



Family Living

Have a happy
Easter

A Faith based look at the Resurrection

BY REV. MARK HOELTER
FOR THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

"What do other faiths make of the Christian idea of resurrection?" Jews either believe in a general resurrection at the end of time or believe differently. Their religious view is that this life is the one you get; make the most of it even as you serve the Lord by keeping his *mitzvot* (his commands for the fullest life for all). The Islamic belief in "resurrection," holds there will be a judgment day, a general resurrection, and the righteous shall enter heaven and the unrighteous shall suffer hell. Christ has already been raised, and will return to Jerusalem. Most humanists do not believe in a resurrection. In the end, this life is it, and that is good enough reason to

live well and ethically—to leave a better world for your children's children. Hindus believe that after death a person's soul gets re-incarnated in a new body, depending on how one has lived. If one lives well and connects deeply with the divine, you may simply enter the divine, you may not need to incarnate again. To many Hindus, Jesus of Nazareth was an incarnation of the God, Krishna. Buddhists do not believe in Hindu-like "souls." Rather, at death the elements which composed a person come apart and the person simply is no more. But some of those elements come back together, perhaps in another person, in a re-birth. If you practice following the Buddha's path, you may reach a point at which you no longer will be reborn, unless you

choose to be. That may be a confusing handful of religious ideas, but the Christian idea of resurrection is confusing to those who are not Christian. When I ask Christians, "What is the resurrection? What are you saying happened?" I get different answers. Some say Jesus' body came back to life. Some say it was a new body, a "spiritual body." Others conclude that it was a sacred vision that happened to some of the disciples or just an experience like an apparition. Science-minded Christians call it a collective, psychological projection. Many consider it a mystery you have to accept on faith; don't even try to understand it. Trying to figure "resurrection" out from all those different versions gets confusing. Which explanation is

better or truer? Overall, the metaphor of "resurrection" keeps open the idea that reality truly is far greater, more open, and more creative than usually we think it is. So the poetry of the "resurrection" metaphor may help any of us, even non-Christians, stay more open to that truth about life. I'm sure these understandings of mine are a like a street person's rags compared to the rich wardrobe of "resurrection" meaning that practicing Christians wear. But they are honest rags. May my poorer understandings give offense to no one, and may we all find it in our hearts to keep talking and working together toward better understanding. Rev. Mark Hoelter is minister of the Unitarian Universalist Community Church in Hillsboro.

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Give the gift of life: be an organ donor

CONTRIBUTOR STORY
FOR THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

National Organ Donors Awareness Week is April 16 to 22. Thanks to advance in medical science, many people can now receive a second chance at life through organ transplantation. Technology has made it possible for a person in need to receive new kidney, liver, pancreas, lung or heart and live long and productive life. But potential organ recipients have to be very lucky to find donor organs. Unfortunately, there are not enough donors to fill the increasing need for transplantation. Sadly, many patients

die before they can be helped. Over 85,000 Americans have been given a second chance at life through kidney transplantation. More than 70 percent of them received a kidney from a living donor—most often from a family member. Since most of us are born with two healthy kidneys, donating a kidney can be done with little or no risk. I am one of the lucky ones who received a kidney transplant from a living relative. I was told as a young child that my kidneys would eventually fail because of a strep infection that left me with chronic nephritis. I was very fortunate that my kidneys waited for technology to

catch up before they failed and my sister came forward to offer her kidney without being asked. Our surgery and recovery went perfectly and I have enjoyed 10 years of good health. However, most people with kidney failure don't have a suitable living donor and have to go on waiting list for a cadaver kidney. Over 44,000 people are now waiting for kidneys and nearly 70,000 are waiting for all organs. You can help! If you know someone who needs a kidney, volunteer to be tested. Or sign an organ donor card so that you can give the gift of life. A signed donor card serves as notice of intention to donate any or all of the

body's usable organs and tissues upon death. Even if an organ donor card is signed, next-of-kin will be asked for consent at the point of death. Therefore, it is most important to discuss your wishes regarding organ donations with your family. Organ donation is the gift of life. It can also be a gift to the donor and his or her family, knowing they've made a tremendous difference in the lives of others. David Broach is a member of the Board of Trustees of the American Kidney Fund. For more information on how you can become an organ donor, contact American Kidney Foundation at 1-800-638-8299 or visit www.kidney.org.



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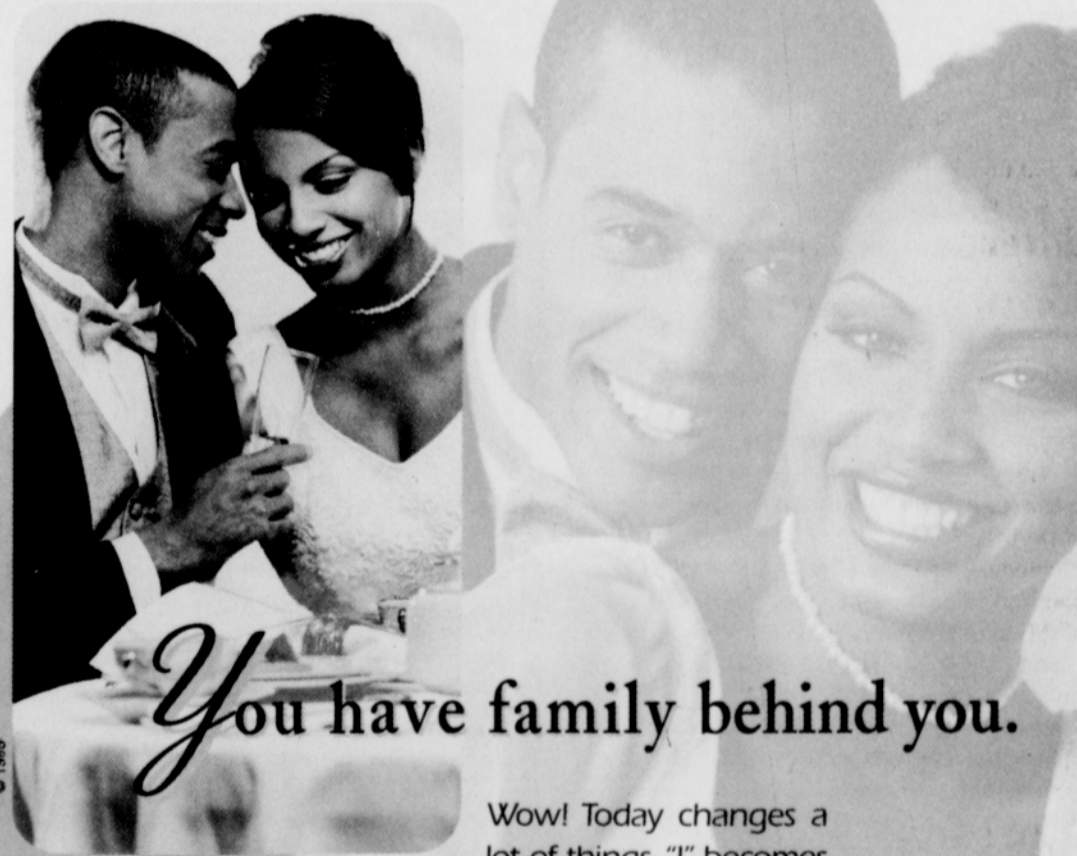
Steps to buying you're new home

FOR THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

The following steps are basic for most real estate transactions. More steps can be added, but few can be eliminated unless you are purchasing your home for cash. Find a good buyer's agent who will best serve your real estate needs. Ask for a real estate referral. People usually recommend successful realtors with whom they have had smooth transactions. You need a buyer's agent who will help you find the perfect home, in the shortest possible time, and with the least inconvenience to you. Ask lots of questions. This is a big deal and probably one of the biggest purchases you will make. Find a good lender & get pre-approval for your loan. Again, ask for referrals. Your Realtor can refer you to a lender who has provided excellent service

to previous clients. The lending process can be complicated. Ask lots of questions, and be sure to ask the amount of your loan payments. Your Realtor and lender will work closely together to get you into your new home. Determine what kind of home and in which neighborhood. Do you like older homes, newer homes, a garage basement, built-in charm? Do you prefer a particular neighborhood? Ideal locations can add thousands of dollars to the price for the same type home. Distinguish wants from needs! At the original consultation with your Realtor, you should discuss your wish list. Do you want 3 or 4 bedrooms, a fenced backyard, hardwood floors, or a garage? These amenities, the style of home and preferred neighborhood will

provide your agent with the tools to determine where and at what price to find your new home. Search for your new home. Your Realtor will use multiple listings, the Internet, and any other tools available to find that perfect home. Your job will be to eliminate unwanted homes as soon as possible. If you see a home you like, call your realtor. Make an offer and negotiate the sale. Once you have found that perfect home & decided on a price, your agent will make the offer and negotiate with the seller to get as much of what you want as possible. Then, the loan process begins. Get a professional home inspection and negotiate any needed repairs. Get a professional appraisal. Close, Record & MOVE IN! For more information e-mail deborah@equitygroup.com or give me a call @ 706-0037



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