



Sermons February 2011

Feb 6 *Intern Insights Inside the UU-UNO* Andrew Pfleiderer, guest speaker

Andrew spent his first summer internship as a law student at our UU-UNO office in New York City. Stories of projects, lobbying efforts and constituency education help us understand our impact as UU's at the United Nations. From the age of about 10 through high school, Andrew has been a part of KUF.

Feb 13 *Empathy: the Big "E" in LovE* Rev. Kathy Sage

A remarkable project teaches children "to break down barriers, encourage communication and acceptance, and create in the microcosm of democracy and collaboration...with responsiveness to the feelings of others...to build a community". What do we know about empathy as Unitarians and Universalists? Could we

be a force for civility and transformation of our community with empathy? Please see my column on page 2 for suggested books to read in February.

Lunch Bunch meets at Panda Garden Buffet

Parents as Spiritual Leaders meets upstairs after the service

Feb 20 *BISG 1990's: KUF on the Move* Rev. Kathy Sage with KUF reflectors

KUF put years of planning and dreaming into concrete action during the 1990's, the CUC was maturing as Fellowships flourished or floundered, and our global connections took on deeper meaning as we approached a new millennium.

Shared Lunch and February Birthdays

Amnesty International letter writing

New monthly class on World Religions begins upstairs following the service – please sign up.

Feb 27 *What Can Save Us Now?* Rev. Kathy Sage

Taken from the title of Rebecca Parker's book, *Blessing the World*, we come face to face as religious liberals with the ongoing task of somehow making better our bruised world. How do we fit social action into our priorities? In January we looked at Affordable Housing. This month, I am asking YOU for updates on where you spend your social action time: Save Our Prison Farms, local food issues, senior issues, four nuclear reactors proposed at Darlington? Others may want to join you, and we may want to learn more and dialogue and even disagree once we have an updated survey of your active involvement.

Newcomers' class upstairs following the service.

Caring Connection Dispatchers

February 1 – 15, 2011
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Sage Musings

February is universally the LOVE month. Enjoy those little red cinnamon hearts, and let's make this a month to celebrate love, Unitarian style. We start with our universally loved Chinese New Year fun(d)raiser dinner with Woodjump, a musical group that we have quickly grown to love. Each member plays a string instrument of some type, and you'll enjoy singing along with their music. On February 6th, be sure to hear our guest speaker Andrew Pfleiderer share what he learned as an intern last summer at the UU-UNO office in New York.

Our BISG series is usually the first Sunday, but we'll wait until the 20th to continue our look at the 1990's. To help us reflect on the 50th anniversary of the CUC, we've been taking stock of our history. Each decade has included a look at the social issues of the era, the challenges faced and solved by KUF, and remembering the people who shaped KUF.

Found in our archives were the neatly arranged KUF newsletters from Wilma Bernabei. I read each newsletter from the 1980's and now scout the 1990's. At first, there were just two issues a year. The first had the fall schedule and annual fall dinner, and the second reported the schedule of speakers for adults, programs for the children and youth, and the spring dinner that highlighted the May annual meeting. Births were announced, accomplishments celebrated, newcomers welcomed, and departures noted with sadness but good wishes to those leaving. There has been a remarkable ongoing presence of active KUF members who were a part of those early decades. I hope that if you were at KUF in the 1990's you will share some of your memories with me by e-mail or in a visit before the February 20th service.

Along the way we are realizing that whatever decade you joined KUF, the shared experiences created lasting friendships, and social justice issues inspired numerous activists. As you share with me memories of meaningful experiences, I've been reminded of how much you love KUF. Those who have persisted decade after decade have a taste for the dialogue, discussion, dissent, and

democratic process that frankly leaves some people scratching their heads and wondering why we call ourselves a "religion". There is a "love" for such a unique place, a family where you can dialogue and disagree - but still know that you are welcome home. As people have moved to Kingston from other UU congregations, they've brought what they valued from "back home" and adapted to make KUF their new Unitarian home. The same can be said for those who are leaving behind a former faith tradition. To find a new faith tradition and create a new home is frankly too overwhelming a task for many people. That was my path 15 years ago and the process has been a journey of transformation equal to that of adopting a new country. When one works that hard at creating a new home one has reworked the landscape of meaning.

Sometimes life changes our connection to KUF and participation ebbs and flows. Our building exploration in January has given us opportunities to ponder what we love about KUF and whether the Digigraphics building will encourage this. Whatever the decision about a building, the thorough process employed has helped me realize that the discussions have stirred up a desire to attend to the WHAT and HOW of our mission as KUF. We'll vote, and then with whetted resolve let us take the interest generated and focus on realizing our potential as Unitarians in Kingston. Please talk to me or to the chair of the Sunday Services Committee, David Mather, if you want to be part of the team that plans and implements new ideas.

On February 13th we'll take a look at an aspect of LOVE: empathy. I invite you to read at least one of the two books that I am reading for that Sunday: *Roots of Empathy: Changing the World Child by Child* by Mary Gordon, and *The Empathic Civilization* by Jeremy Rifkin. Both authors feel that empathy is essential. Gordon says, "Empathy is integral to solving conflict in the family, schoolyard, boardroom, and war room." Love is an intellectual competency that few master and thus puts stumbling blocks in our efforts to fulfill our stated KUF mission regarding social action.

February 27th gives us one more opportunity to examine cultural "mushy" love ideas. Another book for your winter reading is *Blessing the World: What Can Save Us Now*, by Rebecca Ann Parker. When

Report from the Board

Dave Toupin, president

At the Board's regular meeting on January 4th, 2011, two representatives from the Forward Planning Task Force, Gordon Darrall and Valerie Colgan, presented reports and recommendations from the various teams gathering the information necessary to present to the Special Business Meeting scheduled for January 30th, 2011. At this meeting, voting members will vote on the motion regarding the proposed purchase of 206 Concession Street as our new home. It's possible that, by the time you read this issue of KUF Links, you will know the outcome of this important vote.

But as I write this message, I am unaware of the outcome and can only tell you about the steps leading up to this event. The Board continued to perform its due diligence by reviewing the information about the various aspects of these preparations, asking questions and requesting that certain tasks be undertaken to ensure that voting members have all of the important facts needed to make an informed decision. This information includes the input of an accountant, an architect, an environmental assessor and engineer, a lawyer, and a mortgage banker, along with an assessment of our ability to raise capital funds.

As part of this review, the Board approved the expenditure of monies from the Growth Fund for an application for a minor variance for 206 Concession Street to the city's Planning Department. This variance would permit KUF to rent office space in that building in the event the purchase is approved. The Board also approved that the vote will occur at KUF on January 30th at

12:15 pm (or in the event of inclement weather, on January 31st at 7 pm). The vote will take place by secret written ballot, along with approval of the wording of the motion and an agenda and notice for that meeting.

In addition, the Board reviewed the recommendation of the Finance Committee and approved a proposed budget for 2011 to be presented at the congregational meeting scheduled for January 16th after the service. The Board also reviewed the Finance Committee's projections for KUF's expenses in 2011 and future years if the purchase of 206 Concession is approved and acknowledged that a new revised budget will be required in the event that this building is purchased. The Board also received the summary of the Canvass comments collected by the canvassers from you during our annual canvass campaign during the fall of 2010 and authorized publication of the comments in KUF Links. The Board further provided for the committees of KUF to review these comments and report back to the Board by April 1st regarding any actions to be taken. We send our thanks to Rebecca Luce-Kapler and Daphne Hand for preparing this summary and for managing a highly successful canvass campaign.

On behalf of the Board, I also thank Sarah Adams for her many years of hard work and dedication to the publication of KUF Links. Thanks to Sarah's consistent efforts, KUF Links has thrived as an effective means of communication with our members and friends. Also, the Board thanks the members of the Forward Planning Task Force and its teams for their many hours of work on our behalf investigating a new home for our fellowship.

life disappoints us, it is easy to lose faith and live in despair. Facing what we have lost and any misery that might consume us could be considered Unitarian theological work of choosing to love again. How do we know that we have chosen to love again? Perhaps when we throw ourselves into an important task; find a new place to volunteer; start or finish a book, quilt, wood, or other project; or when we connect with our faith community on what is vitally important. In particular, how we expend our social action energy is one way we express our deep commitments.

The interesting combination of our decade history recovery project, the intense decision making around the search for a new home, and a wide variety of adult and youth religious exploration suggests to me that the KUF history of the 2010's that we are creating will carry forward KUF's enduring values with new important contributions from our expanding community.

See you at KUF,
Kathy

**Salutations from R.E.
Shawn Cox**

We are looking forward to another active and fun month of religious studies, personal spiritual development and play. The children have been examining Bible stories, beginning with Genesis. We have talked about creation stories from different beliefs and have compared these stories. While hearing about the Garden of Eden, we reflected upon what an Eden might be like. The story of Cain and Abel tells of how we are all related and must work together.

In the following month we will continue our look at the Old Testament. On February 6th the story of Noah and the Ark will be told. We will learn a fun song, "God Told Noah", and we will make our

own Ark (actually, paper boats!) and fill them with the creatures.

On February 13th we will share the story of the tower of Babel. We will build our own tower of Babel, relying only on communications among the group to build the tower. It will be a monument to cooperation.

On the 20th the story of Lot and his wife and the city of Sodom and Gomorrah will be told. We will talk about rules and of consequences when rules are broken. We will be making puppets and we will make rules and consequences for our puppets.

And on the 27th we will have the story of Joseph and his brothers, which speaks of jealousy. We will create a coat of many colours together, and then we will have some role-playing.

From the Youth Group

Get excited, because on February 13th, the senior Youth Group will be holding their fabulous Valentine's fundraiser for the third year running! Help spread the love around this time of year by buying yourselves and your loved ones some yummy chocolate baggies, and as a bonus, help the youth pay for their trip to the Annual Conference and Meeting in May (CanUUdle). Since Emily will be on parental leave, please contact Claire Burget for more information.

Emily Cummins-Woods

CUC Meeting

Are you considering attending the CUC meeting in Toronto during the May long weekend? Our senior youth have already started fundraising. The Young Adult group is considering answering the call that Ariel has been trumpeting: 50 at 50 – the goal for 50 young adults to be at the CUC's 50th anniversary celebration. The CUC website, <http://www.cuc.ca/conference/2011/index.htm> will soon have registration and program details – all ages are welcome.

KUF Has a Brand-New Member

Congratulations to the parents of our newest member – a son, Benjamin Loïc Reginald Woods, born to Emily Cummins-Woods and Alice Robinette-Woods on January 17, 2011.



Adult Groups of Every Description for February

Here is a summary of KUF groups that have the “welcome mat” out. For more information, see the January issue of KUFLinks and talk to the contact person, or sign up at KUF. Some groups meet at KUF, whereas others meet at members’ homes. Carpooling can often be arranged. Contact information can be found in the KUF directory, which is available at the signup table at church. If you are new and would like a directory, please ask Rev. Kathy.

Great World Religions

Sunday, February 20th, right after the service on the 2nd floor of KUF. We will be watching DVD’s from The Teaching Company starting with Islam. Contact Bev and Karl Hummitzsch for more information. Held monthly.

Grief and Loss Discussion Group

The group is reading the book *Who Will Remember Me*. Our next session will be Saturday, March 26th. Please contact Rev. Kathy to borrow the book to prepare for the sessions on March 26th and April 16th. Both meetings will be held 1 – 3 pm in the KUF main hall. You can sign up at KUF.

Parents as Spiritual Guides

Meet other parents who are involved in KUF and have children in RE. A resource titled *Parents as Spiritual Guides* is the springboard for discussion. Sessions are held on the 2nd floor each month through June, right after the Sunday service. The next sessions will be February 13th and March 6th. Please register so we can arrange childcare, which is available downstairs. For more information, contact Nancy Burget.

Behind the Headlines

Behind the Headlines meets on the fourth Monday in February (the 28) at 7:00 pm at the home of John Foster and Millie Morton. The topic will be *Is World Leadership Changing?* A handful of countries (China, Brazil, India, Turkey and others) have emerged as economic powerhouses taking geopolitical initiatives. What does this mean for the West (US, Canada, NATO)? How do changes affect the balance of power, regionally and globally?

Come share or listen, as you wish. The intent is to glean what’s new in the world, sort out facts from propaganda, and exchange views, while respecting each other as friends. Advance readings, which are optional, will be emailed by Feb 25th. New participants are welcome, and carpooling can be arranged. For more information, please contact the coordinators, John and Millie , at johnandmillie@sympatico.ca.

Open Circle

Book discussion group meets twice a month at the home of members. Please contact Elaine Harvey for directions and details.

Open Circle Too

Group meets at KUF on the second Thursday of each month on the main floor. *The Battle for God* by Karen Armstrong is being discussed. The next meeting is February 10th. Contact Anne Graham for more information.

BISG Sermon Discussion

Sign up at KUF for this monthly event and you will receive the BISG sermon so you can join the discussion. Allan and Elaine Hammond host this discussion at their home near Bath and Centennial.

Service Weavers

A small group will be meeting and preparing to be Service Weavers. Our Sunday services benefit from the creative involvement of members. Contact Anne Coward to learn more.

Young Adults/UU Club Queens

The groups will no longer be holding their Sunday night potluck/Soulful sundown sessions. Instead, starting January 27th, there will be a weekly group on campus exploring BYOT (Building Your Own Theology) each Thursday at 7 pm. For more information, contact Victoria at uuclubqueens@gamil.com.

2011 Canvass Comments

Dave Toupin, President

Our very dedicated group of canvassers worked hard to speak to each KUF member and friend, recording their comments and pledges. In just over six weeks, our KUF community pledged \$101,834. Thanks to everyone who participated, but especially our canvassers: David Mathers, Mary Ann Higgs, Anne Coward, Darwin Muir, Jean Robins, Beth and Joe Pater, Val Colgan, Dave Toupin, Ariel Hunt-Brondwin, Nancy Burget, Allan Hammond, Lynne Lewis, Millie Morton, Cindy Harvey and Jean Pfeiderer.

What follows are your comments, praises and suggestions for improvement. In some cases, the comments are aggregates of several similar opinions.

Our Minister and the Services

Most comments showed appreciation for Kathy's work:

- "Kathy offers so much."
- "I appreciate the minister's visits during a difficult time."
- "Enjoyed poetry, readings and guided imagery."

Some suggested ways that services could be improved:

- "Sunday services with a full-time minister would benefit from more congregational involvement to engage us."
- "Would like to continue to develop the Service Weaver to allow for interested members to contribute to the service."
- "Concerned that people are staying away because of the content of the sermons; KUF should survey why people do not attend services."

Our Facility

Several members noted that we need a different space:

- "We need a bigger place where we can have rental space."
- "If we move to a new building, it should be accessible for all, in a pleasant space and be affordable with perhaps one or two partners to help with costs."
- "We need a building that is a real source of income."
- "In favour of having a north-end church."

Others expressed concerns about the financial aspects:

- "Concerned that the Forward Planning Committee hasn't been able to communicate the need for a new building. Concerned about the mobility and accessibility and, most of all, growth potential."
- "Fear the move to a bigger place."

- "Time of recession is not a good time to buy a building; concerned about the divided congregation."
- "Turned off by some of our own discussions."

R.E.

Our Religious Education drew many positive comments:

- "Very happy with the Senior Youth Group, especially Emily's work."
- "RE is our strong point; it is important to bring young adults and their children to KUF; we should invest in it."
- "Like the adult RE opportunities, e.g., Sacred Circle Dancing."

Some members feel there are areas that need attention:

- "Children's story should be more connected and special to the larger service."
- "Concerned about the number of people involved in RE – it's disconnected from the health of the wider community."

Our Community

Some comments were general:

- "The community is valued as a spiritual haven."
- "UU has the right approach to a just society."
- "Value the depth of thought and discussion."
- "Appreciate discussions of morality and choice."
- "Value the community but concerned that we need to strengthen and build KUF to be more spiritual."

Other comments showed appreciation for the work of the volunteers and committees:

- "Amazing volunteers – especially the Forward Planning Committee."
- "The committee work is amazing."
- "Terrific job by the congregation when Kathy was away."

Some individuals had more specific suggestions for building community:

- "KUF is pressed and needs more support from volunteer work."
- "We need a challenge and a shake-up."
- "Interested in KUF having an outreach program for street people and other social justice issues."
- "We need young/new members to bring energy and vision to KUF. We need to talk about dreams and vision."

We appreciate your feedback, as it helps KUF continue to be a vital community.

Newcomers' Session

Our next Newcomers' Session will be on February 27th, 2011 after the service.

New to KUF? Whether you have been a Unitarian elsewhere or are new and looking to find out more about the history, practices, and possibilities of being a part of KUF, this session is for you. Meet our minister and get to know others who are finding a place in this unique community of all ages. Childcare is provided if you sign up at least one week in advance. We provide a nutritional snack, or you can bring a brown bag lunch. Please take this opportunity to meet and talk to others interested in KUF and Unitarianism.

Chinese New Year Dinner

Come One, Come All. Get your tickets for the Chinese New Year Dinner being held at KUF on Friday, February 4th at 6:00 pm. The food from the Silver Wok will be plentiful and we'll have wonderful entertainment by Woodjump, a musical group that we have quickly grown to love. Each member plays a string instrument of some type, and you'll enjoy singing along with their music. It will be a great time, a wonderful way to break the gloom of winter, and a way to get together as a community and enjoy each other's company. Tickets for this fundraiser will be on sale beginning Sunday, January 16th. They are \$15.00 per individual ticket or 3 tickets for \$40.00. There are only 60 seats available, and tickets will sell out quickly. Contact Sarah Adams or any member of the Membership and Caring Committee for more information.

Annual Child Haven International Fundraiser

On April 2nd, Memorial Hall will be transformed into a bazaar of intriguing items from India, Bangladesh, Nepal and Tibet. Entertainment will feature a Toronto dance and music ensemble. There will be delicious savouries and sweets to enjoy and abundant quantities of the very popular Chai. The best part? Fred and Bonnie Cappuccino will be there with their message of love for some of the most beautiful children in the world. Volunteers are finalizing details and tickets will be available soon, but mark your calendar now and start the buzz with your friends.

A Facebook page is in the works. (Will Fred begin to Twitter?) If you have questions or want to be involved, contact Mary Ann Higgs at mhiggs@bellnet.ca.

Profile of the Shooms

Have you met Ola and Sydney Shoom from Harrowsmith? You may have visited their antique shop, which they operated in their home for almost 20 years. Their merchandise has been sold, although they kept Syd's personal collection of 78-rpm records and gramophones. They aren't for sale!

Neither Ola nor Syd are from the Kingston area. Ola grew up on a farm near Owen Sound, where she attended the United Church. Syd grew up in a Jewish family in Toronto. They met in Barrie, where Ola worked as a teacher after she completed a course in Household Science at the University of Guelph.

Syd graduated in Sociology from the University of Toronto and then pursued a M.S.W. at the University of California in Berkeley, serving an internship at San Quentin Prison. It was in Berkeley that he first attended a Unitarian Fellowship.

After graduation, Syd took a position in Barrie, where he met and married Ola. While she was studying at Guelph, Ola attended a lecture by Lotta Hitchmanova and learned about Unitarianism. Because of their mutual interest in Unitarianism, she and Syd went on to help found the Barrie Unitarian Fellowship.

Their next move was to Saskatchewan, where Syd headed up the John Howard Society in Saskatoon. Later he started working for Correctional Services, and during this time their three sons were born. As Ola recalls, the boys playing in the prison yard among the prisoners, yet Ola had no worries about their safety.

They later moved to Toronto and then to Kingston to fulfill Syd's job as Regional Director of Correctional Services for the Province of Ontario.

If you are wondering why they have only recently made their way to KUF, it is because their antique business kept them in Harrowsmith on weekends until they retired.

Aren't we lucky to have these two friendly, interesting people in our midst? Do get to know them.

KUF Lunch Bunch

Our monthly get-together will resume at the Panda Garden Restaurant at the Kingston Centre. The first one will take place on Sunday, February 13th after church. Come and join us for great conversation and an excellent selection of buffet including Canadian, Japanese and Chinese foods – something for everyone.

February 2011

Reverend Kathy Sage has office hours but can also be contacted for appointments:

613-544-8777 or kufmin@kingston.net

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>30</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9:30am VV Rehearsal 10:30am Sunday Service & RE 12pm Special Meeting to vote on Digigraphics 12pm Soup Lunch 2pm Quakers 	<p>31</p>	<p>1</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 4pm Sunday Services Cmte 7pm KUF Board K1 7:30pm Open Circle OS 	<p>2</p>	<p>3</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 12pm Brown Bag Lunch & Kathy's Office Hours 2pm M&C Cmte Meeting space reserved K1 7pm Sacred Circle Dancing Extra Session 	<p>4</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 6pm Chinese New Year's Dinner K1, KB 	<p>5</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 8:30am IHM Service and School
<p>6</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9:30am VV Rehearsal 10:30am Sunday Service & RE 2pm Quakers 	<p>7</p>	<p>8</p>	<p>9</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9pm KUFLinks Deadline 2pm Admin Oversight Cmte K1 	<p>10</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 12pm Brown Bag Lunch & Kathy's Office Hours 2pm Open Circle Too K1 	<p>11</p>	<p>12</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 8:30am IHM Service and School
<p>13</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9:30am VV Rehearsal 10:30am Sunday Service & RE 12pm KUF Lunch Bunch OS 12pm Parenting as Spiritual Guides 2pm Quakers 	<p>14</p>	<p>15</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 7:30pm Open Circle OS 	<p>16</p>	<p>17</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 12pm Brown Bag Lunch & Kathy's Office Hours 1:30pm Adult RE "Who Will Remember Me" K1 7pm Sacred Circle Dancing K1 	<p>18</p>	<p>19</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 8:30am IHM Service and School
<p>20</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9:30am VV Rehearsal 10:30am Sunday Service & RE 12pm Cheese Orders Due 2pm Quakers 	<p>21</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 7pm Big Issues, Small Groups OS 	<p>22</p>	<p>23</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 12pm KUF Writers' Group K1 1:30pm Communication Cmte Meeting 	<p>24</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 12pm Brown Bag Lunch & Kathy's Office Hours 	<p>25</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 6pm Jr High OWL 	<p>26</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Jr High OWL 8:30am IHM Service and School
<p>27</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 7am Jr High OWL 9:30am VV Rehearsal 10:30am Sunday Service & RE 12pm Cheese Delivery 12pm Newcomers' Session K2 2pm Quakers 	<p>28</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 7pm Behind the Headlines OS 	<p>1</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 7pm KUF Board K1 7:30pm Open Circle OS 	<p>2</p>	<p>3</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 12pm Brown Bag Lunch & Kathy's Office Hours 2pm M&C Cmte Meeting space reserved K1 	<p>4</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 6pm Jr High OWL 	<p>5</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Jr High OWL 8:30am IHM Service and School