



First Unitarian Congregation of Ottawa

The Parkway Spire

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Deadline for next Spire
submissions:

June 17, 2016



In Memoriam

Valerie Cousins, wife of
Douglas ~ Died March 20,
2016



Caring Contacts

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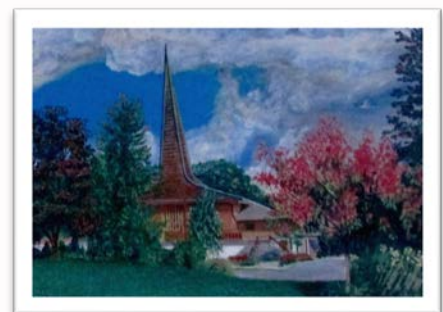
Joan Tutton
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New Caring Card

For many years the Caring
Committee has used Bradley
Ralph's popular depiction of
our award-winning building as
the design on our Caring Card.



As our supply of this version is
now almost depleted, the newly
named Caring Network
Executive has decided to use
Shree Rai's painting of the same
scene for our new card. The
congregation is very grateful for
the generosity of these two
talented artists as they have
allowed us to use and enjoy
their work in this way. Many
thanks to Bradley and to Shree!





President's Corner

~Maggie Sharp

When I joined the congregation in 2009, I had no inkling I'd end up taking on the role of Board President. I just knew I felt the call of a community that shared my values.

This feeling, I have realized, is what my mother was talking about all those years ago, when she insisted my sisters and I attend the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship near our house in Fredericton. She said we needed a "sense of community". That kind of grown-up talk didn't mean much to me when I was ten. I generally preferred to stay home and read a book or play in the yard. Many Sunday mornings, I resisted going to church the same way I resisted swimming lessons on Saturdays. But take heart, parents of recalcitrant children! Perhaps my Sunday morning fussing was just the beginning of my own search for truth and meaning, a ten-year-old Unitarian's need to choose her own path. Although I argued loudly then, I am now quietly grateful to my parents for introducing me to this community. In hindsight, I kind of wish they had dragged me to piano lessons too!

Although I still occasionally miss Sunday service to commune with nature or my non-religious friends, I continue to feel deeply connected to this congregation. Its members consistently inspire and comfort me just by being who they are. I want to make sure others have the opportunity to

benefit from this place as much as I have—it is one of the primary reasons that I joined the Board in 2012. Perhaps it's the civil servant in me. I know it takes a lot of time, talent and money to keep a good thing going, and I want to do my part.

We have greatly benefitted from my predecessor Maury Prevost's amazingly reliable and thorough leadership, and from the warmth and energy that Kim Elmer brought to the role of Board president before him. I hope to provide equally competent service to the congregation, but with the unmistakable charm (and sense of humour) of a quiet but feisty Easterner. When I look ahead to the coming year, I'm thrilled that I will be working with such a smart, caring, capable group of Directors who are dedicated to the well-being of this community. I strongly feel the blessing of having talented staff who are so committed to helping realize our collective vision of what it means to be Unitarian.

I know the path followed by each individual who crosses our threshold is different; I firmly believe that is our strength as a movement. I look forward to hearing more about what brought you here, what keeps you here, and where you think we should be headed as a congregation.

~Maggie Sharp



Intern's Reflections

A.J. Galazen



My Hope and Prayer

As I come to the end of my time with you, I'm waxing philosophic on my future. This congregation has given me an opportunity to expand my skills and express my faith in exciting new ways. I'm deeply grateful for your kindness! Thank you for welcoming me to your beloved community. Thank you for supporting student ministers through your generosity.

Some of you may be wondering, "What's next for A.J.?" To put it simply: I hope to serve where I am needed. I will work next year as a chaplain resident at Fairview Southdale Hospital in Edina, Minnesota, a suburb of Minneapolis. My "reptilian brain" still reacts with fright at the possibilities. Lingering doubts cause me to question my true "holy" grit. Compared with those I emulate – my professors, mentors and spiritual friends – how do I stack up?

My hope and prayer is that I will be fine! I am congruent in my faith and my flexibility. I don't need to go fishing for compliments or try to become something I am not. My wounds will be with me always. They speak to me and provide energy for my journey. My wounds have given me a humble reverence for life, and an appreciation for the work of anti-racist, anti-oppressive, and multicultural ministries. I am invested in a holistic awareness of community life, including healthy sexuality, religious education for all ages, and the importance of local theology, the spiritual life of the people.

The key is my life experience. Everything I have done has prepared me for various facets of ministry. Growing up Catholic, I emulated the role of the *priest*, appreciating the beauty of ritual and connecting with the sacraments. In the business world, I modelled the role of the *pastor*, one who nurtures people with the presence of compassion, and guides them gently toward mission. By coaching volleyball and working with teams, I have staked my claim to the role of *teacher*. By listening to people and proclaiming the good news, I have sensed the role of *prophet*, one that climbs above the fray and sounds the clarion in the wilderness. And my experience with accounting, policies and procedures has taught me the role of *administrator*, the versatile mechanic of forms, functions, and committees.

Self-reflection is an important part of my adventure. Up to now, I have taken the path of least resistance. I have done what was needed because no one else would. I was in the right place at the right time, hired for a specific job. Now I must compete on a different level. For the first time in my life, I must travel beyond what I have done, and sell myself as a *future commodity*. I must compete for attention, relevance, and respect. To be hired – *to be called* – by a congregation, I must now elicit honest feedback from those I wish to serve.

continued on page 4...

Intern's Reflections...cont.

I hope that as my ministerial formation continues, I will remain open to criticism, both positive and negative, and continue to dialogue with my parishioners as we integrate our differing styles and theologies in partnership. The central question of my ministry is this: What gets people to come back to church every week? Why do people invest (or waste) their time with religious communities? The answer cannot possibly be “the minister” or we will surely fail. The minister cannot be the sole provider of religious services. But I believe the minister carries a sacred responsibility beyond his or her own personal development. By the example of living a life dedicated to “*prayer, sacrifice and love*” the minister helps *all* people find meaning both within and beyond the congregation.

For me, *prayer* is a way of quieting time. Prayer is language directed not at action but at being. Prayer changes the focus from cacophonous and noisy to simple and clear. I cannot pray with anxiety; I must find a calm mooring to be effective in my prayer. As a minister, I must *live* the prayer of St. Francis, and become an instrument of peace. In the words of that famous prayer, my highest goals in ministry are “not to seek to be consoled but to console; not to be understood but to understand; and not to be loved but to love.” These vows speak of a sacrifice filled with promise.

Sacrifice is a choice made by those with

privilege. Because I have more than I need, I am able to make sacrifices. Sacrifice is not possible for those whose survival is in question. I have chosen to forego the American Dream of early retirement and dedicate my latter years to ministry. I have been given the privilege to do so because of the accident of my birth and the gifts of my spirit. I want to use this accident and these gifts to become available to a larger purpose. I hope that my testimony will serve to inspire creative action and social justice.

Our world is in desperate need of consolation, understanding and love. These three will forever be in short supply, but to love generously without compensation is my definition of divinity. The good news is that God is love, and love is alive in all of us. Love is both the *method* and the *purpose* of existence. Therefore, the cultivation of a personal spiritual life in effect cultivates the life of the community, and participation in religious community inspires both the individual life and the life of the world to come.

I hope this year has been as beneficial for you as it has for me! I've enjoyed every moment, every meeting, every sermon, and even every time of weeping. May you continue to grow your mission of love and service to the world. May all living things find refuge in this sanctuary of peace that we create together. Amen!

~ A. J. Galazen



Religious Exploration (RE)

–Liz Roper



We are winding down the end of this RE year and gearing up for the next already! We will have a whole new structure, which has been slowly integrated over this year and will be in full swing in September. We will be moving to all multi-age classes, and many of our classrooms will be Spirit Play-based to encourage self-directed learning from our participants, allowing them to interact with each other and learn at their own pace.

Young Learners – infants, preschool and kindergarten. We will be transforming our current nursery space into a spirit play classroom, for a wider age range. This is a method of controlled environment so that the children can learn through their own actions. We start with a story and then the children choose their own activity.

Holidays and Holydays – School age children. This curriculum is another in the spirit play method where the children learn about different religious and cultural practices from around the world. They will learn through storytelling and then choose their own activities with art extensions to inspire and challenge the more curious participants.

Spirit of Adventure – school age children. This curriculum was started this past semester, and with a few tweaks we will be bringing it back! It is a curriculum based on doing and experiencing to learn – great for active children. They learn about famous U*Us and values throughout the class.

Middle School Minds – Our older “tweens” often want a space where they can discuss things in a more “grown-up” manner. This class will run on the first Sunday of the month (after All Together

NOW worship) and the third Sunday of each month. This gives the older participants a time to prepare to take on responsibilities of being a youth, talking about ethics, morals, opinions, and facts; and working on social justice projects.

Youth Group – Our youth group is still going strong, especially after our recent New York City trip to the UU-UNO spring conference. We worship in different ways most weeks and leave time for curriculum learning, fundraising, fun, fellowship and games.

We need leaders!

We have several positions open for the fall semester:

Spirit Play Leaders – (pre-school or elementary age)

You may find a place in our classrooms if you:

- are a story teller
- like to watch children explore their worlds
- like to hear children’s thoughts on deep topics
- can be a calming presence
- can model a structure environment and encourage freedom of expression within the space
- can inspire future leaders to take on roles of responsibility
- have any experience with Spirit Play, Montessori, or Waldorf education
- want to learn more about our UU identity or world religions



Religious Exploration...continued

Spirit of Adventure

You may find a place in our classroom if you:

- like to be active
- like sports and making things with your hands
- like action, noise, and energy
- like trying new things
- can play games and run activities with lots of movement
- want to learn more about U*U history

Middle School Minds

You may find a place in our classroom if you:

- like to ask the big, deep questions
- can connect theory to real life for children
- are passionate about social justice
- like to see the penny drop moments
- are philosophically minded

All your training will be provided so that we can give the best education possible to our children.

We need our leaders to commit to:

- lead two Sundays a month from 10 a.m. – 12.15 p.m.
- attend one training session a semester
- communicating with their team to organize scheduling
- work toward the mission, and within the values, of First Unitarian Congregation of Ottawa and the Religious Exploration program.

If you are interested in leading one of our classrooms this fall, please send an email to Liz Roper at DLL@firstunitarianottawa.ca, letting her know why you are interested and what you can bring to our program. Or speak to one of our RE team members in Fellowship Hall by the RE recruitment noticeboard.

Want to support the RE program in a different way?

We welcome angels – one-off helpers for Sunday mornings – look for the noticeboard in Fellowship Hall, or sign up at http://www.signupgenius.com/go/10c0a4ea_aab28a4f85-sunday

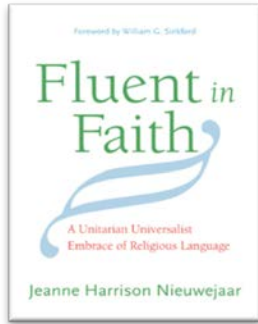
As we are going to be changing our curriculum and teaching methods, we will be looking to update our spaces! Keep your eyes peeled for a “wanted” list of items that we need to make a successful spirit play environment. You will be able to donate used items, purchase new items or donate money to our classrooms. Please see the examples below of spirit play set ups for multi-ages, to whet your appetite for what is to come (with your help of course!).

~Liz Roper



Lifespan Learning Events

Fluent in Faith



Tuesday, May 10, 6–8 pm
Room 5. Adult Education
Program

God, Faith, Hope, Love,
Covenant, Doctrine,
Sacrament, Prayer,
Sanctuary, Sin, Atonement,
Blessing, Grace, Mercy,
Salvation. These words are
very evocative, especially in
the Unitarian Universalist
faith, where many people
have come from different
faith backgrounds with
different ideas on what they
mean.

Fluent in Faith will explore
how we individually identify
with these words in order to
see how we can embrace
them as a community. This
workshop is based on the
book of the same name by
Jeanne Harrison
Nieuwejaar. “Fluent in
Faith... [calls] us to embrace
our religious language in all
its diversity and wide range
of meaning.” Nieuwejaar sets
forth a vision for Unitarian
Universalism where, as an
articulate people, we can
both deeply feel and deeply
express our faith.

This workshop will address
many tensions that

Unitarians have wrestled
with for decades; we will
open our hearts and minds
to different interpretations
and hear the joy and sorrow
attached to these concepts
for our neighbours in faith.

The workshop will be led by
Director of Lifespan
Learning Liz Roper: a
lifelong Unitarian with a
degree in Philosophy,
Psychology, and Religious
Education (which all add up
to talking about words and
how we feel about them very
nicely!) RSVP to
dll@firstunitarianottawa.ca

All Ages Games Night

Saturday, May 28, 6 pm
Rooms 5-6



Before you all pop off to the
cottage or go on a sunny
holiday, have a fun fling with
your fellow congregants!
Monopoly, Snakes and
Ladders, Twister, Cat and
Mouse, Mouse Trap Shark,
Chess, Beetle, Snap,
Chocolate Game,
Funemployed, But Wait
There's More, For Sale,
Anomia, SpyFall, Story
Wars, Jungle Speed, Ladies
and Gentlemen, Snake Oil,
Carcassone, Settlers of
Catan, Love Letters...

How many of these did you
recognize? Hopefully not all
of them! That is the fun of
coming to an all-ages game
night, you get the chance to
learn some new games and
play games with new people.

We will be holding an event
at First Unitarian where
there will be all manner of
games: active games, card
games, board games,
parachute games. Come and
join us if you want to spend
some time getting to know
other members of the
congregation. You may learn
a new game or teach
someone else a new one. We
are particularly looking for
avid board gamers to help us
run some of the games – you
can bring your own or use
one of ours.

Leader Appreciation Potluck Picnic –

May 15, 12 pm in the
playground behind
Fellowship Hall

It is the end of the RE year!
Come and celebrate all the
hard work our RE leaders
have done, and all the fun
your children have had! All
families and RE supporters
are welcome.

Please bring a side dish,
salad or dessert; the RE team
will be providing sandwich
materials. I look forward to
celebrating my first year here
at First Unitarian and
kicking off a great summer of
planning and learning for
myself!

~Liz Roper

Youth in Action



Hello! My name is Robyn Zanetti. I have been attending this congregation for 14 years. I am on staff for this year's CanUUdle in Vancouver as the memory keeper. I am responsible for taking pictures, capturing memories and making it all accessible for fellow youth after the con. I will also be leading a workshop in which we will be making a scrapbook of the weekend. I am excited to share my love of crafting and photography. I am also very excited to attend CanUUdle again, this time as a staff member.

Note: CanUUdle is the youth conference attached to our CUC's National Conference and AGM. Both CanUUdle and the CUC conference will be held bi-annually from this year, meaning the next will be in 2018. As the event is so far away this year, we are proud that a youth member of our congregation can still attend to represent our congregation.



Photo: Armand Robinson, Lucas Zanetti, Curtis Gibbs, Prakriti Kharel, and Griffin Polis, accompanied by Liz Roper and John Marsh (photographer), on the Staten Island ferry in New York.

This was near the end of our whirlwind few days at the Unitarian Universalist United Nations Office (UU-UNO) spring conference. This year we discussed and learnt all about the colours of inequality; climate change, economic inequality, and racial inequality were the main topics.

Our youth had a wonderful time and were fantastic ambassadors for our congregation. We would like to thank everyone who donated to the cause, and the UN working group for their continued support. If you would like to see trips like this continue, please consider contacting the office to make a donation to the Youth Travel Fund.



Two of our youth— Curtis Gibbs and Lucas Zanetti— have now attended the seminar for two years running, and they won't stop there! They are applying to become youth envoys to the UNO for our congregation. They must be supported by the congregation in order to represent us, and as Director of Lifespan Learning, and their sponsor at this past event, I would give my wholehearted endorsement. I hope you all will do the same to encourage these future leaders in our congregation.

~Liz Roper



Musical Interludes

–Deidre Kellerman



Music News!

We are a very musical community here at First Unitarian! Choirs, song circles, concerts, congregational singing ... there is always a song in the air and I'm happy for it. If you would like to join in the fun but don't know where to start, my door is always open—drop by for a chat!

Spring Concert

Please join us for our annual Spring Concert, on **Saturday, May 14 at 7:30 pm**, featuring the three choirs of First Unitarian. The repertoire will include everything from jazz standards to choral standards, folk tunes to 60's soul. Admission is pay-what-you-can donation at the door.



Calling all instrumentalists

Interested in music but singing isn't your thing? We would still love to have you participate. Whether you can tinkle the ivories, strum a tune on guitar or play a mean set of spoons, if you'd like to share your music, let me know! The choirs will be on summer break from mid-May to early September, so summer services are a great time to participate.

New Program: Spirit Singers, a multigenerational music group

I'm very excited to announce a new musical group that will be starting in the fall: Spirit Singers! This group will be open to all ages, with no previous musical experience necessary. It will be great for families looking to make music together, adults who have never sung outside the shower, people who learn by ear and anyone who loves to clap, stomp, snap and sing! We will sing music from around the world, in unison, rounds and simple harmony. We will sing in services about once a month and help teach the congregation new songs, especially from the "Singing the Journey" supplementary hymn book. More info to come... stay tuned.

Song Circles

Thanks to everyone who joined us for the Song Circles over the past few months. They were great fun, and each one had a fabulous turnout. The Song Circles will start up again in the fall, with a consistent day and time each month (TBA). Keep an eye on our website for a chance to request songs!

Yours in song,

~Deidre Kellerman



May-June Worship Services

MAY THEME: WONDER

May 1 *Our First Source, Transcending Mystery and Wonder!*

Speaker: John Marsh
This is an experience “affirmed in all cultures, which moves us to a renewal of the spirit and an openness to the forces that create and uphold life.”

May 8 *Mother’s Day, the Wonder of Mothers!*

Speaker: John Marsh

May 15 *Celebrating Curiosity, a Multisensory Service for All Ages*

Speakers: Liz Roper and others
Our youth group will be working on this service for all ages, helping us celebrate curiosity in our lives. We will be recognizing all of our Religious Exploration leaders for all their hard work as curiosity creators and fulfillers!

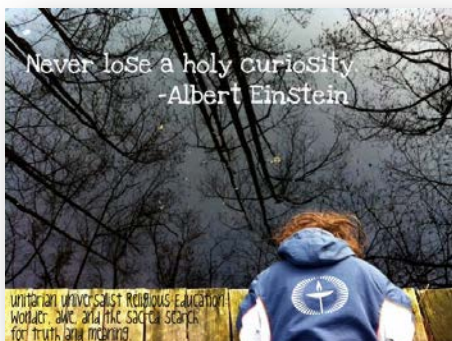


Photo: <http://uumediaworks.tumblr.com>



May 22 *A Reflection on Soap Bubbles*

Speaker: John Marsh
Soap bubbles have often been used as a metaphor for the transience, fragility and unpredictability of human life. Turns out, however, the things are fairly predictable.



May 29 *Flower Communion*

Speaker: John Marsh
Everyone is invited to bring a flower to share to this service. The story of Norbert Capek will be told.

JUNE THEME – PLAY

June 5 *Transitions*

Speaker: John Marsh
As we transition from spring to summer, let’s reflect on how games and childhood play prepare us for the transitions in our lives.

June 12 *The End is Here*

Speakers: A.J. Galazen and others

Our last service with A.J. Galazen will be a service of music, meditation, and a message of beginnings and endings. We will have special guests from the Ottawa Gay Men’s Chorus

June 19 *The Free Flow of Information*

Guest Speaker: John Reid
Mr. Reid is a former Information Commissioner for Canada as well as an MP and Cabinet minister in the Pierre Trudeau government.

June 26 *Topic: TBA*

Guest Speaker: David Chernushenko
Mr. Chernushenko is an Ottawa city councilor, a sustainability consultant, and a documentary filmmaker. He and his wife are long-time members of our congregation.

July 3

Global Justice Service “Human Beings: Duties and Responsibilities”.
Guest Speaker: Albert Dumont
Mr. Dumont is an elder and spiritual advisor to First Nations inmates in the prison system.

Note: Full details of July-August services to follow in the summer issue of the Spire.

Thank you Merci Meegwitch

~ compiled by Alastaire Henderson

Here are some people and activities to appreciate, recognize, and celebrate

- ♥ A great, big, thank you to **Maury Prevost** for so ably serving as Board President over the last two years. His steady hand on the tiller helped see the congregation through some major challenges, such as the proposed LRT route. Thanks also to the new and returning Board members for taking on this important role in our congregation.
- ♥ Thank you to **Pat MacDonald, Bob Armstrong, Margaret Linton** and their spouses and team for organizing the Time and Talent Auction this year. Thanks also go to the organizers, donors, and bidders who contributed to another successful Time and Talent fundraiser.
- ♥ Appreciation to the Communications and Outreach ad hoc committee members, **Terry Kimmel (leader), Rozanne Lepine, Alastaire Henderson, Bruce Tsuji, Chris Hughes, and Cynthia Rowland**, who produced a Communications and Outreach Plan adopted by the Board at its March meeting. We also thank everyone else who provided input to or feedback on the plan.
- ♥ Thanks to **Bob and Tarrel Armstrong**, who are stepping down after leading the UU Bridge group for the last ten years!
- ♥ Thank you to the Campus Planning Committee (CPC) members, **Blair Erskine (chair), Marlene Koehler, Doug Robinson, and Guy Belleperche**, and many others who campaigned successfully (pending a City Council vote on May 11) to remove the Stage 2 LRT alignment from our campus.
- ♥ Many thanks to **David Hudson** for his time spent working on the music library database.
- ♥ A big thank-you to **Katherine Gunn** for sewing the new CUSJ banner. What a beautiful job!
- ♥ Many thanks to **Liz Roper** and **John Marsh** for taking our youth to the UN spring seminar and giving them a life-changing experience. We are so grateful for your caring.

You can submit items by sending an email to Alastaire at hendersalas@gmail.com or by calling 613-562-2253 at least 48 hours before the deadline.

River Parkway Children's Centre (RPCC)

The RPCC was conceived and founded by members and friends of the First Unitarian Congregation of Ottawa as River Parkway Preschool Centre, when the congregation's current building was established. Four of the congregation's members are part of the 12-person Board elected annually. The Centre had its rented home on the lower floor of First Unitarian's building from 1968 until 2008, sharing the space with the Religious Education classes.

2008 saw the move south into its new building at 40 Cleary, where it celebrates 48 years of Early Childhood Learning in 2016. This Centre is licensed for seventy-two children, aged 18 months to 12 years. At RPCC, the children enjoy a weekly music program and a storytime with the community librarian.

Our smaller Centre, River Heights Children's Centre (RHCC), is on Tenth Line Road in Orleans, in Sir Wilfrid Laurier High School. The playground there has recently had a major upgrade and will be a treat for the children this spring and summer. RHCC accommodates thirty-nine children (18 months to 6 years of age). The River Heights children enjoy visits to the Eastern Ontario Resource Centre and the Cumberland Library, located within walking distance. The two centres constitute the River Parkway Children's Centre Corporation.

A new Toddlers' program in specially renovated rooms has opened for youngsters 18-to-30 months of age at River Parkway. For information on childcare for that age group, contact the Program Director, Diane Gauthier, at 613-729-3129.

*~Alexandra Devine
RPCC Board Member*

Social Responsibility Council

The Stephen Lewis Foundation and the Unitarian GoGos

Since 2003, the Stephen Lewis Foundation (SLF) has been focused on the work of supporting African grassroots organizations responding to the AIDS pandemic. In 2006, the SLF brought together African and Canadian grandmothers in Toronto. Inspired by this event, the Unitarian GoGos group was formed by Prue Craib, Pat Hill and other women. Unitarian GoGos is one of the social responsibility groups of the church.

We do all our own fundraising and do not receive funds from the church budget. Unitarian GoGos very much appreciates the support it receives from congregants and staff.

In February 2016, we had a fun-filled evening, listening and dancing to the music and voices of the Mango Upstart band and the Three Rivers Singers, participating in a Silent Auction, enjoying

delicious homemade appetizers and desserts. We raised \$5454 for the SLF and its work.

Unitarian GoGos always welcomes new members. Contact us at unitariangogos@gmail.com or Joan Turner at 613-721-0791. We meet on the third Thursday of the month usually at 1:30 p.m. in Room 5 downstairs.

Grandmother groups are celebrating 10 years of being part of the Grandmothers to Grandmothers Campaign of the SLF. Special events include having Stephen Lewis speak in Ottawa in March 2017. In the meantime, join Unitarian GoGos and find a sense of meaning and purpose in our local, national and international activities. Support us by attending our fundraising events, offer to help out at events, provide us with a donation to the SLF, and tell your friends about us. For more information about SLF, see www.stephenlewisfoundation.org.

A gay man from the Middle East finds a safe haven in Ottawa



Capital Rainbow Refuge (CRR) has received its fifth LGBT newcomer, a single, gay man from the Middle East. D.T. was in great danger in his home country because of his sexual orientation. CRR's previous newcomers, a lesbian couple from Southeast Asia (in 2012) and a gay male couple, also from the Middle East (in 2015), are all in school, working, or both, and are all doing well. (For reasons of their security in this Internet age, we do not reveal the names of our newcomers, or personal information about them, including their specific countries of origin. They, or their families, could still be in danger just because they are LGBT.)

The Canadian Unitarian Council is our Sponsorship Agreement holder. CUC signed the papers, CRR raised the money to sponsor our newcomers, and individual donors, including members of First Unitarian Ottawa, generously offered gifts in kind for their new households. Thank you!

*~Barbara Freeman
CRR liaison with First Unitarian*



Social Responsibility Council

Notes from the Syrian Refugee Group

*We have just chosen our second sponsored family! They are a family of five with three girls, ages 1, 3 and 9, who are currently living in Lebanon. This will be a private sponsorship (with no government funding) and we will be working with the family's Ottawa relatives on the application and settlement process. It will likely be at least a year before the family arrives.

*The federal government has slowed down their processing times for Syrian refugees. For more information on this and related issues we've been facing, please read Patricia Paul-Carson's Op Ed piece in the Citizen:

<http://ottawacitizen.com/opinion/columnists/paul-carson-refugee-sponsors-frustrated-by-government>

*Our volunteer coordinator, Jane Lindsay, organized a potluck dinner for all the active and 'waiting' volunteers to connect and share their experiences. It was a lovely evening! We continue to be amazed by the overwhelming support for this project.

*And please join us in welcoming our first family to the congregation at the May 1st service.

~Patricia Paul-Carson and Jan Andrews, Co-Chairs
Syrian Refugee Group

Aboriginal Issues Focus

Have you got an Hour or Two ...?

...that you could contribute to the local community? Our Social Responsibility Council's Poverty Awareness Working Group welcomes volunteers who can share in picking up household donations, sorting them (and cleaning some), and delivering them. We're supporting Oshki Kizis Lodge, the Aboriginal Women's Shelter, where we help women who have received housing and are moving on from the shelter, but with no furniture or household goods to start a new life. Contact:

povertyawareness@firstunitarianottawa.ca



Coming Events:

Tues May 24 - Fri May 27 Aboriginal Awareness Week

First introduced in 1992, it takes place on the four days that follow the Victoria Day

long weekend in Ottawa. Look for displays and outdoor activities across Ottawa, particularly around government building complexes.

Saturday May 28 - Sunday May 29. Odawa Traditional Pow-wow

New location: 200 Moodie Dr., south of the Queensway. Free admission. All welcome. Gates open at 10:00 a.m.

Sunday, May 29, or Thursday, June 2. Blanket Exercise on Parliament Hill.

One of many mass blanket exercises happening across the country, led by Indigenous youth leaders and settler allies. This is year two in honour of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission and the continued work needed for reconciliation in Canada. Watch for more details on date and time.

Sunday, June 12. Parade to celebrate National Aboriginal Day.

Join in the parade, which begins at 1:00 p.m. at the corner of Bay and Wellington streets, in the Garden of the Provinces and Territories, in downtown Ottawa. Bring drums, colour, song! For route and updates, <http://www.facebook.com/ottawanadparade>

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Social Responsibility Council

Thursday June 17 - Sunday June 19. Ottawa Summer Solstice Aboriginal Festival, Vincent Massey Park. See www.ottawasummersolstice.ca, <https://www.facebook.com/OttawaSolstice/>.



Fire Dancers from Mexico, Hoop dancers, Kaha:wi Dance Theatre, food, art, music, Native culture. Mostly free, and great for families.

By Tuesday June 21. A challenge to read the Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC)

Summary Report. Take the pledge to show you genuinely care about the relationship between aboriginal and non-aboriginal people in Canada. Find it here:

<http://trcreadingchallenge.com/>
An alternative is to listen to the TRC Report, by topic or in sequence, from one to about five or six pages at a time:
<http://tinyurl.com/ontwunw>

Fact: Possibly the longest North American palindromic word is *kinnikinnik*, a dried leaf and bark mixture smoked by the Cree. — Robert Hendrickson, "The Literary Life"



SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY CALENDAR

MAY

Sunday May 1, 12:30 p.m. UN Working Group meeting

Tuesday May 3, 7:00 p.m. Aboriginal Issues 8th Fire film: At the Crossroads, plus discussion.

Saturday-Sunday, May 7-8, 9:00 a.m. GoGo Grannies Sale: Garden, Goodies and Gifts

Sunday May 8, 11:45 a.m. Global Justice Information Circle

Sunday May 15, 12:30 p.m. Global Justice Working Group meeting

Sunday May 15, 11:45 a.m. Fair Trade Sales: La Siembra Co-op Fair Trade Coffee/Chocolate and ZATOUN olive products

Tuesday May 17, 7:00 p.m. Aboriginal Issues 8th Fire film: Trick or Treaty. Discussion with Stephen Aronson. Former land claims negotiator

Friday May 20, 7:00 p.m. Global Justice Working Group: Hassan Diab Information presentation

JUNE

Sunday June 5, 12:30 p.m. - UN Working Group meeting

Sunday June 12, 11:45 a.m. - Fair Trade Sales: La Siembra Co-op Fair Trade Coffee/Chocolate and ZATOUN products

Wednesday, June 15 - SRC Spire Deadline

GoGo Grannies Garden, Goodies and Gifts

Unitarian GoGos Mother's Day Weekend Sales
Fundraiser for the Stephen Lewis Foundation



Items for sale:
plants, scarves,
jewelry, pottery,
purses, belts,
picture frames,
crafts,
home-baking.

Sat & Sun May 7 & 8, 2016

rain or shine

First Unitarian Congregation
30 Cleary Ave. (off Richmond Road)
9 am to 2 pm

Sunday: Three Rivers Singers at 10:00
613-725-1066
unitariangogos@gmail.com
(cash or cheque with ID)



Poster by Paula Therige

Photo by Alexis MacDonald



Announcements

UU Round Table Lunch

Fridays: May 20, June 17

New Location: Kristy's
809 Richmond Road.
Phone: (613) 722-2336
Open to all Unitarian
Universalists and guests.
Lively discussions take
place among members of
the group, who have
diverse interests and
experiences. Our
meeting location changes
every three months.

When: Third Friday of the
month, at 1:00 p.m.

Contact: Tudy McLaine, 613-
745-8074, Marjorie Daechsel,
613-596-1471 by the
preceding Thursday evening
to reserve a place.

Meditation Gardens Plant Sales!

The Gardens are being
simplified, so hundreds of
hardy organic perennials
are looking for new
homes. A wonderful
opportunity to find green
treasures for your own
garden. Plant sales will be
held at First Unitarian,
Saturday and Sunday,
May 14-15, 9 a.m. to 3
p.m. Also Saturday and
Sunday, June 4-5.

Questions or want a plant
list? Contact Renée,
reeneknowsbest@rogers.com

Unitarian GoGos

The Unitarian GoGos' next
fundraiser is its "Garden,
Goodies and Gifts" sale on
Mother's Day weekend, May
7 and 8, 9:00 a.m. to 2:00
p.m.



Outdoors at the west
entrance to First Unitarian
Congregation. Sales items
include plants, jewellery,
home baking, scarves,
handbags, belts, pottery,
picture frames, gift items and
more. This is one of our
annual fundraisers for the
Stephen Lewis Foundation.



Unitarian Seniors' Program

May

Blair Erskine will speak
about his trip through
the Northwest Passage in
August 2015. Elizabeth
Bowen will lead the
worship service.

When: Wednesday, May 25
Service: 1:00 p.m. **Program:**
1:30 p.m.

Where: In Worship and
Fellowship Halls.

Refreshments (\$3 or pay what
you can)

RSVP (if you are not on the
phone list) to Maureen Sly,
613-728-7610,

mmsly@rogers.com by
Sunday, May 22.

June

Ed Tamagno will speak about
"The Wonders of Ancient
Syria". Ellen Bell will lead the
worship service.

When: Thursday, June 30
Service: 1:00 p.m. **Program:**
1:30 p.m.

Where: In Worship and
Fellowship Halls.

Refreshments (\$3 or pay what
you can)

RSVP (if you are not on the
phone list) to Maureen Sly,
613-728-7610,

mmsly@rogers.com by
Monday, June 27.

*Note: Earphones available in
Worship and Fellowship
Halls. Service and program
can be recorded on a CD (cost
\$5) or be available as a
broadcast from our website
(free), provided permission
has been given by the speaker(s).*

Announcements cont...



Fall Fair

Save the Date: November 19, 2016

Our Fall Fair will take place this year on Saturday, November 19, a week later than usual to reduce overlap with Remembrance Day, as well as with other bazaars. So mark your calendars now!

And even though it is seven months away, as you open cottages or spring clean, don't forget to put aside good-quality items you no longer want for the Fair – not to mention those nice winter clothes you still haven't worn for the past 2 winters! Jewellery, stamps and coins will be accepted by the office at any time. Because storage space is limited, only Silent Auction items can be stored over the summer; contact Katherine at klgunn@ncf.ca.

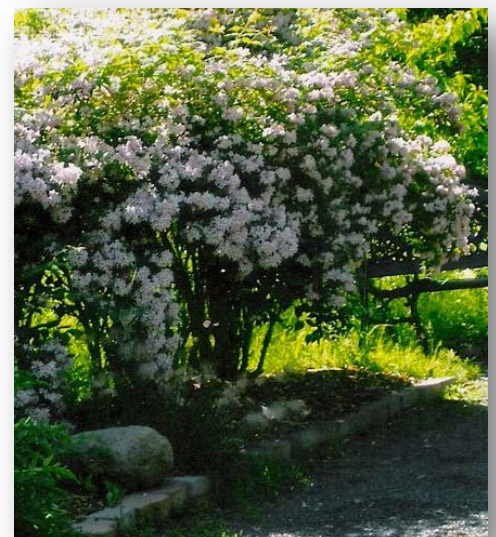
The church (and its operational budget) rely on its many volunteers to make the Fair successful. We are in need of a number of people to coordinate activities. If you are an organizer, love

working with people, or enjoy preparing copy and would like to know more about the opportunities, contact Sherri Watson, smwatson@magma.ca.

Hospitality Hour (Sundays after service)

Would you like to help make Hospitality Hour a success, while working with friendly people? Hospitality (aka Coffee) Hour is run by volunteers, with guidance and assistance from its coordinator, Tarrel Armstrong.

A sign-up sheet/schedule for volunteers is posted just outside the Fellowship Hall kitchen. Volunteers lay out tables and prepare beverages and snacks in Fellowship Hall before Sunday service; bring perishable supplies and baking or other snacks; serve refreshments following the service; and clean up and tidy the kitchen following Hospitality Hour. You may volunteer for before, during and after the hour.





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Office Hours: Monday to Friday, 9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

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