Rev's Reflections

No Kings Ever

We are fast approaching the 250th anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence, the moment when the folks who were getting to be known as Americans made clear the one thing they could absolutely agree on: No Kings Ever.

Sure there was a lot of discussion about whether we are a confederacy or a republic, and whether it should be a direct democracy or a representational democracy. There were arguments about who should have the privilege and responsibility of the vote, how representatives should be chosen, how each branch of government should exert its authority. Even in the midst of the shame of slavery and other oppressions, there was one thing EVERYONE could agree on:

No Kings Ever.

And so the power of the president has been limited. Until now. The current president is taking power as if he were king, terrorizing everyone he deems an enemy. And a slim majority of Congress is rendering the whole body powerless as they hand over to him their own power.

As an expression of our commitment to the principles we uphold, the Unitarian Universalist Association is an official partner of the No Kings National Day of Mobilization on Saturday, October 18. Our hope is that we can get 3.5% of the US population to turn out that day, because history has proven again and again that when that percentage of people show up to protest, change is inevitable.

Here in Rhode Island, there will be at least three demonstrations:
- Providence 1-3 on the mall. Click here for information on a shuttle from Wickford Station to the State House
- North Kingstown: 10am on the public sidewalk at 80 Boston Neck Road
- Westerly: Noon on the public sidewalk on Franklin Street, where UUCSC folks will be present with our giant protest puppet, Henry Penelope Sunflower, created by the the Wünder Academy of Metamorphosis, our summer program.

If you can't make it that day, consider contacting your federal delegation:
- Jack Reed (202) 224-4642; jack@reed.senate.gov
- Sheldon Whitehouse (202) 224-2921; sheldon_whitehouse@whitehouse.senate.gov
- Seth Magaziner (401) 244-1201

Of course there are lots of local groups to follow, but here are three that UUCSC has a special connection with through our Social Justice group and individual members of our congregation:
- South County Resistance, for the South Kingstown and Narragansett area
- South County Rising: for the Chariho area (Charlestown, Richmond, Hopkinton)

- Towards Antiracist North Kingstown (TANK): North Kingstown

As we were reminded at the fall gathering of the RI UU Legislative Ministry on Sunday, this is not the time to sit out.

In Peace,
Rev Denis