

Island Passages

UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CONGREGATION OF WHIDBEY ISLAND
 P.O. Box 1076, Freeland, WA 98249 • 360-321-8656 • www.whidbey.com/uucwi/

April 2003

*"It isn't enough to talk about peace; one must believe in it.
 And it isn't enough to believe in it; one must work at it."*

—Eleanor Roosevelt

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
		1	2	3	4	5 5:30 PM Movie Night at the K.'s. See item on page 3.
6 2:00 PM Choir rehearsal at Trinity. 4:00 PM Sunday Service at Trinity.	7 8:30 AM World Events Discussion Group at the Lighthouse Cafe.	8	9 7:30 PM Worship Committee meeting.	10	11	12 6:00 PM Stewardship Drive Kickoff Dinner at Trinity. See item on page 3.
13 4:00 PM Sunday Service at Trinity.	14	15 7:30 PM Book Group meets at the C.'s. See item page 4.	16	17	18	19 9:00 AM Work party at the church property. See Building Committee News on page 5.
20 2:00 PM Choir rehearsal at Trinity. 4:00 PM Sunday Service at Trinity. 5:15 PM Executive Committee meeting.	21 8:30 AM World Events Discussion Group at the Lighthouse Cafe.	22	23 7:00 PM Board meeting at Trinity.	24	25	26
27 4:00 PM Sunday Service at Trinity. New CRE Program Begins!	28	29	30			

"If you want to make peace with your enemy, you have to work with your enemy. Then he becomes your partner."

—Nelson Mandela

UPCOMING SERVICES Services are scheduled for Sundays, 4:00 p.m. at Trinity Lutheran church. Child care and nursery care are provided during the services (at Trinity) unless otherwise indicated.

April 6 — *"The Young Adult Play,"*
with guest UU minister, **Rev. Amanda Aikman**

Where are all the young adults, aged 18 to 35? Don't they like our churches? Do we need to change to attract them? What do young adults have to offer, anyway? This brand new play has some answers in the poignant, funny, and moving words of eight Pacific Northwest UU young adults. Compiled by Amanda Aikman, directed by Holly Arsenault, and acted by a vibrant young cast. The recipient of a grant from the UUA's Young Adult Ministry Department, this play will be performed at General Assembly in June. This is the first offering of the new BLUUBIRD Theater Company, a UU drama ministry.

Amanda has been with us several times; she is the former Minister in Marysville, and now part-time minister at the Sequim fellowship, extensively involved in local social action work.

Facilitator: Malcolm F.

Membership Representative: Baird B.

Usher: Frances W. Refreshments: Jeanne S.

April 13 — *"The Quest for the Historical Jesus:
Death and Resurrection"*
with lay speaker, **Al Grapel**

The Easter Story contains a number of well-known elements: the last supper, betrayal, trial, crucifixion, burial, resurrection, and appearances. But, as the title of a recent book by an Episcopal Bishop asks, is that story "Myth or Reality?" In thinking about the answer to that question, this foundational event of Christianity will be examined in light of information and ideas developed over the past couple of decades by scholars engaged in research and debate on the historical Jesus.

The presenter will be our chaplain, Al Grapel, who has studied aspects of the historical Jesus with two prominent members of the Jesus seminar. He has completed the coursework for a Masters degree in religious studies and psychology at Oregon State University.

Facilitator: Al G.

Membership Representative: Roy B.

Usher: Marjorie L. Refreshments: Paula K.

April 20 — *"How Shall I Live, Knowing I Will Die?,"*
with guest UU minister, **Rev Barbara Davenport**

To wrestle with this question is to get in touch with our deepest spirituality and need for wholeness. It is essentially a religious question—a question of ultimate meaning. When we become fully aware of our mortality, we can live less by accident and more by what nourishes our soul.

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

Facilitator: Sandy W.

Membership Representative: Baird B.

Usher: open Refreshments: Linda G.

April 27 — *"Hospice: A Philosophy of Care,"*
with lay speaker, **Carol Bingman**

Hospice—what do you think of when you hear this word? What images does it evoke for you? For the past 25 years, Carol has "had the pleasure of learning and sharing the hospice philosophy as a nurse, but mostly as an individual." Carol will provide some hospice history, share some of her experiences, give information on hospice services and how to access them, and hear your thoughts and comments.

Carol began her personal journey with the hospice concept in 1979. She has been a hospice nurse, home care coordinator, and hospice liaison in four states. Carol and her husband Roy are active members of UUCWI.

Facilitator: Sarah R.

Membership Representative: Malcolm F.

Usher: Ken M. Refreshments: Sandy W.

May 4 — *"Let's Sing!"*

Nearly every speaker who visits us exclaims how well we sing and how much we seem to enjoy it (uncharacteristic of UUs, they also say.) We do! On this Sunday we have a chance to indulge. The service will be almost exclusively singing our

F. has the Skinner Press book *Between the Lines*, which gives notes on every hymn and reading in our *Living Tradition* hymnal, with comments about the author, the music, the circumstances of its origin, etc. We hope members will choose a favorite hymn and/or reading, borrow *Between the Lines*, and be ready to present their favorites with a little introduction to it, including why you like it so much. The service will therefore be a series of brief talks and then the hymn or reading.

We will be supported by our annual visit from Al G.'s melodious quartet, who will give some of their favorites, and help lead us in ours. It will work best if we have your choices by April 15, so please corral the resource book, and let us know. Call Malcolm as necessary—221-5262. This is the first time we have tried something like this, and we hope it will have your enthusiastic support.

Facilitator: Malcolm F.

Membership Representative: Roy B.

Usher: open Refreshments: Wendy F.

CHOIR BEGINS AGAIN

Heidi has finished school and is ready to restart our choir! She has talked with Linda and they have a preliminary plan. Tentatively, she plans on rehearsals at 2:00 p.m. on April 6, 20, and 27, with a performance during the Easter service (April 20).

COME TO THE KICKOFF DINNER

from your canvass co-chairs, Al G. & Baird B.

The Stewardship Kickoff Dinner on April 12, 6:00 p.m. at Trinity is open to all members and friends of the UUCWI. It will be a fun-filled evening of entertainment for young and old and is free. There will be no solicitation. It will hail the start of a face-to-face, every-member-and-friend Canvass which will support the operating budget of our church for 2003-2004. The canvassers have been trained by Janine Larson, a professional fundraiser from the Woodinville UU Church. In these troubling times, your generous financial support is needed more than ever.

MOVIE NIGHT

Movie Night will be Saturday, April 5 at the K.'s at 5:30 p.m. We will view and discuss *Atanarjuat: The Fast Runner*:

Long ago in the Arctic territory of the Inuit nation, an evil spirit is summoned by a miscreant shaman to spread violence and discord leading to the death of the local chief, Kumaglak, at the hands of the usurper, Sauri who also proceeds to break the spirit of his other rival, Tulimaq. Years later, that conflict continues even when Tulimaq's sons, Amaqjuaq, the Strong One and Atanarjuat, the Fast Runner, have become the best hunters of the tribe. Sauri's short fused son, Oki, becomes profoundly jealous of the brothers and it deepens when Atanarjuat fairly wins away his betrothed. The conflict reaches its climax when an indiscretion on Amaqjuaq's part sparks an act of murderous revenge that leaves Amaqjuaq dead and Atanarjuat fleeing naked into the wilderness to face certain death by exposure. Yet for all these events the curse has caused, Atanarjuat soon learns that there are forces of light that are coming to help him, but he must make fateful decisions that will determine not only to his own fate, but that of his tribe as well.

Because the film is rather long, we will start a bit earlier than usual. Bring your favorite beverage, a sandwich or a snack for before, and munchies for the movie. Dinner and chatting will begin at 5:30 p.m. The film will roll at 6:00. As always, we'll make the popcorn.

E-MAIL CIRCULATION

If you are receiving a paper version of the newsletter, but are able and willing to receive it electronically, please contact Mavis (uuwhidby@whidbey.com). It will save money, paper, and effort! Thank you.

KEN'S COLUMN

It's canvass time. And we all know what that means, right? Somebody from the Church will be coming around to your house looking for money. Well, that's true enough. One of the specific functions of the Canvass Drive is to solicit the financial support of members and friends to fund congregational programs and operations. It is this funding that makes UUCWI possible. Everything from special music for the services to the newsletter, from our church coordinator to the Faith Development budget, from candles for the altar to the speaker standing in front of it is paid for out of this funding. We have other income such as fundraisers and the collection plate, but far and away our largest revenue source is the largess of our members and friends.

But that's not all the canvass is about. It is also an opportunity for those most concerned with the well being of this organization to get together and talk. The Board of Trustees would like to know what we're doing right, what we're doing wrong, what we should be doing more of, and what we should be doing less of. Mostly we'd like to know what we can do to get more of our members and friends involved in the work of the congregation.

This year, we identified some specific areas on which to concentrate our efforts. According to the congregational survey we took last year (we didn't do an every-member canvass), the congregation rated worship services, Faith Development (RE programs), a permanent home, and social action as our highest priorities. Consequently, the Congregation and the Board worked hard on these areas. We started a ministerial search and supported the worship committee in their efforts, which have been considerable and appreciated. We identified and hired a Faith Development Director and brought in help from the PNWD to help kick-start our program (special thanks to Peggy Bardarson, Fances Wood, Nikki Howell, and Tandi Rogers). We purchased additional property and consolidated our land holdings to make way for a building project (Roy Bingman and the Building Committee deserve some credit here). We established a special Social Action fund and supported a full-fledged Social Action Committee that met throughout the year (thanks to Malcolm Ferrier and the SAC for getting us started).

We've accomplished a lot this year, and yet, we're still at the nadir of our potential. In order to reach the zenith we're going to need help. So, when your Canvass Team member comes to call, consider where your energies and talents might be helpful in the cause of liberal religion and a cohesive UU faith community on Whidbey Island. My mantra this year is something a very wise teacher once told me. He said, "Ken, you can have no reasonable expectation of receiving anything you haven't asked for." So, I'm asking. What will you do to help us? What talents will bring to the service of our community? What can we do to help you get involved? What will you put into the soup?

FAITH DEVELOPMENT (CRE) NEWS

Tandi Rogers, PNWD Consultant for “Faith Development” (the new name for RE) met with us on March 25. She brought loads of resource material about curriculum, programs, and scheduling that will be very helpful as we plan for our own CRE activities. We are blessed to be part of such a creative denomination which encourages us to develop our own ideas and programs. In attendance were Paula K., Siri S., Ken M., Peggy B., and Nikki H., CRE Coordinator candidate. Next step, forming a Steering Committee and finishing the application process for Nikki, who will be available to work for us next month. If you are interested in helping plan CRE and/or A(adult)RE, please contact Peggy B. Consider these words from Dr. Roberta Nelson’s *The Teacher as Spiritual Guide*— “The development of curriculum is critical, and it is formidable, but we will not succeed in nurturing people to ‘learn and move with expectancy into our future’ if we do not have ‘kindled’ souls in our classrooms and pulpits, and on our boards and committees. The whole congregation needs to take seriously its roll in developing a faith community.”

FLASH! LATE BREAKING NEWS! CRE Begins April 27
A four week Childrens Religious Education program will begin on Sunday, April 27. Plans are underway to launch a pilot project that will give our kids a spring session and test some of the new ideas about CRE gained from new UU materials. Please plan to help when asked and contribute your creative energy. Our kids are so wonderful, it will be a rewarding effort. Contact Peggy or Francie.

WAGING PEACE IN A TIME OF WAR...

from Peggy B.

The worst has happened and we are at war in Iraq. This has been a bitter pill to swallow for those of us who have been participating in the protest vigils since last August. We, with hundreds of thousands across our country, and millions around the world, are continuing to witness against the war and for peace. The protests are growing stronger, and, sometimes violent, though not here. There is a broad range of diversity in the opinions expressed in our hand-lettered signs. A recent cartoon in the local paper illustrated this diversity, and it was based on a true incident. Passions run high as each expresses their convictions. We can only cherish the freedom of expression that this diversity honors and respect it. We, in our loose coalition of Whidbey Islanders Against the War, make it a point to maintain dialogue and objective communication. Sometimes that’s really hard to do, but our UU principles teach us to celebrate diversity at every level. Our vigils have expanded to Monday through Friday from 5:00 to 6:00 p.m. as well as the regular Wednesdays 7:30 to 8:30 a.m. and Saturdays 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. at Bayview Park 'n' Ride. My favorite sign says “Support Our Troops, Bring Them Home.”

INVITATION TO THE BOOK GROUP

You are welcome to attend any of our book group discussions on the third Tuesday of the month. The meetings and books scheduled for this spring are:

April 15 at the C.’, *Possession* by A.S. Byatt, discussion led by Dave

May 20 at the B.’, *A Gesture Life* by Chang-Rae Lee, discussion led by Francie

On June 17 we will hold our planning potluck at Francie and Bill’s. At that meeting we come with suggestions of books we have read and would like to recommend to the group. After hearing “plugs” for everyone’s favorites, we vote to select books we would like to read, and set up the schedule for next year. We typically do not meet in July or August, but start up again in September

SOCIAL ACTION COMMITTEE NOTES

Our work continues. Though not an SA-started effort, the Bayview No War protests continue, and continue to grow. Member Baird B. is chief cheerleader. The Social Action Committee has decided to ask the congregation to sponsor a peace dialogue potluck in April to share ideas and explore options. If approved and once plans are complete, we’ll send invitations through e-mail and phone calls. For now, consider contributing to Oxfam or other refugee-relief funds.

The committee has decided to put some of our money where our mouths (or hearts) are. We’re donating \$100 to each of two local organizations that assist people with housing: Habitat for Humanity and Hearts and Hammers. Both organizations work to improve the housing circumstances of people who are not able to accomplish the work on their own. Volunteers are also needed by both groups. Please ask a committee member (Malcolm, Bill, Baird, or Nancy) if you’d like more information.

Toyan’s baskets are on their way from Bolivia—no word yet when we can expect them. But we do know they are gorgeous (you’ve inspected them on our website?), and the funds we raise will go to support Toyan’s mentees in extending their education.

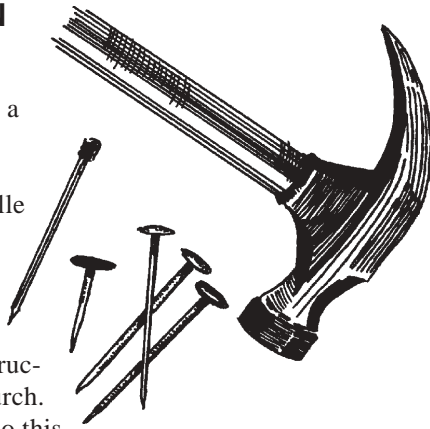
We continue to plug away at what some of us think is the world’s greatest threat: destroying the environment, as we are doing so successfully. We had a Sunday service on the EcoEconomy (making decisions as if the environment had value), followed by a discussion on the EcoFootprint (what area of the earth do you take up to supply your needs). A recent quote from one of South Whidbey’s most prominent politicians: “The Iraq war is trivial compared to our war on the environment.”

We co-sponsored a visit from Sarah McElroy who talked about the sadnesses in Israel/Palestine, mostly from the Palestinians’ perspective. Strong stuff.

WORK PARTY IN WOODINVILLE

On Saturday, May 3, a work party from our congregation will carpool to Woodinville to pass a delightful Spring day helping the Woodinville UU Congregation in the ongoing construction of their new church. We were invited to do this in lieu of paying the normal fee of Janine Clark, a professional fundraising consultant who led our canvass training workshop here in March. It is a wonderful opportunity to observe a community creating a home for itself, which is a path we hope to follow in a few years. The Woodinville congregation, like us, has been meeting for years on Sunday afternoons in rented space within other churches. Like us, they purchased land and had a dream of someday being able to hold morning services and RE classes in their own home. Now, it appears this will become a reality by next Fall.

The church they are building has been erected almost entirely by the volunteer labor of congregation members and friends such as our work party. Interestingly a neighboring Mormon congregation has provided substantial help to them. *Please join us!* You needn't have carpenter or other special skills to contribute. Call or email Bill G. for details.



BUILDING COMMITTEE NEWS

We're making progress! The County has approved the boundary line adjustment, and the escrow company is preparing the closing papers for the 1.2 acre addition to our property on Hwy. 525. It should be only another week or so to ownership.

Plan on a work party (weather permitting) on April 19 at the property beginning at 9:00 a.m. for cleanup, burnup, and trail building. Hot dogs at noon. Hope to see you there.

A UU BENEFIT

The Unitarian Universalist Federal Credit Union (UUFCU) is pleased to announce their lowest ever loan rates. These outstanding rates, for example 4.5% for a current model car for 48 months, maximum loan amount \$35,600, are one way that UUFCU is working for UUs! The new loan rate schedule is posted on UUFCU's home page—<http://members.aol.com/uufcu>, then click on loans. The loan application is also available from this site. Questions? Email UUFCU at uufcu@aol.com.

BOARD NOTES

The Board of Trustees met for its monthly meeting on Thursday, March 27. Business before the Board included calendar adjustments for the balance of the Church year, the Treasurer's report, and committee reports. The Social Action committee reported they will make a \$100 donation to Hearts and Hammers and to Habitat for Humanity on behalf of UUCWI. The CRE pilot program will begin on April 27. The Building Committee reports Island County has approved the lot line adjustment on our land purchase and we can now close on that transaction. The Ministerial Search Committee reports that we will have at least one candidate to evaluate for our part-time position. The Canvass Kick-off dinner is in preparation mode and coming along well. The Board discussed how we might use the Canvass interviews to involve members and friends of the congregation more in the work of the Church. An outreach to current members was suggested, and Elaine volunteered to develop and maintain a database of member and friend comments from the Canvass.

CHANGING A LIGHT BULB

A little levity in time of stress

How many Christians does it take to change a light bulb?

Charismatic : Only one. Hands are already in the air.

Pentecostal : Ten. One to change the bulb, and nine to pray against the spirit of darkness.

Presbyterians : None. Lights will go on and off at predestined times.

Roman Catholic : None. Candles only.

Baptists : At least 15. One to change the light bulb, and three committees to approve the change and decide who brings the potato salad and fried chicken.

Episcopalians: Three. One to call the electrician, one to mix the drinks, and one to talk about how much better the old one was.

Mormons : Five. One man to change the bulb, and four wives to tell him how to do it.

Unitarians : We choose not to make a statement either in favor of or against the need for a light bulb. However, if in your own journey you have found that light bulbs work for you, you are invited to write a poem or compose a modern dance about your light bulb for the next Sunday service, in which we will explore a number of light bulb traditions, including incandescent, fluorescent, 3-way, long-life, and tinted, all of which are equally valid paths to luminescence

Methodists : Undetermined. Whether your light is bright, dull, or completely out, you are loved. You can be a light bulb, turnip bulb, or tulip bulb. Bring a bulb of your choice to the Sunday lighting service and a covered dish to pass.

Nazarene : Six. One woman to replace the bulb while five men review church lighting policy.

Lutherans: None. Lutherans don't believe in change.

Amish: What's a light bulb?