



Island Passages

UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CONGREGATION OF WHIDBEY ISLAND
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JULY 2002

S M T W T F S

PROPERTY WORK PARTY

Work Party at the property—Saturday, July 20 at 10:00 a.m. Bring your old duds and saws, shovels and rakes, and we'll do some clean up, burn up, and trail blazing! Hope to see you there.

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| | | | | | | 6 |
| 7 | 8 8:30 AM Current Affairs Discussion Group at the Lighthouse Cafe. | 9 | 10 | 11 7:30 PM Board meeting at Trinity. | 12 | 13 |
| 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 10 AM Work Party at the property. 7 PM Movie Night |
| 21 | 22 8:30 AM Current Affairs Discussion Group at the Lighthouse Cafe. | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 |
| 28 | 29 | 30 | 31 | MOVIE NIGHT Movie Night will be July 20, 7:00 p.m. at the home of Ken M. and Sandy W. Film title to be announced. Call Ken or Sandy at 579-1577 for directions or more information. If you'd like to be on the movie night e-mail list, drop Ken a line. | | |

*Wisdom tells me I am nothing.
 Love tells me I am everything.
 And between the two, my life flows.*
 —Sri Nisargadatta Maharaj

ANNUAL MEETING NOTES

The Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Whidbey Island held its annual meeting Sunday, June 30, 2002 at 5:45 p.m. following the service at Trinity Lutheran. Twenty-six members were present with twenty required for a quorum. Out-going Board President, Bill G., called the meeting to order. The following is an abbreviated accounting of the meeting's business. For a complete version of the minutes, contact Mavis.

Presentation of Communications Norms: Effie B. led a review of the communication agreements crafted at the Communications Workshop held earlier in the year. The congregation added to the list and renewed its promise to the agreements.

Building Committee: Roy B. reviewed the current work of the Building Committee. A sample of a building plan and a site plan (for conceptual purposes only) were shared. The site plan included a 1.2-acre adjoining parcel which has been proposed for purchase. If the seller agrees to our offer and the lot lines can be changed, the Building Committee will come back to the congregation for final approval of the land purchase.

CRE Presentation: To clarify the proposed hiring of a DRE, Sandy described the benefits a Director of Religious Education (DRE) might bring to our children's program. Ken addressed the disconnect between what this congregation has been willing to spend on CRE (ample) and what it has historically been willing to give in volunteer time and committee work (limited). A DRE consultant will be a significant increase in money and will require a significant increase in volunteers. A brief discussion followed regarding the prudence of investing in a DRE until we can have morning services.

Social Action Recommendations:

Creation of a Social Action Fund:

The congregation reviewed the resolution. A motion was made and seconded to accept the resolution. After discussion, a vote was taken. Motion passed.

Endorsement of the Earth Charter: The goals of the charter were briefly summarized. The Social Action Committee and the Board both recommended its endorsement. A motion was made and seconded to enact the endorsement. Discussion followed including a statement from Dave C. in objection to the endorsement. Based on Dave's statement, a motion was made and seconded to table the original motion until further research and discussion can be done. Vote taken. Motion to table the endorsement passed. Dave was asked to post his statement on the church website.

Adopt-a-Road Proposal: A motion was made and seconded to accept the adopt-a-road proposal. Discussion followed. Sally K. shared what she knows first-hand about the adopt-a-road procedure which she illustrated as time consuming and restrictive. To inform the vote, a show of hands was called of who would commit to following the procedure and go out and clean. Ten were counted.

Vote taken. Motion to accept the adopt-a-road proposal defeated.

Long-range Plan Amendments: Reviewed. A motion was made and seconded to accept the amendments. Discussion followed. Vote taken. Motion passed to accept LRP amendments.

Budget: A motion was made a seconded to accept the budget

as proposed. Discussion followed. A motion was made and seconded to amend the budget by increasing the line item for guest ministers by \$1000, the additional funds to come from the reserve. Vote taken for the motion as amended. Amended budget passed.

Nominations: Gail introduced the nominations: Board: Ken M. (President); Dave . (Treasurer); Elaine W. (Secretary); Baird B.; Al G.; Gail A.; Roy B.

Nominating Committee: Peggy B., Sarah R., Wendy F.

A call was made for nominations from the floor. A motion and second to elect the slate of Board and Nominating Committee as slated was made. Vote taken. Motion passed.

Assessment Resolution: Effie shared the background to the drafting of the resolution. A motion was made and seconded to accept the resolution as presented. Discussion followed. A motion was made and seconded to amend the resolution to include only the opening paragraph and none of A through E. More discussion followed. Vote taken on amendment. Amendment passes. A motion was made to table the motion on the amended resolution. No second. A vote taken on the resolution as amended. Amended resolution passes.

Special Recognition: Bill recognized the work of Sarah R. as bookkeeper and Sandy W. as out-going church secretary.

Adjournment: Adjourned at 7:45 p.m.

SUMMER WATER AND SEPTEMBER

September 8 will be our first service of the fall season. We will continue our tradition of having a salmon bake/potluck at our church property. This year we will add an ingathering ceremony of a water communion service called the Joining of the Waters.

"Water is common and universal; it is powerful; it connects us to one another. This is a plain ceremony that says that all can take part, all have something to contribute. It is a ritual that can happen only if you are willing to contribute. And everyone's contribution is welcomed. Each splash of water makes the whole richer. Each journey recognized makes our lives together more full." (Rev. Liz McMaster).

Each one of us will travel to distant or local places. We'll also go to other destinations of the heart and spirit. Events will happen that we cause or that are thrust upon us.

During the next two months, each of us can gather a little water that represents something special that you experience during the summer. The water that you bring can be a part of your experience. Then, at the water communion service, we will gather and have an opportunity to add our little bits of water together and share (or not) what that water means.

Details about the salmon bake potluck will be in a future newsletter.

SISTER SISTER CIRCLE

Our UUCWI “Sister Circle,” often referred to as the “Women’s Group,” would like to support and assist in the forming of a second circle. The existing circle is currently full—we find that the best interaction happens with no more than eight members—distribution of “air-time,” you know? But we understand that other women have expressed an interest in participating, so here’s the plan: We’ve scheduled Monday, September 30, 7:30 p.m. at Peggy’s for an open circle at which we hope interested women will meet with us and learn some tips for starting their own “Sister Circle.” If we can get two or more circles going, we can plan some joint events throughout the year! Need more information? Call Sandy.

SOCIAL ACTION FUNDRAISER

from Mavis C

An ongoing fundraising project for the Social Action Fund is our sale of coffee. This is a win-win activity, as we buy organic-and-shade-grown, fairly-traded, songbird-friendly, European-grade, good tasting coffee! The company we buy from even contributes a portion of sales to pesticide reform projects.

I’ll place an order once a month (or whenever I have accumulated requests for more than six bags). Usually orders will be taken the first Sunday of the month, with the coffee ready for pick-up the next week. A variety of regular and decaf types is available in 1.5 lb. bags for \$13.50 per bag. Postage and handling are not trivial, so I won’t order until I’ve accumulated orders for at least six bags. Please note that I order only what is requested—please plan ahead as there is no way for me to have coffee “on hand” and instantly available! Contact me if you have any questions. To place orders, email me, phone me, or catch me at church. Thank you!

SUSAN, NEW MEMBER

“As a nine-year-old kid I rode San Francisco’s buses all over the city and often visited churches. I met many strangers who helped give me an ethical and spiritual foundation. As a struggling writer, editor, and a single parent, I always managed to put healthy food on the table and was thankful. In 1989 I went back to school and learned I was part of a world in change. In 1997 I reflected on my years of anthropological fieldwork in Appalachia and was moved towards expressionism in my painting.

My sons, Moss and Merlyn Goeschl, live in Seattle. My youngest son, Malcolm Goeschl, lives in San Francisco. They have taught me the most powerful life lessons about love. My grandmother, Nellie Stearns, was an artist, free thinker, and a Unitarian leader in San Francisco. I have some of her genes.

These few facts of my life represent distinctive influences that brought me to Whidbey Island and moved me to become a member of this Unitarian Universalist congregation.”

Welcome to the congregation, Susan.

PLAY BY REV. AIKMAN IN MAE WEST FEST

“Her Last Dispatch,” a one-act suspense drama about contemporary war correspondents in Chechnya, will be featured as part of the Mae West Fest fringe theater festival, July 20 (2:00 p.m.) and 21 (6:20 p.m.). The play, by Everett-based UU minister Amanda Aikman, will be performed in the Fremont UNconventional Center, Seattle. To reserve tickets, call 206-860-2970, or email Amanda at mandylou2000@hotmail.com. Info about the festival, including links to driving directions, is available at www.maewestfest.org.

SOAPBOX

I often tell Evan, when some alteration in the routine is upsetting him, the only constant in the Universe is change. This is the last “Editor’s Soapbox” I will write for the foreseeable future. I am also handing over the reins of this publication to Sandy. Actually this is not so much of a change as some of you might think. I will continue to write a monthly column in my capacity as Board President and Sandy has done most of the real work on this publication during my entire tenure as editor.



And yet, it is a bittersweet moment for me. I have enjoyed a forum of receptive and intelligent readers who have shown true appreciation for my efforts. What more could a writer ask for? On the other hand, one regular column a month is enough for anyone. And I look forward to penning my President’s column (I’m still working on a name for it).

I think the Soapbox has an important role in the Newsletter however, and I would be sad to see it go away. So Sandy and I have decided to open the Soapbox up to other voices. I will be coming to many of you and others in our UU community to stand up on the apple crate and take your rant to the street. Fair warning—I already have a couple of you in my sights, the others we’ll work out as we go.

We have lots to talk about. Some topics that come to mind are: The Separation of Church and State; The Earth Charter; Social Action Issues; The Building Process; Ministry; Covenant; Diversity; Welcoming Congregation; etc.

So start writing now—it will save time and anguish around deadline time. If you have an idea for a column or have something your dieing to say, contact me or Sandy and we’ll set you up. I will offer editorial advise to anyone who wishes it. I’m also willing to stay completely out of your way. The goal is to spark discussion and contemplation on a variety of subjects and to extend our consciousness into the many issues facing Unitarian Universalists in general and our community in particular.

Thank you for your gracious acceptance of my humble efforts. I look forward to this summer and next year with optimism and high hopes for a year of personal and organizational growth for all of us.