

KUFLinks



Kingston Unitarian Fellowship

December 2015

Sunday Services

Services take place Sundays, 10:30am at the Fellowship, 206 Concession Street. Enter via the rear entrance.

December 6: "Ordinary Wonder"

Come with stories of your experiences of wonder and together we'll begin the holiday season in search of wonder in the ordinary. Rev. Strecker speaking.

After the service: Soup lunch and Amnesty International letter writing

December 13: "Wisdom Stories in Children's Literature"

Gordon Darrall and Jillann Rothwell will share some of the wisdom found in children's literature. This will be a very special service designed for all ages.

After service: Lunch bunch

December 20: "Thanks to the Animals"

This inter-generational service will explore the themes of the Winter Solstice with a story that honors the interconnected web of life as it's centerpiece. This service is designed for all ages.

December 27: "Sharing Favorite Songs and Readings"

In the spirit of the Celtic traditional gathering known as the *ceilidh*, you're invited to bring your favorite holiday songs, stories and readings to share the spirit of the season.

Kingston Sing-along Society



Every month, Phyllis leads a group of singers and musicians in an evening of folk songs.

Caring Connection

The caring connection dispatcher for November is Charlene Horwood at 613-546-2083, or e-mail caring@kuf.ca.

Contacts

Kingston Unitarian Fellowship
206 Concession Street
Kingston, Ontario, K7K 2B5

The office can be reached at 613-544-8777, or by e-mail to office@kuf.ca. For general inquiries, send e-mail to info@kuf.ca. Send news submissions to news@kuf.ca.

Minister's Column

Carol Strecker

For me, December has always been a time to look for light in the dark. Right now, I'm struggling to find the light - writing on the heels of the mechanistic, calculated

slaughter of scores of innocent human beings in Paris, Bagdad and Beirut - designed, it seems, to pit us against one



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another in a holy world war. I'm struggling to understand what it all means — how to feel — how to respond.

I'm learning about the apocalyptic vision of the Islamic State - a vision that makes sense at some level for people with nothing to lose. What these terrorists are doing stands against everything I believe in, everything I hold dear but these radicalized groups feed on poverty and dire circumstance. In the midst of so much disparity in the world ISIS is paying a living wage.

I wonder what will happen next; how many more innocent lives will be lost. How many civilians? How many soldiers? Can we face our fears and stand united as one human family? Can we keep our minds, our hearts and our borders open to those seeking refuge?

Those hopes were certainly the overwhelming sentiment at the interfaith vigil in Market Square last Sunday. Gathered by candlelight, Kingstonians stood together, a light in the darkness, in solidarity against violence and for for unity and peace.

Karen Soria, Interim Rabbi at Temple Beth Israel, reminded us that we're all part of one family, the human family. She read a poem by Warsan Shire that captured a lot of what I'd been feeling but hadn't been able to put into words;

later that night
i held an atlas in my lap
ran my fingers across the
whole world
and whispered —
where does it hurt?

it answered,
everywhere
everywhere
everywhere.

There's a lot of darkness in the world. Our whole world is hurting. We bring light to that darkness when we can stand in the face of our fears, feel the pain and respond to it with open hearts. I wish you light and love this holiday season and always. May you find ways to share your light with those who need it most this holiday season and always.

Peace, Salaam, Shalom,

Carol

President's Column

Brian Hetherington

Sometimes, in my reading, I come across something that says exactly what I would say if I could find the words. This month, instead of my own words, I offer the words of Linda Thomson, the Congregational Development Officer for the CUC, she says what I would say if I could find the words.

Brian

From a Focus Talk by Linda Thomson, November 15, at KUF, used with permission:

... There are so many possibilities facing each of us and facing this congregation. There is so much that could be done. There are ideas and experts and our heads could spin. And, there is also so much to do, just doing what we already do. So how can we sift between all the possibilities, how do we

navigate the path between the status quo and major overhaul? If we don't do anything different we're almost certainly going to stay as we are. If we embrace wholesale change we run the risk of alienating everyone and destabilizing the system.

And here we are today. Your long-time minister, Kathy Sage, has retired. The change is an obvious one, and requires decisions -not small, seemingly minor ones, but significant ones. Like the multitude of iterations of the Kingston Unitarian Fellowship before you, the choices, the decisions you make today and tomorrow and during the interim period will become part of the story of this congregation.

Decisions and discernment – both are what is needed of us if we love our congregations and our tradition. Discernment is the ability to grasp, comprehend and evaluate clearly. It means we can see the true nature of things, allowing us to distinguish between what is right and what appears to be right. Sometimes discernment starts with hunches and intuition, but it only starts there, and over time the whole picture is added to by honest observation, careful reasoning and a balanced application of our knowledge and our principles. And in time, with discernment, we are able to navigate that path – the one between status quo and complete overhaul.

I have had the honour of working with this congregation for over 15 years. I have seen people think carefully and plan for the future. Not all of the ideas and choices have born the fruit that you had hoped they would. That happens. But by and large the decisions that have been made have been made with care, in good faith, made and with the future of the congregation in mind. It is, as I say, an honour to be on this journey with you.

And today, as the old saying goes, today is the first day of the rest of your life. Today we stand on the threshold of the future of the Kingston Unitarian



Fellowship. The decisions that you make now will, at some future time, be part of the timeline of the Fellowship. Your names, this day, will be a part of the story. What do you want this chapter to say? Will you want future members to say that you were timid, or bold? Will this chapter be about vision or fear? Is the story you are writing going to be remembered as one of inattention or care?

This deciding business is hard. It is hard for us, because we know that in spite of the care we take, the research we do, the people we consult – we know that we can't really know. Sometimes we try to fool ourselves, thinking we can stay safe and avoid the uncertainty, by keep on doing what we do today. However when we are honest we know that things won't, however much we might wish them to, stay the same. We can't avoid making decisions. You know that. It's why I'm here today, it's why you are doing intentional interim work. Your trust in this congregation, its story and its future are a great gift to this city, to the future members of this fellowship and to the whole movement of Canadian Unitarian Universalism.

You are doing the work you need to do, so that your decisions can be reasoned and responsible. But it takes, oh I know it takes courage. I appreciate yours.

To close, I'll share these words, reminding us, that this whole business of deciding and planning is to flirt with mystery.

Sara York wrote,

"We receive fragments of holiness, glimpses of eternity, brief moments of insight. Let us gather them up for the precious gifts that they are and, renewed by their grace, move boldly into the unknown."

Communications

Hans Boldt

Do you have something you'd like to tell everyone about? Perhaps it's an event at KUF. Or there's something people should know about. You need to get the word out. And that's where the Communications Committee needs to get involved. Send your news or stories to us at news@kuf.ca, and we'll help you get the news out.

So you think you can't write? No problem! Get your words typed up and we can do the rest. One of the most important tasks of an editor is to clean up submitted copy. Sometimes, there's a run-on sentence that needs to be restructured. Sometimes, there are other grammatical or spelling issues.

One of the most common problems in submitted text is multiple spaces after the end of sentence, a bad habit that many people picked up when learning to type on fixed-font typewriters. These days, you can simply trust in the desktop publishing application to format the text properly.

So you really have no excuse. Send us your news and other stories. Let us help you get the word out!

Hans

Religious Exploration

Shawn Cox

The days are getting shorter. In ancient cultures there was fear that the Sun might be lost into darkness forever. So much of the tradition and ritual for this time of year has to do with a celebration for the return of the Sun.

How many of us have feared we have lost something only to find it again? How many of us have been lost? What did you do? Were you found again? Did you need help?

Sometimes even the best of us are in positions where we need to rely on the kindness of strangers. In many ways we do it on a daily basis. Sometimes we

all need the support of a community.

On December 6, we will be introducing our story for the Solstice inter-generational service which has to do with being lost and then found. We will share stories of our own experiences and prepare for the inter-generational service. There are a few songs we will go through and a few props to make.

On the 13th, Jilliann and Gordon will be doing an inter-generational service about the seven principles. It sounds like it will be fun and engaging for all. There will be a couple of Queen's students on the young people's floor for the littlest of us who can't sit through the Service.

The 20th is another inter-generational service for a solstice celebration, and there will be fun, songs, sharing and crafts.

The 27th will have no young people's programming, but another inter-generational shared experience. Everyone will be invited to contribute to the experience with their favorite traditions for Christmas.

December will be a month full of inter-generational interaction celebrating finding the Sun again and finding deeper aspect of our community.

Shawn

Christmas Day Potluck Dinner

Whether we want to believe it or not, December is almost here. And, then, so is Christmas! Plan to sign up on the sign-up sheet at the back table in the main hall for the annual Christmas Day potluck dinner, or email john-golfer@live.com if you are unable to sign up in person. We need your contact information, what dish you will be bringing to share and how many people are coming.

There will be a fresh, free-range turkey with all the trimmings and a variety of vegetarian dishes. Beverages and a great dessert table, if you have any

room left, are also on the menu. Bring yourself or bring your family and guests, and feel very welcome to join in this tradition.

Join the Force in December

Our annual Inter-Faith Service held on January first is an opportunity to be involved in a task force without a long-term commitment to a committee. There are lots of jobs, small and large, and we are looking for a few people to join the team. Email Val Colgan or Beth Pater if you would like to participate. Note, this is a time-limited offer!

Coming of Age

This is an open program for 12 and 13-year-olds who are interested in exploring their spirituality and their beliefs over the course of the next few months. In June, they will present a Statement of Faith or Belief to the congregation. The program is aimed at this age group because they are at a prime stage of life for exploring some of the "big questions". Warning: Lasting friendships, bonding and great fun are a likely result. After our Junior Youth turn 14, they are then eligible to attend Senior Youth Group. Contact Brian Hetherington as soon as possible if you know of an interested youth, if the youth is older and may still benefit or with any other questions.

Christmas Sing-Along Matinee

Susan Yee and Alexander Colpa are presenting a Sing-Along Matinee at Susan's home. Come and sing some favourite Christmas and seasonal songs, and listen to some flute and piano music. Bring your singing voice. Deserts and wine will be served. Price: \$20 payable to KUF. Attendance limit 6 people. Date: Saturday December 19 from 2 – 4 pm. To sign-up send an e-mail to acolpa@bell.net. First come first served. Sign-up will be confirmed

KUFLinks

The Kingston Sing-along Society

invites you to the next

SING-ALONG

PLAY-Along with WOODJUMP*

*—the house band



Next session: Friday, Dec 4

@Unitarian Place

206 Concession St., West Side Entrance

"Play-alongs:" the room is open from 7:00 to tune-up and warm-up

MUSIC starts at 7:30pm

Bring a "Friend-Along!"

Kingston Unitarian Fellowship - Adult Education Programmes

KSS is a Community Partner of Sustainable Kingston <info@sustainablekingston.com>

free admission - goodwill donations

by e-mail.

New Door Code

The code for the KUF door will be changed on Monday Dec. 14. Those who need the code should contact Jean Robins before that date to obtain the new code.

Cheese Orders

December 6: order cheese
December 13: delivery

Submit your order to Norma Graham.

Publications

KUFLinks: The monthly newsletter. Please send submissions by the 2nd Wednesday of the month. It is mailed out before the last Sunday of the month. Send submissions to news@kuf.ca.

MiniLinks: A weekly reminder of upcoming events sent out by e-mail every Thursday, as a supplement to the monthly KUFLinks. Send submissions to news@kuf.ca.

Web site: www.kuf.ca

Calendar: www.kuf.ca/calendar.shtml
We constantly update the calendar. If

you use Google Calendar, you can also view the KUF events on your own calendar. Check the instructions on the “Calendar” page on the KUF web site.

Order of Service: The Sunday program announcements for the coming week. Please send announcements to office@kuf.ca by Thursday noon. Indicate “OofS announce” in the subject.

Facebook: Be sure to share postings of interest with your friends:

[www.facebook.com/KingstonUnitarian Fellowship](http://www.facebook.com/KingstonUnitarianFellowship)

[www.facebook.com/KingstonUnitarian FellowshipChildrenRE](http://www.facebook.com/KingstonUnitarianFellowshipChildrenRE)

Lay Chaplains: Please refer our lay chaplains to your family and friends for weddings, memorials, and child namings.

www.kingstonweddingofficiant.com

www.kuf.ca/ceremonies.shtml



December 2015

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
	1 7-9pm Board Meeting	2 5-8pm Potluck and drumming circle (rental) 6-8pm Soul Matters facilitators meeting 6:30-8:30pm Skating fitness class (rental)	3	4 7:00-9:30pm – KUF Sing-a-Long	5 9-11:30am IHM Beit Sefer 2-6pm Birthday party (rental)	6 9:30-10:15am Choir Rehearsal 10:30-2:30pm Quakers 10:30-12 pm Service 12 pm Soup Lunch 12:30-3pm Amnesty International
7	8	9 5-8pm Potluck and drumming circle (rental) 6:30-8:30pm Skating fitness class (rental)	10	11	12 9-11:30am IHM Beit Sefer 8pm-12am Party (rental)	13 9:30-10:15am Choir Rehearsal 10:30-2:30pm Quakers 10:30-12pm Service 12-1 pm RE meeting 12-1 pm Lunch Bunch 1:30-4pm Youth Group
14	15 7-9pm Soul matters – Tuesday session	16 1-3pm Soul matters – Wednesday session 5-8pm Potluck and drumming circle (rental) 6:30-8:30pm Skating fitness class (rental) 8pm KUFLinks submission deadline	17 2-4pm Open circle	18	19	20 9:30-10:15am Choir Rehearsal 10:30-2:30pm Quakers 10:30-12pm Service 4:30-6:30pm Potluck (rental)
21 7:30-9:30pm Save a family from Syria	22	23 6:30-8:30pm Skating fitness class (rental)	24 Christmas Eve	25 Christmas 4-9pm KUF Christmas Dinner	26 9-11:30am IHM Beit Sefer	27 10:30-2:30pm Quakers 10:30-12pm Service
28	29 4-10pm Potluck (rental)	30 6:30-8:30pm Skating fitness class (rental)	31 New Years Eve			