

The Beacon

Cedars Unitarian Universalist Church

A Welcoming Congregation & Green Sanctuary

Worship & Children's Religious Education: 10:00 am

Join us for refreshments and conversation after the service



April 2011

April 3: "To Question is the Answer"

Rev. Barbara W. & Jaco B. ten Hove, Co-ministers

Nancy Philip, Worship Associate

Do you have a hankering to ask our co-ministers probing questions about UUism? About the church? About life in general (or particular)? Here's the latest opportunity, a service that will invite your inquiries of the morning, to which Jaco and Barbara will respond spontaneously.

April 10: The Face of Oppression

Bill Scarvie, Worship Associate and Guest Speaker

Jason Cheung, Worship Associate

The face of oppression has dominated the news recently. It is seen in the angry faces of people demanding freedom, and in the angry faces of rulers willing to kill to maintain their privileged position. Is the face of oppression still seen here in America? Is it waning as racial minorities gain economic and political clout? Or is its complexion simply changing? The choir will sing.

April 17: Faith Lifts: Food For Thought

David Roth, Guest Speaker and Musician

Rev. Jaco B. ten Hove, Co-minister

Our friend and former Seattle neighbor David Roth returns from his home on Cape Cod for his second "annual" visit to Cedars. This time, David will offer musical reflections on ordinary people who do extraordinary things, who are the everyday "heroes" and "sheroes" of the world. In his usual fashion, David will take us a roller-coaster ride of song, story, and spirit ranging from poignant to improbable, holistic to hilarious.

April 24: Easter for All Ages: It's a Wonderful World!

Rev. Barbara W. ten Hove, Co-minister

Bill Scarvie, Worship Associate

Easter falls very close to Earth Day this year, so we will celebrate our wonderful world and the ways we honor it during Easter. We'll also take part in the uniquely Unitarian ritual called the Flower Festival: please bring a flower or two to share. Please also bring back all "Guest at Your Table" boxes to church today. We will re-gather them and have a special collection for the UU Service Committee. The choir will sing.



Did You Miss It?



Time is running out, but there is still time to participate. **Cedars' Annual Stewardship Campaign** ends on April 17. If you have not yet submitted your pledge, please contact Donna Larkin Mohr, larkmohr@comcast.net, or Jan Mulder, mulder@sounddsl.com, or bring your pledge with you to church. Don't miss this opportunity to show your support for Cedars.

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Eye on the UUniverse

Rev. Jaco B. ten Hove



Socrates said, “Unexamined Assumptions R Us.”

No he didn't, of course. What he said was: “The unexamined life isn't worth living,” which may well be true, but I certainly can't examine every step of my life, so I rely on many daily assumptions that ground my worldview and guide my journey forward through time and culture. Socrates would have us be less lazy about those assumptions, examining more of them than we might like, which could help us stay more conscious about our path and the effects of our behavior.

I was in a creative workshop recently that invited a brainstorm of possible “unexamined assumptions” that might be at work within and around us to constrain a more just and sustainable future. These are aspects of life that we could be taking for granted as accurate, so much so that we do not question them, yet actively orient ourselves around them.



See what you think of my partial inventory, below, and perhaps engage in this challenge yourself...

A Short List of Often Unexamined Assumptions

Success is shown by financial wealth, which denotes superiority and divine favor.

The price we pay for an item reflects the full cost of manufacturing it.

The Earth's resources are here for us to use however we see fit.

We are separated from each other and all other forms of life.

Competition is a primary and fundamental law of nature.

I have to do everything myself, and be self-sufficient.

My only effect on something is by direct contact.

The world works like a machine, a large clock.

Caring is expressed by giving material gifts.

We have throwaway resources and people.

There is some place called “away.”

It is hard to tell others what to do.

My actions don't really matter.

Hmm. As I reread my collection, it brings some feeling of distress, even as I've tried hard to resist or unlearn most of these assumptions (when I can be aware of them). They do have a way of insinuating themselves into our psyches, especially as norms promoted by an insistent materialistic culture. It reminds me that however comfortable I may be, I have good work yet to do to further examine my contributions, both subtle and overt, to the Common Good (or not).

This brainstorm experience also helped me realize a way that we all might implement Socrates' advice in groups that are facing social tension of one sort or another. Sometimes we will begin an effort at problem-solving or conflict resolution by jointly defining the presenting issue. “Let's take a deep breath and let everyone in turn describe what they perceive to be the concern.” I've known settings where this process alone exposed an obvious pathway out of the struggle.

We can together examine our shared life more deeply. By articulating and honoring our different perspectives, even if just to define a starting point, we may begin to see the influence of our own unexamined assumptions, which, when given voice, can lose some of their power to block more productive collaboration. Socrates would approve, I suspect.

Productive collaboration would be a worthy goal for us in this era of increasing isolation and collective distress. I especially honor the various book groups active among us, as well as other sessions that pursue a deeper analysis of life. Such intentional gatherings provide excellent opportunities to promote an examined life, helping us discover what really matters amid the rampant materialism of our time.

Let's leave an empty chair in our circles for Socrates as we consider together how to step forth boldly, with eyes open at many levels, to explore the latest new frontiers of community building.

Fondly,

The Cedar Basket

News of religious education at Cedars Unitarian Universalist Church



Forsythia and red bud, rhodies, and daffodils are all exploding into bloom as I write this during the second week of March. Despite weeks of rain and despite horrors in Japan, I feel an abiding sense of “yes” in this season of re-awakening in the world of life. I connect to the deeper thrum of spirit, the timeless, the cyclical, and yet the ever new, and it with that lightness of heart that I turn toward crafting the coming year of religious exploration.

Thanks to the amazing and generous outpouring of ideas from the Green Sanctuary team, I have the makings of an eco-theology summer program, open to kids ages 6 to 14. If you would like to be a part of this highly experiential summer celebration of life, let me know as soon as possible! Generally, I ask for single-Sunday involvement, so it won't cut into your travel and family time.

This coming year in Religious Education (RE) will be rich. To accommodate the rapid growth of young families that we have been experiencing, we'll be adding a 5-, 6-, and 7-year old class, based on the Children's Chapel model and supplemented by materials from the Tapestry of Faith curriculum available online from the UUA. Our other Chapel group, ages 8 to 11, will learn the spirit and logical steps of social action. The Junior and Senior UU youth groups will experience a rich Coming of Age program that celebrates their place in the universe, in the world, in our community, in their families, and in their spiritual selves. They will also be visiting the variety of Christian churches on Bainbridge Island so that they might better understand the faiths of their peers and friends.



I have a real need for adults willing to be trained as Our Whole Lives facilitators for our Junior UU group. This interactive and fun program presents human sexuality and relationships against a backdrop of choice and community support of those choices. The class is slated to begin again in 2012, and that means this fall will be training time. Please let me know if you are interested! Trust me, you will be changed by the experience, deepening your own understanding not just of human sexuality, but also the tapestry of love, relationships, and community that is the gift of being embodied.

As parents, it's important to not only participate in RE but also talk it up in the community. Our small church doesn't pay to advertise very much; your presence and support of our church is bigger than any billboard or TV announcement. Share our plans for the future with your friends. And talk with me frequently and passionately about the role of RE in your family's life!

Blessings to you and your families,

— Kim Beyer-Nelson, DRE

District High School Youth Sponsored "The Laramie Project" Screenings

Across the PNWD and BC districts, high school youth groups were **Standing on the Side of Love** by sponsoring public screenings of *The Laramie Project* throughout the month of February, 2011. Screenings were held to raise awareness and funding for organizations that support bisexual, gay, lesbian, and transgendered (BGLT) youth. The project was led by the PNWD Youth Empowerment Services (YES) team and BC Youth-Adult Committee (YAC). *The Laramie Project* is a film about the 1998 murder of 21-year-old Matthew Shepard. Admission to the showings were free, with donations for refreshments going to The Trevor Project nationally, and to a second, local organization of each youth group's choosing that supports BGLT youth. February showing dates included: February 6: **Edmonds UU Church, WA**; February 11: **Woodinville UU Church, WA**; February 12: **East Shore Unitarian Church, Bellevue, WA** (a reading/play, not the film); February 19: **UU Church of Vancouver, WA**; February 21: **UU Congregation of Salem, OR**; February 25: **Tahoma UU Congregation, Tacoma, WA**.

Co-ministers' Office Hours for the Month of April

Co-Ministers Jaco B. & Barbara W. ten Hove (206-780-0373, ext. 1), E-mail: minister@cedarsuuchurch.org

It's best to arrange ahead for an appointment, although one or both co-ministers expect to be at the church office on most Tuesday, Wednesday & Friday mornings. **The weekend of April 8-11, they will be away at regional ministers meetings in Portland, OR.** During such times, Board President Richard Wilson, Vice-president Angie Hoffpauir, Pastoral Care Team Chair Diana Peters, and the Church Office will know how to reach them in an emergency. Otherwise, they can be contacted at home in emergencies, as needed: 206-201-3596.

Social Action

We were all saddened and distressed by the earthquake and tsunami in Japan and immediately turned our attention to how we could help. The Special Collection on March 27 seemed a great place to start, and we dedicated it to collecting donations for Japan relief efforts. After much deliberation, SAC chose Mercy Corps as the agency where we would send our donations. We chose it because it has a long standing engagement with Peace Winds Japan, an on-the-ground organization that could get help immediately to places that needed it, delivered by people familiar with the area, hence increasing their effectiveness.

Mercy Corps is also one of the highest rated reliable and ethical Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) doing relief work, and they are a Northwest organization as well. If you were not able to donate at the March 27th service, we encourage you to contact Mercy Corps, or any agency of your choice, and help all you can. The Japanese people need us.

Please mark your calendars for Saturday, May 21, when we will have our annual **Cedars' Community Service Day**. We will be cleaning, organizing, and helping in any way we can to put Helpline House in top shape. We'll be working from 10:00 am to 12:00 noon. Please plan to join us; there will be something for all ages to do. We will have a pot-luck lunch after we finish.

"UU and You" Class: Saturday, April 23, 10:00 am to 2:00pm

Wherever you are on your journey with Cedars, we invite you to an engaging presentation about this church and UUism, led by Rev. Jaco ten Hove and Cedars leaders. Get to know others and some delicious details of our congregational life. This class is an enjoyable way to deepen your connections among us, and an important step if you're considering joining. Lunch included and childcare supported, as needed. The class will be held at the Church Office, 571 Ericksen Avenue, Bainbridge Island. Call Jaco or the office for more info. Please register by Thursday, April 21 through our online Adult Programs process at <http://TinyURL.com/Cedars 2010>.

Treasurer's Report — February 2011

Pledges	February	YTD	Capital Campaign	
Budgeted:	\$12,692	\$101,533	Pledged:	\$393,000
Received:	\$7,398	\$109,640	Received 1/31/11:	\$186,786
Difference:	(\$5,294)	\$ 8,107	Difference:	(\$206,214)
Operating Fund	February	YTD	Capital Fund Balances	
Income:	\$8,593	\$145,846	Balance 7/01/09:	\$215,260
Expense	\$20,455	\$135,562	Balance 7/01/10	\$220,367
Difference:	(\$11,862)	\$10,284	Balance 2/28/11:	\$222,233

December 2010 – February 2011: Attendance

Month	Weekly Average			Month	Weekly	Special
	Children	Adults	Total	Total	Average	Collection
December	14	80	94	375	\$213	\$392
January	10	82	92	461	\$185	\$621
February	12	93	105	315	\$157	\$557

Bainbridge Chorale Tickets to Benefit UUSC

Rev. Barbara ten Hove sings with the Bainbridge Island Chorale. Their upcoming concert of Americana Music at Grace Church takes place on Saturday, April 16 at 7:00 pm and on Sunday, April 17 at 3:00 pm. For every ticket bought from Barbara, she will donate \$1 to UUSC. Contact her for ticket prices and information at tenwells@aol.com.



Chalice Lighters

Pacific Northwest Chalice Lighters responded generously to the first call of this year (fall 2010), proof once again that many small acts of love can produce an impressive result! We will be able to provide almost \$16,000 to the Alaska Travel Fund, allowing our Alaskan congregations more equal access to the consulting skills and expertise of district staff and experienced lay and clergy leaders as they pursue congregational growth.

For over 20 years, the PNWD Chalice Lighters Program has been providing grants to congregations, groups of congregations, or district programs that directly benefit congregations, to assist growth efforts. The individual donors who make up the Chalice Lighters agree to make a minimum contribution of \$15.00 three times a year to provide these grants. For more information on the program, including how to apply for a grant for your congregation, or how you can become a Chalice Lighter, see www.pnwd.org/connections.

Cedars UU Church

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Volunteer Office Manager's Hours:

Tuesday & Wednesday: 12:00 pm to 2:00 pm

Friday: 10:30 am to 2:30 pm

Office E-mail: cuucoffice@cedarsuuchurch.org

For church information: info@cedarsuuchurch.org

To rent facilities at *The Island School* for meetings or activities, contact **Vinne Perrone, 206-855-1588** or e-mail rentals@cedarsuuchurch.org.

Our Mission

Worship with open hearts ♦ Nurture a learning spirit
Serve justice with compassion ♦ Love without judgment

Calendar of Events

April 2011



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1 <i>April Fool's Day</i> Knitting/Handicraft, 10:30a Music Committee, 12:00n 	2
3 Sunday Service 10:00a Neighborhood Teams Potluck, 12:00p Buddhist Study & Meditation, 4:00p	4	5 Beginning Qigong, 10:00a A House for Hope, 7:15p	6 Choir Rehearsal, 7:30p	7 Meditation, 4:30p	8 Knitting/Handicraft, 10:30a	9
10 Sunday Service 10:00a Coffee & Tea Sales	11 Holocaust Remembrance Day, 6:00p Adult Comparative Religion, 7:30p	12 Beginning Qigong, 10:00a A House for Hope, 7:15p	13 Pastoral Care 2:00p Choir Rehearsal, 7:30p	14 Meditation, 4:30p	15 Knitting/Handicraft, 10:30a Spirituality Book Group, 7:00p Beacon Submittal Deadline	16
17 Sunday Service 10:00a Pick up Coffee & Tea Stewardship Campaign ends	18 Membership Team 7:30p	19 Beginning Qigong, 10:00a Board Meeting 6:30p	20 Program Assocs, 9:45a RE Committee 6:30p Choir Rehearsal, 7:30p	21 <i>Passover Begins</i> Meditation, 4:30p Ralph Waldo Emerson, 7:00p 	22 <i>Earth Day</i> 	23 UU & You Class, 10:00a Interfaith Earth Day
24 <i>Easter</i> Sunday Service 10:00a	25 Social Action 7:30p	26 Beginning Qigong, 10:00a Super Suppers 4:45p	27 Worship Associates, 7:15p Choir Rehearsal, 7:30p	28 Meditation, 4:30p	29	30

Notes:

Cedars Programs & Events

Coffee and Tea Sales Fundraiser

Order Grounds for Change coffee and tea on the second Sunday of each month during the Coffee Hour after the service. We are selling 12 oz. bags of either whole bean or ground coffee for \$10.00 a bag, of which Cedars keeps \$3.50. You can also buy boxes of 20 tea bags of black, green, or herbal tea for \$5.00 per box, of which Cedars keeps \$1.25. Please order and pay for your coffee (with cash or check, sorry, no credit cards) on the second Sunday of the month and pick up your order on the third Sunday of the month. Please see Royce Reid after the service on the second Sunday, or e-mail him at royce.reid@gmail.com for more information.

The Knitting and Handicraft Group meets Fridays from 10:30 am to 12:30 pm. Please contact **Shelley Kaurin**, dkandsk@easystreet.net, for locations and directions or to be put on the e-mail list. This is a drop in program: come when you can, stay as long as your schedule permits, no RSVP is required. Beginners are most welcome. There are many who are willing to teach you.

Official Church Calendar

Please consult the official Cedars UU Church Calendar on the church website at www.cedarsuuchurch.org/calendar.html before scheduling events.

Super Suppers

Do you want to help our Social Action team but don't have much time? Are you a good cook looking for an excuse to make brownies? The **Super Suppers** at **Eagle Harbor Congregational Church** needs your help! We team up with **Congregation Kol Shalom** to serve dinner for all comers at Helpline House on the last Tuesday of every month. If you can bring food, help host the dinner with a member of the Social Action Committee, or simply want more information about these dinners, please contact **Carol Ann Davidson** at supersuppers@cedarsuuchurch.org or 206-855-0629.

Adult Courses and Programs

The Winter-Spring semester of Cedars' Ethical and Spiritual Programs for Adults began in January. **Register for all programs at <http://tinyURL.com/Cedars2011>**. All programs will be held at the church office, 571 Eriksen Avenue NE, Bainbridge Island, unless otherwise noted.

Buddhist Study and Meditation: A Monthly Introduction. Sessions begin at 4:00 pm on the first Sunday of each month through May 1. Each session will offer a combination of meditation instruction, meditation practice, discussion, and introductory teachings on Buddhism.

Weekly **Qigong** classes will continue, taught by Kim Beyer-Nelson on Tuesdays from 10:00 to 10:45 am. This meditative movement class is designed for beginners, and can be done seated or standing.

Alan Miller and Kim Beyer-Nelson teach **Comparative Religion** from 7:30 to 9:00 pm on the second Monday of the month, through May 9. Religions covered will include Hinduism, Earth-Centered Traditions, Buddhism, New Thought, and Shinto.

Rev. Jaco ten Hove continues his monthly tutorials on **Ralph Waldo Emerson as Spiritual Guide** from 7:15 to 9:00 pm on the third Thursday of the month through May at the church office. Join this group study of the formative and thought-provoking essays by this influential 19th century Unitarian thinker.

A House for Hope, on Tuesdays, March 15, 22, 29, and April 5, from 7:15 to 9:30 pm, led by Rev. Barbara ten Hove. Using the intriguing book of this title by Rebecca Ann Parker and John Buehrens, we'll look at UU theology through a new lens. Books can be ordered at your local bookstore or purchased through the UUA bookstore.

Participation in any or all sessions of a A brochure on these and other Cedars programs is available on Sunday at the Membership Table. Find more details and register at <http://tinyURL.com/Cedars2011>.

The Sustainability Book Group will meet at 7:30 PM on Friday, May 13 at the home of Herb Hethcote and Leslie Marshall, 1866 Commodore Lane NW, Bainbridge Island (just west of the high school). We will discuss **When the Rivers Run Dry: Water – the Defining Crisis of the Twenty-first Century**, by Fred Pearce, Beacon Press, 2006. Please note that the collection of books we have already read is set up for browsing on the Green Sanctuary section of the table at the back of Webster Hall. Newcomers are always welcome. The teakettle will be on; bring snacks to share if you would like. Contact Leslie Marshall or Herb Hethcote at green@cedarsuuchurch.org to receive email announcements.

Ideas for Adult Spiritual and Ethical Programs Requested! Your Program Associates are looking for suggestions for adult classes to be taught in late spring, summer and fall, 2011. If you have an idea for a class or want to propose doing one yourself, please contact Rev. Barbara ten Hove at: minister@cedarsuuchurch.org.

The Spirituality Book Group invites you to join us in discussing a spiritually-based book every other month. We meet on the third Friday of even months. If you would like to be added to our e-mail list, please contact Mary Romeo at amromeo@msn.com. Our next meeting is **7:00 pm, Friday, April 22** at Mary Romeo's home, 10770 Arrow Point Drive, Bainbridge Island, 206-842-1708. We will discuss *Nomad: From Islam to America: A Personal Journey Through the Clash of Civilizations*, by Ayaan Hirsi Ali.

Our next two meetings and books are:

- June 17: *The Marriage of Sense and Soul: Integrating Science and Religion*, 1999, by Ken Wilber.
- August 19 (this date may be changed due to summer schedules): Karen Armstrong's newest book, *Twelve Steps to a Compassionate Life*.



From the President

Winning the Lottery

April always arrives with a little humor in our culture, and Channie Peters, as former President, had some fun with that during her tenure. I enjoyed considering what I might concoct in following that lead, but have decided that rather than teasing with something unreal, I'll tease with thoughts about what might someday be real.

As I've noted before, Sally and I have had the pleasure of witnessing and participating in the growth and development of Cedars through all but the first 15 years of its 52-year history. That doesn't mean we have an advantage in anticipating further changes or developments, but it does mean we've probably seen more possibilities become reality than many of you. And it probably also means we're more inclined to expect further change than some.

We've seen Cedars as a small lay-led fellowship meeting monthly in member homes, and we've enjoyed being part of today's active congregation with talented co-minister and staff leadership as well as a calendar full of inspiring services, special programs, intriguing classes, and much more. We've also seen Cedars as a small, tentative, and perhaps temporary group that enjoyed gathering together, and we've now seen Cedars as an enduring presence in our collective lives as well as in our local communities, and in a future that we can only begin to imagine.

That "knowing a good thing when we see it" expression clearly applies here. I know that we all see it, and our past year's Shaping Our Future process found that we know it's a good thing and want more of it. That process began a conversation about our future, but there's a lot more future out there, and the possibilities and potential are very nearly as unlimited as is future itself.

So it's the possibilities that I'm thinking about, and how most possibilities need some "nudging" before they become realities. I'm also thinking about the ways in which we do our nudging.

I know that many of us have increased our pledging to better reflect how much Cedars has come to mean in our lives. And this year, in our weakened economy, that generosity is also about getting our budget basics covered so that we can begin to look beyond immediate needs. One basic that was unhappily carried as a conditioned possibility in this year's budget was our share of funding for national and regional denominational entities (the UUA and PNWD), and I am happy to report that we were able to forward the first half of those contributions last month.

As a longer range step toward financial stability and future vitality, Sally and I have made changes in our wills that will eventually help to ensure a continuing Cedars presence. Our bylaws identify capital and endowment accounts for this purpose, and we hope others will choose to join us in planning such a legacy. We want Cedars to have a bright and sustainable future.

How our collective future will develop can't be known with certainty. We can directly address particular needs, and we can dream our personal and collective dreams. We can also plan how some dreams might be turned into reality, and some of that was done last year. But there will be other dreams, and bigger dreams.

One mildly wild one of mine is that we will someday have a home that is really ours, not necessarily a traditional one, but an activity center that could be shared with others. Such a place would accommodate our offices, smaller meetings and classes, a significant library with comfortable space for browsing and study, and perhaps even a coffee bar (think Christian Science Reading Room on steroids!). Did I mention the garden courtyard?

Ah well, such are dreams. In the meantime I enjoy the uniquely personal spiritual practice of always buying a lottery ticket when the prize goes above \$5 million, and then I dream of the wonderful things that might be possible.

— Richard Wilson, President



Are You a Blogger?

Check out the Cedars Blog at www.cedarsuuchurch.org/blog.htm. If you want to link your blog, contact Frank at frank@mandt.org. If you're a member who would like to post on the blog and are not registered, contact Frank for an invitation. Anyone can post a comment.

Updates are on the Website

Be sure to check the Church Website, www.cedarsuuchurch.org, throughout the month for updates on activities and events. If you have something to be posted on the Website, e-mail Frank Mandt at webmeister@cedarsuuchurch.org.

Want to receive *The Beacon*?

Please send your e-mail address to: beacon@cedarsuuchurch.org.

The Beacon Deadline is the 15th of Each Month

Please e-mail submissions to beacon@cedarsuuchurch.org. Questions? Call Frank Mandt, 360-297-2501.

Doctors of Durability

The Cedars Pastoral Care Team has honored our ten most venerable members, all of whom have passed the 80-year marker, with honorary degrees of *Doctoris Durabilitatis*. *The Beacon* will feature their life profiles in the upcoming months, so all may enjoy the fondness we share for our well-rooted Cedars elders.

Doctors of Durability

Patricia “Patsy” Campbell (b. 1926)
Robert “Bob” Campbell (b. 1921)
Marvin Davies Evans (b. 1925)
Lucille Bailey Parker (b. 1922)
A. Diana Peters (b. 1925)

W. Jack Peterson (b. 1927)
N. Lyn Peterson (b. 1929)
Louise Rikley (b. 1915)
Lee H. Salisbury (b. 1927)
Elvin “Al” Tlam (b. 1924)

W. Jack Peterson (b. July 27, 1927)

Jack was born in Seattle, where his Norwegian-born father William came at age 13 and became a prominent bricklayer/homebuilder. Mother Mabel had also come to Seattle as a teenager from South Dakota. Jack was the first of six children, and in the Depression they moved from Beacon Hill to Olalla in Kitsap County, where Jack says he had to work a lot as a kid.

He graduated high school just before the bombing of Hiroshima, then did a year in the Army Air Corps as a weather station radio operator before going to Washington State University, where he met and married Lyn Fredericks in 1951, with four children to follow: Andrew, Richard, Paula, and Rhondi. Balancing family, work, which included summers bricklaying in Alaska, and further education at Cornell and Northern Illinois University at DeKalb, Jack got a Masters in sociology, with a thesis on “The Skid Road Wino”, but fell just short of a doctorate.

He enjoyed a faculty position at Central Washington University in Ellensburg, but in 1971 was lured to Anchorage to start a Sociology Department at the University of Alaska, from which he retired in 1997. Along the way he was voted most popular teacher. His focus was on community sociology and social change, with significant research in alcoholism studies.

Jack’s been an avid golfer and sailor, and a volunteer ombudsman for elderly housing, striving “to help people who can’t help themselves.” He was raised un-churched, but became an active Unitarian at Cornell and DeKalb, founding a congregation at the latter site.



N. Lyn Peterson (b. September 11, 1929)

Lyn was born in nearby Seabeck, WA, but raised in Hansville, when both areas were logging territory. Her Norwegian parents each came to America as young adults. Her father, Ole Fredericks, was a logger who later owned a couple sawmills, and her mother Margit was a milliner. Lyn says she and her older sister Eileen “grew up in sawdust,” enjoying the “forestry, farming and fishing” culture of Hansville.

After North Kitsap High School, Lyn got degrees from Washington State University, Cornell, and received a Doctorate in adult/continuing education from Northern Illinois University in DeKalb. She taught high school in Groton, NY, middle school in Ellensburg, WA, and taught adults for a native corporation in Cook Inlet, Alaska, before settling into a long career on the faculty at Pacific University in Anchorage (1971-97). She was awarded “Teacher of the Year” honors in 1993.

She and Jack met at WSU, were married in 1951 and began raising a family of four children in two-year increments: Andrew, Richard, Paula, who currently lives next door in Hansville, and Rhondi. Amid family and career pursuits, they enjoyed decades of sailing on their beloved Puget Sound. After retiring from Alaska, they moved back onto her family land in Hansville.

She is a “born skeptic,” who learned early to think for herself. The women’s movement of the 1960s had a large positive influence on her. While at WSU, she had learned about Unitarianism from a political science instructor who sneaked it into a class, and it resonated enough so that she and Jack later helped start a fellowship in DeKalb, IL.

(Interview notes by Jaco ten Hove)