

Wendy's Words of Wisdom

March / April 2011



Seeking Spirituality
Practicing Community



With Freedom of
Religious Thought

UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST FELLOWSHIP OF KAMLOOPS

Kuuf f2nks

We are called to love ourselves and each other: with our truth-telling, our caring, our self-disclosure, our comradeship, our religious exploring, our vulnerability, our service together. And though we do it less than perfectly, we agree to keep on trying to make our community as good as it can be.

This Fellowship is a place in which we can practice good behaviour (in case we ever need it!). Our religious community thrives on energy, spirit, and presence. So many of you contribute all of these qualities – it is what helps to make UUFK a strong and thriving spiritual home.

I want to express specific gratitude to a few key people whose leadership roles are ending this month, or who are taking on different roles.

To **Joan G**, for her dedicated, graceful, centered and visionary presidency. Joan was a bit reluctant to put on the president's hat, unsure as to whether she could live up to the example of her predecessors and do an "adequate" job.

We are called to love ourselves and each other : with our truth-telling, our caring, our self-disclosure, our comradeship, our religious exploring

Clearly, her doubts were not well-founded. Nobody can "be" the person they are following, and that's not what is expected. Joan made the role her own, and, with that, allowed her gifts to lead us through the last three years.

Thank you, Joan!

To **Jim G**, for his thoughtful and experienced contributions to the strong functioning of the Fellowship, in his role as Board member and Secretary. Jim has been in leadership roles for many years, and has offered particular expertise from both legal

and social justice perspectives. Jim's retirement from the board will give him more focus-time for his passion for social action.

Thank you, Jim!

To **Christine H**, for her willingness to join the board after being with us for only a few months. Christine's organizational ability, her fund-raising ideas, and her enthusiasm for UUFK have made a strong contribution to the board's smooth functioning.

Thank you, Christine !

Continued next page....

Inside this issue:

Wendy's Schedule	2
Visiting Minister and a Potluck	2
Upcoming Services	3
Getting to Know You	4
UU Kids' News	5
Storytelling Workshop / Lay Chaplain News	6
President's Message	7
Lenten Lectures / Workshops	8
Social and Environmental News	10
Money Matters / "A Minister's Work"	11
Book Clubs and Lunches	12

The Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Kamloops

meets every Sunday from September until June at the Valleyview Community Hall on Park St. in Kamloops .

For details on individual Sunday schedules, please see inside, or go to our [website at www.uukam.bc.ca](http://www.uukam.bc.ca)

We are a welcoming community, believing in the dignity of every individual and in freedom of religious thought.

Contact us by phone :
250 - 374 - 5594. E-Mail to
uufellowshipkamloops@gmail.com

Wendy's Whereabouts

Wendy's Words (continued from page 1)

To **Shannon H**, for his readiness to say "yes" when there was a need for something to be done on the Board. Shannon, also new to UUFK, has offered several ideas for our reaching out to a younger cohort of people, and is always a willing participant in board-sponsored events.

Thank you, Shannon!

To **Gerda M**, for her dedication to ensuring our spiritual lives have an appropriate public expression each month. In chairing the Worship services committee, Gerda's attention to detail has been a great help to the committee's organization of our most public and central function, the Sunday mornings. In addition, Gerda's background in theatre and speech has been used in offering coaching in presentation skills to Sunday speakers.

Thank you, Gerda!

When we act as if we ARE the community we want to create in the world, we are making it happen. Thank you all, for striving for such excellence.

Shalom,
Rev. Wendy

Use your minister well!

If you would like to spend some time with me for any reason – personal conversation about something, an idea related to church functioning, a committee meeting, participation in a project – Please Ask!

I can be reached most reliably through e-mail : **(wmcniven@telus.net)**, but also on my cell phone when I am in Kamloops), or at home in Kelowna .

Note : that I do NOT check my cell phone very often except when I'm in Kamloops.

Please let me know if you would enjoy a visit, or wish to talk with me about anything. We can meet in the UU Reading Room, (2nd floor of KUC) , at your home, or somewhere else.

I will look forward to seeing you at the "Munch with the Minister" sessions, which are held on the Friday of my weekend in Kamloops.

Room at KUC. Bring your own lunch. Tea will be provided. EVERYONE WELCOME!

Minister's schedule at time of writing

Lay Chaplaincy meeting	– March, time TBA
Board Meetings	– Friday evenings
Ministerial relations committee	– Friday afternoons
Lay Chaplaincy Training	— March 26 th
"Munch with the Minister"	– Friday noons

Other dates of note

Visiting Minister

During the weekend of April 8th, 9th, and 10th, we will be receiving a visit from Rev. Karen Fraser Gilitz.



Rev. Karen is the consulting minister with the First Unitarian Fellowship of Nanaimo and, as of January, with the Unitarian Congregation of Saskatoon.

Karen returned to Unitarian Universalism as a young adult and she has a deep, abiding belief in the power of religious community to change lives. Having spent time in Kamloops as part of her ministerial formation, Karen is delighted to be invited back to lead a service. She will be staying with the Stefaneks while she is in town.

When she is not travelling, Karen enjoys being out in the woods or on the water. She lives in Nanaimo with her husband, musician, composer and producer Paul Gilitz.

Potluck Dinner with Rev. Karen

On Friday, April 8th, at 6 p.m., there will be a Potluck Dinner at the home of Gerda M.. This will be a wonderful opportunity for UUFK members and friends to renew their acquaintance with Rev. Karen, as well as to show her the hospitality which Kamloopsians are famous for!

The Potluck will be held at Gerda's house . As Gerda would like to coordinate the supper dishes being brought, and to know who will attend, she would ask that you phone or E-mail her no later than April 6th if you are coming.

Other Dates to Note

March 25—27 : Mini-CUUL Workshop in Vancouver (see page 6)

April 9, 2011: Worship Skills Workshop in Kelowna (see page 6)

April 21, 2011 : Rev. Wendy's speaking in the Lenten Lectures – April 21 - St. Paul's cathedral, noon (the seventh Thursday noon lecture in the series of seven.) (see page 9)

May 20 - 23, 2011 : Toronto – *CUC Annual Conference and Meeting*

July 14-17, 2011 Nanaimo, BC— (Bethlehem Retreat Centre) CUUL school – Leadership Development

Costs : \$549 for the first participant from each congregation & \$499 for subsequent registrations (it is recommended that the congregation support 50% of the cost of each registration) This fee includes accommodation, meals, and all activities for this live-in program.

Upcoming Services

MARCH

March 6 : Adult Education Program : *“Simplifying for Wellness : The Next Step — Fostering Simplicity.”* Led by Mitch and Heather S. . 10 a.m. -12 noon

In this final session, you will learn about programs and organizations you can tap into to help you encourage simplicity - in your home, in schools and in your community. You will also learn how to access or create a support base of like-minded citizens. You will receive a list of resources to help you continue your efforts to simplify.

An important note - the material is now being emailed out before the Sunday session to all those who have signed up for the series. Anyone planning to attend a session who hasn't been before should contact the leader in advance.

March 13 : Worship Service : *“Minding the Gap”* Led by Christine and Shannon H. ; and Fraser N. and Gerda M. 10 a.m.

Finding ways to meet the needs of older youth and young adults and nurturing them on their personal and spiritual paths.

Service Coordinator : ??

Sunday School : *“We Love to Discover”*

March 20 : Chalice Circle : *“Women of Influence : Pedestals or Feet of Clay”* Led by Pat M. 10 a.m.

This is designed as a precursor to the March 27th service. Sample questions : “Do you have particular women you regard as heroic? What makes them so, to you?” “Have you ever been put on a pedestal. If so, what was it like for you?”

March 27 : Worship Service : *“Women in Our Lives”* . Led by Rev. Wendy McNiven 10 a.m.

International Women’s Day is March 8th. Sometimes, women are placed on a pedestal. I don’t want to do that – pedestals can be dangerous, especially when you fall off. I merely want to make sure that the ground under our feet is at the same level as for everyone else! My sermon this month will pay attention to women who influence us, some historical and some contemporary. A special offering will be taken for the CUC “Sharing our Faith” Fund.

Service Coordinator : ??

Sunday School : *“Love in our Congregation”*

Soup Lunch



APRIL

April 3 : : Adult Education Program : Storytelling Workshop : *“Owning the Story”* Led by Gerda M. 9:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

Please see the write-up of this workshop on Page 6. Registration deadline is March 19th. You will need to bring pencils and some paper. Refreshments will be served, but you may want to bring a bagged snack for the break!

Service Coordinator : Heather A.

April 10 : : Worship Service : *“Direct Experience : Opening to Life”* . Led by Rev. Karen Fraser Giltz. 10 a.m.

On this morning, we will spend some time with our first Source (in our statement of Principles and Sources) which speaks of "direct experience of that transcending mystery and wonder, affirmed in all cultures, which moves us to a renewal of the spirit and an openness to the forces which create and uphold life." Valuing personal experience is one of the cornerstones of Unitarian theology. Where did it come from? And what might it mean for us today?

Service Coordinator : Gerda M.

Sunday School : *“ We are loved, flaws and all.”*

April 17 : : Chalice Circle : *“Direct Experience : Our First Source”* Led by Gerda M. 10 a.m.

This will be a follow-up to Rev. Karen Fraser Gitlitz’ sermon from April 10th on this topic,

April 24 : Easter Sunday Worship Service : *“Raising up the Good”* Led by Rev. Wendy McNiven. 10 a.m.

The potentates that authorized the crucifixion of the revolutionary Jesus have their modern counterparts. The Easter resurrection story can be for us a reminder to give our energies and attention to that which is Good, and life-affirming. It is helpful for us to embrace that which protects and saves Life, and to say no to those ideas and practices which serve to diminish the overall well-being of our communities.

You will be invited to celebrate our spiritual community in the breaking of bread together, a communion particular to our own tradition.

Service Coordinator : ??

Sunday School : *“Celebrating Easter and New Beginnings”*

Soup Lunch

Getting to Know You.....

This month featuring Kay T.



I was born in Lancashire, England, in 1936 in a cotton mill town, the eldest of 5 children. My Dad was a teacher and also the organist at the local Wesleyan Methodist Church. My earliest memory is of sitting with him on the organ bench when he played for the service. I got my musical ability and my love of music from him. All through my growing years I had a close relationship with him. I think the most traumatic event in those early years was when the war started and my Dad left to go into the Air Force. He was posted to the Hebridean Islands in the meteorological service and was away for long periods of time.



By 1942 I had two sisters and two brothers. My Mum was very busy and, as I got older, I took on more responsibility for caring for my siblings. I also had a close relationship with my paternal grandmother, and spent lots of time at her house where we explored the attic, enjoyed her rice pudding (the taste of which I've never been able to match) and where the outdoor toilet had a hole that went way down into the sewer – a bit scary for little girls.!

From age 4, when I started nursery school, I loved school and always did well in it. We were fortunate to always have music in school and in the church, and my Dad played for me to sing and later taught me to play piano & encouraged me to sing in choirs. The Methodist Church was always a central part of our lives – we sometimes went three times on Sunday – morning, afternoon Sunday School and evening.

After the war, when I was 8, we moved to Lincolnshire – a place where everyone spoke with quite a different accent, and I was teased unmercifully for my broad northern speech. From then on I learned to pick up new accents very quickly in our many moves. My Dad couldn't settle down and we moved regularly. (Since that time I didn't live anywhere more than 4 years – once it was only 1 year – until 1978 when Bob & I moved our family to North Vancouver.)

When I was 16, I left school and went to work in a Dept. store – then met some US service men through the church and married one of them when I was 17. I took the boat to New York that summer and lived with my new husband's (Dan) parents in Bristol, Pennsylvania. Our son was born in the Philadelphia Naval Hospital in November that year, and Dan arrived home the day after his birth.

After 4 years in an abusive relationship, carrying my third child, I came to a small town in Saskatchewan, where my Dad was a student minister in the United Church. My family had immigrated to Canada in 1954. I worked for two years in Biggar as a bookkeeper. In 1960, I met Bob at my sister's wedding, and he took on an instant family when we married at St. Andrews College in Saskatoon in June, 1962. It wasn't easy. He was in his last year of theology and was ordained by the United Church in 1963. We were settled in the hamlet of Herschel.

And between then and now – almost 50 years later?

We've gone through many ups & downs in raising our four girls. I learned what it was like to be a minister's wife in four different churches and to meet people's expectations and often rebel against them. I learned about the social isolation that can happen. I took piano & singing lessons & taught piano. In Calgary we became involved in "Marriage Enrichment" and "Couple Communication" & later trained and became leaders in both. Helping couples refresh their relationships was very satisfying, and definitely gave me a deep appreciation of our own relationship.

Then in 1978, through some difficult circumstances, we came to Vancouver, where Bob began training as a chaplain & found his gift in ministry. I entered the Music Therapy training at Capilano College and began a new phase in my life. This was also a time when I began exploring the more metaphysical side of my spiritual life. That exploration continues through my involvement with the "Three Mountain Foundation". I graduated from Music Therapy in 1980 and later took specialized training in the Bonny Method of Guided Imagery & Music. That is a very significant part of my life now as I assist in training programmes in B.C. and Ontario.

When I first came to Kamloops, 14 and a half years ago, I found a family and a more open belief system here with the UUs. It's become an important part of my life now. I've always believed in giving back and sharing my gifts wherever I've been on this journey. Thank you for this opportunity to tell you some of my story,

Kay

UU Kids' News



Lily works on her art card, under the guidance of artist, Tuula, in the background.

January and February were busy months for our UU Kids. Tuula volunteered to share her artistic talents in a session on "Expression". We had lots of fun with paint and water, creating art cards for friends and family. Next, along with our Bahaii guests, we tried out various forms of voting - this was a challenging session, especially navigating our way through consensus voting! In February we began a new series of lessons called "*Love will Guide Us*". We made seed pictures to illustrate love unfolding in the universe, and we made rain sticks to use as part of our one-minute meditation during each session.

What's coming up in March and April?

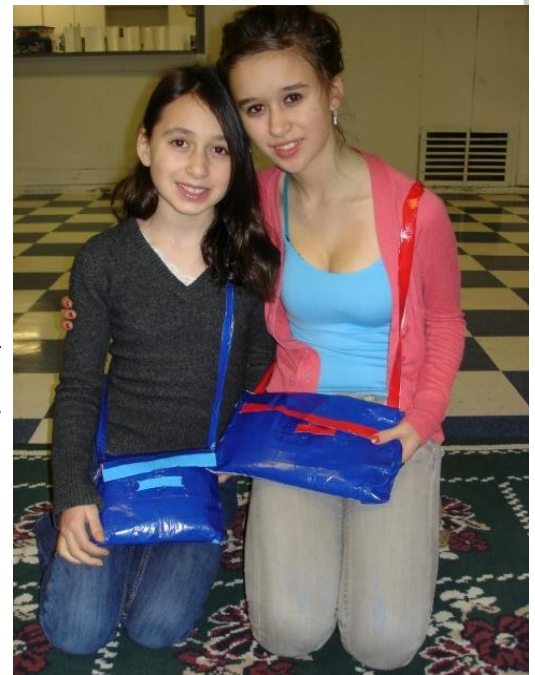
March 13 - "*We Love to Discover*" - In this session participants explore our fifth Source, which "counsels us to heed the guidance of reason and the results of science." In children's language, reason means we listen to what others say, pay attention to what we ourselves see, hear, and feel, and try to figure out what is true. The story "**Dinosaur Bones in New Jersey**" shows how the use of reason and science led to the knowledge that the earth is older than the Bible implies, and human life much newer. Participants explore reason and science as means to answer one of the ultimate religious questions, "How did we get here?"

March 27 - "*Love in Our Congregation*" - The session focuses on the fourth Source of Unitarian Universalism, expressed in children's language as "Jewish and Christian teachings which tell us to love all others as we love ourselves." Jesus called on his followers to live in service to those in need; this service strengthens community. Children hear a story of Jesus' life and explore the concept of community.

April 10 - "*We are Loved, Flaws and All*" - This session focuses on the first Unitarian Universalist Source, "Direct experience of that transcending mystery and wonder, affirmed in all cultures, which moves us to a renewal of the spirit and openness to the forces that create and uphold life," expressed in children's language as "the sense of wonder we all share." Participants consider human nature, with a focus on the wonder and awe of finding beauty in unexpected places. The session affirms that, although humans are imperfect creatures, with work and time and love we can turn our blemishes into strength and beauty. A story illustrates the concept, telling of a gem carver who transforms a deeply scratched diamond by crafting the scratch into a beautiful flower.

Also this day we will bring our **Mystery Buddies** together for a small celebration.

April 24 - "*Celebrating Easter and New Beginnings*". We will have fun during our annual Easter egg decorating session!



Andrea and Amberley display the duct tape purses that Andrea made for Christmas gifts, following our Flexibility session last November

HEIFER PROJECT 2011 Launching and Landing of the Ark

Heifer International is a fund-raising project for the children and also for the whole fellowship. Animals purchased with the funds go to needy families in communities all over the world. We have done this for many years, and each year the children vote on how they want to donate the money collected. Last year they selected a gift basket of a pig, a flock of chicks, a flock of ducks, a flock of goslings, and a hive of bees!

On April 10 during the service we will be introducing this project, doing a Launch (paper ark in a bowl of water), and distributing the collection calendars and ark banks to the children. On May 8, during the service we will **Land the Ark**, and collect the ark banks. At this time, the adults may make their donations to the Heifer Project. During the May 22 Sunday School the children will choose the animal(s) that we will donate depending on the money we have collected.

“Storytelling” & Other Workshops

Storytelling Workshop : “Owning A Story”

As part of the Fellowship’s “Adult Education” series, this workshop will be held at Valleyview Hall on Sunday, April 3rd (9:30 am – 12:30 pm). The workshop is offered by Gerda M.



Come and participate in retelling a story! Camaraderie within a storytelling group fosters innovation buoyed up by support for the teller, active listening skills and entertainment for the audience.

In this workshop basic techniques of storytelling will be explored: character development, setting description and identifying both the problem around which a plot hinges and the turning point. Tactics aiding memory, such as mapping, cartoon drawing and outlining, assist in confident telling of a story.

This will be a participation morning. Tales, fables and myth excerpts will be the genre of stories used because they can be adapted to about 3 to 5 minutes in telling length. Storylines will be supplied. Bring scrap paper and pencil so that you can experiment in the initial drafting of words and/or pictures. The goal is to find how you retell a story in your own words – vitally, sincerely and confidently; hence, you own your own story!

Gerda has taught group and individual storytelling for many years and was a member of TALES (The Alberta League Encouraging Storytelling), Calgary Chapter - see www.ecn.ab.ca/~tales. She is not a professional storyteller, but she participated in the monthly chapter ‘tellarounds’ until she moved to Kamloops in 2005.

Refreshments will be provided, but you may wish to bring a bagged snack for the break. Remember the scrap paper.

Enroll by email or phone to Gerda by Saturday, March 19th.

Liberal theology is not for the faint of heart. It points us in the general direction without telling us the specific destination. It refuses to make our commitments for us, but holds us accountable to the commitments we make....It invites us to live with ambiguity without giving in to facile compromise: to engage in dialogue without trying to control the conversation; to be open to change without accepting change too casually; to take commitment seriously but not blindly; to be engaged in the culture without succumbing to the culture’s values.

Paul Rasor, Minister

Basic Lay Chaplain Training March 26th in Kamloops

The basic lay chaplaincy "condensed training" will look at the three main functions of lay chaplains : officiating at weddings, memorial services / funerals, and child / infant dedications.

Typically, people attend such trainings if they are interested in becoming a lay chaplain, or are on the LC support committee, if they have already been appointed as a LC, or if they simply want to know more about lay chaplaincy.

Trainings are usually set up and sponsored by the CUC, and last 2 full days. This one is being offered because UUFK is ready for a new lay chaplain, as Jan G's term is nearly over; and because there is no training in BC for the next few months, and because we have two people who have expressed interest in being trained.

If others wish to attend, please speak with Rev. Wendy

Worship Skills Workshop Unitarian Fellowship of Kelowna Saturday, April 9th

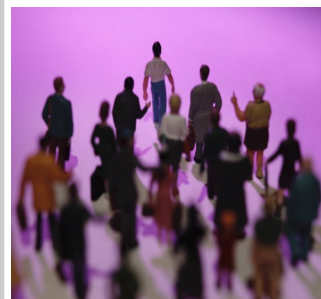
This workshop will be led by UUFK Minister Rev. Wendy McNiven. It will run from approximately 9 am to 4 pm.. (More details to follow)

Location : 1310 Bertram Street, Kelowna

To attend, contact U.F. Kelowna Worship Committee member Marilyn Raymond , or talk to Rev. Wendy.

Leadership Development Workshop North Shore Unitarian Church, West Vancouver March 25-27

This is a bit like a “ mini-version” of the Canadian Universalist Unitarian Leadership Schools — the one-week training that some of our members, such as Joan and Tuula, have attended in recent years.



It is an opportunity for youth and adults to learn some tools for leadership, at a low cost. Home hospitality will be available.

If this is something you would consider attending, please speak to Rev. Wendy

Year End from our President

The Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Kamloops has come through an exciting year of innovation, growth and change. 2010 started with our first celebration dinner, followed by hosting a concert by soprano Kerry Anne Kutz, followed by the installation of Rev. Wendy McNiven as our permanent minister.

Our church welcomed **four new members** who now weave their individual strands into the tapestry of our community. We are all stronger for their presence.

2010 saw the formation of a **Unitarian choir** which provides enjoyment for the participants, as well as adding richness to congregational singing.

Our newly designed website and the establishing of a UU Facebook site launched us further into the world of social media.

We have successfully managed to have a gathering at the Valleyview Hall every Sunday having one “lay led” service, one service by Rev. Wendy, one Chalice Circle and one adult Religious Education program.

The Children’s program thrived with two “*Tapestry of Faith*” programs.

We coordinated a successful “*Sorrento Retreat*” in June

Our monthly Sunday “*Chalice Circles*” saw people enjoy the deepening relationship that comes from knowing one another a little better, knowing something of their lives and what is in their hearts. We enjoy the safety of the confidential structure, the fact that we can talk without being interrupted, or challenged about what we think or disregarded about how we feel. Such a gift!

The high-octane “*Social and Environmental Action Committee*” went full-steam ahead. We are grateful for their vision for a better community and planet, and their dedication to making a difference.

SEA energy and enthusiasm aside, I feel now that we are catching our breath after a breath-taking year. And that’s okay. I feel as though I am coasting to the end of my three year term as president, slowing the ship down as the helm is passed to Dennis Bullen and a new Board who will, no doubt, bring new energy, ideas and direction to the Fellowship.

Simplicity has been a theme in our church the past few months and some people tell me that there is a need to simplify church life. The question we need to continually ask is: “*How do we create a nourishing spiritual home where everyone thrives, and at the same time, maintain a balance and harmony within the context of our personal lives?*” It is an ongoing question with no easy answer except for this - when deciding how you might contribute to the church, think about what would nourish you, what would provide you with an opportunity for growth, what would be a good use of your talents and interests. Church life should replenish us, give more than it takes and I hope we will be ever mindful of that fact.

I thank the congregation for the opportunity to serve as President because through this experience, I have grown as a human being. It has allowed me to learn more about listening, understanding, humility, forgiveness, patience and grace. I got the most out of my time as President when I saw it as personal ministry, an opportunity to connect, to understand, to find the integrity and worth in every person. I am grateful, and feel blessed by all of you.

One of the principles that guided me as President was that, as a church, we need to keep our vision and values in front of us at all times. This helped me to remember that we are a loving community, dedicated to creating a safe spiritual home and liberal religious presence in our community, that whatever our differences of background or manner, we are here to care for each other.

Another principle was that through the power of our silent inner selves, we can visualize, dream and create our reality. My hope is that a practice of going within to visualize the well-being of our church becomes engrained in the fabric of fellowship life.

Another focus of my term as President has been not just to care for church business but to care about the people who do church business. *Who you are and how you are is every bit as important as what you do.* We need everybody pitching-in with their energy, talent, and time – our church could not function without it - but more than that, we need people to be honored and upheld as they do those jobs.



President's Report (con't)

There are many people to thank. First of all, Rev. Wendy McNiven, who mentored me with her intelligence and insight in matters both spiritual and administrative. Wendy, you helped me more than you know.

Thank you to the Board of Directors which I had the privilege of serving with this past year : Dennis B., the Vice President: Tuula H., Treasurer: Christine H., Secretary: Arne R., Shannon H., Jim G. (Members-at-Large). We had some good laughs, good discussions and I am honored to have been able to work with all of you.

Christine and Shannon leave their board work in anticipation of a busy family life ahead. Our hearts are with you!

Jim G. is retiring after having served on the board in every capacity for many years.

"Thank you, Jim" for your support of this church, and most of all your support of me. You deserve a medal.

We have a few retiring committee chairs; creating openings for others to volunteer. Heather S. has stepped down as the chair of the "Adult Religious Education Committee"; Gerda M. from the "Worship Committee"; Heather G. from the "Care and Concerns Committee". I thank them all for their dedication, their loving attention and expertise.

To Penny, Enid, Al, Carole, Jan, Janet, Gerri, Pat, Bob, Bruce, Gerda, Anne, Roland, Chris, Gisela, Mitch, Judy, Kay, Michelle, Marilyn, Scott, Wes, Norm, Jill, David, Coreia, Sharla, Colene, all the Heathers, Eleanors and Wendys- people who help with every aspect of church life from putting on a service, to setting up chairs, making coffee, doing dishes, making soup, cookies, visiting a person in need, hanging a banner, fussing with the flowers, lugging books up and down the stairs, sitting on a committee — please know how much your contributions to create and maintain this Fellowship are appreciated.

I also want to say "Thank you" to Marg W., who is helping the UU's find their singing voice, to Don who lends his voice to ours, to Wendy L., for her work downstairs with the children and to those who have come and gone whose contributions helped build what we have today.

***In friendship and faith,
Joan***



Pausing to Say

FROM ALL OF US AT THE UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST FELLOWSHIP OF KAMLOOPS

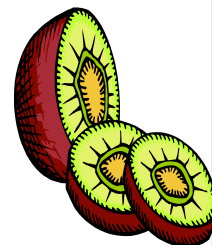
**THANK YOU!, JOAN
FOR THREE YEARS OF
DEDICATED AND
FORWARD-LOOKING
LEADERSHIP**



**WELCOME!, DENNIS
WE ARE LOOKING
FORWARD TO
SUPPORTING YOU AS
YOU TAKE US IN NEW
DIRECTIONS!**

**WELCOME HOME! TO PAST PRESIDENT
HEATHER S. AND LONG-
TIME TREASURER MITCH**

**THIS "DYNAMIC DUO" HAS
JUST RETURNED FROM NEW
ZEALAND, WHERE, THANK-
FULLY, THEY WERE NOT
HURT IN THE EARTHQUAKE**



Unitarian Universalism is

faith in people, hope for tomorrow's children, confidence in a continuity that spans all time. It looks not to a perfect heaven but toward a good earth. It is respectful of the past, but not limited to it. It is trust in growing and conspiracy with change. It is social responsibility for a moral tomorrow. Ed Schempp (activist)

Lenten Lecture Series

Lenten Lecture Series 2011
Paul's Anglican Cathedral (360 Nicola St.,
Kamloops)

Imago Dei *The Image of God*

Thursdays in Lent ; March 10 – April 21
12:15 pm – 12:45pm (Light lunch to follow)

Come and hear a different speaker each week share their perceived and experienced image of God. Hear how this Image has been shaped and formed in their faith, mind and heart; and let that inform, shape and provoke your image and experience of the Holy One.



Speakers

March 10	LeAnn B.
March 17	Louise P.
March 24	Brian P. M.
March 31	Brian K.
April 7	Teri M.
April 14	Mary D.
April 21	Wendy McNiven

For more information, phone (250) 372 - 3912 .

Local, Organic Food Production

If you are looking for sources of locally grown , organic chickens and other meats, here are some suggestions :

- 1) From members of our Fellowship : Dave and Carole. They raise the free-range organically-fed chickens, which are butchered in July and October. The chickens cost \$4.25/lb. . Dave and Carole also sell lamb (and can procure 4-H lamb for you) and apples. Phone : (250) 579—5982
- 2) Terry and Cindy sell chickens. They live in Cherry Creek and will deliver. Phone (250) 314—1007 .
- 3) The “Chop ‘n Block”, which retails chickens.

Spring and Summer

Canadian Unitarian Council

Annual Conference and General Meeting

When : May 20—23, 2011

Where : Toronto

Please let Rev. Wendy know if you are interested in attending this.



Canadian Universalist Unitarian Leadership (CUUL) Development School

This is the “full” CUUL School, which some of our members, such as Joan and Tuula, have attended.

When : July 14-17, 2011

Where : Nanaimo, BC (Bethlehem Retreat Centre)

Costs : \$549 for the first participant from each congregation & \$499 for subsequent registrations (it is recommended that the congregation support 50% of the cost of each registration) This fee includes accommodation, meals, and all activities for this live-in program.

Please let Rev. Wendy know if you are interested in attending.



Eleanor H. of the “Care and Concerns Committee” has been organizing a number of snowshoeing expeditions. Talk to Eleanor, or call her at if you are interested. Don’t put it off too long, though!

Social and Environmental Action News

The “**Power Up to Power Down**” energy conservation challenge was officially launched on January 30th at the Valleyview Hall. Myles G., a Power Smart Specialist with BC Hydro, gave an informative presentation on power usage in BC. We will have a link up on the website soon, so those who were unable to attend can view the slides.

Participants were also given a “Commitment Checklist”, which makes it easy to go through your home and identify areas where small changes can make a difference to power consumption. A link to the checklist will also be available soon on the website, in the SEA committee section.



To keep the energy challenge fun, we’ve promised to host social events called “**Recharges.**” The first one was a potluck at Jan G’s home on February 17. Lots of great food and lively discussion ensued – everything from “*How many watts does a stereo pull in standby mode?*” to “*What is my role on the planet?*” It was fun, and we’ll let you know when the next one is scheduled.

Another SEA event took place at the Neaves’ home on February 15, when a group of UU’s gathered to watch “**Food, Inc.**”, a movie about the North American agri-business. According to one reviewer, this film “lifts the veil on the food industry, exposing how our food supply is now controlled by a handful of corporations that often put profit ahead of consumer health, the livelihood of the farmer, the safety of workers and our own environment.” After seeing this movie, “you’ll never think about dinner the same way again.” A thought-provoking discussion followed, and there was interest in becoming more familiar with local food producers. (SEE INSERT Page 9 for information on local food producers.)

For those of you who want to participate but didn’t get around to registering with BC Hydro PowerSmart in January, it’s not too late! You have a full year to implement changes to reduce your consumption by 10%, so please don’t feel you’ve missed the boat. Give a committee member a call if you are feeling intimidated – we’re here to help! Contact Gisela, Jim, Tuula, Anne, Pat or Jan. If we don’t know the answer, we’ll find out for you! *Gisela*

Helping Hands Needed

Thanks to all our UU Helping Hands who donated their time at the Food Bank in January and February. We packed family-sized hampers, sorted fresh fruits and vegetables, and sorted canned goods - circling expiry dates, checking for dents, and crossing out bar-codes (so clients can't return them to the stores!)

Come and contribute your Helping Hands to these upcoming sessions at the Food Bank, 171 Wilson St, 10 - 11:30 am., with lunch provided.

March 10 - This day they will be receiving a big shipment of canned or packaged goods from various stores. We need helpers to check dents for leaks, to circle expiry dates, to cross out bar-codes, and to sort into boxes.

April 14 - The Food Bank's Spring Food Drive occurs the week before, so there will be lots of canned and packaged goods to deal with, as above.

“Meatless Mondays” Continue

Gisela won the draw for January Meatless Mondays.. Her family dined on Vegetarian Chili, Tofu Parmigiana, Rice & Beans Curry, Mung Bean & Coconut Curry, and Ratatouille & Couscous. The next draw will be at the end of March.



Earth Hour Party

Evening of March 26th at Gisela’s house. Call (250) 374- 1472.

Money Matters

From the Treasurer

A quick note from your Treasurer:

I thought everyone might be interested in pledge statistics for 2011 :

Twenty households pledged to donate monies for the 2011 budget year.



The mean average worked out to \$ 915.00 while the median was \$ 1,500.00. In 2010, the mean was \$ 828.00 and the number of pledging households was the same.

6 households pledged from \$

1 to 500

6 households pledged between \$ 501 and \$ 1000

4 households pledged at \$ 1001 to \$ 1500

4 households pledged between \$ 1501 and \$ 3000

By the way, if you wish to see how the Fellowship is doing at any point during the year, please email me at the-cap@shaw.ca and I will provide you with the most recent financial statements.

I look forward to hearing from you! Tuula

UUFK Garage Sale Fundraiser

When : Saturday , May 7th

Where : Jan. G.'s house in Valleyview

As you declutter your home, basement, garage or shed, please keep and store re-saleable items for the Valleyview Community Garage sale in May.

One week before the sale, Jan will receive your items and store them in her garage. (This means anytime after the May 1st Sunday Service.)

Think about how you can volunteer on May 6 sorting items and on May 7, to set up and take down the displays.

E-Mail Jan, or call her for more information.



A Minister's Work

Editor's Note : On April 9th of last year, Karen Fraser Gilitz was one of the guest speakers at our Covenanting Ceremon, at which we committed to work with Rev. Wendy McNiven for the enrichment and growth of our Fellowship. Part of Karen's message to us at that time was to be aware that our quarter-time contract with Rev. Wendy has special implications. One of these implications is that we must always be vigilant that we are striking a proper balance in what we ask of our Minister.

During the past year, as communications pass back and forth between us, I have often thought that Rev. Wendy — although operating with a part-time contract, works pretty much *full-time* for our Fellowship and the UU movement in Canada.

This thought was confirmed for me when I read Rev. Wendy's Report for our AGM. She does SO MUCH that we are often unaware of. If you haven't already read that report, please do so.

Below, at my request, Wendy gives us a window into her ministerial work. *Thank you, Wendy for your commitment to our Fellowship. Penny*

This past week, I attended a collegial gathering of UU ministers from Alberta and BC. We met on Bowen Island. The value of these gatherings for us as clergy is almost inestimable.

We are each somewhat isolated in our work. For us to have opportunities to share ideas, concerns, successes, and confidences with others doing the same work is life-giving and inspiring. I ALWAYS bring home some new form of nourishment for my work with UUFK, and you have often been the beneficiaries of these collegial feasts.



At this particular gathering, I was a co-leader of the main program, with Rev. Debra Faulk of the Calgary church. It is a workshop called "Whose Are We?" The question is one that each of us can ask ourselves, particularly in relation to our spiritual lives as the underlying drivers of our actions and our relationships.

Individually, the question is "whose are you?" or "whose am I?" The answers that come out of people's mouths range widely - from the very practical (e.g. I am my boss's) to the theological (I am God's, or I am the Earth's) to the prophetic (I am the future's). There are collectively-directed questions, as well as the individual one. With a structured format to explore our responses, and connect them to how these claims on our lives direct us, a rich conversation ensued.

I believe that every effort we can make towards living more conscious and considered lives can help to make our corner of the world, our circle of relationships and responsibilities, stronger and more alive. This "whose are we?" conversation is one that I hope to engage within our Fellowship, sometime in the not too distant future. Wendy

Book Clubs, Lunches and other things

Morning Book Club

Generally, the A.M. Book Club meets on the third Thursday of the month at 10 a.m.. In MARCH, however, it will be the FOURTH Thursday. The location changes each month.

Here is the book line-up for March 2011 through June 2011.

March 24 : Shanataram by Gregory David Roberts; the host is Suzanne.

April 21 - Book Club set - either Some Sunny Day or Secret River (Mitch & Heather choose). Reserve and have books ready to distribute at March 24th book club meeting. Stefaneks hosts/leads. Mitch and Heather will choose, reserve, and have books ready for this meeting.

May 19 - The Year of Finding Memory by Judy Fong Bates. TNRD 1 c. Host - TBA; Mona can lead over speaker phone from Clearwater.

June 16 - choose next year's books



Evening Book Club

Generally, the P.M. Book Club meets on the last Friday of the month at 7:15 p.m.. The location changes each month.

The next PM Book Club meeting is on Friday, April 1st at Norah A's house. Phone Norah for more details. The book to be discussed is After the Falls by Catherine Gildiner.

Anyone wanting to join or seeking info. can phone Enid .

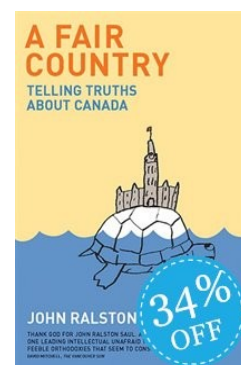
"A Fair Country" Study Group

Where : UU Reading Room, KUC

When : Thursday, March 3 at 10 : 00 a.m.

What : Lively and informative discussions of John Ralston Saul's best-seller, "*A Fair Country*"

Who : Everyone is welcome.



GoldMine 2011

**Youth Leadership School July 24-30, 2011
Bremerton, WA : Kitsap UU Fellowship**

"These six days will change your life and your community!"

An intense six-day school for youth where you will:
Develop your personal creed ; **Deepen** your knowledge of **Unitarian Universalists'** challenging religious heritage and values ; **Expand** your skills for growing healthy groups ; **Explore** paths of worship ; **Hone** leadership skills so you can better heal our world ; **Learn** to be a better leader and communicator.

Interested : Talk to Rev. Wendy

Munch with the Minister

Bring your brown bag lunch, and come and join Rev. Wendy and others for a friendly and lively discussion.

"Munch with the Minister" is held from noon until 1:30 p.m. on the Friday of the week during which Rev. Wendy is in Kamloops. The group meets in the UU Reading Room,

Join us in March on Friday, March 25th (noon - 1:30 pm) and in April on Friday, April 22nd (same times) .

ALL ARE WELCOME!



UU Women's Lunch

Wednesday March 9 at noon.
Chilli King, 330 Victoria Street. North side of street — a misnomer for a restaurant featuring Malaysian, Thai and Chinese. Buffet available
Please RSVP to Gerri McNally by Monday, March 7th

UU Men's Lunch

March : There will be no UU Men's Lunch in March

April : Tuesday, April 13th. Red Robin Restaurant in the Summit Shopping Centre on West Columbia St.