



Upcoming Services

May 3rd: “Bu-UU Dharma: What has Buddhism taught us?” - Rev. Linda Weaver Horton

Why has Buddhism made such an impression on Unitarians*Universalists, especially in the past two decades? How do Buddhist teachings harmonize with our own tradition, and in what ways are they complementary? Are there aspects that are incompatible? Why does it matter?

This is our Community Sunday. Our special collection will be for the Child Haven orphanages founded by Rev. Fred & Bonnie Cappuccino (U*Us) in India and neighboring countries. Do plan to stay for lunch!

May 10th –“Reflections from our Women’s Circle-Women’s Circle Participants” - Rev. Linda Weaver Horton

In our circle gatherings this year we have reflected upon a number of dimensions of our experience as women, mothers, daughters and creators of “home.” On this Mother’s Day, come and learn more about the life experience of some of the women in our midst.

May 17 – “Return to My Roots” - Manoj Haley.

Manoj was adopted from an orphanage in Coimbatore, India at the age of 6 by a Unitarian family in Kelowna. He returned to India for the first time last year. He will tell us about what it was like for him and how it changed his life. While there he connected with Arun, another orphan who was raised in the same orphanage and had started a youth group called *Youth Helping Hands* to help to increase awareness of the problems for orphans in India. Manoj worked closely with this group and will tell us more about it.

May 24th – “Coming-of-Age Service” – Rev. Horton and Coming-of-Age youth, Mentors and parents.

This Sunday concludes our year-long “coming of age” program. In a Unitarian ritual parallel to “bar mitzvah” or “confirmation,” the 12-14 year olds who have completed this year’s program will share a slide show about themselves, their Mentors and parents will share words of affirmation, and the congregation will have the opportunity to recognize their passage from child to youth. Today we celebrate Denise Nielson, Sara Osachoff, Cody Sebo, and Garnet Tanner. Come and celebrate with us!

May 31st - "Wisdom of the Tarot"--Joan MacIntyre.

Joan returns to our church by popular request and will tell us about the new Tarot deck that she has helped to create called "Pearls of Wisdom". Tarot imagery and interpretation have been a part of myth and legend for several centuries. Joan will explain the use of archetypes in understanding the spiritual journey and how interpreting the images on the tarot cards can help us find answers to dilemmas in our life.

Are you interested in visioning the future of our children’s Religious Exploration program? Please join us after church 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.

Minister's Musings: "Please do Call!"

We have quite a few people new to the community, so this seems a good time to revisit the question: "When might I call my minister?" Please feel free to call me to arrange to come in to talk in the office or to meet for tea. Especially for families with children, I welcome invitations into your homes, so that the children can have a chance to become acquainted with their minister on less formal ground.

Here are some reasons -- you may have others. I invite you to call me when:

- you need a sympathetic ear.
- you are wrestling with a difficult decision.
- you are facing a life crisis.
- you want to dialog about your beliefs and/or values.
- you are looking for resources for personal and/or spiritual growth.
- you are preparing a rite of passage (marriage, memorial service, etc.).
- you think short-term counseling might be helpful.
- you have ideas about church activities and future directions.
- you want to find out more about this church, and about Unitarian*Universalism.
- you are thinking of joining the congregation.
- you've heard some exciting news you'd like to share.
- you'd just like to get better acquainted!

Being a part of this caring religious community is a privilege and a delight for me. So I'm naturally inclined to believe it can be for you as well! If you are not already a Member but are thinking about it, I especially invite you to come in and talk. We'll be recognizing new Members on June 14th, and would be delighted to include you.

My office hours are usually 1-4:00 P.M. Monday and Thursday, and other times by appointment. If I am not available, I will get back to you. I can also be called at home, from 9:00 A.M. to 9:00 P.M., except for Tuesdays. In case of emergency, please feel free to call at any time. Phone is usually safer than e-mail, but if you are not in a hurry, try revlwhorton@yahoo.ca.

Ours is a shared ministry. I also invite each of you to reach out to one person you do not yet know during the coming month!

In Faith, Rev. Linda

Children's Program

After Easter, both our Green and Yellow groups began a program called "Worth and Dignity of all People" that explores how we can better respect the worth of groups that are often marginalized as a result of disability, racism, sexism and other forms of diversity. As Spring progresses, both groups will do a bit of gardening. Children of all ages contributed creatively to our Earth Day service at the end of April. A review of the

program is in process (if you are an active parent or teacher, you will be interviewed by phone, and parents are being e-mailed several informal questions for their children to respond to). Feedback can be sent to Board Liaison Wayne Broughton or RE Advisory Committee Chair Lorri Simpson. We are especially interested in ideas that will help us grow our program and build relationships among our young people! 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 Program

Our Coming-of-age program will conclude on May 24th, with a service honouring the four youth who are completing their Coming-of-age year: Denise Nielsen, Sara Osachoff, Cody Sebo, and Garnet Tanner. Come learn about them and celebrate with us! Five people trained to be youth advisors in March, and we are hoping they can come up with a creative way to jump-start a youth program (if you have ideas, give them a call).

Adult Programs

Our Spring “term” small group ministries began in April. A “Wellness Circle” has focused upon supporting those of us working on lifestyle changes to become healthier, whether in body or spirit. The “Woman’s Circle” has continued to meet alternate weeks, and will offer a service growing out of their reflections on Mother’s Day. The April Philosopher’s Café featured our own Simonne Macklem. Ideas and offers of leadership for next year’s program are welcome (contact Rev. Linda or Marilyn Raymond).

Ho/Me Team notes (Hospitality/Membership)

A warm thank you to all the church leaders who helped us host our Get Acquainted evening for exploring Friends, to Mary Lou Johnson for décor, to all who brought food and stayed to clean up afterwards. We’ll have to do this again!

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 Sean Johnson and Lorri Simpson, who were confirmed as Members by the Board at its April meeting, and to new Friends Lisa Horvath, Toshie Sumida, Kelly Gallagher and Marion Krahn.

President’s Message

A while ago I received an email from a friend that talked about friends. Basically it said that people come into your life for a reason, a season or a life.

As I reflected on friends that I have made over the years, I could identify people who fell into each of these categories. Those who were there for a reason; mainly when I had a need, and then we separated, for no clear reason.

Those who were there for a season are people who are in your life for a longer period of time, and then again you drift apart. I thought about the people with whom I worked for

over twenty years, in some cases. But now I have no contact with them. Our focus was teaching and educating student nurses and although we did socialize as a group, I did not do much socializing on an individual basis with most of them.

The final group – friends for life. These are folks whom you have known for years. When you meet, and this could be seldom, you just carry on as though there had been no break in your contact. I am lucky enough to have at least half a dozen of such friends.

Then I mulled over how this applies to the Fellowship, and I believe that there is a correlation. Some people come to the Fellowship for a reason. This is usually personal, maybe a crisis in their life or a struggle is occurring. They come on a regular basis for a while and then drift away.

There are also those who come for a season. I remember several people in the Victoria church who were there for a year or two, and then they disappeared.

Finally there are those who are with us in the Fellowship for life. Many of our members have a long history with the Kelowna Fellowship, while I am a relatively newcomer. So what has all this to do with us who attend regularly?

We usually don't know why a new person chooses to attend the Fellowship. But I believe that it is important to greet all people when they come. We have our greeters at the door who do a wonderful job, however, I think at coffee time we tend to fall down. I know that there are always people we need to talk to and pass on information. But I would encourage all of you to try and speak to one new person each Sunday during our coffee hour. This outreach will attract people us and so our fellowship will grow. Remember, we are a Welcoming Congregation.

Namaste, Maggie

TREASURER'S REPORT FOR MARCH

| | CURRENT | YEAR TO DATE | BUDGET |
|----------------|---------|--------------|----------|
| TOTAL INCOME | \$8,302 | \$ 34,643 | \$26,775 |
| TOTAL EXPENSE | 9,667 | 24,564 | 26,492 |
| EXC INCOME/EXP | \$1,365 | \$10,079 | \$ 2,835 |

Our pledge income was down \$300 this month but Hugh's concert made an extra \$285.00

Our facility rentals were \$415 more than budget - thanks to Al Semper

The gas continues to be more than budgeted. We can help by always making sure the heat is turned down before we leave as well as keeping the temp. at no more than 68 when we are there.

We spent an extra \$200 to send the two youth group trainees to the workshop held here. These funds will be taken out of the \$5,000 special donation.

We had a loss of \$1,366 this month however, for the year to date we have income of \$10,079 so we continue to be in good shape.

Liz Earl

Green Sanctuary

“I believe that to meet the challenge of our times, human beings will have to develop a greater sense of universal responsibility. We must learn to work not just for our own self, family or nation, but for the benefit of all humankind”. The Dalai Lama

At our Earth Day service in April, we celebrated the gifts of Earth, Air, Fire, and Water. In May we are asked to vote in the provincial election. How do we want our next government in B.C. to honour those elements?

To honour Earth, will we ask our government to ensure that environmental impacts are understood and acted on before any policies or laws are made?

To honour Air, will we ask our government to ensure that pollution from industries and transportation systems are controlled?

To honour Fire will we ask that all electrical power we use is publicly owned and ecologically sound?

To honour Water, will we ask that rivers, watersheds, and the ocean, be protected and not exploited for profit?

Choosing a government is a privilege and a responsibility. If we vote in accordance with our values, the same questions we asked ourselves at the federal election are the same ones to consider again.

These Unitarian values that we affirm, challenge us to thoughtfully and carefully consider them as we mark our ballots:

- 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;
- Respect for the interdependent web of all existence of which we are a part.

The UFK has been a great support, and advocate for several issues relating to human dignity and the environment. We buy and use Fair Trade coffee; we support Inn from the Cold; we give free shopping passes to the financially challenged at our garage sale; we raise awareness about justice issues. What would our next government look like, if their initiatives were based on values like this?

Imagine that everyone in B.C. including those who are homeless or on limited income, has adequate housing, food, and education to supply what they need to live in dignity.

Imagine that the health of the environment underpinned every decision made in the legislature.

Ask candidates: "If your party forms the government, will it:

- enhance and restore the life support systems of the planet?
- address the needs of our children, and the children of all species?
- advance global peace and security?
- promote systems (cultural, institutional, technological) that are resilient and able to adapt in an uncertain world?
- be collaborative and respectful of members of other parties and committed to working together for the common good?

Let's elect a government that supports life! Yes we can!

Poetry Corner

In the next two months we will feature Haiku by Hajima Naka in the Signal. Please send in 4X24 poems, Haiku or Fennies to Sterling Haynes at jshaynes@shaw.ca for inclusion in our corner.

Here are a few Fennies....

Bray
Ass-Sass
Milk
Moo-Too

or Haiku...

tattoos a-plenty
at twenty are seldom so nifty
at fifty

Announcements

Spring Garage, Plant & Bake Sale

Saturday May 9th. 8am - noon - followed by a give-away of leftovers to people in need. Our Fall & Spring Sales are a major fund-raiser for the fellowship ! Lets make this one super - successful !

VOLUNTEER Time-Sheet will be available after services on April 26 & May 3. Please sign up for your preferred time on Friday &/or Saturday.

Please bring your donations Friday May 8th - 10am - 6 pm

Plants - Judith G. welcomes your labelled garden & house plants.
Baking - Bread, cookies, muffins & other yummys
Suggested donations for the sale: (no clothing)

kitchen things, household goods, linens, small furniture, garden items, tools, books, games, cds, dvds, videos, toys, baby equipment, in-season sports equipment. Please include only what is clean and in good repair. Group and bag together all parts of sets.

**Contact Rick H. regarding large &/or valuable items suitable for the Electronic Garage Sale.

Sorrento 2009

Join us at Sorrento on beautiful Shuswap Lake for a "Midsummer Night's Festival", June 19-21 when the weather will be perfect for a weekend lake-side get-a-way! 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-a-long! This is just a taste of what we have in store -- a full program will be out soon. 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 the table at the back of the sanctuary or by contacting Carrie and Wayne B. Register early to take advantage of the Early Bird discounts, and to ensure you get the rooms or cabanas you would like! You do not want to miss this amazing weekend!!

Relay for Life

Fight back against cancer --- sign up for our very own "Relay for Life" UFK team to raise money for the Canadian Cancer Society. We need about 10 people to walk or run for about an hour or so, but mostly to help raise funds and have a great time together! You don't need to be an athlete. Relay for Life is the night of June 6/7 from 6pm to 6am, at City Park. You can join the team online at <http://www.kintera.org/faf/home/default.asp?ievent=291299>, or for more information, contact Wayne B.

UFK T-Shirts

You voted, and now it is your chance to show your UFK pride by sporting your very own t-shirt! Shirts are on sale now and available until May 3rd when I will wrap up our order and send it to the printer. Shirts are \$28 each. They are bamboo and available in many colours and sizes (kid's sizes, too!). See Carrie B after service for the next few weeks to see a preview of the shirt style and to place your order. Please make your cheques out to the Unitarian Fellowship of Kelowna.

Public Forum On STV May7th 7PM

In keeping with our Unitarian value re Democracy our church is hosting a public forum/information session on the new proposed voting system BC -STV. When we vote in the provincial election May12th a referendum question will be included asking us whether we want STV or the old system. This is so important- we have a

chance to make history and improve our democratic process in BC. Please take advantage of this opportunity to learn about the new system, so you can make an informed choice. .Tell your freinds and neighbors too !

Naramata 2009 – Joyful And Liberating

Eliot Institute offers a seven day, one-of-a-kind experience of play, community, and worship for the whol family in beautiful Naramata, on the shores of Lake Okanagan in British Columbia. This year's session runs June 27-July 4.

Deans Sonya Wachowski and Carla Mandy look forward to leading first time campers and returnees in a week's adventure at Eliot at Naramata 09.

This year's theme speaker promises an uplifting camp experience through the theme "Full-Spectrum Joyfulness!" Learn and practice seven joyfulness themes -- become skilled at raising your spirits and mood in almost any circumstances. They are fun to do, easy to remember, playful, and meaningful. We'll use art, movement, discussion, and music to explore these themes and adapt them to our own daily lives and individual needs.

Led by Rev. Amanda Aikman, author of forthcoming book, and Julia McKay, musician and Interplay facilitator.

Please contact Donna Hamilton for more information at: donna-h@telus.net or visit www.eliotinstitutue.org or call 206-374-2497 to learn more.

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

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