



# The CommUUnicator

Newsletter of the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Waynesboro

## Circle Dinners Are Back!

Circle Dinners are a tradition in many Unitarian Universalist congregations. We enjoyed them until the pandemic brought them to a halt. It's time for a revival!

Circle Dinners offer a chance to share a potluck style dinner and lively conversation in members' homes. They are an enjoyable way for us to get to know each other better and perhaps meet some new people in a relaxed atmosphere. Visitors are welcome!

**The host(s) sets the time, provides the main dish, and contacts the others to arrange what they will bring for the meal.**

There are three possible ways of signing up to host or attend a Circle Dinner: 1) Fill out a form on the table in the back of the Fellowship Hall and put it in the stockpot. 2) Go to our website at [uufw.org](http://uufw.org), click on Connections, and fill out the form. 3) Email the information requested on the form to the coordinator, Sylvia Woodworth. Contact her if you have questions.

Sylvia will organize the hosts and guests for our first dinner on Saturday, **April 25<sup>th</sup>, with a firm deadline of April 13<sup>th</sup>.** Thank you for letting her know on the form of any dietary restrictions, if you have a preference for a family-friendly or adults-only dinner, and if you need a ride. Members offering to host will indicate how many guests they can accommodate.

So, please check your calendar now to see if you are available on April 25, and submit a form by April 13<sup>th</sup> if you would like to participate in this Circle Dinner. You can then be looking

forward to a delicious dinner and evening with friends. We expect to plan another Circle Dinner this summer.

## New Member Spotlight



One of our newest members to UUFW, **Kurt Langberg** has an ancestral tree with deep roots in the American South. Since his birth in Mississippi into a family who had been there since well before the Civil War, Kurt has

lived in eight different southern states, including Virginia, as well as in Iowa and Delaware. Other branches of that family tree include Cajuns, Irish, Scots, and Latvians.

His ancestry also includes a rich military background. From those who fought for the Confederacy (a fact that Kurt naturally struggled to reconcile in his earlier years), to a grandfather and several uncles who fought in WWII and Korea. Kurt's parents were both Air Force officers, and his half brother was an Airman as well. He also has uncles who are now retired officers from the Army and Marines. Kurt is proud to continue that rich heritage with his military career as an entomologist in the Army Reserve Medical Corps.

That family legacy of service also continues with Kurt in public service areas besides the

military. He has been part of Building Bridges for the Greater Good, and he is an active member of Virginia Organizing. Kurt is also now involved in the UUFW Social Justice group. His commitment to these causes was quite evident in his impassioned speech at the recent No Kings rally in Staunton.

Kurt has a master’s degree in biology from the University of North Carolina and an MS degree in Entomology from Virginia Tech. In 2017 Kurt, having worked extensively as a laboratory assistant in biology in both academic and private labs around the country, was hired as a laboratory specialist at UVA.

Besides using his science background in his military service and in research, Kurt is also now in the process of switching from the laboratory to the classroom, as he is taking the steps necessary to become a teacher of biology at the high school and middle school levels.

Like most of us, Kurt was born into a Christian background and had to experience the challenges of a rather extensive faith journey before finally joining us at UUFW. Always interested in exploring and learning about the different “practices and philosophies of faiths around the world,” Kurt was disappointed to find that many churches, including a few UU churches, were more interested in preaching “politics from the pulpit” than helping congregants explore and discover religious philosophies and faith traditions outside of Christianity. Kurt truly wanted to find a faith community that followed the Constitutional assurance that keeps politics and religion in their general respective lanes.

Always one to gravitate “toward the secular philosophy of Humanism,” Kurt found that the Unitarian and Universalist traditions were a great part of the foundational bedrock of

American Humanism. And the UU philosophies of exploring “shared truths” and being exposed to “faith traditions” from other world religions afforded Kurt the type of broader education he was searching for. He found that, though “a digital meeting space with Humanists in Discord is nice,” at UUFW, he enjoys the secular philosophical underpinnings along with “an in-person community,” a faith community dedicated to doing good for the broader community we share and live in.

As for personal pastimes, Kurt is “an avid gamer.” Having been a “forever DM,” he really enjoys the TTRPGs and the Cypher System games such as Numenera and World of Darkness games. So, if you are a gamer, you may want to talk to Kurt.

Kurt Langberg is a new member who brings much to the table and is interested in being more greatly involved in the promotion of the UU philosophy as an educational opportunity and in the UU activism of making our local community and the world better places to live in. We are indeed fortunate to have him join us at UUFW.

### UUs Protest No-Kings

