

KUFLinks



Kingston Unitarian Fellowship

January 2017

Sunday Services

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

January 1 “Planting Seeds”:

The New Year gives us an opportunity to begin again. This intergenerational service will focus on mindfulness practices for all ages that can help us be more mindful of what we want to grow in the New Year. Rev. Strecker speaking

January 8 “Ring Those Bells”:

Turns out there are quite a few poems/songs about bells that speak of resistance and resilience, including Henry Wadsworth Longfellow’s “I Heard The Bells” and Leonard Cohen’s “Anthem”. What do resistance and resilience look like? What do they feel like? How do we let the light in during dark times? How do we keep the bells of peace and freedom ringing? Rev. Strecker speaking.

After service: Chili lunch (youth fundraiser), games

January 15 “The Changing Face of History”: If as Winston Churchill once said, “History is written by the victors”, what will it mean to have the face of a Black Canadian Woman, Viola Desmond, an icon of the human rights and freedoms movement in Canada on

the \$10 bank note? Rev. Strecker speaking.

After service: Amnesty International letter writing

January 22 “Lean In Toward the Light”: Like our ancestors, in this, the darkest time of the year, we are anxious, uncertain, afraid of what the future may hold in store. Let us gather to renew our faith in the return of the light, each doing our bit to brighten the collective mood and bring hope to a hurting and fearful world. Service Leader – Anne Coward

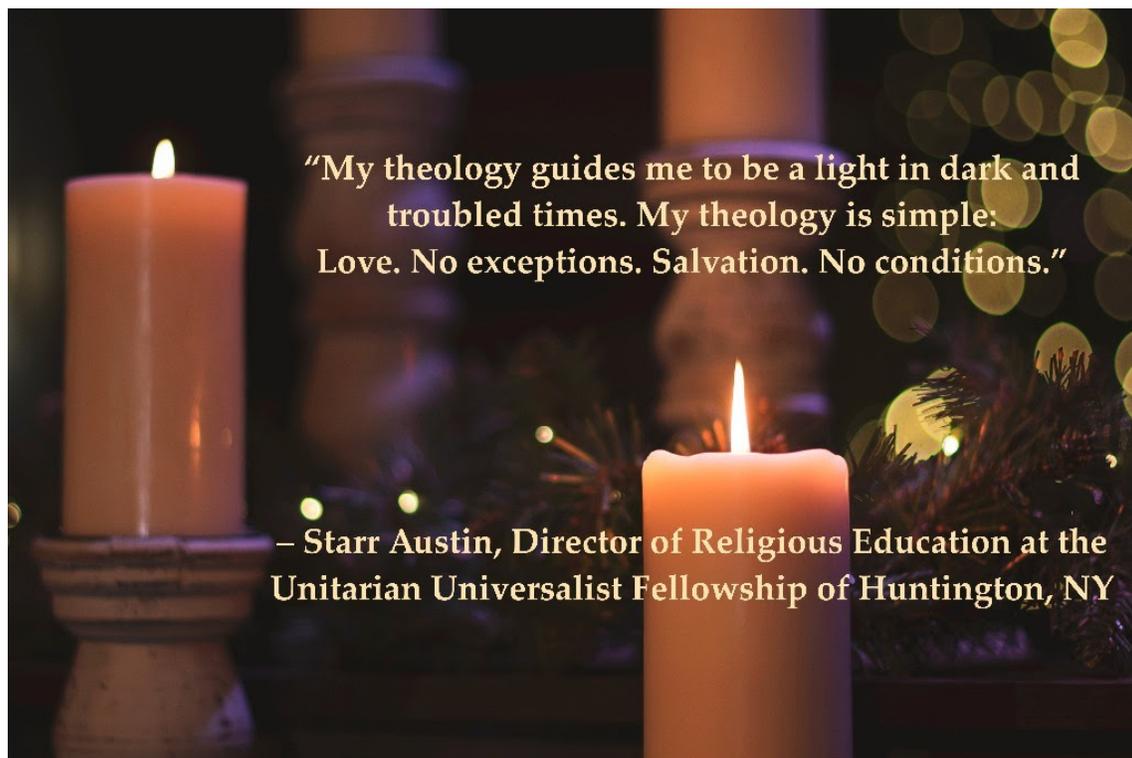
After service: Budget Meeting; to review and approve next year’s budget

January 29 “Beyond Categorical Thinking”:

This service and the afternoon workshop are designed to promote inclusive thinking and help prevent unfair discrimination in the search process for a new minister, especially how thinking categorically about people sometimes interferes with choosing the best candidate. Jacqui Williams will be here from the Unitarian Universalist Associations Transitions Office to lead the service and workshop.

After service: Shared Lunch

Beyond Categorical Thinking Workshop 1-4pm



“My theology guides me to be a light in dark and troubled times. My theology is simple: Love. No exceptions. Salvation. No conditions.”

– Starr Austin, Director of Religious Education at the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Huntington, NY

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Contacts

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Reverend Carol Strecker, Interim Minister, can be reached at minister@kuf.ca.

Reverend Wendy Luella Perkins, Affiliated Minister, can be reached at info@wendyluellaperkins.com or at 614-549-3102.

Opinions expressed are those of the authors, and do not necessarily reflect the views of the Kingston Unitarian Fellowship.

Minister

Rev. Carol Strecker

Even in the midst of the dark times, the new year holds the promise of new beginnings, new possibilities. The Reverend Kathleen McTigue writes:



The first day of January is another day dawning,

*The sun rising as the sun always rises,
The earth moving in its rhythms,*

*With or without our calendars to name
a certain day*

*As a day of new beginning,
Separating the old from the new.*

*So it is: everything is the same,
Bound into its history as we ourselves
are bound.*

*Yet also we stand at a threshold,
The new year something truly new,
Still unformed, leaving a stunning
power in our hands:*

*What shall we do with this great gift of
Time, this year?*

*Let us begin by remembering that
whatever justice,
Whatever peace and wholeness might
bloom in our world this year,
We are the hearts and minds, the hands
and feet, the embodiment
Of all the best visions of our people.*

*The new year can be new ground for
the seeds of our dreams.*

*Let us take the step forward together,
onto new ground,
Planting our dreams well, faithfully,
and in joy.*

In this, the season of new beginnings, let's remember the power we have to create justice, peace and wholeness. There are many ways in which the days ahead seem daunting. The news continues to be dominated by stories of suffering and uncertainty. But one day, one step, one breath at a time we are the only ones who can give life to our dreams for life in abundance, for all people and the planet.

Happy New Year!

Faithfully Yours, Carol

Think of a Minister, Don't Think of an Elephant

Chances are you thought of both. And distinct images perhaps came to mind. In terms of a minister, what images came to mind? Was it a person of a particular gender, race, or age? The UUA program ***Beyond Categorical Thinking*** is an important part of the ministerial search process. In finding the person who would be our minister, we could potentially overlook the one person who would be the best match for us because of inherent cultural biases that even the most inclusive among us often unintentionally hold.

Jacqui Williams from the UUA Transitions Office will be here on **Sunday January 29, 2017** to present the ***Beyond Categorical Thinking*** workshop. Beyond Categorical Thinking (BCT) workshop is offered by the UUA for congregations involved in the search for a new minister. The BCT program is designed to promote inclusive thinking and to help prevent unfair discrimination in the search process for a new minister. This program includes a Sunday morning service with BCT workshop facilitators followed by a three hour workshop. This opportunity allows the entire congregation fuller participation in the search process. It will allow us to explore our hopes and concerns for a new minister.

We hope you'll plan to join us for this important workshop, ***Beyond Categorical Thinking***, Sunday Jan. 29, 2017 from 12:30 to 3:30 pm at KUF, following shared lunch. Please RSVP to msc@kuf.ca.

Communications

Hans Boldt

Back when I was in Grade 12, my geography class went on a field trip to Syracuse, New York, to learn about urban planning issues. During the visit, a city official took us on a tour of the downtown, passing by a run-down inner city high school, with primarily African-American students. Our guide wouldn't take us into the worst areas since he feared being recognized. Later that day we visited a high school in an affluent suburb of Syracuse, almost exclusively white, with facilities we could only dream about.

Looking back, I'm not sure what lessons we were supposed to learn that day. However, what stayed with me was seeing first-hand the racial divide in a typical American city, only a short distance across the border.

In the forty years since then, I had believed that the United States had made progress in the realm of civil rights, discrimination, and inequality. However, like many of you, I was shocked and deeply hurt by recent political developments in our neighbor to the south.

The next few years will be challenging. But I know that we Unitarians know how to respond and rally alongside those working for basic human rights, and respect for the dignity of all, regardless of appearance, ancestry, religious affiliation, ability, or sexual orientation.

Whenever we see false news and hatred, we must respond. And respond forcefully, factually, and respectfully. (And if not respectfully, and least not with disrespect.)

Here in Canada, we must not be complacent and assume it's someone else's problem. Here too, hate groups are feeling emboldened by Donald Trump's election. We must stand together and show that hatred and prejudice are not welcome. Anywhere.

I'll end my missive with something I read on-line, attributed to futurist Alex Steffen:

Resistance starts with plain speaking.

Fake news is propaganda.

The powerful demanding apologies from artists is censorship.

Business dealings while in office are corruption.

Threatening protesters and petitioners is authoritarianism.

Declaring a minority an internal enemy and calling for militarized unity is fascism.

Everything starts with naming these things in public.

Hans

KUF Amnesty International Letter-Writing Report

December 11, 2016

December 10 was the UN Human Rights Day, and on December 11, members of KUF celebrated by sending 29 letters to officials in Iran and Cameroon, as well as to their ambassadors in Ottawa, on behalf of prisoners of conscience (POC's) and also to Malawi on behalf of people with albinism. Some people in Malawi believe that the body parts of albino people have magic powers, so they kidnap and murder them in order to sell their bones for big money. We asked the government to provide protection, and to prosecute those who kidnap and murder people with albinism.

In addition, we wrote 11 greeting cards to the prisoners of conscience in Iran and Cameroon and to the Association of People with Albinism in Malawi in order to let them know they are not forgotten and to express solidarity with them.

The next AI table at KUF will be held

after the service on January 15, 2017..

Barbara Dick and Marlene Phillips

Innovation Team Report

December 2016

The Innovation Team was set up by the KUF Board with the goals: 1) expand social justice outreach; 2) build profile and presence in the community; 3) increase KUF financial sustainability. Many ideas have been discussed, but currently most of our time is focused on the following question:

Is a commercial community kitchen feasible at Unitarian Place?

For the past several months, the Innovation Team has been trying to answer this question. We don't have an answer yet, but we have made enough progress that we feel a report is timely.

In September a survey was sent to every individual or community group that might have an opinion. We received responses from 28 people and organizations. In November we had a meeting, attended by 17 people interested in the prospect of developing a commercial, community kitchen at Unitarian Place. We have communicated with the Health Unit and professionals in the food industry. This is what we have learned.

First, a **kitchen**, with stoves and proper preparation areas has been on the wish list for KUF since the purchase of our building. Such a kitchen would require proper ventilation and fire suppression equipment. This would require architectural drawings, building, health and fire inspectors' approvals. A 'ball-park estimate' of cost is \$40,000-100,000 depending on various factors. There are possibilities of getting a portion of this money from grants.

Secondly, a **community kitchen** would be used for KUF events and programs. KUF might develop programs specifically to use the kitchen facilities

- such as a Senior's lunch program. The kitchen would also be available for rent by individuals or not-for profit groups. The individuals or groups may want to use the kitchen when they rent our other spaces for their event, whether it is a birthday party, wedding, AGM or other social gathering. The kitchen facilities would be available at an additional cost. Some organizations have also expressed an interest in using the kitchen, on a regular basis, for cooking classes for their clients. This type of use determines some of the design features, such as movable counters with adjustable heights.

Thirdly, a **commercial community kitchen** would be available to 'food entrepreneurs' who need the use of an approved kitchen to prepare food for catering or product sales. There are also individuals interested in a kitchen that could be used for various food classes. These people would commit to a set number of hours per month and pay according to the hours of usage and equipment required. Some of them are willing to use the kitchen during the night, when other users would not. By including this group, we are supporting the developing of small business and food sustainability in Kingston. With these participants, we also hope to achieve financial operational sustainability.

Finally, as we met with a variety of people, we came across the concept of a **Food Hub**. This would expand the concept of just being a kitchen to a place where "good local food" was happening. A few ideas that have evolved from this concept are: a food packaging area; cold storage areas, distribution for farmer to CSA clients, a café, selling food produced on site.

This may seem incongruous with the KUF we know on Sunday mornings, but remember the last part of our mission statement "we strive to make our world a better place through our actions". Considering our building, our parking lot, our location in Kingston

The Kingston Sing-along Society

invites you to a

SING-ALONG

PLAY-Along with **WOODJUMP***

*—the house band



Session: January 13, '17

@Unitarian Place 206 Concession St.,

West Side Entrance

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

Sing-Along starts at 7: 30 pm

Bring a "Friend-Along!"

Kingston Unitarian Fellowship - Adult Education Programmes

free admission - goodwill donations

we might be ideally situated to develop a social enterprise.

A **social enterprise** is defined as an organization that applies commercial strategies to maximize improvements in human and environmental well-being- this may include maximizing **social** impact alongside profits for shareholders.

On Tuesday, January, 17, at 7pm there is another meeting of individuals and organizations interested in determining the feasibility of a commercial community kitchen at Unitarian Place. At that meeting we hope to divide into small working groups focused on different aspects. On January 4th, the Innovation Team is meeting with Rebecca Darling, from KEDCO, to plan strategies for this meeting.

The Innovation Team would welcome participation from KUF members or friends at either of these meetings.

For more information contact: Gordon darrallg@kos.net

WhaleCoast Alaska 2017

Have you ever dreamed of visiting Alaska? If so, **WhaleCoast Alaska 2017** is for you! Four Alaska UU fellowships invite you to experience our eco-cultural and spiritual program next summer. See Alaska through the eyes of local UUs in Anchorage, Fairbanks, Juneau, and Sitka with friendly homestays and unique tour activities. See wildlife, including moose, bears, caribou, whales, bald

eagles, seals, and otters. Visit Denali National Park. Experience Native Alaskan culture. Forget the cruise ships – our program is the best way to visit Alaska! Programs led by Dave Frey, member of the Fairbanks UU congregation and Alaska travel expert. Find out more about this Alaskan trip of a lifetime before our tours sell out! Visit www.WhaleCoastAK.org, email dfrey@whalecoastak.org, or call 907-322-4966. We would love to share our Alaska with you!

Publications

KUFLinks: The monthly newsletter. Please send submissions by the middle of the month. It is usually mailed out on or about the last Sunday of the month. Send submissions to news@kuf.ca.

Don't forget to send us your

submissions for our column "Members and Friends". We invite you to share news of events or milestones, such as major anniversaries, births, etc. Please keep submissions short, say, no more than two sentences. We also welcome any photos you think others would enjoy.

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 Wednesday noon. Indicate "OofS announce" in the subject.

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

www.facebook.com/KingstonUnitarianFellowship

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



Board of Directors 2016-2017 Committees and Board Liaisons

Role	Director	Liaison	e-mail
President	Daphne Hand		daphneh@kos.net
Vice president	Jan Hartgerink	Life Span Learning	jhartgerink64@gmail.com
Secretary	Joe Pater	Admin and Communications	jpater45@cogeco.ca
Treasurer	Elaine Peterson	Finance	beehappyhoney@hotmail.ca
Directors at Large	Mary Armstrong	Sunday and Hospitality	mary@marykarmstrong.com
	Valerie Colgan	Facilities	vjcolgan@gmail.com
	Charlene Horwood	Sunday and Hospitality	chorwood3@cogeco.ca
	David Mathers	Outreach	dmathers9@cogeco.ca
	Wendy Morrison	Lay Chaplaincy and Caring	wendyleemorrison@gmail.com
	Brian Hetherington		brianheth@gmail.com
Youth Representative	Ted Mathers		tedmathers13@gmail.com

(For phone numbers see KUF Directory.)

Working with a committee is a great way to get to know each other better – working with other Unitarians helps us to practice our principles in a safe space and learn from each other.

(See "Serving with Grace" Eric Walker Wikstrom" Chapter one "The Spirituality of Service")

January 2017

Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat	Sun
						New Year's Day 1 9:30-10:15pm Choir Rehearsal 10:30-12pm Service 10:30-2:30pm Quakers 6:30-8pm Sangha mediation and study
	3	4	5 1-5pm Minister's office hours 2-3:30pm Admin Committee Meeting 5:30-7pm Board Executive Committee	6	7 9-11:30am Beit Sefer 9-1pm Birthday Party (rental)	8 9:30-10:15pm Choir Rehearsal 10:30-12pm Service 10:30-2:30pm Quakers 12-1pm Youth Fundraiser lunch 12:30pm Pussy Hat Project 6:30-8pm Sangha mediation and study
9	10 7-9pm Board Meeting	11 7-9pm Skating Fitness class (rental) 7:30-10:30pm Save a family from Syria meeting	12 10:30-12pm Sunday Services Committee 1-5pm Minister's office hours	13 7-9:30pm KUF sing-a-long	14 9-11:30am Beit Sefer 9:30-1pm IHM Rabbi Visit	15 9:30-10:15pm Choir Rehearsal 10:30-12pm Service 10:30-2:30pm Quakers 12-1pm Lunch bunch 12-1pm Amnesty International 6:30-8pm Sangha mediation and study
16	17	18 2-4pm Creative Writing Group 7-9pm Skating Fitness class (rental)	19 1-5pm Minister's office hours 2-4pm Open circle	20 8pm KUFLinks Submission deadline	21 9-11:30am Beit Sefer 9-4pm Outside Meeting (tentative rental) 3-10pm Youth Fundraiser Chinese New Year dinner (preparation and event)	22 9:30-10:15pm Choir Rehearsal 10:30-12pm Service 10:30-2:30pm Quakers 12-1pm Congregational Meeting Budget 6:30-8pm Sangha mediation and study
23	24	25 7-9pm Skating Fitness class (rental)	26 1-5pm Minister's office hours	27	28 9-11:30am Beit Sefer 1-5pm Birthday Party (rental)	29 9:30-10:15pm Choir Rehearsal 10:30-12pm Service 10:30-2:30pm Quakers 12-1pm Shared Lunch 12:30-3:30pm Beyond Categorical Thinking 6:30-8pm Sangha mediation and study
30	31					