



The Signal

Unitarian Fellowship of Kelowna Newsletter
June 2009

Upcoming Services

Sunday, June 7th: “Celebrating the value of each person: Flower Communion Sunday”

Come celebrate our community! Our annual Flower Communion Sunday is an intergenerational service featuring our children and all of us as valued participants in a diverse community. We will also recognize this year’s RE leaders. **DO REMEMBER TO BRING A FLOWER TO SHARE!**

This is our monthly Community Sunday. Our special collection will be for the Elizabeth Frye Society, established by a Unitarian congregation in Ontario. Do plan to stay for lunch! Join Rev. Linda at the front table if you want to learn a bit more about us before committing to membership.

Sunday, June 14th – “A World in Process” -Rev. Dr. Linda Weaver Horton
Process Theology (or philosophy) has become a place of common ground for Unitarians and UUs from many perspectives. We rejoice in a world in motion, a world of possibility, a world that grows and evolves, a world in which we are co-creators. This Sunday we will recognize at least six new Members who have joined our congregation in the past months (you still have time to contact Rev. Linda and request your name be added!).

Sunday, June 21st – "Why Fathers End Up with Grey Hair (or none at all) -- Rick Hardman and friends

There's no more important role any man can ever play than being a father to his children. It is his legacy but the how and the why's are too often misunderstood. Let's consider some factors that shape, or challenge, our ability to be a good dad.

We are grateful to Rick for organizing a Father's Day service while many of the congregation are away at Sorrento Family Camp. Come be in community this mid-summer day.

Sunday, June 28th – Our Annual All-Church outdoor service and picnic

Louise McKenzie has agreed to organize a short circle service at Kinsman Park, after which we will picnic, play frisbee (or whatever you bring!), and enjoy each others' company. There is a playground for the children.

Minister's Musings

Where does your hope come from?

A deep and abiding sense of hope as we face the challenges of our lives and these uncertain times comes from different places for each of us. Three roots of hope that religious traditions tend to draw from, with differing emphases and understandings, are 1) hope rooted in the stability of ongoing wisdom, inspiration, and web of connections that we carry forward from the past; 2) hope springing out of a sense of aliveness and connectedness in the present moment's experience; and 3) a hope that is future oriented, drawing energy from the realm of possibility. According to psychological studies of people from different faith traditions, Unitarian*Universalists tend to be possibility-oriented. We are more likely to believe that the future need not repeat the past, and to be open to novelty in many dimensions of experience. Creativity and evolution are important and central concepts in our view of the universe (I'll be exploring that more on June 14th).

Many of us in recent decades have been motivated to give more attention to being in the present moment, whether through exploring a Buddhist practice or an Earth-centered path. There have been, increasingly, efforts to articulate that "presence" is as important as "possibility" to our spiritual sustenance.

We may be less clear about the dimension of "stability" – the ways in which the past informs and strengthens our present community. Yet ours is a rich tradition in its courageous exemplars and creative ideas, and we can certainly find inspiration and hope in the numerous ways these contributed to the evolution of a more humane and tolerant society in the places they called home.

How we see our church community will be shaped by our relationship to these three dimensions of hope. If stability is most important, we tend to create a "sanctuary" church – a protected place to retreat from the trial of the world and regroup amid accepting kindred folk. If the "present time" dimension is most important, then the depth and aliveness of our here-and-now experiences,

especially worship, will be a focus. If creative possibility is central, the church will partner the world, reaching out both inclusively and to make a difference in society, for we know the “commonwealth of the holy” is yet to be fully born. I would encourage us to recognize that all three dimensions are important, and that everyone will not prioritize them the same way.

This past week, I found myself seeing the power that holds all three dimensions together in a “friend” who is no more – a hundred-year-old elm tree that towered 4 stories over our back deck giving it a lovely ambiance as well as shade in the summer. Unfortunately, its roots were in our neighbours’ soil, and they wanted a bigger garage. A long-lived tree holds stability from the past, aliveness in the present, and growth into the future in a dynamic, grounded wholeness that calms and inspires me.

As we look at future possibilities for our church property, I find myself hoping we can preserve our trees, especially the two chestnuts. Chestnuts are very long-lived, although chestnut blight wiped out most of those native to the US some decades back. Ours are Chinese chestnuts I believe (branching trunks), so not endangered, but they could easily outlive us all.

What symbolizes hope for you? What balance of stability, aliveness, and possibility do you find most nourishing?

In Faith, Rev. Linda

Religious Exploration

Children's Program

Both our Green and Yellow groups have been exploring themes from a program called “Worth and Dignity of all People” looking at how we can better respect people who are often marginalized as a result of disability, racism, sexism and other forms of diversity. In addition, both groups have done a bit of gardening. A warm thank you to all the adults and youth who have helped lead the program this year. Be sure to come on June 7th so we can thank you in person! If you would like to contribute towards our vision for the next 1-3 years, you will have an opportunity on May 31st after the service.

Youth

Our Coming-of-age program concluded on May24th with a service honouring the four youth: Denise Nielsen, Sara Osachoff, Cody Sebo, and Garnet Tanner. Denise helped Rev. Linda find some contemporary music to include, and we would like to

do more of that in the future. We are planning to send at least one teen to the Goldmine Youth Leadership School in the Seattle area this July, and hope to offer some youth activities this summer.

Adults

Our Spring small group ministries included a “Wellness Circle”, that has focussed upon supporting those of us wanting to become more healthy in body or spirit. It finishes June 8th. The “Woman’s Circle” met all year, concluding with a service on Mother’s Day. Ideas and offers of leadership for next year’s program are welcome (contact Rev. Linda or Marilyn Raymond).

President's Message

I am starting to write this message in Friday, May 15. What a wonderful day. At last it feels to me that summer is on its way. I do hope so, as the only thing that seems to be growing in my garden are the weeds. My challenge this past week has been to buy another computer and get it loaded. My previous one crashed last weekend. So ... should any of you have sent me a message to which I have not responded, this is the reason. So please call or email me again and I will reply. But having said that, I will be out of the province for most of June and Wayne Broughton, our vice president, will be around for that time. Not having an email connection made me realise how reliant I have become on the service for keeping me in touch with family, friends and also for doing business on a quick and easy basis. And now I understand that email is passe and texting is one way to go.

There has been a lot of activity at the church this past month. The yard sale, and the goods and services auction --see elsewhere for write ups. Next, we have our street cleanup and then in June there is Sorrento. Your board will be having its annual day retreat on May 24 and one of the topics on the agenda will be looking at our size and the transitions we will go through as we grow. I.e. moving from a family sized church to a pastoral one.

We are happy to welcome Kelly Hamilton as our new gardener, she has several ideas about what needs to be done outside, so keep a lookout.

Namaste, Maggie

Hospitality and Membership

Thinking of joining this congregation? There will be a new Member recognition on June 14th, so do give Rev. Linda a call and come in for a chat if you are feeling at home here and are considering a deeper commitment. On June 7th over lunch, Rev. Linda will be available to give a brief introduction to the U*U tradition and this church, and answer any questions you may have.

A warm welcome to Rita Parker and Gwen Phillips, who were confirmed as Members by the Board at its May meeting, and to new Friend Andrea Farrell. There will be an update of contact information included in the summer Signal.

Green Sanctuary

GREEN OBSERVATIONS FROM THE NETHERLAND by Gwen Steele
Last month I was fortunate to spend three weeks traveling in the Netherlands. I went to visit my son, to see the largest bulb garden in the world, and to observe "green" practices in another country. Being with Duncan was super special. The bulb gardens were enormous and amazing. I loved all the canals and the sense of peace that the water provided. The thing that really fascinated me were the bicycles and all the culture surrounding them. Bicycles are the number one mode of transportation everywhere. There are dedicated two way (with a painted line down the middle) cycle roads everywhere and traffic lights specifically for bicycles in addition to vehicle and pedestrian lights. Bicycles have the right of way over both vehicles and pedestrians. Everyone rides upright bikes and no one wears a helmet (except the occasional latex suited bike racer seen only on weekends!) Rush hour is bicycles with everyone moving along at a sedate pace. Parkades in cities are for bicycles. I never saw a car parkade. There are two tiered bikes racks outside the train stations for commuters - in Amsterdam there was a huge 3 level parkade for bikes and it was packed. It pays to decorate your bike with plastic flowers or funny paint so you can find it in the mob! I was always able to tell when I was near a local supermarket - masses of bicycles were parked outside - no evidence of anywhere to park cars! People are very adept at carrying all manner of things on their bikes. Groceries are a piece of cake compared to balancing a large box containing a stereo on your rat trap! The rat traps are often used to "double" a friend sitting side saddle. Once I got used to it, Duncan "doubled" to me lots of places but unlike the locals, I needed a small cushion for going over the bumpy cobblestone roads! Family bikes have many ways to carry children - in front of the handlebars, behind them and on the back. Some also have a fancy wooden cart in the front, with articulated wheels, that can sit up to four children and/or carry parcels. I also saw a few bicycles that had very large low sided boxes in front like a

utility trailer - one belonged to a professional gardener and another was being used to deliver beer kegs. People cycle in whatever clothes they will work in including three piece suits and fancy dresses and high heels! Life in Holland seemed to move at a bicycle pace rather than a car pace. I was much more aware of people because I could see and hear them on the bicycles instead of being hidden in cars. The air was free of exhaust fumes and the only "honking" was the occasional ringing of a bicycle bell.

Additional green observations: Clotheslines and indoor drying racks are prominent - electricity glutton clothes dryers are far less common than home. Wind farms - especially evident in the north east, are producing more and more of Netherlands power. As anywhere, there are those who do not want them. Much of public transportation is electric including trains - and there is a huge amount of very efficient public transit in the cities and throughout the country. Hot water is heated on demand - much more efficient than our constantly heated huge tanks. Large apartment buildings often have large retractable sun awnings built-in over all windows and operated by the occupants from inside.

Life is more in balance - everyone gets 5 weeks annual holiday right from when they join the workforce no matter who they work for. At age 50 you get one more day for each year that you continue working. I saw many people of all ages and nationalities but saw very few people who were overweight. I found the cities I visited to be pleasantly dense. Buildings are mostly not above five stories. There is lots of interaction in the squares, parks, green spaces and school playgrounds that are everywhere. Streets are often very narrow and sometimes restricted to bikes and pedestrians - those felt especially friendly and pleasant! Living space tends to be much more compact and efficient than ours. In the cities and towns there were enormous deciduous trees everywhere which provide a lovely sense of nature and maturity. They were full of singing birds and I'm sure they provide welcome shade on hot days. There were very old, well established community gardens around the cities. I think some plots are handed down through families. Often the plots would include a quaint hut - sometimes big enough to roll out your bedroll! Unfortunately I never had the opportunity to quizz an English speaking gardener to answer my many questions!! In Haarlem the Community Garden was surrounded with a high fence and a locked gate. Five retired men who are master gardeners each take a week at a time to be the resident advice giver, to open the gate in the early morning and lock it at dusk as well as to feed the garden cat, "Binksie". Often adjacent to a community garden, there will be a large piece of ground used as a school garden for the nearby neighbourhood school. In the urban centers of Holland, children

from kindergarten to grade 6 will have gardening classes with their teacher twice a week during the growing season!

Social and Environmental Justice

Why Fair Trade, Why UU?

Fair Trade Coffee, Sugar, and Fruit Sales

How we make our food purchases is a vote to support the means of production. The term 'Food Citizenship' refers to one's making a conscious choice in food purchases. This is often done to support ethical and environmental modes of production. How we choose to spend our food dollars is one of the most powerful acts we can do. Either we passively support the industrial food system's increasingly globalised supply network--something often called 'food from nowhere' with no idea as to the social and environmental costs imbued within our purchases or we act to support local, organic and/or Fair Trade goods whenever possible. When one buys local food whether it is organic or not, one is making an ethical choice to support our farmers, who need that support very much in these times. Many faith communities are actively supporting fair trade sales, and for Unitarians acting in line with our Principles: the inherent worth and dignity of every person; justice, equity, and compassion in human relations; the goal of world community with peace, liberty, and justice for all, taking action to support Fair Trade and conscious choice in consumer spending is very congruent indeed!

It has been an act supporting Unitarian Fellowship of Kelowna's Social Action for the past several years that Carol K. has offered for sale coffee and sugar from Guatemala and more recently the Philippines. A portion of the proceeds of the sale has gone into general revenue for the church. These products have come from the Shuswap Association for Eco-Development (SAPED) and support small scale community based projects in those countries where the purchase for resale of these commodities supports peasant groups/farmers directly. As this is work Carol supports personally these goods are available with notice regularly, just ask or telephone her.

More recently, Carol made a purchase from Level Ground as part of the Garage Sale activities last fall as a fundraiser enterprise and the products have been sold, with good contributions back to our Fellowship as well as supporting ethical fair trade work in South America, and Africa. We plan to discontinue speculative sales from Level Ground and shift to a monthly or bi-monthly ordering system where specific items can be ordered, the right roast and grind for everyone can be ordered. Please look at the website: <http://www.levelground.com/store>. Before any order can be completed we need a 12 lb minimum purchase. Coffee both decaf and regular, whole bean and ground will be priced at \$9.00 for 340gms and \$11.00 for 454 gms. Sugar \$5.50 kilo and Fruit \$7.00.

Voting with your money is good for others and tastes great too!

Thank you, Carol Kergan

Editor's note: Our apologies to Carol and all Signal readers for missing this article in previous editions of the newsletter.

Finance Comittee

A gentle reminder from your Finance Committee.

We are approaching those lazy, hazy, crazy days of summer that we all appreciate so much.

However, it's also a time during which the Finance Committee has to deal with a drop in our regular monthly cash flow. So we are asking that everyone make a special effort in staying up to date with their pledged commitments to the Fellowship. If for any reason, you feel that you will be unable to meet your financial pledge for 2009, please contact our treasurer, Liz Earl, in complete confidence.

We would much prefer being aware of any budgetary shortfall ahead of time. This will enable us to make any financial adjustments in a timely manner.

Respectfully, the Finance Committee.

Treasurer's Report

APRIL 2009

	Current Budget	Current	Yr to Date Budget	Yr to Date
TOTAL INCOME	9,324	13,337	43,968	40,112
TOTAL EXPENSE	10,801	9,200	35,365	35,280
NET INCOME/LOSS	(1,476)	4,137	8,603	4,832

The pledges were down a bit this month.

The transfer of the endowment fund to the building futures fund accounted for \$930.00 of the current loss. This isn't a real loss to the church as it is now income of the Building Futures Fund.

The garage sale was budgeted for this month so that made the budget larger by \$2,000.

The minister has higher professional expenses in the spring but is expected to be on target by year-end.

We are still ahead of budget by \$3,700 although the margin has been narrowing.
With thanks for your contributions, Liz Earl

CUC News

The Board of Trustees of the Canadian Unitarian Council is pleased to announce the appointment of Jennifer Dickson as its Executive Director, effective May 12, 2009. Please feel free to contact any member of the CUC Board should you have any questions or comments.

First Unitarian Congregation of Ottawa has called Rev. John Marsh as our settled minister.

At a vote taken after a congregational meeting this past Sunday, May 10, members issued Rev. Marsh a resounding call to ministry, voting 98.5 percent in favour.

"Extremely pleased," Rev. Marsh accepted with enthusiasm.

Shree Kumar Rai Legally in Canada

After Two Years in Sanctuary

Ottawa, April 24 – The First Unitarian Congregation of Ottawa is pleased to announce that Shree Kumar Rai, a refugee from Nepal who has been in sanctuary at the church since February 27, 2007, has been legally admitted to Canada.

Announcements

RE Vision Meeting

Are you interested in visioning the future of our children's Religious Exploration program? Please join us after church on May 31st to give us your feedback and contribute to setting goals for the coming year! Your interest and ideas are important to us, whether or not you have children in the program.

Notice of Extraordinary General Meeting

To affirm new Lay Chaplain for the Unitarian Fellowship of Kelowna

Sunday, June 15, 2009

11:40 am (immediately following church)

1310 Bertram Street

Kelowna BC

Agenda

Affirmation of Lay Chaplain

Preamble:

Whereas the Unitarian Fellowship of Kelowna offers to its members the opportunity to learn and grow through experiencing the role of lay chaplain ~ providing rites of passage for members, friends, and the wider community;

And whereas the UFK is in need of a new lay chaplain to succeed our present Lay Chaplain, Lindsay Atkinson-Smith, who will have completed six years in July of 2009, the maximum term approved by CUC policy;

And whereas we have requested that the CUC extend Lindsay Atkinson-Smith's term to Dec. 31, 2009 in order to provide a period of transition and mentoring for our new lay chaplain;

“Be it so moved that Louise McKenzie be affirmed by the Unitarian Fellowship of Kelowna as a new Lay Chaplain June 15, 2009, and that she begin a mentoring relationship with Lindsay Atkinson-Smith in preparation to assume this position upon appointment by the CUC.”

Green Sanctuary Meeting

Our last meeting before summer will be Sunday, June 14, after the service. * Since we have been unable to have many meetings in the past few months, the June meeting is very important, both to make note of what we have accomplished this year, and to plot our course for the fall. We really would appreciate your feedback on this year's work: what worked; what didn't work; what got accomplished; what still needs to be done; send all your ideas for consideration. We, all of us in the congregation, are the Green Sanctuary, so we are looking forward to feedback and input from everyone. You can phone or send an email to Gwen or Simonne, or leave a note in the Green Sanctuary mail slot in the cloakroom.

Sorrento 2009

Join us at Sorrento on beautiful Shuswap Lake for a "Midsummer Festival", June 19-21, when the weather will be perfect for a weekend lakeside getaway! This year our annual family retreat is during the summer solstice, and we will have great activities for all ages, celebrating all things "midsummer", when some believe the veil between the worlds is thin. We will start the weekend with a nature-themed scavenger hunt, follow that with many inspirational and thought-provoking workshops to choose from, midsummer rites, and of course the ever popular variety show and campfire sing-along! There will also be many opportunities for fellowship, relaxation, and FUN!

This is a great opportunity to make a deeper connection with our Kelowna community and friends in Kamloops, but it is also open to guests from congregations as far as Vancouver and Victoria; invite your friends from other communities to share this wonderful weekend with us. Registration forms are available NOW on our website through the Sorrento link on the left of the home page. Regular registration ends on May 31, but late registration continues until June 10. You do not want to miss this amazing weekend!!

Shower Invitation

You are invited to a bridal shower for Kate-Nicola Grams daughter of Susan Grams and granddaughter of Mary Barton, sponsored by the Caring Committee.

Kate grew up in this church & since her wedding is out of town, this is our chance to wish her well!

The shower will be Saturday June 13 - from 1 - 4 pm at the fellowship.

The theme is GREEN as in ecologically goodso think in terms of REUSE, RECYCLE, REGIFT. Non-toxic, handmade, decluttering - all good. Use your wonderful imagination !!

There will also be a Re-Gift Exchange - so bring something that you have around your house that you had considered giving to Goodwill - maybe a gift that's just

too good to throw out or still has some life left in it - or maybe its just plain weird funny or slightly distastefull. Wrap it up & watch the fun!!

Come one, come all, all ages, sizes & genders of partiers !

We really hope you can come ~~ There will be organic snacks & CAKE !!!!!

Please RSVP Susan 250-862-8264 or Linda Sampson (caring committee)

Signal Submissions

Please send all signal submissions to the signal email at ufksignal@hotmail.com.

Kathy and Sherry are sharing this job on an every other month basis, but will be trading months when and if necessary and sending submissions to us personally may prove confusing at times. Also, there is an increased chance of submissions sent to personal inboxes getting lost when mixed with our personal emails. We will make an effort to send signal submission reminders from the signal address to help lessen confusion in this area. Please also note that requests to format your submission in a way that makes it 'more special' than other submissions may not be honoured as we do not feel we have the right to choose if one is 'more important' than others and are limited by our own, and our computer programs' abilities.

Unitarian Fellowship of Kelowna, 1310 Bertram Street, Kelowna, BC V1Y 2E8, (250) 763-7212, email:

unitarian@silk.net

For more information about our congregation please visit our website:

www.unitariancongregation.org/kelowna

Sunday Services begin at 10:30 am. Childcare and programs are available year round.

The Signal is distributed on the last Sunday of each month. Deadline for submissions is the Monday prior to distribution. Please

send submissions to ufksignal@hotmail.com