



WUUC CONNECTIONS

Woodinville Unitarian Universalist Church
 Woodinville, WA – www.wuuc.org – 425-788-6044

In this Issue ~

Worship	1
From the Editor	2
Religious Education	3
Welcome Our New Minister	4
Stewardship	4
Introducing Rev. Van Leer	5
Ostara Rummage Sale	6
Welcoming Congregation	7
Social Justice Build Your Own Theology	8
Circle Supper Meditation	9
Sister Circles Knitting	9
Mindfulness	9
Speaker: Ms. Sherman	10
Men's Retreat	10
Women's Retreat	10
Book Group	11
Blood Drive	11
Photos	11
Newsletter Submissions	11





Special Edition

New Minister & More!

(see pages 4 and 5)



March Worship

March 7	<i>Rev. Roger Kuhrt</i>	Getting Perspective On Wisdom
<p>Reverend Kuhrt will explore the history and meaning of Wisdom over the ages and how it might serve us in our time.</p>		
March 14	<i>Joni Brand, WUUC Member</i>	Life is More than A Vision
<p>This year's Justice Sunday will address economic justice. We will stand up with UU congregations nationwide to put our principles into practice. Our worship service will spotlight issues affecting workers both close to home and around the world. We can be advocates for social justice by undertaking meaningful efforts to turn vision into results, including the Guest At Your Table program.</p>		
March 21	<i>Marcia Stanard</i>	Standing On Hallowed Ground
<p>Seminarian Marcia Stanard went on pilgrimage to the Unitarian homelands in Hungary and Romania. Come hear this historical tale of intrigue about our Unitarian ancestors! Marcia Stanard is the Intern Minister at Saltwater Church in South King County. She will graduate next year from Meadville Lombard Theological School in Chicago. Marcia currently divides her time between her internship site and her home in Portland, Oregon, where she lives with her daughters. She went on this pilgrimage as an advisor to the high school youth group from First Unitarian Church of Portland.</p>		
March 28	<i>Rev. Lois Van Leer</i>	(Topic TBA)
<p>Our new minister, Rev. Lois Van Leer, will be in the pulpit. Please join us in welcoming her to WUUC!</p>		

From the Editor



The pomegranate: blood-red juice in a leathery package, fruiting late and yet so much worth waiting for.

A symbol for this late-arriving newsletter? Perhaps; there are one or two vital ingredients in the March issue that would not have been here otherwise. But as winter surrenders to spring, we might also remember the pomegranate from which Persephone ate those few seeds — and be glad she didn't eat a few more ;)

Also: WUUC is now on Facebook! If you're a Facebook user, why not add WUUC as your Facebook Friend? Just search the Facebook site for "WUUC" and send a request; we'll be glad to add you.



- Travel and stay in homes of people who share your ideals
- Learn about hosting people in your home to earn extra money

The UU bed and breakfast directory *UU're Home* (formerly *Homecomings*) offers a network of hosts in the United States (and a few abroad) who enjoy meeting new friends and are happy to open their home to like-minded people. Travel to different cities and stay in reasonably priced accommodations or become a host and enjoy meeting new friends.



www.UUreHome.com
43 Vermont Court
Asheville, NC 28806
828-281-3253

For more information, visit
www.UUreHome.com
or write to
info@uurehome.com

W.U.U.C. *Connections*

Our Mission:

We are a diverse religious community dedicated to lifelong spiritual exploration and growth. We welcome and support individuals and families of all types. As a liberal presence in the community, we challenge ourselves to act for peace and justice in the world.

Woodinville Unitarian Universalist Church
19020 Woodinville-Duvall Road
PO Box 111
Woodinville, WA. 98072
Website: www.wuuc.org



Board of Trustees

Board President: Alaine Owsley Davis
Board Vice-President: Kerrie Vespaziani
Treasurer: Chuck Bean
Secretary: Barbara Brachtl
Bill McKenzie
Jan Radoslovich
Doug Whitfield
LeRoy Mietzner

Director of Religious Education:
Cathy Tauscher, DRE@wuuc.org

Bookkeeper:
Leif-Ivar Pedersen, leifivar@worldnet.att.net

Office Administrator:
Lori Varosh, office@wuuc.org

Newsletter Proofreader:
Pamela Denchfield pdenchfield@yahoo.com

Newsletter Editor:
Joe Prisco, wuucnews@hotmail.com



Religious Education



Cathy Tauscher,
Director of Religious Education

Greetings to All,

One of my favorite Sundays at church each year is Children’s Music Sunday. The musical gifts that the children bring are wonderful from the beginner playing “Twinkle” on the violin to mother-child duets to competent young musicians at the piano. I also enjoy watching all of the other children. There is usually absolute silence, even among the youngest children, as they watch one of their peers take out an instrument, make adjustments, and begin to play.

On **March 7th**, there will be music in the air, and in Portable 2!

Cathy



MARCH RE CALENDAR

- Mar. 7 Children’s Music Sunday in Portable 2 at 10:00
- Mar. 14 Curriculum in age groups
K-1 OWL Parent & Child Orientation
12:15-2:30
- Mar. 21 Curriculum in age groups
Religious Education Committee Meeting
K-1 OWL (time to be confirmed at
2/28 mtg.)
- Mar. 28 Social Justice Sunday
K-1 OWL (see above)



OWL FOR KINDERGARTEN & FIRST GRADERS

Our Whole Lives Sexuality Education (OWL) is beginning this month on **March 14th** with a double session for both children and parents. While the required parent meeting has already been held, if there is anyone who would like their kindergarten or first grade age child to be in this highly recommended class, please contact me for a make-up meeting. This will be a closed class after the opening session.

PENNIES FOR PEACE

The children, along with people of all ages at WUUC, are taking part in Pennies for Peace, beginning with an introduction on February 28th to the need for schools in Pakistan and Afghanistan. When you take pennies out of your wallet or pocket this month, you might set them aside, knowing that the children will provide you with a way to see that they reach the Pennies for Peace campaign.

LABYRINTHS

Several of our current curricula for children suggest walking a labyrinth. I would like to make one or more labyrinths, one about 10’ x10’ for the end nook in Portable 1B and one a good deal larger for use in Portable 2. They would be painted on canvas or heavy material and could be rolled up when not in use. I have simple patterns and directions. One of the classes needs a labyrinth by **March 21st**, and I intend for them to at least have a temporary labyrinth laid out with flour or some easily vacuumed material, but I’d really like to jump into this project quite quickly. If you have an interest in labyrinths and would like to help create them, and later use them, I’m sure that I could benefit from your partnering with me to do this project. The doing itself will provide opportunities to grow our inner lives.

Prepare to Welcome Our New Minister!

by Alaine Davis, Board President

I am delighted to report that the WUUC Board of Trustees has approved the Search Committee's recommendation for hiring a minister. As this newsletter is being published, the contract is being signed and arrangements are being made for the transition. March 26-28 is set aside as a Welcoming Weekend for us to have the opportunity to meet and greet our new minister; she will begin her work (and play!) with us on August 1. We feel privileged to have found such an experienced and highly regarded professional to join our congregational family.

Please save the date of **Sunday, March 28**, to hear our minister in the pulpit for the first time. She has expressed an interest in getting together with the various committees of our church that Saturday to start finding out who we are and what is important to us as a congregation; more details will follow and be conveyed to committee chairs. The board and their significant others will also be meeting with the minister and her partner at a dinner that Friday evening. We are excited to begin the process of getting to know our "totally awesome" new minister (no pressure).

The board would like to express its profound thanks to all those who contributed so generously to the stewardship drive. Kudos to the members of the Stewardship Committee for organizing such an enjoyable and inspirational kick-off event, and to our Search Committee, who has been working tirelessly for the past year, hoping for an excellent outcome like this.



I can't help thinking of the role Stan Crow, our former board president and member extraordinaire, had in getting WUUC to this point: helping us be realistic about our strengths and challenges as a congregation; setting lofty, worthwhile stewardship goals; and always believing that we could achieve our dream.

Whatever remains of your soul, spirit, or biochemical presence in the universe, Stan, I know it is dancing for us right now.

Stewardship

Annual Budget Drive Victory!

Thanks to all of you for making the "Growing in Spirit, Service, and Love" Annual Budget Drive a success! We announced on February 21, the official end date of the drive, that we had surpassed our \$190,000 goal and raised a total of \$203,744, 21% more than last year.



Pat yourselves on the back, this is a huge collective commitment and indication of our passion for growing our spiritual community. We are still accepting additional financial commitments and will provide a full report in the April newsletter. Your outpouring of support will make it possible for us to hire a part-time minister, retain our current staff and programs, and reach our annual goal for financial sustainability.

Please email me at aggiesweeney@gmail.com if you have questions or comments.

On Behalf of the Stewardship Committee,
Aggie Sweeney, Chair

Introducing Reverend Lois Van Leer

The WUUC Search Committee is honored and delighted to introduce you to the Reverend Lois E. Van Leer, our new minister!



She has signed a contract with the Board of Trustees to work 55% time as a consulting minister, whom we will have the option to call as our settled minister after two years, if she and we agree.

We will introduce her to the congregation during a **Welcome Weekend March 26-28**, and Lois will be in the pulpit that Sunday. She will officially join us as our minister on **August 1st**.



Rev. Lois E. Van Leer comes to us from the UU Fellowship of Bozeman (Montana), where she has been the minister for the past six and a half years. During that time she received Final Fellowship, which is the highest level of accreditation the Unitarian Universalist Association can grant to a minister. However, Lois is not new to the ministry, having been a United Church of Christ minister for more than 20 years before “converting” to Unitarian Universalism. Her UCC career included campus ministry, youth ministry and general parish ministry. She was with First Congregational Church United Church of Christ of Corvallis (Oregon), a 400-member church, for ten years.

Lois is a native of White Plains, New York, the youngest of four children born to parents who were German and Dutch immigrants. She graduated from Ripon College in Wisconsin in 1978 and received her M. Divinity from Yale Divinity School in 1983.

While with the United Church of Christ, Lois took youth groups on mission trips to many different parts of the world. In 2000 she co-led a youth trip to Transylvania with the Rev. Jill McAllister, the former president of the International Council of Unitarians and Unitarian Universalists. There she was exposed to the roots of Unitarianism, visiting historic sites as well as learning about Transylvanian Unitarianism. That was a turning point for her as she realized that, like so many of us, she had probably been a UU her entire life, but didn’t know it. She began the process of becoming a UU minister.

Lois and her partner of nine years, Lori Ragona, look forward to living in the Pacific Northwest, so that they can be closer to their 16-month-old grandson, Jackson, and his parents, Kelcey and Ryan (Lori’s son), who live in Kingsgate.

Ostara

Give thanks to the



Mother Gaia,

Give thanks to the

Father Sun,

Give thanks for the plants in the Garden where

The Mother and Father are One.

Spring has sprung, and it's time to plant all kinds of seeds, both literal and metaphorical. Come join the Woodinville Unitarian-Universalist Church Earth-Centered Spirituality Group on **Saturday morning, March 20, at 10 a.m.**, as we celebrate Ostara, the Vernal Equinox, in the WUUC Firepit area.

Ostara is the name of an Indo-European goddess of spring-time, in whose name seedlings have been planted for millennia. Her obvious association with the Assyro-Babylonian Ish-tar and Phoenician Astarte, and even to Egyptian Isis, defines a tradition of connecting our inner fertility and growth with the physical world's fertility and growth. All these goddesses have foliage-connected consorts, whose bursting forth from the earth signals the start of the fertile season, and whose decline, sacrifice and death later in the year signify completion and point to the next cycle.

We'll be planting seeds in peat-cups, and committing our hopes and dreams to the fertile earth with high expectation of good things to come. On **Sunday, March 14**, we'll have seeds and tags (to write your Great Expectations—be they agricultural, personal, or communal—to plant and grow with the seed!) available at a table on the church front porch after the morning service. If you can't make the Saturday service, reserve your seed and tag and we'll make sure it gets planted; filled peat-cups can then be picked up after the Sunday morning service on **March 21**.

Blessed be!

Dan Ballard

Earth-Centered
Spirituality Facilitator



Save the Date!

2010 WUUC RUMMAGE SALE

WUUC's biennial Rummage Sale is a wonderful way to help the church financially, de-clutter your own home, and keep a lot of stuff out of the landfill. Because the Rummage Sale is a labor-intensive fundraiser, we would so appreciate your assistance in any of the following ways:

- * Donating, sorting, and pricing your gently used items (we cannot provide storage ahead of the sale)
- * Working some set-up shifts or a particular area of the sale (such as the "Boutique")
- * Providing food for those who are working the sale
- * Advertising the sale with signage
- * Staffing the sale: running the sales floor, cashiering, directing the crowds

Set-up:

Sunday, May 16th (following the service)
through **Thursday, May 20th**



Sale:

Friday, May 21, 9 AM - 3 PM

Saturday, May 22, 9 AM - 3 PM

The current Rummage Sale Co-Chairs will be passing the torch after this sale and would love to train a new team for 2012.

If you are interested in co-chairing the next sale or if you have any other Rummage Sale questions, please call Sarah Winter (425.488.8058) or Cora Goss-Grubbs (425.788.8994) or coragg@mindspring.com.

The Welcoming Congregation Program

What is it?

The Welcoming Congregation is an official UUA program designed to help churches become welcoming to gays, lesbians, bisexuals and transgendered persons (GLBT). WUUC has been a Welcoming Congregation for several years.

What are the workshops?

The UUA has published a workbook to be used as a resource for conducting workshops to assist individuals in exploring their issues and exploring the issues of the GLBT individuals. The workshops are a series of two-hour sessions consisting primarily of participants commenting on issues raised by the workbook materials and by their own questions and the interaction with other participants. The workbook materials are only meant to present an aspect of GLBT issues and start the discussion. One session will consist of GLBT individuals from outside the congregation discussing the issues confronting them and answering questions.

Who will lead the Workshops?

John Ringler and Andrea Jessee. John has led several workshops in the past. Andrea has participated in a prior workshop and contributed to others as a resource. Both have been very active in a variety of GLBT activities. Contact either one with questions.

Who Would Benefit From Participation?

Everyone. Both Andrea and John have discovered aspects of themselves while taking part in workshops. Nobody is left unchanged by the experience.

When Will They Occur?

An initial group met on February 28th and agreed to begin the workshops on **March 16 at 7:00 p.m.** at the **church**, followed by seven more workshops (two days are doubled-up workshops), ending on April 20th. Since the discussions can become intense and the sessions build on each other, no new participants will be admitted after the March 23rd session, but space is available until then.

All Are Welcome



Social Justice Corner: Making the World A Better Place to Live

By Rachel Ballard

Composting at WUUC

What do you think you're doing, putting that apple core in the trash? Compost it! ASJ is starting a comprehensive composting program. The compost bins will be clearly marked, and will be located right next to trash receptacles. Watch out for the signs, and if you have any questions, feel free to ask at the ASJ table in the foyer.

Carpooling: It's Easy!

Looking for an easy way to help the environment and make new, exciting friends? Try carpooling! Carpool to church on Sunday, and church events during the week. Ride with other WUUC folks from your area. It's cheaper, greener, and more fun!

Welcoming Congregation Classes

This spring, ASJ will be offering the 10-12 week Welcoming Congregation Course. The Welcoming Congregation Class explores the issues and attitudes associated with LGBT people. All are welcome to participate (yes, even if you've done it before!). This course offers many opportunities to learn from and about the LGBT community. The Welcoming Congregation Handbook is available for your perusal on the ASJ table in the foyer.

Better World Shopping Guides: Get Yours Now!

ASJ is selling the Better World Shopping Guide at our table in the foyer after Sunday services. The Better World Shopping Guide is a handy little glossary of consumer items and services, each given a grade based on progressive criteria. It's a simple and easy way to live UU principles through your purchases.

Want to give back to your community?

Come join Advocates for Social Justice! ASJ meets **every 3rd Sunday after the service at 11:30**. We welcome all ideas and perspectives on how to better serve our three focuses: homelessness, environmental responsibility, and LGBTQ equality. Any comments, questions, or suggestions may be sent to asj@wuuc.org.

Building Your Own Theology

Wednesday evenings, 7 to 9 p.m.
March 31 to May 19

Taught by Chuck Bean & Lois Kelly

As Unitarian-Universalists, we are all theologians. Our church as a spiritual community encourages each of us to create our own personal credo (Latin for "I believe.") This 8-week UUA curriculum, a follow-up to the ADHT (Atheism/Deism/Humanism/Theism) discussions Bill MacKenzie has facilitated over the past months, will help us examine our values and beliefs about God or ultimate reality, human nature, ethics, and the meaning and purpose of life. Through a combination of reflection, group discussion, study, and writing, we will examine our own spiritual odysseys and articulate our own credos.

Please note that this is not a "drop-in" class. Since each session builds on the ones before, it's important that you commit to attending all eight sessions except in the case of illness, travel, emergency, etc.

Chuck Bean and I taught this BYOT class very successfully two years ago and found that the ideal class size is 10 participants. This number offers considerable diversity in our beliefs and insights, but allows enough time for everyone to contribute to each session.

ADHTism participants were given the first opportunity to register for this class, and we now have just three openings remaining! So, if you'd like to register, please reply to Lois Kelly at lokell@comcast.net at your first opportunity.



Circle Suppers

Come join Aggie and Chick Sweeney for an evening of shared food and fellowship at their home east of Duvall **Saturday, March 13th**, beginning at **6:30 p.m.** In honor of the upcoming St. Patrick's Day Holiday, the Sweeneys will put on a big pot of corned beef and cabbage and prepare traditional colcannon and invite everyone to bring a side dish to complement or a dessert.

Circle Suppers are a popular event with limited space, so RSVP early to aggiesweeney@gmail.com.

All members, friends, and newcomers, single or partnered, 18 or older, are welcome. It's a wonderful way to relax and enjoy each others' company!



Buddhist Meditation and Study Group

Wednesdays, 7 to 8:45 p.m., WUUC Sanctuary
Ongoing; suitable for drop-in attendance

The first half of the session is silent meditation practice. Latecomers are welcome to enter quietly and have a seat. Chairs are provided; bring your own meditation stool or cushion if you prefer. Meditation instruction is available for those who have never meditated or who want a refresher. In the second half of the session, we have tea together and share discussions about Buddhism. You can come for some or all of the evening.

For more information see www.groups.google.com/group/WUUC-Meditation, or contact Janine Larsen at owenslarsen@att.net.

Knitting Mindfulness



Knitting Mindfulness will meet the second Friday of the month, **March 12th, 10-11:30 a.m.** All are welcome to bring knitting or any other handwork. We will open with a short mindfulness exercise, then knit and visit in a calm, pleasant environment. If you have questions, please contact Janet Putnam at oboejanet@gmail.com or (425) 788-5969.

Monday Morning Sister Circle

The Monday Morning Sister Circle meets on the 2nd Monday of each month. The next meeting is **Mar. 8th at 10:00 a.m.** at Songaia Cohousing. This group is open to all women. The meeting begins with a check-in, followed by discussion of the topic and then lunch at a local restaurant. Please plan to come.

Songaia Cohousing is located on 224th St. in Bothell. This is off 39th Ave. SE, and 1/4 mile north of 228th SE. For further information and directions, please email Dorothy Fulton at dfulton@songaia.com

Evening Sister Circle

The next Evening Sister Circle is **Thursday, March 11**, at Elisa Schmitt Richard's home in Woodinville.

All women are warmly invited to the Evening Sister Circle. We meet for meaningful discussions, personal sharing and support on the **second Thursday** of each month. If you have any questions about the Evening Sister Circle or wish to learn more please feel free to contact Michele Hopkins at Michele@thehopkins.us We look forward to seeing you!

We are still in need of someone to take over the duties, please email if you are interested!

Speaker: Ms. Sherman

On **March 28** (Sunday evening), the Junior Youth Group will welcome **Susie Rindler Sherman**, who was born in 1935 in Czechoslovakia. Three years after her birth, the **Nazis** seized her family’s businesses and homes. Join us to hear her tell her inspiring story. This may be your last opportunity to hear a first-hand account from a survivor of this horrible part of our human history.

This program is part of our ongoing studies of peace in the world, as well as a fund-raiser for our current project, Pennies for Peace. Pennies for Peace is an organization started by author Greg Mortensen (Three Cups of Tea) to raise money to build schools in Pakistan. We are participating in an interfaith effort with some of the other Cottage Lake Cluster churches. As such, we will be collecting an optional donation at the door for Pennies for Peace.

Program begins at 6:00; doors open at 5:30.

All are welcome.



St. Patrick's Day



Saint Patrick's Day is an annual feast day that celebrates Saint Patrick (ca. 385–461 CE), generally celebrated on **March 17th**. Make sure you wear something green!

Men's Retreat

The men’s retreat is coming up the weekend of **April 23-25**. The cost is **\$80.00**, due by **March 23rd** to Larry Bridges to insure a spot.

If you are interested in going, let Larry Bridges know soon at larrybridges1@comcast.net and leave a \$10 deposit in his box at church.



Women's Retreat

The Essentials for a Well-Lived Life

April 30-May 2

Mark your calendars for the annual Women’s Retreat! Come together with your fellow WUUC women to explore a theme of “finding the essentials for a well-lived life.”

What is truly important to you? What things can you let go of? Do you need to learn to say “no”? This year we are very excited to have a speaker guide us through our journey. Join us in fellowship, spirituality and of course fun. We’ll spend our weekend at Camp Brotherhood in Mount Vernon.

Registration forms will be available soon. Early registration will be \$165 and scholarships are available. Please don’t let cost keep you from attending because we want you there! Watch the bulletin in the Order of Service for more information.

What if ...

Everyone at WUUC Read the Same Book?



Book: No Impact Man

Date: Friday, April 2nd

Time: 7 - 9 p.m.

WUUC community members are welcome to join a discussion of Colin Beavan's book *No Impact Man: The Adventures of a Guilty Liberal Who Attempts to Save the Planet and the Discoveries He Makes About Himself and Our Way of Life in the Process*. Colin swears off plastic, goes organic, bicycle commutes, and tries to save the polar bears while dragging his baby daughter and Prada-wearing wife along for the ride. Discover one man's decision to go off the grid for one year—while living in New York City—to see if it's possible to make no negative net impact on the environment. No trash, no elevators, no subway, no packaged products....how far will he go? (*from the MacMillan Publishing website*)

This meeting is part of an ongoing quarterly nonfiction book discussion group at church. Our next meeting will be on **Friday, April 2nd at 7 p.m.**, at Lane Owsley and Alaine Davis' home in Kenmore. We will start the evening with a themed potluck. RSVP for directions and potluck details.

No children, please, but teenagers who have read the book and would like to participate are welcome.

Blood Drive



Tuesday, March 9th

1:00 to 7:00 pm (dinner break: 3:00 to 3:45)

Cottage Lake Presbyterian Church

Contact me if you would like to make an appointment—not required but gives you priority if there's a crowd.

Dewey Millar dewmillar@comcast.net 425-867-1781



Photos Wanted for Database

Members, please contact **Bill McKenzie** to have your picture taken individually for the new database—he will take a head & shoulders picture of each of you.

Bill will have his camera with him at most services and other events & occasions. Any questions please call Bill at 425-260-6758 or email him at PapaBill@Bilindallc.com.



~~~~~ *Notice* ~~~~~

Please send your submissions for the April issue of **CONNECTIONS** between **Sunday March 21st** and **Saturday March 27th**.