

THE UNITARIAN



NOVEMBER 2019

Upcoming Services

November 3rd Paying Attention to our Past Rev. Danielle Webber
Worship Associate Keith Germaine

We seek meaning in our lives, and we seek meaning from the events of our lives. This is often the reason why we create ritual, when we need to recognize, remember or reframe the events within our lives. Many religious and cultural traditions have ritualized a remembering of those who have died; recognizing the members of their family, and the people who have touched their lives. Please bring photos or mementos for our community alter.

November's Designated Giving

Our designated giving for the month of November is St. Vincent de Paul: and the program they recently started called "invincible Housing" supplying extraordinary financial assistance in the form of medicine, monthly hampers, utilities to assist people who are on the verge of eviction to be able to stay in their homes. This is usually a three month commitment per family. Supply food hampers, bus tickets, vouchers (gift cards) to the impoverished. Assist with basic needs such as gas, clothing, and toiletries. Provide "back to school" assistance and distribute winter jackets as required. Rent assistance in extraordinary cases. **We will be doing a special collection for St. Vincent de Paul's Invincible Housing program on Sunday November 3rd, but you can designate your offering any Sunday morning by putting a note on your envelope.**

Community Lunch will Follow this Service: Please join in the fun, bring something to share if possible and perhaps a friend for great food and conversation.

November 10th Paying Attention to our Future Rev. Danielle Webber
Worship Associate Linda Guebert

How do we move forward into a future with our mind bent towards peace, non-violent action and justice? On this, the eve of Canada's Remembrance Day and with the kick off of our Annual Pledge campaign we will be looking forward to a future of which we can be proud. A future in which we will focus our resources, our energies and our commitments towards creating a world where "true happiness," as Thich Nhat Hanh describes peace, can be found.

November 17th Making Sense of Suffering: A Personal View Linda Guebert
Worship Associate Kim Dawson

When we are faced with tragedy or loss, it is only natural to ask, "Why did this happen?" and particularly "Why did this happen to me?" In this service Linda Guebert reflects on her journey after the sudden death of her husband in 2000 and shares some of the insights she gained from the experience.



Linda Guebert is a member of Kelowna Unitarians who has recently moved to the Okanagan Valley from northern California. Her memoir, "The Hardest Thing I'll Ever Do: A Journey of Sorrow, Healing and Hope" was published in 2013.

November 24th Paying Attention to our Present
Worship Associate Rob Sebo

Rev. Danielle Webber

We are a society with attention being pulled in so many different areas, we live in a age of overwhelm, where our attention is divided by multi-tasking, split between global and local concerns, and pulled into many different directions by our ever busy calendars. How is it that we can hone in our attention to the present moment? This morning we will be focusing on our community in the present moment, welcoming new members, and seeking to find balance in the overwhelm.

Board Meeting Summary

Three board members and Danielle met on October 15, 2019. More work was needed for the Cawston house and grounds which Carol and Robin have been organizing. There will be a posting shortly for the congregation to give their feedback and preference comparing a ramp or elevator for accessibility. Danielle has posted ads for an RE employee; no applications have been received yet. Danielle reported that the Mental Health Association is happy with the use of the church and there have been no significant problems noted. Rental rates for the church need to be increased for 2020. Current rates and rates charged by other churches are being reviewed. It was agreed that no more wedding receptions be allowed because of the stringent noise bylaws and complaints. **Pledge season begins November 3 with a wrap up event November 22. Please keep that date open in your calendar!** Pledge packages will soon be available. **Danielle will be away October 16-23 and December 24-January 2. She will be on study leave January 13-23. We welcome new members Mary Statham and Lin Schierling!** The next board meeting will be November 19.

November 22: Fall Canvass Talent Show! Please mark your calendars now!!

Our annual fall canvass and pledge drive will wrap up on November 22nd at 7:00pm in the sanctuary. We will gather to celebrate what makes the Kelowna Unitarians so important to each of us and invite each other to think about what we want the coming year to bring in our community. But mostly it will be a fun evening of laughs and entertainment, with a talent show performance provided by — you! Well, if that's your thing. This will be the chance you have been waiting for to show off a song, dance, musical instrument, poetry, comedy, juggling, magic trick, skit, or just your silly party trick. And it is OK just to be a dedicated audience member and watch everyone else. J Yummy desserts will also be provided. (I hear that there is going to be some homemade pie!) **If you are willing to participate in the talent show, please contact your friendly, bow-tied Master of Ceremonies, Wayne Broughton, at waynejbroughton@gmail.com or 250-863-9768, by Thursday, November 21, to let him know what you are planning to do. Hope to see you there!**



MINISTER'S MUSING

August through October my attention has been pulled into too many directions. First we needed to determine what my contract would look like as I shifted into full-time ministry. And then we needed to put some work into the Cawston house. The church year start up is always a busy time of year. However, this year these two additions to my calendar and my attention, made it so much more than I thought I could handle. Of course, as soon one thing felt complete a new one jumped into the que and thus the never ending list of activities, programs, meetings, unpacked boxes, or boxes to be unpacked has continued. And to put the cherry on top of it all – I had a week in Calgary AB, away from the work here, but still very immersed in my ministry, being Ordained into Unitarian Universalist Ministry.

As I have managed to wend my way through the many things that have pulled my attention out of focus, I have realized that I have lost a very key focus, one of my own health and well being. Attention, and how we focus it has such a huge impact on who we are and how we interact with the world, and so this month, we will look at how we can bring it back into focus. As I sit here reflecting on the meaning of ceremony, and ritual, and feeling mystified about our ability to create time outside of time, I remember how easy it is to set aside the mundane, the everyday tasks of living life. For the last week I have let go all of the daily practices of my life here in Kelowna, and with Kelowna Unitarians, in order to create ritual and celebrate the end of my official training to become a minister, and to move through the ceremony of becoming a minister.

I wonder what life would look like if I were able to put the same attention, the same amount of intention, the same focus onto my daily, mundane tasks of living, as I was able to put into the week of my ordination. How would my life shift? How would my attention, my intention, my focus realigning to my daily practices shift my outlook on life, my ability to work through challenging aspects, offer more love, vulnerability, and authenticity? This month I hope to step ever so slightly closer to that possibility. I hope you will join me.

With Love,

Rev. Danielle Webber uudaniellewebber@gmail.com

403.98.8490

Danielle is available for appointments Friday – Tuesday



Announcements

Hi Folks,

We want to thank you for your generosity when our charitable organization, Mary Ellen Humane Education Society, was the recipient of KU's designated giving. As was mentioned, we are in a transitional phase right now. We will let you know how your money is helping us to fulfill our mission of helping people and their pets who are caught up in the web of domestic violence.

Together, we can make positive things happen in our world!

Blessings!

Jan and Kim

Sincerely,

Jan Dawson ABCDT, APDT

North Star Pet Dog Training

Co-founder & Humane Educator

Mary Ellen Humane Education Society

See www.maryellenhumaneeducationsociety.org

Poetry and Words Corner

Alabama Truism

“Everybody wanna shine: nobody wanna polish.”

Alabama Greeting

“What-da ya know good.” - no negatives please.

Alabama Diagnosis

“Hey Doc, Aw jis knows Aw got the Gouch in my big toe!”

Sterling Haynes

Acronyms

Many words and today's phrases today are created from the initial letter of a phrase, Some can be confusing to the new Canadians and the unsophisticated too. It is a question of making sense of the unknown. Many Acronyms can be confusing but some are simple.

Here are is a few simple one that people use every day e.g. the word COP -"Constable on Patrol," or the word "TIP" meaning "To Ensure Promptness." Sometimes you may read "POTUS" which means President Of The U.S.

Or the word POSH which means "Port Out Starboard Home." The word is derived from the travel of the English gentry travelling to India through the Suez Canal. There was no air conditioning on the Steam Ships e.g. the Empress of India and to insure a safe, cool journey from England to Calcutta the upper deck cabins would always be in the shade on the Portside going out and the Starboard side returning to England. The tickets were expensive and only purchased by the wealthy, upper classes labeled "POSH."

Science and medicine have become the worse culprits in coining new words in recent times. "RADAR" is from Radio Detection And Ranging and "LASER" meaning Light Amplification by Stimulated Emission of Radiation. Some of the newer acronyms are so complicated that a copy editor signs off ZZXJOANW and I don't blame her, I surrender!

Sterling Haynes jshaynes@shaw.ca



New Book by Canadian Unitarian Author

Hello Kelowna Unitarians!

I am a Unitarian author in Hamilton, Ontario, with a new book being published this fall by Douglas & McIntyre. The book is called ***My Year of Living Spiritually: From Woo-Woo to Wonderful—One Woman's Secular Quest for a More Soulful Life.***

Many thanks!

Cheers,

Anne

ANNE BOKMA

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Sunday Services as well as our Children's Religious Education Program are held at 10:30 AM

Kelowna Unitarians November Office Hours: Tuesdays and Fridays 11:00am -2pm

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Please send Newsletter submissions to ufksignal@hotmail.com by the 3rd Monday of each month.



www.kelownaunitarians.ca



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Sharing Diverse Explorations of Faith