



Seeking Spirituality
Practicing Community



With Freedom of
Religious Thought

UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST FELLOWSHIP OF KAMLOOPS

Kuuf Links

Wendy's Words & Whereabouts

Did you know that 50 years ago this month, bubble-wrap was invented? That great insulator, stress-reducer, textured wall paper and multi-purpose fabric. (Yes, someone used it to make a wedding dress at least once.) This is a testament to human creativity – people are capable of inventing such amazing things!

But did we really need bubble wrap?

It draws me to wonder how people decide to what our creativity will be directed. Or DO we decide? – maybe the creative impulse just happens.

I want it to happen in a way that feeds into the real needs of the real world.

On the same day that CBC told me about bubble wrap, I heard that something like 70% of Inuit pre-school children go to school hungry each day. What a shocking statistic – that in Nunavut, *in Canada*, one of the wealthiest nations in the world, there is this level of poverty. How can I make anything meaningful out of this fact?

I believe the first response has to be some level of connection with the persons affected. Connection will feed our compassion. We respond to the situation in Haiti out of our feelings of compassion – and these are at least partly enhanced by the close and clever television coverage of stories of *indi-*

I know that there are opportunities to make a human connection with people at different, less comfortable situations

It is much more likely that you or I will respond to an individual's story than to a statistic like "200,000 people killed" – because we are capable of feeling connected with an individual's story.

Nunavut is far away from my home, almost as far as Haiti, so I am unlikely to be able to have any direct influence no matter how strongly I feel pulled to help fix it.

Maybe there is something closer to hand I can help "fix" – like poverty as it is expressed in Kamloops or Kelowna, for example. Even there, I feel a distance – because I live in great comfort, and have never known real hunger. But I know that there are opportunities to make a human connection with people in different, less comfortable situations than mine. Perhaps that is the way to help.

It begins with connection.

Shalom, Wendy

Wendy's Contact Information

I will be in Kamloops from Friday, Feb. 12th until Monday, Feb. 15

My telephone in Kamloops: 250-819-5777

e-mail: wmeniven @ telus.net

I will be staying with Gerri c/o Stefaneks' house.

My February schedule as of this writing:

Friday Noon – MUNCH WITH THE MINISTER (see Page 10)

Friday – Ministerial Relations Committee 3:20 pm

Saturday 3:30 p.m. – Singing Practice – all welcome at the Gaunce home

Sunday morning service – bring a friend!

Monday 15th – as yet unscheduled

Other meetings will be filled in as they come to my attention.

PLEASE ASK FOR A PIECE OF MY TIME if you would enjoy a visit, or wish to talk with me about anything. This means YOU!

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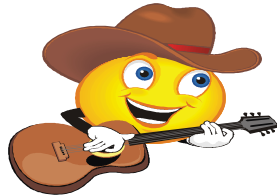
President's Message

On January 23, the Board of Directors of the UUFK hosted their first ever "Celebration /Pledge Drive Dinner". I think all agree, it was a big success.

Will there be a second annual....? Probably!

Several "Thank You's" are due. First to the cooks and organizers, Dennis, Tuula, Jim, Enid and myself!. We have a real 'can do' team here and it was a pleasure to work with them. Also, thanks to Mike Gladman (Wendy's husband), Wendy and Janet for their rendition of "If We Were A Rich Church." (see the words on Page 9 of this newsletter) .

I wanted to call them Mike and the Mikettes , but that idea didn't seem to catch on. I also want to thank the Vancouver Unitarian Church from whom the idea for the song came.



Maybe you noticed our new banner on the back wall? That was lovingly made for us by Annelise Iversen, and given as a gift to the Fellowship. Thank you Annelise.

At this event, we were not just celebrating our successful pledge drive, but many years of success. Our Fellowship -- that started with a handful of people, is now thriving in many areas , and holds a permanent place in the community. This is thanks to so many people -- some who have come and gone, whose contributions have helped build what we have today.

It was noted that it was in January, some fifteen years ago, that we had our first service in the Valleyview Hall. While we sometimes grouse about the inadequacies of the hall and long for a place of our own, the Valleyview Hall has served us well and for that we continue to be grateful.

We are now starting to think about the UU retreat weekend in Sorrento in June. We are looking for a small team of people to help make this the best weekend ever. Fortunately, Rev. Wendy is available to guide us with some ideas and, of course, we want to tap the talent of our congregation. If you have never been to a Sorrento retreat, I hope you will consider joining us this year.

Blessings all,
Joan

New Hymn Books Purchased

The Board has purchased copies of each of our hymn books, "*Singing the Living Tradition*" (black) and "*Singing The Journey*" (green).

They are available now for use during services. However, if you wish to own a copy of either of these wonderful books, they can be purchased from the Fellowship for \$25 -"*Singing The Journey*" and \$35 - "*Singing the Living Tradition*". (This covers

Care and Concerns

Birthdays

Would you like to celebrate your birthday with the UUFK?

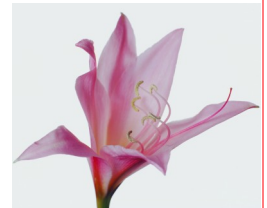


If you answered in the affirmative and we don't know the date of your birthday--there is already a current listing--please let Eleanor Hancock know the date of your "special" day and we will acknowledge it.

We realize that some people prefer not to have their birthday celebrated by the UU's. If you are one of those folks, please let us know that as well!

"In Memory Of..."

Each Sunday at the service at the Unitarian Church of Montreal there is a flower arrangement "in memory of" a relative or relatives of a member or friend of the congregation. The name of this relative is published in the "Order of Service" each week.



Do you think this would be a good practice for our Fellowship?

It wouldn't have to be an arrangement of flowers. It could be a potted plant or flowers of any kind which would add to the ambiance of our service.

A list would be kept of the people who want to bring flowers to our 2nd and 4th Sunday services.

If, indeed, the flowers are "in memory" of someone, then his or her name would be printed in the order of service.

Please call Heather Gaunce if you would like to do this.

Submitted by Heather Gaunce for Care and Concerns Committee: Eleanor H., Pat McN., Heather G.

Singing Practice



For the purposes of practicing the songs for the Sunday, February 14th service, Wendy McNiven will lead a singing session on Saturday afternoon, February 13th . 3:30 p.m. at the Gaunce home.

ALL are welcome.

Getting to Know You

This month's "star" in our "Getting to Know You" series is Eleanor G.



paid adequately. More necessarily enough to feed our large family.

I still feel that the happiest times of my childhood were when he played his violin. It certainly instilled my love for music. And I was so very proud of my brothers, who made up the bulk of the local hockey & baseball teams .

In 1938, we moved to my grandfather's place in Mission. I will never forget the thrill I felt over the beauty of B.C.. I was totally awestruck by the flowers, fruit trees & endless produce at Grandpa's place & I thought that weeping willow trees were simply magical.

We grew up there, & in my late teens, my first job was working in a cannery, 10 hours a day, for 41 cents an hour. It was great to get back to school after sorting , strawberries, canning peaches & pears etc. .

Eventually, I met my future husband, who was in the R.C.A.F & stationed at Abbotsford. Our marriage gave me a 6 year old stepson & we gave him 5 siblings. Our first home was at Zeballos on Vancouver Island, where he was the local photographer & shared a partnership with his brother-in-law in the local movie theatre, as well as being employed at Privateer Gold Mine.

It was quite an adventure living there. The S. S. Macquinna came in every ten days, bringing passengers, mail, & hopefully fresh produce. Fresh milk was unheard of. Incidentally, the local grocery store was owned by Eleanor Hancock's family!

We then moved to Kelowna , where we added two sons to our family. After living at the wet coast, where the rain was known to amount to 300 inches a year, we luxuriated in the endless sunshine & the wonderful Okanagan Lake. Doug worked for McGavin Bakeries & was transferred to Kamloops in 1955.

Busy, busy years followed, with the arrival of our 2 daughters & one more son. I now wonder just where the energy came from!

My husband Doug was an excellent craftsman, & he built Sabot Sail Boats & taught us all to sail . I even sewed the sails on my new Elna sewing machine. Our family still recalls the many lovely weekends & holidays camping and sailing at the lake every summer.

The big change in my life happened when, sadly, Doug passed away in 1996. I stayed in our Valleyview home for another 6

years. After living there for 47 years - - it was time to leave the big house & half acre of lawn & garden & move to an apartment. No garden, no weeds to pull, no snow to shovel. New life style & it suits me fine.

I came to a Unitarian Service, at the invitation of Eleanor Hancock about 11 years ago.

I was thoroughly disenchanted with every other Faith, but I have found religious freedom, warmth, & acceptance & wonderful friends, so I became a member & the best part is that I no longer feel like a miserable sinner!

I am in my 80's now, & find myself not really able to participate in many activities. It seems to be slow down time. I have 21 grandchildren & 14 great ones. Life is great, & I plan to stick around a while longer!
Written by Eleanor Gordon

Editor's Note :

For privacy reasons, I try not to put both the first and last names of our "star" in the same place. Just because this goes on the Internet.



Editor's Note :

As you see from the above, both of our Eleanors have spent important parts of their lives on Vancouver Island's West Coast.

If you would like to get the "flavor" of what this life was like, check out Eleanor Hancock's book : "Salt Chuck Sto-

Committees within our Fellowship

Our church is run by willing volunteers who contribute their time, talent and energy in its operations. When responsibilities are shared – when everyone does their part, the congregation thrives.

We invite everyone to review the descriptions of the Committees that have been developed to distribute the tasks, and see where you might like to make your contribution.

Sign-up time will be at the AGM on February 28th.

Membership and Growth

Mandate : To welcome and provide orientation to new members and friends of the Fellowship , and to develop ways to encourage new members



Current Chair : Joan Gordon

Care and Concern

Mandate :

To support the well-being of existing members and friends of the Fellowship ; to organize celebrations of special occasions



Current Chair : Heather G.

Lay Chaplains Support

Mandate : Supports the Lay Chaplains in fulfilling their duties. Those duties include performing “rites of passage” for the public and for the congregation in the absence of a Minister.



Current Chair : Kay Thompson

Lifespan Learning



Mandate : Co-ordinates, facilitates and promotes religious education opportunities for children, youth and adults.

Current Chair : Heather Stefanek

Sunday Services



Mandate : Co-ordinates and oversees all aspects of Sunday Services

Current Chair : Gerda Morrow

Music Team

Mandate : To provide music for Sunday worship services



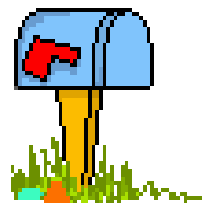
Current Chair : Anne Neave

Committees of our Fellowship

Sharing the Work and the Wealth of our Fellowship

Communication Tasks

Mandate : Co-ordinates and facilitates communication within the Fellowship and in the community



Current Chair : (No "chair" is needed for this Committee)

People working on various tasks : Wes C. , Anne N. ; Roland N. ; G. McNally; J. Kusler ; Penny

Finance



Mandate : To manage the financial affairs of the Fellowship

Current Chair : Mitch S.

Detailed information on the individual committees is available from the Committee Chairs or from Joan Gordon.

Please seek one of these people out, and offer to serve.

Social and Environmental Action (SEAC)

Mandate : Recommends to the Board social responsibility education and activity consistent with the values and principles of the Fellowship. Implements these recommendations in the community



Current Chairs : Jan G. ; Anne N.

Ministerial Relations

Mandate : The Ministerial Relations Committee is charged with assisting the minister to effectively care for her congregation.



Current Chair : Janet Kusler

TEST YOUR KNOWLEDGE!

Question 1 : Name three members / friends of the UUFK who have lived in South America.

Question 2 : Name the other Minister in our group.

ANSWERS TO "TEST YOUR KNOWLEDGE!"

Turn this page upside down to read the answers.....

Question 1 : Gisela Ruckert ; Michelle Kennedy , Carla Bravo
Question 2 : Bob Thompson

Upcoming Events

Annual General Meeting (AGM) of the UUFK

- What** : The Annual General Meeting of the Unitarian Universalist of Kamloops
- Where** : Valleyview Hall
- When** : Directly after the February 28th Worship Service
- Who** : All members, adherents and friends
- Why** : So that everyone can have a part in making the decisions which will set the course of our Fellowship over the upcoming year.

Our Annual General Meeting will be held on February 28th, after the Worship Service.



In preparation for this meeting, an outline of the various Fellowship committees and their functions has been presented in this newsletter (see pages 5 &6). Members and adherents can think about where they would like to make their contributions.

The goal is never to make work. Rather, the goal is to manage the Fellowship in the simplest and most effective way possible and in a way that nurtures those who work on its behalf.

Also in preparation for the AGM, our new Treasurer and the Finance Committee has been working hard to come up with a proposed budget for the 2010 year. This **2010 Budget Proposal** will be presented at the AGM, and your input/advice is sought concerning it.

Come and have your voice be heard about the directions which our Fellowship will take over the upcoming year.

March Workshop on Monologues

- When** : Saturday , March 27
- Where** : Gerda Morrow's East Juniper Home
- What** : "Monologues : encouraging a quick study"
- Who** : First ten people to register

In preparing a homily or a short welcome, monologue experience allows the speaker to think on his or her feet and only refer to the prepared speaking notes.

This type of monologue technique is particularly helpful to essay writers who avoid outline preparation before or after the written text.

This technique facilitates finding the "river of thoughts", revealing the underlying outline and aiding eye contact. Plus, it's fun and develops rapport with the other participants – always good for confidence building!

Texts, tea and coffee will be supplied. Bring your bag lunch, pencil, scrap paper, water bottle and your desire to open to the unexpected.

This workshop is facilitated by semi-retired Speech and Drama Instructor, Gerda Morrow BA (Eng/Ling), ARCT (Speech & Drama) and Body-Mind Centering® practitioner. Workshop will be at Gerda's East Juniper home from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. on Saturday, March 27. Limited to

Training for Small Group facilitators

So far, I have only a small number of people who have responded to this offering. It still stands ... and when it's time, we will proceed! I will offer a short (2 hours) training session for people who are willing to facilitate groups for one of our First-Sunday Circles. You would be given a sort of script and outline of pertinent questions. If this is something that you think you would enjoy and could offer, please speak to Rev. Wendy or Joan Gordon.

ADVANCE NOTICE

Covenanting Service for Rev. Wendy McNiven

A covenanting service for Rev. Wendy McNiven will be held on Friday, April 9th, in the EVENING.

This is a very special time for UUFK - the first time in our history where we have our very own minister with whom we are making an ongoing commitment to each other.

Please mark your calendars and plan to attend this special ceremony.

SORRENTO — 2010

The UUFK is hosting the Sorrento Family Retreat this year : June 11, 12, 13th. This retreat weekend is a long-standing tradition shared with the Kelowna Unitarian Fellowship.

The Sorrento weekend is an opportunity to meet Unitarians from other congregations -- to explore, create and laugh together.

It is for people of all ages and stages. Details of the program will be available in a few months.

Last year, Kelowna was the host church and this year it is our turn to facilitate this event.

In the meantime, we need a few people to form an organizational committee responsible for registration and developing a fun and inspiring program.

This can be a lot of fun, creative and inspiring. It is an opportunity to tap into the many talents of our group. If you are new to our Fellowship, it is a good way to get involved.

Please contact Joan if you are willing to help out. Thanks.



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Continuing Education Opportunity

The Editor of "Kuuf Links", Penny, would like to begin training another person in the use of the desk-top publishing programme which we use to produce the Newsletter.

Interested persons will be loaned, from the Fellowship, the tools they need . Please talk to Joan G. or Penny B. if you would like to learn..

Planks from the Board

The first meeting of the new year was held Jan 8th. The second is to be held Feb 5th , so this report may be "old news" by the time you read it. What I can say with some confidence is that:

Our congregation's contract with Rev. Wendy McNiven has been pretty much settled upon to the satisfaction of all. Once it has been inked by the parties, we will start planning a celebration and investiture of some sort.

Treasurer Tuula has presented the draft year end financials and they show a handsome profit" for the 2009 year. ...a wonderful outcome considering the uncertain world wide financial situation at the start of the period.

We are looking at hosting a public concert in the Spring which will feature the music of Kerri-Anne Kutz a Unitarian song writer and balladeer who is on a North American tour. If the decision is to proceed there will be further mention of it in this edition , I am sure.

There have been suggestions that even though we spent \$450 on improving it last year, our Website is still not as attractive or user friendly as it should be. Certainly we seem to be gaining the attention of others more through the internet than through the newspaper.

Anne Neave has done a great deal of research into church websites and a small committee has been assigned to describe just what a redesigned web site would look like.

Childrens RE has been changed with a new more easily presented curriculum being adopted for the under 5yr olds.

Jim Gordon, Secretary

Canadian Unitarian Council

2010 Annual Conference and Meeting

Theme of the Meeting "*How Shall We Live?*"

Hosted by the First Unitarian Church of Victoria May 21—24, 2010

Are you looking for an enjoyable weekend ?

Meet new and longtime friends this May long weekend in Victoria, at the Annual Conference and Meeting of the Canadian Unitarian Universalist Council.

There are workshops, singing, laughter and the business of how we UUs practice our various ways of spiritual and reasoned lives.

For more information, talk to Jan. G. Or go the website www.cuc.ca , link to ACM2010



“If We Were a Rich Church”

Music by Jerry Bock, 1964 from *“Fiddler On The Roof”*

Lyrics adapted by Joan Gordon, Jan. 2010

(sung to the tune of *If I Were A Rich Man*)

(This is the song performed by Mike, Wendy and Janet at the Celebration Dinner on January 23rd.)

If we were a rich church,
Yubby dibby dibby dibby dibby dibby dum

All day long we'd do amazing things

If we were a wealthy church

Wouldn't need a pledge drive,

Yubby dibby dibby dibby dibby dibby
dibby dum

If we were a very rich church,

A very, very very rich church.

We'd build a big strong church where
all would be welcome

Right in the middle of the town

A UU sign for everyone to see

We'd be the soul and conscience of the city

Our chalice burning all the time

We'd even have a home for refugees

If we were a rich church

Yubby dibby dibby dibby dibby dibby dum

All day long we'd help to heal the world

If we were a wealthy church.

Wouldn't have to fund raise

Yubby dibby dibby dibby dibby dibby dum

If we were a very rich church

A very, very very rich church

We'd have dual flush toilets in every bathroom,

Solar panels on the roof

Geothermal energy to spare

And on our grounds we'd grow organic produce

To give to the hungry all around

And we'd have offices with windows that opened

And rooms for silent reverie

Our church would be a sacred meeting hall

And in our sanctuary we'd have a grand
piano

And stained glass windows just for show

That would be the sweetest thing of all.



If we were a rich church

Yubby dibby dibby dibby dibby dibby dum

We'd have Wendy seven days a week

If we were a wealthy church

Wouldn't have to move chairs

Yubby dibby dibby dibby dibby dibby dum

If we were a very rich church

A very, very very wealthy church

But we have children and families and lots of friends

Who honour each other's spiritual call

Free to follow where our hearts may lie

And we can dance all traditions and sing our blessings

Look after each other when in need

There are things that money just can't buy.

We are such a rich church

Yubby dibby dibby dibby dibby dibby dum

We know what our community is worth

Because we are a wealthy church.

Let us all rejoice now

Yubby dibby dibby dibby dibby dibby dum

Our spirit makes us a very rich church

A very, wealthy spirit in our church



The warmest “THANK YOU’s” to the Board for putting on the Celebration Dinner!!!

Lunches , Book Clubs & Other Things

UU Men's Lunch

Lynx Grill , 1200 Summit Drive

[corner of Summit and Columbia St. - old Urban Couch / Bugaboo Creek Restaurant]

on Wednesday, February 17th at noon.



UU Women's Lunch

The February Women's Lunch will be on Monday, February 22nd, at 12:30 p.m. at the Chinese restaurant "Lucky Yeung", 775 W. Columbia St.

Lenten Lecture Series 2010

St. Paul's Anglican Cathedral 360 Nicola St.

Thursdays in Lent at 12:15 pm

Lunch to follow in Hall

Come and hear speakers reflect on writers, poets and artists who have helped shape their understanding of God

February 18: Brian Krushel will speak on: **Bruce Cockburn**

February 25: Carolyn Ronald will speak on: **Margaret Laurence**

March 4: Dan Hines will speak on: **Albert Camus**

March 11: Barbara Andrews will speak on: **Barbara Brown Taylor**

March 18: Gary Paterson will speak on: **Alice Munro**

March 25: LeAnn Blackert will speak on: **Dr. Seuss**

April 1: Brian Puida Mitchell: **Rumi**

Morning Book Club

The Morning Book Club will meet this month on Thursday, Feb. 18, 10 am, at the Neaves .

There have been changes in the book titles for the upcoming year. Please see below :

February: *"What the Body Remembers "* by Shauna Singh Baldwin . Led by Anne

March: *"The Book of Negroes "* by Lawrence Hill

April *"Ireland : a novel* by Frank Delaney

May: *"Still Alice"* by Lisa Genova

June: Planning for the coming year.

New participants are welcome. Talk to Gerda, Anne, or Kay if you are interested.



Evening Book Club

The Evening Book Club will meet on Friday, Feb. 26 at 7:15. It will be at Jane's : #30 - 137 McGill Road. (Phone : 372 - 3690. The selection is *"The Guernsey Literary and Potato Peel Pie Society"* .

New members are wanted! Please talk to Enid or Wes for more information.

February : *"The Guernsey Literary and Potato Peel Pie Society"* by Mary Ann Shaffer and Annie Barrow. Led by Penny .

March : *"Saving a Fish from Drowning"* by Amy Tan

April : *"The Lost Symbol"* by Dan Brown

An Unbeatable Offer!

Chris' Pyett has offered to install low-flush toilets and water saving devices like shower heads and toilet adaptors in return for a **donation to the UUFK.**



In other words, he does the work ; the person making the donation gets a tax receipt ; the UUFK gets the money, and the world benefits!!

Contact Chris at the-cap@shaw.ca

Munch with the Minister

Friday, February 12 at noon

in the UUFK Reading Room (Room 216 — 2nd floor of the Kamloops United Church)

Bring your bag lunch & join us for tea and conversation.

Always a good exchange of ideas and laughter.

ALL ARE WELCOME!

Contact Rev. Wendy if you need more information.

