

# Unitarian Fellowship of Kelowna



# SIGNAL

October 2008 Newsletter

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## UPCOMING SERVICES:

Oct. 5<sup>th</sup> - **"A Loose-Leaf Bible"** -- Rev. Wendy McNiven

*Words are important to U\*U's. We write, read, discuss, argue, study. But the substance of our readings tends to change as we ourselves change. A "bible" or "holy book" for some of us would consist of words that are holy or inspiring to us at a particular time in our lives, but which are also responsive to new insights, learnings or revelations. What would you put into your loose-leaf bible?*

*\*\*This is a Community Sunday. Plan to join us for lunch and conversation (and contact Andrea ([andrea-nielsen@shaw.ca](mailto:andrea-nielsen@shaw.ca)) if you want to bring something! Our monthly special collection will be for the Kelowna Drop-in Centre (supporting folks who live on the street).*

Oct. 12<sup>th</sup> - **Intergenerational Thanksgiving** -- Rev. Linda, Lois & the RE Program

*Featuring a "communion" with foods gifted by peoples native to this land, several aboriginal stories, and our "family" choir, this will be a celebrative day for all ages. Come join us!*

Oct. 19<sup>th</sup> - **"The Many Meanings of 'Growth'"** -- Rev. Linda Weaver Horton

*Growth and change in our lives, and the lives of our relational networks, bring moments of opportunity, creativity and sometimes chaos and even danger. This time of year, as we consider how we can support this congregation's work with our resources of time, talent and funds, let's reflect together on our individual and collective commitments to being ever open to growing. How can we live creatively in the midst of flux, and make our lives count in the service of our values?*

Oct. 26<sup>th</sup> - **"How to Love"** -- Educator Stan Chung, Okanagan College

*This interactive conversation will focus on relationships. It asks how we grow in intimacy, emotional vulnerability and depth of communication in order to meet the promise and commitment of love. We will explore the most practical of questions, how do we discover and share a deeper and more meaningful love?*

## MINISTER'S MUSINGS:

### **"Gather the Spirit, Harvest the Power"**

This line from U\*U Jim Scott's eloquent song catches the sense of what we are about in this religious community, especially this month. This is the time of year we are asked to evaluate how we can support the work of this congregation financially, as well as with our wisdom and energy, time and talent. This year, our annual dinner and auction on October 18<sup>th</sup> will have a harvest theme, with a healthy and flavourful dinner created by Faye Shaw and assistants largely from local produce. This meal is our way of saying thank you to you all for being a part of our community, as well as a fun kick-off for our 2009 Canvass, and a chance to bid on all sorts of interesting activities and services. It is truly an all-church event, and I look forward to seeing most of you at this gathering of the spirit!

Many of you took part in the Leadership Retreat last month that provided the Board direction for its goal-setting. The Board's most important goals this year have to do with strengthening our foundations – communications, structure and organization, staff support, the future of our facility – and finances to undergird all the program, support and service ministry we dream of accomplishing. Administration is a ministry that makes the more visible activities of this congregation possible.

We are blessed to harvest what those who came before us planted and gathered into this religious home, and into the courageous, liberal tradition in which we are rooted. It is up to us, collectively, to sow the seeds for future harvesting.

The financial resources we gather together, along with our energy and commitment, make possible a harvest of imagination, compassion and illumination that touches many lives, and will touch many more through the interconnected web of which we are a part. The web stretches into the future as far as we can see and beyond, and the shuttle is now in our hands. If "somewhere over the rainbow dreams come true," what we dream is ours to do, and no other hands but ours will make it real. Little we do in life will leave such a powerful legacy as what we build together here in this beloved spiritual home of ours. With generous hearts, willing hands, and resources as abundant as we are able, may we be about the work of building this religious community, for ourselves and those who come after us. We know it will abide beyond our fragile lives, a beacon of hope and courage in a world desperately needing the vision we carry.

In Faith,  
Rev. Linda

### **PRESIDENT'S PRESENCE (PRESENTS):**

A sunny but windy and cool Saturday Morning beside the Saint John river. It's a packing day because tomorrow we begin our trip home heading for the Ontario and Michigan part of the trip.

Today I'm 69 and when I left Kelowna I was only 68 – somehow many years have passed while I was trying to decide what to do when I grew up! But it was fun deciding.

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The last two Sundays we met with the Saint John UU's so I can share impressions of that group. For me, one of the startling impressions is the preponderance of males. In now nearly a half dozen visits to the group, the majority of the crowd each time has been men. I'm not sure what that means but it's a situation quite different from ours and quite different from most churches of any denomination. Perhaps it's the sea air.

Last year when we came, UUSJ folks were hard at the work of converting the building to a church. That work has been "completed" to a large extent and especially the sanctuary is impressive.

UUSJ folks are not satisfied just building a nest --- they are sharing with the community. The church is across the street from a large school – Catholic I think -- and two blocks from a district of three story apartment buildings which a social worker friend described as the home of many, many clients.

UUSJ begins a school lunch program next week!!

They have fewer members than the Unitarian Fellowship of Kelowna!!

Also impressive is the size of the children's and youth group – again high perhaps 25% of the total crowd last Sunday.

Liz and I are always welcomed very warmly and we find ourselves on the emailed "membership" list. It is terrific to have two homes! Quoting Maggie Nixon from the Board Meeting I just missed "May we know once again that we are not isolated beings, but connected to this community and each other."

-- Al Earl

## **RELIGIOUS EXPLORATION UPDATE**

### **RE Notes from Rev. Linda**

**CHILDREN'S PROGRAM** – Our “**Frodo's Birthday**” **Open House** was great fun for all who participated. When Glenda returns, we'll post photos! After crafts, entertainment (Hajima as an elven sword-dancer, Phyllis playing the fiddle for a hobbit “Springle Ring” dance), and refreshments catered by the Prancing Pony Inn, our young folk engaged in a treasure hunt led by our wizards (Lloyd, Wayne and Lindsay). They encountered a troll who could turn folks into stone (Chuck M.), an Elven queen (Sherry P.) in her garden, hunting Wargs (large wolves), an Elven guard (Rob S.) hiding up a tree, and a spider cave leading to Gollum's tunnel before finding the dragon (Jamie T) and his stolen treasure in our much converted cloakroom. Thanks to Jean C., Marilyn S., Denise N. and Judith G. for Hobbit baking, the Nielsen and Horton families and Faye S. for creating ambience, to many parents and other role-playing adults for lending a hand, and to Lois B. for being our photographer as well as registrar and representative of our program.

Our Sunday Program is mostly off to a good start, with several new volunteer leaders and good attendance in two of our three groups (3-5 and 9-12+). Our Yogi Yellow (ages 6-8) group has not jelled yet, but we are hoping it will come together over the next several weeks. If you know of a family with children (especially in this middle age) who have been considering trying us out, this would be a good time to bring them along! By November, we will need to decide whether to proceed with 3 classes or return to two.

The older children have made animal masks for characters in an African tale which they are presenting on September 28<sup>th</sup> in the service. This class loves drama, and will be acting out a story on Thanksgiving as well.

We are still looking for another leader or two, as well as a few more regularly attending children, to meet our goals for the coming year. At the moment, I'm on duty downstairs almost as often as upstairs, and quite enjoying it -- our kids are great company, and their activities engaging. But I do hope to cut back a bit as the year progresses!

**YOUTH:** September 28<sup>th</sup> is our first youth and parents Coming of Age evening, “Times, they are a'Changin’,” with a Mexican dinner hosted by the Hortons, exploring changing roles and gender expectations through activities and a bit of discussion. Two more evenings are planned on October 5<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> (possibly renegotiated, given Canvass Dinner) if there is interest, with ethnic dinners, activities and a bit of discussion (next theme: “free to be me”). The next “coming of age” unit, if this one goes well, will be matching youth with an adult mentor with similar interests for a monthly activity. Monthly youth-only social events are also part of our vision. We are encouraged by several adults showing interest in helping to make this happen.

**ADULT PROGRAMS:** We have gathered data through a questionnaire regarding interest in different topics in a small group ministry format. A number were received just before this newsletter deadline, so it will take time to explore the viability of offering groups around several of the themes that were popular, including Mindful Living (we will be waiting for input from the Green Sanctuary Committee and Simplicity Circle meetings to determine where to go with this most popular topic), HUUMANIST Circle (if you want to get a group going, Thursday afternoon looks like a viable time!), and BU-Us (UU Buddhist). Other interest groups may want to consider a monthly or quarterly gathering rather than the more frequent schedule proposed. Stay tuned!

However, one group seems to be clearly indicated now: a **Women's Circle**, to meet from 10 AM to noon on alternate Friday mornings, beginning October 17<sup>th</sup>. If you indicated that interest and availability, you will be contacted for confirmation; if not, and you would like to join us, please e-mail Rev. Linda to register, or show up at the first session. We are asking for an initial 5-session commitment (understanding things come up). Format will include a time for centering, check-in and discussion around a topic selected in advance (after the first time) by the group.

## GREEN SANCTUARY UPDATE:

*"I am only one*

*But still I am one.*

*I cannot do everything.*

*But still I can do something.*

*And because I cannot do everything*

*I will not refuse to do the something that I can do." - Edward Everett Hale*

As we continue our journey towards becoming a Green Sanctuary, we find ourselves in this year of elections. The federal election on October 14, our municipal election in November, and the provincial election in the spring give us opportunities to do "the something I can do". Unitarian values affirm our belief in the democratic process. The decisions made by the next government will be critical, and it is important to choose this government carefully and thoughtfully. On what basis will we make our choice? Take time to consider the values that made us choose to participate in Green Sanctuary.

We can ask ourselves these questions:

What kind of research can I do, or have I done, to learn what each candidate/party is offering if elected?

How have my Unitarian values, particularly the affirmation of our 7<sup>th</sup> principle, "**Respect for the interdependent web of all existence of which we are a part**", influenced the questions I ask my candidates and the parties they represent? What answers have I received about their plans and policies?

-Will they protect, enhance and restore the life support systems of the planet?

-Will they address the needs of our children, and the children of all species?

-Will they advance global peace and security?

-Will they promote systems (cultural, institutional, technological) that are resilient and able to adapt in an uncertain world?

-Is the candidate/party respectful of members of other parties and committed to collaborating with them in working toward the common good?

The United Church of Canada's Federal Election Kit 2008 is a helpful resource that uses a values-based, non-partisan approach. It may be found online at:

<http://www.united-church.ca/files/getinvolved/takeaction/2008election.pdf>

*Joanna Macey said: "Our leaders got confused, so we're all leaders now."*

Let us go forth and be leaders!

Simonne Macklem

## FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT

The committee is pleased to report that our financial position is relatively stable as we head into the fall months. The majority of financial pledges we received for the year 2008 are being met and maintained. However, there has been some shortfall over the summer months amounting to approximately \$3900.00

We are asking everyone to review their pledge and if you feel you are behind, please make an effort to bring it up to date. There may be some extenuating circumstances and that is always understood.

By holding our Annual Canvass Supper on October 18, 2008, we are kicking things off a month early. We are doing this so we may have a clearer understanding of our money situation in due time to prepare the Church Budget for 2009.

Many thanks to you all for your continued support.

## FALL GARAGE AND BAKE SALE WITH GREEN AND FAIR TRADE GOODS

This is a reminder that our annual FALL **Garage and Bake Sale with Green and and Fair Trade Goods with a Fish Pond** will be held Saturday, November 8th. A new feature is the inclusion of Green and Fair Trade goods eg coffee, cocoa,sugar etc.Our hours will be 8 am to 1 pm. At 1:00 o'clock , AFTER THE SALE IS OVER, we will allow people with the special free passes handed out to those in need to help themselves to the leftovers.If you know anyone who could use a pass please talk to our committee. We will ask some of the non profit agencies in town to give out the passes to their clients.

This is a major fund raiser for the Fellowship. Our budget is for \$4800 in revenue from the sales and so far we have \$1938.Please help us make this a huge success to support the activities of our Fellowship.

Our Garage Sale is true to our Green Sanctuary Program to reduce,reuse,recycle for a greener earth.

**We will be selling:** kitchen items, equipment, tools and household goods, small furniture<large and expensive items to be sold on our Electronic Garage Sale, contact Rick Hardman > , Christmas items, books, games, tapes, CD's, videos; in season sports equipment, children's toys, etc. **NO CLOTHING**, please. The Garage Sale Committee is attempting to streamline our procedures to be more efficient and make the workload more equitable. Last sale we had 7 truckloads of stuff leftover and this sale we have no where to take our goods.We will store what we can in the garage to distribute in small lots to thrift stores in town. Therefore we need as little left as possible.Please be very discriminating in what you bring.We request that you prepare your donations for the garage sale ahead of time. Please only include what is **saleable, clean, and in good repair**. At previous sales we have had to garbage innumerable items. This is time consuming for the set up volunteers and an extra cost to have our garbage picked up. Also, please **group and bag together all parts of sets**. With only clean, good quality items, we will make more money, the set up will be much smoother and some of the clean up at the end will be eliminated! Thank you for your co-operation. Please bring your donations to the church on Friday, November 7th from 10:30 am to 6:30pm.

**VOLUNTEERS: We invite you to participate in this worthwhile event. Many hands make light work and it's fun to be involved.**

There are lots of opportunities to choose from:

Set up on Friday November 7th from 10:30 am onward; pricing Friday afternoon and evening (we need people who really know the value of used goods & treasures!); cashiers and floaters Saturday; pack up and clean-up crews early Saturday afternoon (including cleaning the building ready for Sunday). Friday supper and Saturday lunch are provided for volunteers.Snacks available during the day-please talk to Audrey Pekrul if you can help with food. Even if you can only do two hours, every bit helps!

There will be an opportunity to sign up for your chosen task after church any Sunday in September, October and November -see Bonnie Willians or Audrey Pekrul.

Your Garage Sale Committee: Bonnie Williams,Laila Isaak, Audrey Pekrul, honourary member Simone Macklem and consultants Rick Hardman and Gwen Steele

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

### **Annual Canvass Dinner and Goods and Services Auction OCTOBER 18TH 2008 COME AND ENJOY THIS COMMUNITY EVENING**

DINNER WILL BE PROVIDED AND WILL COMMENCE AT 6:00. THE SIGNUP LIST WILL BE AVAILABLE SUNDAYS AT CHURCH. THIS IS A FUN EVENING AS WE GET TO SHARE OUR WINTER SOCIAL ACTIVITIES WITH EACH OTHER. IF YOU ARE NEW TO OUR CONGREGATION AND NEED TO LEARN MORE ABOUT THIS COMMUNITY EVENT PLEASE CALL LOUISE MCKENZIE 768-6959  
**AND PLEASE COME BY 5:30PM IF YOU HAVE SILENT AUCTION ITEMS TO SETUP AND ALSO JUST TO MEET AND GREET EVERYONE. SEE YOU THERE.**

Friday, October 3, 5:30 at the church. Bring some simple food to share and come prepared to discuss the themes for upcoming Simplicity Circle gatherings. contact: Judith Gunderson: 250-769-7459

### **Church Clean Up**

Please join us Saturday, October 4 to clean up and organize our sacred space. Snacks provided. We will start at 8 am or whenever you can join us. Many hands make light work!

### ***Eat, Pray, Laugh: Regional Fall Gathering, 2008***

Three Good Reasons to come to the Regional Fall Gathering, October 24-26, hosted by Beacon Unitarian Church.

1. **Come for the fun!** "Eat, Pray, Laugh" with UUs from across B.C.
2. **Location, location, location!** Simon Fraser University, Burnaby – close to transit, inexpensive on-site accommodation.
3. **It's about the economy...** Conference fees are just \$95 if you register by Sept. 24, 2008. So register now!

### **New Office Hours**

**The office will be open on Thursdays from 1 – 4 pm and Fridays from 9 am – 12 pm.**

### **Dates to Remember**

**Oct. 3<sup>rd</sup>: Simplicity Circle 5:30 pm**

**Oct. 4<sup>th</sup>: Church Clean Up 8 am**

**Oct. 18<sup>th</sup>: Canvass Dinner and Goods and Services Auction 6:00 pm**

**Oct. 24<sup>th</sup> – 26<sup>th</sup>: BC Regional Fall Gathering**

**Nov. 8<sup>th</sup>: Fall Garage Sale with Baked Goods and Fair Trade Items**

*The Unitarian Fellowship of Kelowna, is located at 1310 Bertram Street, Kelowna, BC V1Y 2E8.*

*Our telephone number is (250) 763-7212, and our email address is: [unitarian@silk.net](mailto:unitarian@silk.net).*

*For more information about our congregation please visit our website: [www.unitariancongregation.org/kelowna](http://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 email submissions to: [ufksignal@hotmail.com](mailto:ufksignal@hotmail.com)*