* —a group of 12 excellent essays in only 212 pages about the UU principles – and join in the discussion (sponsored by the UUCWI book club) at 7:30 pm on January 18 at Trinity. Mark the passages that are most meaningful for you.

Hint for partners: The book makes a good Christmas present...

## Caring Connections

We are pleased that the board has approved Sally Ann Elder as our new chaplain. We will tell more about her in the next newsletter.

We want to thank everyone for the great food and participation at the last all church potluck. Our next potluck will be the 2nd Sunday in December, the 12th, as that is Kit's regular weekend with us. The CCC will furnish dessert and drinks. Please bring a main dish, salad, or something other than dessert to share. Hope to see everyone there.

~ Carol B., Committee Chair

## Choir Invitation

The UU Choir is in full swing for the Christmas season, but we always welcome new members. Don't be shy — choir is about building community, not musical perfection! Please call Heidi H. if you are interested in joining us.

Our practice schedule is on the calendar on page 1. We'll be performing at services on the 5th and 19th.

~ Heidi H., Choir Director

### **Radical Hospitality: Summary from the PNWD Meeting November 12-14, 2004**

A main theme of the meeting was to “Think of Your Church as a Business,” taking cues from Peter Drucker’s book, *Managing the Non-Profit Organization: Principles and Practices*. A main idea within this theme regards the importance of a congregation’s mission statement. A recommended mission statement states a clear purpose, gives this sense of purpose outside the church, and gives a sense of excitement that people can rally around. We must be clear whether we exist to serve ourselves or to seek and serve those outside the church. This should be reflected in our mission statement. Drucker advocates against trying to be all things to all people or doing things where you are weak; instead, we should work from areas of strength.

Following from the mission statement, Drucker asks organizations to consider who are our customers, the people we try to serve, the ones that make the decision to join us or not? What do these customers value? What results do we want; how do we define and measure them? Ultimately, what is our plan?

Mini-sessions addressed both positive and negative aspects of growth and how we felt when we first were exposed to a new group. Leaders described features of mega-churches that have a powerful appeal to visitors. Contrast this with the shrinking UUA, where 24% of UU growth comes from just 16 churches and just 6% of churches are responsible for 60% of all UU growth in the past decade. The main problem is not attracting visitors – the average number of visitors to UU congregations annually is 200% of membership – but retaining them.

To address the issue of retention, meeting leaders led discussions of how to practice Radical Hospitality – going overboard to be welcoming to newcomers. Lots of tips were offered to help a congregation keep in mind that visitors are always asking: “Do I belong here? Are there others like me? Am I needed here? What advantages might there be to my being part of this group? What is required of members?”

Suggestions regarding publicity will be shared with our new Communications Committee. If you’d like more detail on any of these topics, please ask Malcolm – he’ll be delighted to share.

~ Malcolm F.

### **The Capital Campaign Committee Reports Progress**

As of November 21, the Capital Campaign has received pledges totaling \$150,000 toward the Building Fund, with approximately \$5,000 more expected. This represents about 70% of the pledge goal of \$215,000. At their November 21 meeting the CapCam Committee studied figures prepared by Roy Bingman of a "conceptual" cost estimate for the building project, a projected cash flow chart on the figures and a time-line for expenditures. After much discussion, including the necessity for a larger "sweat equity" component (volunteer labor) essential to the building project, the committee unanimously approved a motion to advise the Board that we have sufficient pledges to move ahead on the building of a green-certified phase-one building as outlined in the canvass brochure.

Considered in this decision were the positive trend in Sunday attendance, the increasing number of visitors being attracted and the growth of the children's classes. We are confident that we are growing and will be adding new members this year. There is a strong conviction on the CapCam Committee that there is positive energy around the building project and that this momentum must be maintained by going ahead, subject to congregational approval.

The CapCam Committee wishes to thank all who pledged their money and their time to the Building Fund. We expect to be working closely with the board and the Building Committee in devising a "sweat equity" canvass of available talents and time from the congregation and friends.

~ Peggy B., Committee Chair

### **Build Your Own Theology**

Anyone interested in starting another *Build Your Own Theology* study group please contact me personally or by phone.

~ Sally E.

Adult Religious Education Coordinator

### **New Communications Committee**

We now have a Communications Committee whose role is to enhance communications both within the congregation and with the Whidbey Island community. A new position, Publicity Coordinator, has been filled by Patricia B. Patricia brings experience as a professional writer and with various media to this role. However, she's still learning about media on Whidbey, so please share if you have any input on media outlets beyond the *News-Times*, *South Whidbey Record*, the *Marketplace* and *Coupeville Examiner*. Contact information for other media, including the Island TV channel, would be appreciated.

Patricia notes that much of the publicity for the Peace Forum put on by her peace group was done through posting notices all over the island — a labor-intensive method, but pretty effective if judged by the turnout. Patricia is willing to go that route for any event we may plan if we wish to attract an island-wide attendance.

Any individuals or committees who will be sponsoring or promoting church events that reach beyond our congregation are asked to contact Patricia. She'll help draft a publicity plan and budget.

~ Nancy S., Committee Chair

### **Looking for a Sound Person!**

The Worship Committee is looking for an angel/techie who would volunteer to set us up a capability of recording sermons with some semblance of auditory decency. Some wonderful sermons have been lost to the vapors recently as they were too extemporaneous to lend themselves to placing the text on our website. Most congregations have the capability of taping their sermons to make them available to people who were unable to attend, people who what to share the sermon with others or simply hear it again. If you could be so kind as to consider organizing such a taping capability starting with assemblage of a cost estimate, please call Bill G.

### From Our Minister



Dear Whidbey Islanders,

As the holiday season bears down upon us with all its joys and frustrations, I hope you're doing well, cherishing the time with those you love and care for, and looking ahead to a joyous New Year in 2005.

I'll be back from Thanksgiving with my sister and her family in Moses Lake and looking ahead to Reno with my son and his sweetheart for Christmas. The New Year will find me at Winter Eliot, in Seabeck, for an interesting and relaxing few days.

The election is over, thank goodness, and we are starting to become even more aware of the changes our national leadership will present to us. I offer these words from Clarissa Pinkola Estes as both consolation and challenge in these troubled times:

"I urge you, ask you, to please not spend your spirit dry by bewailing these difficult times. Especially, do not lose hope. Most particularly because, the fact is — we were made for these times. Yes. For years, we have been learning, practicing, been in training for and just waiting to meet on this exact plane of engagement..."

"We have been in training for a dark time such as this, since the day we assented to come to Earth. For many decades, worldwide, souls just like us have been felled and left for dead in so many ways over and over brought down by naiveté, by lack of love, by being ambushed and assaulted by various cultural and personal shocks in the extreme.

"We have also, of necessity, perfected the knack of resurrection. Over and over again we have been the living proof that that which has been exiled, lost, or foundered can be restored to life again.

"In any dark time, there is a tendency to veer toward fainting over how much is wrong or unmended in the world. Do not focus there. That is spending the wind without raising the sails. We are needed, that is all we can know."

Yes, we are needed. Let's roll.

Much love,  
Kit

## Member News & Notes

### Support the Clinton Library

The Clinton Library asks community members to bring in receipts from the Clinton Food Mart, Casey's Red Apple or Ken's Korner Red Apple. The library will receive a small percentage of the amount on the receipts. If you'd like to help support the library, you can bring your recent receipts (within the last month) to our Sunday services. We'll have a box on the Membership Table before and after services to collect receipts, and I will be sure they get to the library in our name.

~ Mavis C., Church Coordinator

### House Hunting

Joan G. has just sold her house 6 miles north of Oak Harbor and is looking for a new home further south on Whidbey. She 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.

## From the PNW District

### Newsletter Online

The winter issue of the PNWD newsletter is now on line. You can access it from the link at our Welcome page at [www.pnwd.org](http://www.pnwd.org). You can also find the newsletter at this direct link [www.pnwd.org/pdfs/CurrentChanges.pdf](http://www.pnwd.org/pdfs/CurrentChanges.pdf).

### PNWD Annual General Meeting

Scheduled for February 18-20, 2005, in Portland, Oregon, this meeting will focus on "Our Continuing Journey of Discovery." Robert Fulghum, UU Minister and best selling author, will be the Keynote Speaker. UUA Moderator Gini Courter will also speak. Two dozen workshops are offered on a wide variety of topics including leadership, team-building, adult religious education, same-sex marriage, outreach to youth, economic globalization, AIDS, abuse, and UU private schools. Special programs for children and youth will also be offered. For more information, please see [www.pnwd.org/pages/agm.php](http://www.pnwd.org/pages/agm.php).

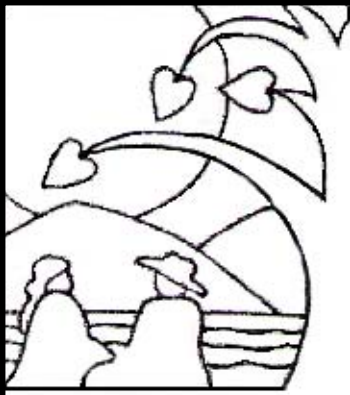
### PNWD Resource Library

The PNW District offers an online resource library catalog. The library is a collection of books, videos and curricula available to member congregations in the Pacific Northwest District of the Unitarian Universalist Association. These materials are available for three-month loan periods free of charge to subscriber congregations. Individuals may also access the library by paying nominal rental fees for items.

Catalog topics include parenting, curricula, social justice, worship, congregational, adult books, music, youth & young adults, media, and teacher resources. Find information at [www.pnwd.org/pages/pnwdLibrary.php](http://www.pnwd.org/pages/pnwdLibrary.php).

*Loneliness is the poverty of self; solitude is the richness of self.*

~ May Sarton, poet and Unitarian



# Eliot Institute Presents Winter Eliot

December 29, 2004 - January 2, 2005

## Visions of the Day to Come

Theme Speaker: Harold Rosen

Many religions and cultures have envisioned a better day to come for humanity — a culminating era of peace, justice and prosperity for the whole world. These positive future visions have persisted despite the many tragedies and atrocities of human history. The expectation of a time of final fulfillment has been taught in many mythic and scriptural traditions.

Ideas such as the Millennium and the Future Golden Age may even be an intrinsic, built-in feature of human consciousness. Let's usher in a new year by exploring a rich array of these images and teachings, attempting to identify what may be wise and uplifting guidance for today's troubled world.

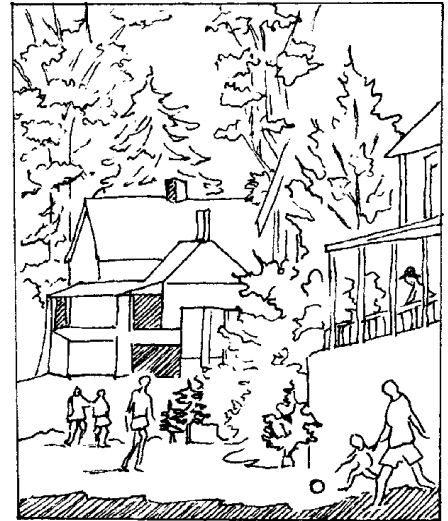
Harold Rosen served as a UU minister for 25 years, and is a lifelong teacher and student of world religions and comparative philosophy. He has now established a new career as an 'interfaith educator and networker'. He is the author of several books and curricula on multi-religious and multi-cultural perspectives, and is currently writing a 60-session curriculum entitled "Teachers of Humanity : Founders of Faith & the Evolution of Global Civilization".



*(More information on back)*

# What is Winter Eliot?

Winter Eliot is a 5-day family camp. It's both a conference and a vacation at a wonderful conference center — a one-of-a-kind experience of play, community, and worship for the whole family. In addition to the adult theme presentation each morning, there are concurrent programs for children and youth. The rest of the day there are a variety of intergenerational activities — games, workshops, art, musical and performance events, to name a few. Or you can sit curled up with a book by the fire and lazily watch the shadows lengthen.



Winter Eliot feels intimate and cozy. There's no better way to celebrate New Year's Eve — we hold a boat burning ceremony at the lagoon and then dance the night away, culminating in a Midnight Winter Feast! Meals are provided and served family style. All you have to do is register and show up!

Seabeck Conference Center is located amid tall cedar and fir trees at the foot of the Olympic Mountains, overlooking the beautiful Hood Canal in western Washington. Come find out how good life still is, and how simple happiness can be.

To register, complete a registration form and return it to:

**Eliot Institute, Post Office Box 51228, Eugene OR 97405-0904.**

If you need a registration form, please visit our website at: [www.eliotinstitute.org](http://www.eliotinstitute.org)

or call us at **206-374-2497**. We'd also love to hear from you at

[registrar@eliotinstitute.org](mailto:registrar@eliotinstitute.org)

*Eliot Institute is a nonprofit organization whose mission is to operate camp conferences promoting personal and spiritual growth for Unitarian Universalists, their families and friends. It is affiliated with the Pacific Northwest District of the UUA. Eliot Institute creates and supports an inclusive community of celebration, friendship, exploration, relaxation, and joy.*

## More about our Theme Speaker: Harold Rosen

Harold was born in New York City in 1947 his father was a Jewish German, his mother a Spanish Catholic (both were non-practicing, but respectful of their heritages). He is a dual citizen of the US & Canada. He served as a Unitarian minister for 25 years in Berkeley, CA, Moscow, ID, Kennewick, WA, and in BC in Coquitlam and North/West Vancouver. He is now a Baha'i interfaith educator & organizer in the Vancouver area. He is secretary of a Bahai LSA (local spiritual assembly) and assistant for interfaith projects to a Bahai Auxilliary Board Member. He teaches religion & philosophy courses (thru Simon Fraser University & University of British Columbia Continuing Education, community centres, faith communities), he is past president of the Multifaith Action Society, past president of the Canadian Chapter of the IARF (International Association for Religious Freedom), and he is the author of several books: "Rainbowmaking: Intercultural & Interfaith Outreach", "Universal Questions: Exploring the Mysteries of Existence", "In Our Hands: Peace & Justice for UUs". He has 3 master's degrees -- in education, philosophy & religion. He is the co-founder of the North Shore Multicultural Society, a recipient of 'Unity in Diversity' & 'Ethical Leadership' awards in Vancouver BC, and is currently working on a book/curriculum entitled "Teachers of Humanity : Founders of Faith & the Evolution of Global Civilization"

## From the UUA

### From the Reverend William G. Sinkford

Moral values are not just particular opinions on “hot button” topics in a divisive election year. Moral values grow out of our calling as religious people to work to create the Beloved Community. Moral values instruct us to “love our neighbors as ourselves” and always to ask the question, “Who is my neighbor?” They are fundamentally inclusive rather than exclusive, and they call on generosity of spirit rather than mean spiritedness.

In this post election season, let me express some of the moral values held dear by the Unitarian Universalist community, which I lead, and by many other progressive people of faith:

- We believe that feeding the hungry and clothing the naked are moral duties, and we will continue to work on behalf of economic justice.
- We believe that ensuring equal civil rights for gay and lesbian families is our moral duty, and we will continue to work for Marriage Equality nationwide.
- We believe that serving as stewards of the earth is a moral duty, and we will continue to do everything in our power to protect the environment.
- We believe that safeguarding a woman’s right to choose is a moral duty, and we will vigorously oppose any efforts to eliminate or significantly compromise reproductive freedom.
- We believe that providing affordable health care for all Americans is a moral duty, and we will continue to advocate for medical rights for the young, the old, the frail, and all of those in need.

*In conjunction with a press conference sponsored November 9, 2004, by the Religious Coalition for Reproductive Choice, UUA president William Sinkford issued this statement about Unitarian Universalist moral values. The press conference was held at the National Press Club in Washington, DC, and featured representatives from several denominations addressing the topic, “Defining ‘Moral Values’ For the Next Four Years.”*

### UUA Newcomers Information

The Unitarian Universalist Association provides a section of their website for newcomers to learn more about Unitarian Universalism. See [www.uua.org/aboutuu/](http://www.uua.org/aboutuu/) for information on principles and purposes, UU history, the flaming chalice, the flower communion, and more.

### Winter 2004 Letter from the Reverend William G. Sinkford

As I look around our hurting world, I cannot help but believe that the world would be a better place if our Unitarian Universalist message of love and acceptance were more widespread. And I know that you share this belief with me.

Several months ago I was delighted to announce that the Association was making available to our congregations resources to help you raise the visibility of Unitarian Universalism in your communities. At that time, basic resources designed to focus on “in-reach” within our congregations (what we’ve called The Uncommon Denomination: Tier 1 ) were offered on our website. We’ve heard from many of our congregations that they are using these resources, are seeing their effectiveness, and are eager for more.

So it gives me great pleasure to announce that The Uncommon Denomination: Tier 2 resources are now available. Tier 2 resources focus on congregational outreach to the community and invitations to guests to visit our religious homes. Tier 2 includes all the resources from Tier 1 and adds basic advertising templates and several forms of public service announcements. These resources are designed to assist congregations in the important work of growth.

And we’re not finished yet. The Uncommon Denomination: Tier 3 is now available. Tier 3 resources are designed for large congregations and congregational clusters who are ready to commit significant funds to a major marketing campaign in their communities. The resources in this Tier include print ads for newspapers and magazines; radio and TV spots; and designs for billboards. These resources were tested last spring in the Kansas City area, and that advertising campaign both increased awareness of Unitarian Universalism and drew many seekers into our sanctuaries. You can find Further Resources on The Uncommon Denomination resources at [www.uua.org/programs/congservices/uncommon/](http://www.uua.org/programs/congservices/uncommon/)

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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](mailto: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  
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