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**Deadline for next Spire
submissions:
June 20, 2015**



In Memoriam

Ann E. R. Dunkley - died
March 16, 2015

Ernest (Ernie) E. Criddle -
died March 17, 2015,
partner of 40 years to
Rosemary Bonyun



Caring Contacts

May

Isabel Burrows
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**NO SERVICE AT 30 CLEARY AVENUE
ON SUNDAY MAY 17**

On May 17, we will be hosting the Sunday morning
Worship Service of the Canadian Unitarian Council at
the Algonquin College Theatre, on the theme, *Oh,
Canada, My Country*. See inside for details.

Doors open at 10:15 a.m. All are welcome. There is
free parking at Algonquin College on the weekends,
and you do not need to be registered for the
conference in order to attend the service.



President's Corner

– *Maury Prevost*

The ripple effect, transforming lives

I am writing this column at the end of National Volunteer Week, April 12-18, and as I prepare to preside for the first time at an Annual General Meeting of our congregation, on April 26. When I said in my previous column that I would write my next one on the theme of volunteers, I was forgetting that I'd already done that in my November/December 2014 column. However, it's an important subject to cover again.

The theme of National Volunteer Week in Canada this year is that "Volunteers are part of the ripple effect". As it says on its website, <http://volunteer.ca/nvw2015> "A volunteer action is like a stone thrown in a lake: its effect has a direct impact. At the same time, like ripples, volunteer efforts reach out far and wide to improve communities. Undeniably, volunteers rock."

And I would like to add that the work of volunteers can transform lives. When I think of this in the context of our congregation, several examples come to mind:

- Mr. Mia and Shree, their families, and other refugees or asylum seekers that we have supported, to whom we offered sanctuary and/or hope at a time of great need, and then continued to nurture as they became permanent residents and citizens of Canada.
- The children and youth who have benefited or continue to benefit from our Religious Exploration programs, including OWL and the UU-UNO seminar trips to New York City.
- The people in this community and far

beyond supported by organizations that we support, such as Multi-Faith Housing Initiative, USC Canada, Ancoura, and Child Haven International.

- Those who find a spiritual home in our community, often after much searching, where we promote "encouragement to spiritual growth" (part of our 3rd principle) and "a free and responsible search for truth and meaning" (our 4th principle).

Another of the regular columns in this publication, "Thank you, Merci, Gracias", is one of the ways we can highlight the contributions of specific volunteers, either individuals or groups. I encourage you to submit items for this column to recognize what volunteers have done in our congregation that means the most to you.

There is a constant supply of volunteer opportunities here. One of them is for a Volunteer Coordinator or Volunteer Coordination Team, as I mentioned in my November/December column. Keep your eyes, ears, and spirit open for what interests you and let people know. May we create and receive, with gratitude, many ripples.

~*Maury Prevost*



Capital Ideas!

—John Marsh



In a few weeks, our city and our congregation will host the Annual Conference of the Canadian Unitarian Council. Unitarian Universalists from across our nation, indeed, from across our globe, will be descending on the Algonquin Campus to meet, sing, exchange ideas, review best practices, tell stories, and compare notes. There will be some palavers to be sure. However, there will also be some significant learning. Old friends will embrace. New friends will be made.

There will also be meetings of the similarly occupied. I am talking about ministers, chaplains, directors of religious exploration, board presidents, treasurers, musicians, youth, young adults, children, official delegates, and those who have simply come for the experience. All will have their designated times and places. Some of them will be meeting in our own congregational building.

Putting these events on is expensive as all get out. Every year we agree that we should hold ourselves in check and have these conferences every other year. However, as a wise person once said, “for those who like these kinds of things, this is just the kind of thing that they will like.”

Did I mention that these things are expensive? Just registering for this conference will cost you several portraits of Sir Robert Borden. However, there are ways you can participate in this event for two cents (which, since we are now rounding things to the nearest nickel, means for free).

You can volunteer. There is a sign-up list outside the office. There are also a few events that you can attend without registering, such as the Sunday morning service. It will be an extraordinary event, something to which you might want to

invite a friend, involving a large choir made up of our own choir and others from all over Canada. We will be taking advantage of the resources of the Algonquin College Theatre to tell a story of our country using several different mediums.

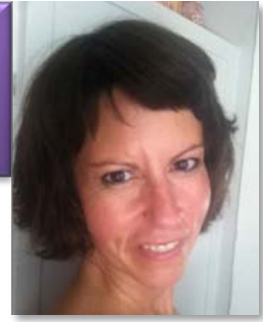
Parking is free on the weekends and the doors will open at 10:15 a.m. on Sunday, May 17. Also on Sunday, at 5 p.m., in Building P, Room 208, our very own Rev. Fred Cappuccino will deliver the annual Canadian Unitarian Universalist Historical Society Lecture. As this is the 50th anniversary of the March at Selma, an important milestone in the history of our movement, Fred will talk about what he observed there during the five-day non-violent standoff between police and demonstrators.

There are many in our congregation who are volunteering time to make this conference happen. However, I want to give some advance thanks to the local organizing committee who have already poured hours of their time and energy into the organizing of this event: Margaret Lee, Kathy Yach, Bob Armstrong, Margot Clarke, Brian Cowan, Elizabeth Waechter, Maryan O'Hagan, Tania Mushka, Marianne Wood, Ron Wilson, Susan McEwen, Mike Kelly, Tony Turner, Jacob Caines, Pat Lucey, David Hudson, Catherine Munier, and Margaret Linton. Their hard work is deeply appreciated.

~John



Religious Exploration – Sharing a moment with Susan



Dear People of All Ages,

With gratitude for our time together, I'm writing in farewell as I prepare to leave the role of Director of Lifespan Learning in this faith community. With appreciation for the many precious moments we have shared – creating connections, building relationships, and making discoveries – I wish you a blessed road ahead as your journeys in transformative learning unfold.

It has been a privilege to walk along with you these past four years. My own learning in this time has been vast and deep, and I am sure that its fullness will continue to reveal itself long after our paths diverge. For the moment though, here are just a few special treasures from my heart to yours.

Take time to look into faces. I've spent a lot of time running around making sure everything gets done. One day I realized there is always something more to do, and I was letting my busyness stop me from looking into the faces of the people around me. So I started slowing down, taking a breath, and looking. Sometimes I still get too busy or caught up in my own thoughts to look. But every time I slow down, take a breath, and look, I am reminded that there is a gift in every face and immeasurable value in the seeing.

Listen for the stories. I find it easy to take things personally. Yet commensurate with this ease is the difficulty in hearing the stories of others while my ears are stopped up with thoughts that it's all about me. I've noticed that when I can get myself out of the way and simply listen to what another is sharing, there is an opening to learn what is alive in that heart, to understand what moves that world, and to be present with less agenda and more possibility. For me this is a daily practice of discernment and I frequently stumble. I think it's worthwhile to keep practising.

Leave room to move. I used to think that doing a good job meant I had to get it

all 'perfect' by myself. I didn't want to let anyone down by forgetting a detail. This kind of good job is a tall order, and inevitably I did forget more than just one detail and my idea of what would be 'perfect' didn't quite fit the moment. I discovered that in this seeming imperfection there was space for others to step in and offer their wisdom, to contribute in unique ways, to generate more vitality than I ever could have planned for. I saw that I could serve the greatness of community by creating spaces where there was enough structure to hold and cultivate an experience yet where there was also room to move.

Thank you all for helping to lift up these and so many other learnings. I will carry them with me as I journey along. Next on my path is some time for rest and refreshment, further Yoga studies, and settling into a new home with my partner. May your welcome to a new religious educator be warm and spacious. In the words of one of my favourite hymns: "Don't be afraid of some change. Don't be afraid of some change. Today will be a joyful day; enter, rejoice, and come in."

~Susan

*Ultimately,
we are small living things
awakened in the stream,
not gods who carve out rivers.*

*Like human fish,
we are asked to experience
meaning in the life that moves
through the gill of our heart.*

*There is nothing to do
and nowhere to go.
Accepting this
we can do everything
and go anywhere.*

~Mark Nepo

Nepali Gala

The 9th Nepali Gala is being held on **Saturday May 2, 2015, 5:00 – 9:00 p.m.**

Sponsored by the First Unitarian and its Social Responsibility Council, this event is a lively evening for a very good cause. The Nepali Gala raises money for the Women's Foundation of Nepal (WFN). Founded in 1988 by Renu Sharma and Tara Upreti, now of Ottawa, the Foundation's mission is to help the abused and abandoned women and children of Nepal. WFN has opened schools, built shelters and started a thriving Maheela Co-op that makes scarves and shawls from natural fabrics. Unfortunately the cycle of abuse, poverty and illiteracy is very difficult to break, but the Nepali people are strong and loving in the midst of difficulties.

Tara now works with immigrants and refugees from Nepal here in Ottawa. Her humanitarian efforts are well known to First Unitarian and the local community. Close to \$45,000 has been raised at Nepali Galas for the Women's Foundation.

So please come to First Unitarian Congregation of Ottawa 30 Cleary Avenue on Saturday May 2. There will be sales of hand-woven scarves, a silent auction, Nepali folk dancing and of course a delicious dinner of Nepali cuisine. There is no admission fee, but reservations are required. Monetary donations are requested and gratefully received. Contact Laura, 613 858-6264, ottawanepaligala@gmail.com

Memorial Service Receptions: A 20-year history with thanks

Memorial receptions are important because they create a welcoming space in which to share memories of the deceased.

Since 1995, there have been 145 receptions, ranging from 2 to 11 per year with an average of 7. It takes 10 to over 20 people to do set-up, clean-up, and provide the food and beverages. The set-up crew usually arrive 2 hours before the service. The largest reception was for 275 people, with about 100 being the usual size. There is now a standard form for reporting, and since Sandy Devine and Isabel Burrows compiled a list of people who like to volunteer at the receptions, contacting volunteers is easier.

Renee Saxon and others were instrumental in starting the tradition of the receptions. Among the many who assist are Sandy Devine, Elspeth Read, Margot Clarke and Veronica Dent all since 1997. Christine

Deane has participated since 1996, and Ria Heynen since 1998. Betty Campbell packages tea and coffee for each reception.

Since 1995, Isabel has organized 62 receptions (42 percent) and for many of the others she "just" provided food. She deserves much appreciation and thanks for a job well done in her own pleasant way.

Changes over the years have included switching to predominately afternoon receptions; ladies no longer sitting and pouring tea or coffee from silver pots; and fancy rolled sandwiches (with fillings of watercress, ham, crab, pate, cream cheese and other proteins) becoming rare. In 2001 the first vegan sandwich was served, and now gluten-free foods are appearing.

Family members occasionally have a caterer provide refreshments, or provide a favourite item the deceased enjoyed, such as smoked salmon on crackers, perogies or Oh Henry bars.

~Evelyn Algar

Nepali Gala

(Please give generously ~ Lotta Hitschmanova)

Given the recent tragedy from the massive earthquake in Nepal, we are called on more than ever to support our Nepali friends and partners. Attending a fundraiser, such as the Nepali Gala, is a wonderful, way to show our compassion and support.

May-June Worship Services

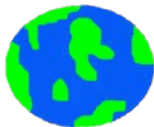
May 3 *Celebrating Religious Exploration*

Service led by: Susan McEwen, John Marsh, Bob Armstrong and others

Join us for an all-ages celebration of Religious Exploration as we welcome young members of our community in Child Dedication, offer gratitude and recognition to the volunteers who support our ministry with children and youth, and lift up highlights of our adventures in discovery this year.

May 10 *Mother's Day*

Speaker: John Marsh
Mothers provide us with our first home and are inevitably associated with home. At this service we will honour the mothers who gave us birth, those who nurture us, and sacred Earth Mother.



May 17 *Oh, Canada, My Country*

A celebration of the waters, the land and the people of Canada! Through the mediums of the spoken word, photographic images, the sounds of ice, song, puppetry and movement, we

will tell a story of connections ancient and modern: how the lives of humans adapt to the contours of the land, how peoples of diverse understandings share resources, work to serve the common good, honour their ancestors and move forward into an increasingly interconnected world.

Note: *This service is part of the annual CUC and will be held at the Algonquin College Theatre. Parking is free. Plan to arrive when the doors open at 10:15 am.*

May 24 *Reaching for the Heavens*

Speaker: John Marsh
The ancient story of Daedalus and Icarus serves as a warning to those with high aspirations. Yet, how else would humans have reached the moon? When the Mars One Foundation asked for volunteers for a one-way trip to Mars, they received over 200,000 applications. What are the implications for those struggling to create heaven here on earth?

May 31 *"Heron Reflections (with a side of swirling swallows)"*

Speaker: Caroline Balderston Parry
The speaker is a Quaker,

author, poet, celebrator and visual artist.

A freelance performer since young adulthood, Caroline emerged from the mid-life crisis of sudden widowhood into new roles, and was the Interim Director of Religious Education (DRE) at First Ottawa from 2002-05.



In 2013 she published her spiritual memoir, *The Heron Spirals: A Commonplace Book*, and gave the annual keynote lecture at the Canadian Yearly Meeting of the Society of Friends (Quakers). She will draw on both of these for her sermon.

June 7 *Saying Goodbye*

Speaker: Jacob Caines
There are many ways to say goodbye, and each time we move on in life, more ways are created. Each way implies its own shades of emotion: sadness, happiness, reluctance, or a mixture of many things. As Jacob prepares to leave the congregation after three years, there are many goodbyes to be said. Come hear the goodbyes and say goodbye yourself.

Services cont...

June 14 *The Universalist Vision, and other things the World Needs*

Speaker: John Marsh
Universalists have maintained for countless years that wherever we are going, we are going there together. Thomas Starr King, who had a foot firmly planted in both the Universalist and the Unitarian camps before they merged, once characterized our twin heritage by saying that "Universalists believed that God was too good to damn them, and Unitarians believed that they were too good to be damned."

June 21 *Father's Day*

Speaker: Francis Murphy
Francis will share reflections on being a father.



June 28 *A Blended Faith*

Speaker: John Marsh
For countless years, Unitarians and Universalists have believed that there are insights to be found in all faith traditions. This has taken our people down some interesting by-ways. Sometimes they have pulled back, but still we stretch ourselves and keep reaching.

The Fall Fair Past

The origin of the name "Holly & Lace Bazaar"

In the early 80s, Renee Saxon and Mona Bowles asked Gail Scagnetti, Marianne Dawes and Carol Armstrong to take over the running of the Fall Fair and to put their own stamp on it. Congregant Don Francis encouraged them to "make it your own now."

They decided to give it the name, and wanted a thematic one. Interest in Victoriana was high then, with lots of lace around, and Christmas was coming, so ... Holly & Lace Bazaar!

First Unitarian Congregation of Ottawa



Art Read got fresh holly from British Columbia – his brother had holly – for a big Christmas section in Fellowship Hall, with lacy items and linens. It was Art's idea to use the pews to display the goods. Crafts were made in Fellowship Hall for sale at the Bazaar, and the Crafty Crafters sold their creations along with the Christmas things.

Over the years, departments became more important, with the addition of a flea market, gift shop, stamps & coins, and more. The Lunch room was a Tea room then, made to look pretty with velvet roses and pictures. In the 1980s, volunteers had only Friday night to set up, and worked till midnight. Now, they have a whole week.

Proceeds from the Bazaar went up by \$2000 a year, again and again. Advertising ramped up; Carol had a banner made that could be seen from the Parkway, and Gail made Bazaar announcements at Sunday services to talk up the event. Rev. Brian Kopke took many photos of the Bazaar for the record and for publicity purposes.

*Based on an interview with Gail Scagnetti
Gail has been involved with the Fall Fair since 1983 and is still a convenor.*



Friends of the Meditation Gardens Spring Update

Greetings to all congregants and visitors as we gear up for another wonderful garden season!

First the serious part: As you know, the western extension of the LRT is currently proposed to pass through our property, between Unitarian House and the Charlesfort condo building. We see our role as doing our best to protect the gardens and bring them through the 18 to 24-month construction period as whole as possible. As the Friends, we are prepared to make statements, attend strategy meetings and so on while Renee de Vry continues in her invaluable role as head gardener.

We don't know yet which trees, shrubs, and perennials will be most negatively affected by construction dust, traffic and changing underground water flows; we may lose a lot or be lucky and lose only a few. As for resident wildlife, the noise and dust will likely keep most wildlife away from our campus. Rabbits, raccoons, ravens, ducks, and songbirds will be seen less often or not at all. The wooded strip beyond our north fence, however, may still serve as a sanctuary for some animals.

The LRT aside, 2015 is an important year in the life and history of the Meditation Gardens, as we mark the 20th anniversary of their opening. We're having a lemonade party in the gardens, on Saturday, June 20 (raindate June 21) at 2 p.m. Watch for the poster!

As well, we'll be taking part in the second annual *Ottawa Garden Days*, June 19 to 21, by giving guided tours to the public: Friday, June 19, at 5 p.m.; Saturday, June 20, at 10 a.m., 1 p.m., with a "pollinators tour" at 4 p.m.; and Sunday, June 21, at 2 p.m.

We invite you to take a tour, or to visit our gardens at any time to enjoy the flowers, shrubs, and trees and perhaps sit in quiet meditation at one of the arbours and benches scattered throughout.

~Alastaire Henderson, Chair, FMG

Denominational Affairs Committee

First Ottawa's Trustee on the Canadian Unitarian Council (CUC) Board



Jaime W. Dunton was elected to the CUC Board of Directors in May 2014 as the representative of congregations in Quebec and Eastern Ontario.

Jaime lived in several communities in the province of Quebec until he and Sooky, his wife of 36 years, moved from North Hatley to Ottawa in the summer of 2014. Jaime and Sooky have a combined family of five children and nine grandchildren.

He studied at McGill University where he earned his B.A. in 1953 and Bachelor of Civil Law in 1956. From 1957 to '97 he was a Member of the Quebec Bar, concentrating on commercial and corporate law. His wide-ranging career includes extensive experience in the private sector; from 1965 to the present he has been with *Dunton, Rainville* where he ended up as senior partner, managing partner and then counsel.

Jaime's talents and love of music have taken him from the McGill Choral Society to St. Lawrence Choir, with whom he sang twice in Carnegie Hall, to church organist and finally to our own Chalice Choir.

Before moving to Ottawa, Jaime was a very active member of the Unitarian Universalist Church of North Hatley (now known as UU Estrie) where he served as treasurer, vice-president, and president.

His knowledge of law made him the logical choice for Parliamentarian of the CUC. He answered the call and served in this position for four years, providing advice on emerging issues at the CUC and during the Council's Annual Meeting.

Jaime's interests outside his family and Unitarian Universalism include bridge, computers and woodworking.

Welcome to First Ottawa, Jaime. We appreciate the time and effort you spend as our representative on the CUC Board.

~Elizabeth Bowen

Ottawa First Youths and Adults Participate in the UU Spring Seminar at the United Nations

Five youths from the congregation attended the 2015 Intergenerational Spring Seminar of the Unitarian Universalist United Nations Office (UU-UNO) in New York City, accompanied by Tony Turner as their advisor and three other adults: Rev. John Marsh, Tudy McLaine and Katrin Nagelschmitz.

One session of the seminar took place in a plenary hall of the United Nations Headquarters, as guests of the Canadian mission. The topic of the seminar was "International Criminal Justice: from Punitive to Restorative Justice".

Rev. Marsh led the opening worship service on the theme of bearing witness to international injustice, with Tony Turner leading the group in song.

Our own Dr. Irvin Waller was one of the high calibre and engaging experts. Irvin is an internationally renowned expert on victim rights and

crime prevention. He set the stage for the second day, which focused on crime prevention and restorative justice. Irvin shared his in-depth evidence on the futility and destructiveness of the punitive approach to criminal justice, as well as the proven effective solutions to reducing crime, through the right approaches for education, and health and social services.

Youth and adults alike were moved and outraged by the degree of violent vindictiveness and racism of the current system in the U.S., and realized that Canada also has work to do to implement the proven ways to reduce crime.

The itinerary of the trip also left a little bit of time after the seminar ended to soak in New York City in springtime.

The UN Working Group thanks the congregation for its financial support in having Canadian Speakers at the seminar and for youth of the congregation to attend.

~ Katrin Nagelschmitz



UU-UNO spring seminar in NYC

Notes from the Office



Responses to your comments from the Suggestion Box

Thanks so much for your ideas... keep them coming! Any of a personal nature or regarding a specific individual will always be kept confidential and not shared with the congregation at large. Of course we can't act on them all, but we've read and discussed every one we have received. Here are some responses to selected submissions:

"The church building needs a mailbox outside with the number 30 on it."

The mail is brought straight to the office and there are no plans to install a mailbox outside, as the contents cannot always be monitored. At the west entrance, there is a large '30 Cleary' sign above the door.

Upcoming Services

Sundays, 10:30 am

For a full description of each service, [click here](#).

"For hymns in the service, full lights should be turned on so the words in the hymnbook can be read more easily."

You are right. The lights *should* be on full for the hymns; a reminder will go to all sound technicians.

"Let's put hand sanitizer on the wall going into Fellowship Hall."

Great idea! We are in the process of making that happen.

"The NOW Room needs a sound system."

There is a portable amp with a microphone available for anyone who wishes to book it for use in the NOW Room. Simply make a request at the office or to the custodian on duty.

"It would be helpful to see a brief description to describe the contents of the sermon."

We assume you mean in the e-UU – we can do that! Do note however, that on the church website, on the 'Upcoming Sermons' sidebar you can click to see a full description of the services.

Changes to Rites of Passage

Changes to and stricter enforcement of Canada Revenue Agency (CRA) Rules and Regulations have prompted us to make some changes to the way Rites of Passage are available to members.

There is a policy called *undue benefits* (link is below), which is very simple and straightforward and says in essence that *members cannot receive preferential treatment*. We contacted a senior representative at CRA to clarify this policy and this is some of what was said:

"Members, whether by membership dues or donations, may not use the building for parties or personal events as a perk of membership."

So this means that we can't offer 'free' services to members, and then charge non-members. We mulled this over for quite some time, and since it is not financially viable to offer all rites of passage at no charge to everybody, we are putting the following guidelines in place:

...continued on pg. 11

Notes from the Office

continued from pg. 10...

Memorial Services will be available at no cost to everyone

The First Unitarian Congregation of Ottawa, a welcoming and inclusive church, is available to any family requiring assistance during a time of continued... bereavement. This includes members of First Ottawa, their extended families and members of the wider community. There will be parameters of course, as to the extent of what would be provided, and a donation to the church to cover the cost of delivering the Memorial Service is not only recommended but appreciated. The basic cost of a Memorial Service is \$550. Any donation over the \$550 will receive a tax receipt.

We will charge a fee for Weddings and Child Dedications to everyone, including members of the congregation.

We've switched from the 'package price' to the ability to pick and choose the services one wants, so the cost can be within one's means.

See more at <http://www.cra-arc.gc.ca/chrts-gvng/chrts/plcy/csp/csp-u02-eng.html?emallink>

Environmental Working Group

The Property Team's work to reduce our greenhouse gas (GHG) footprint

In 2006, the EWG had an "energy audit" done by the EnviroCentre affiliated with the City of Ottawa. Recently, we invited Bill van Iterson to an EWG meeting to update us on what the Property Team has done, and plans to do, to implement the recommendations of the 2006 Energy Audit Report. Bill has written follow-up reports on the results of energy saving actions recommended in the Report.

Changes to date

Electricity use is down 15-18% since 2006. As lighting amounts to 75% of consumption, all lights on the lower level and outside have been replaced by more efficient bulbs, except for the washroom lighting and the RE kitchen. However, little has been done on the main floor to date.

Gas consumption is 10%-20% down from 2004. Air leaks and door-opening increase consumption. The Team had more insulation installed in ceilings and Fellowship Hall, put Mylar on the south windows in Worship Hall, and rebuilt patios with beefed-up insulation.

Water consumption is down 65% from 2004. River Parkway preschool used a lot. We don't have low-flow toilets yet, but we have changed the urinals from continual automatic flush to on-demand.

Changes to come

High efficiency boilers. The building switched to natural gas 25 years ago so our boilers are now near end of life. The Report estimated 30% of our heat loss is due to leaks. We haven't systematically gone after these yet. However, the Team has asked the facilities manager to look into this issue as a high priority.

Other possible actions

Mylar on the north windows in Worship Hall, but the congregation would need to be consulted, as there is an aesthetics issue. More inches of insulation above the ceilings of offices, the Lounge, and Fellowship Hall. Programmable thermostats to reduce heat at night. New efficient lighting for the main level.

~Alastair Henderson
Chair, EWG



Canadian Unitarian Council (CUC) 2015 Annual Conference and Meeting (ACM) Host Committee Update



The CUC 2015 ACM, hosted by First Unitarian Congregation of Ottawa, will take place at Algonquin College on the Victoria Day long weekend (May 14-18).

Thanks to all the volunteers who have signed up for shifts, offered help, are participating in the event, or have been diligently working away on the sidelines to make this a successful event!

All are welcome to attend, free of charge, any of the following events being held at Algonquin (no registration required):

Thursday, May 14
CUC Board Resolutions Plenary 7:00-9:00 p.m.

Friday, May 15
Annual Meeting 9:30-12:30 & 1:30-5:00 p.m.
Opening Ceremony and Inspirational Music 6:30-9:00 p.m.
Circle of Song Open Mic with Tony Turner (non-registrants by donation) 9:00-10:30 p.m.

Saturday, May 16
Saturday Night Dance Party 8:30-11:00 p.m. (non-registrants by donation)



Enjoy a fun-filled evening of toe-tapping tunes featuring two live bands. *Shirt Tearing Boys* will transport you to the 1930's and 40s with numbers you forgot you knew, while *SmokeyDokes* will serve up recent pop favourites. Bring your dancing shoes!



Sunday, May 17
Sunday Morning Worship Service 10:30-11:45 a.m. in the Theatre at Algonquin.

This service will replace our normal Sunday Worship Service.

We hope we'll see many of you sometime over the weekend. Just come to the Algonquin Student Commons Building and Welcome Table volunteers will direct you to the right location.

Be sure to wear your congregational name tags any time you are at the conference.



Extra Help Needed as Backstage Chaperones:

We have recently learned that the Algonquin Theatre requires someone to act as a "Backstage Chaperone" any time the Theatre is in use. This person would be required to take on full liability/risk on behalf of the CUC for any decisions made or additional costs incurred backstage. We don't anticipate any problems, but a cell phone # will be provided in the event a situation arises.

The CUC has asked for our help in finding additional volunteers to take **1 to 2 hour shifts** during the times we are using the Theatre: Friday 1:30 pm-9:30 pm, Saturday 7:30 am-6 pm, Sunday 8 am-1 pm

If you can help out, please contact Marg Lee 613-221-9155, marg.lee@sympatico.ca

Questions about the conference can be directed to the Host Committee Co-Chairs:

Kathy Yach 613-224-6835 or Marg Lee 613-221-9155



Thank you Merci Gracias

~ compiled by Alastaire Henderson

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

- ♥ Thanks from the Poverty Awareness Working Group to all who donated household goods, or helped with moving furniture for the Aboriginal Women's Shelter project, with special gratitude to **Ian Gorman**, **Ron Wilson** and **Lori Snyder** who are always ready and willing to pitch in!
- ♥ Thank you so much to **Evelyn Algar** for becoming our Leader for Receptions for Memorial Services, and to everyone else who helps.
- ♥ To custodians **Kevin** and **Andrew**: thank you for your beautiful job of waxing and polishing the floors on the lower level – they look gorgeous!
- ♥ Thanks go to **John Marsh**, **Maury Prevost**, **Jamie Dutton**, **Eva Berringer**, **Margaret Linton**, **Alastaire Henderson** and **Grace Smith** for representing our congregation as 2015 delegates at the business meetings of the Canadian Unitarian Council's May AGM.
- ♥ Many thanks to **all the volunteers** who gave of their time to offer caring support to people who were sick in the last few months.
- ♥ Thank you to **all the residents of Unitarian House** who keep a watchful eye on the church when we are not here.
- ♥ Thank you to **Brian Cowan** for his latest work on the Archives!
- ♥ Appreciation to custodian **Charles Pereira**, who upholstery-cleaned all the pew cushions in Worship Hall—70 cushions, on both sides—over several weeks. The fabric now looks much brighter.
- ♥ Gratitude to **Brian Cowan** for his long, dedicated, and quietly effective service to the congregation, including stepping in at the last minute to be the sound operator for the April 5 service, when he was also covering the office so Carolyn could enjoy an uninterrupted long weekend.
- ♥ Thanks to all our volunteers and staff helping to host the Canadian Unitarian Council's Annual Conference and Meeting May 15-17, including **members of the Host Committee** co-chaired by **Marg Lee** and **Kathy Yach**.
- ♥ Appreciation to our Directors and Officers who finished their terms of service at the end of April: **Alastaire Henderson**, who served for five years, including three as Secretary, **Kim Elmer**, who served for four years, including two as President, and **Rob Cummings**, who served for three years as a member at large.
- ♥ Thanks to all participants in this year's "Time and Talent" Auction, the donors, the bidders, and the organizing team led by **Pat MacDonald**.

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 Parkway Spire deadline.

SRC Calendar

Saturday May 2

- 5:00 p.m. Nepali Gala

Sunday May 3

- 12:30 p.m. Environmental Working Group
- 12:30 p.m. Global Justice Working Group
- 12:30 p.m. Mental Illness Working Group

Friday May 8

- 9:30 a.m. Social Responsibility Steering Cttee.

Saturday-Sunday, May 9-10

- 9:00 a.m. - 2 p.m. GoGo Grannies Garden, Goodies and Gifts Sale

Sunday May 10

- 10:00 a.m. Fair Trade Sales
- 10:00 a.m. Granny Squares Sales

Tuesday May 12

- 9:00 a.m. Poverty Awareness Working Group

Friday-Monday, May 15-18

- Canadian Unitarian Council Annual Conference and Meeting, Ottawa

Thursday May 21

- 3:30 p.m. Unitarian GoGos

Saturday May 23

- 7:00 p.m. Coffee House for Child Haven

Sunday June 14

- 10:00 a.m. Fair Trade Sales

Tuesday June 16

- 9:00 a.m. Poverty Awareness Working Group

Wednesday June 17

- Social Responsibility Spire deadline

Thursday June 18

- 3:30 p.m. Unitarian GoGos

Friday June 19

- 9:30 a.m. SR Steering Cttee

Social Responsibility Council

Unitarian Seniors' Program

May

Sheila Green from the Unitarian GoGos will speak about Compassionate Grandparenting: Canada and Sub-Saharan Africa. Joan Turner will lead the worship service.

When: Thursday, May 28

Service: 1:00 p.m.

Program: 1:30 p.m.

Dessert/Light snack, Coffee, Tea (\$3 or pay what you can): 2:30 p.m.

Where: Worship/Fellowship Hall **RSVP** (if you are not on the phone list): Maureen Sly, 613-728-7610, mmsly@rogers.com by Monday, May 25.

June

An Aboriginal Experience. Carol Rothery will speak about life on the Maniwaki Reserve.

Bob Armstrong will lead the worship service.

When: Tuesday, June 30

Service: 1:00 p.m.

Program: 1:30 p.m.

Dessert/Light snack, Coffee, Tea (\$3 or pay what you can): 2:30 p.m.

Where: Worship/Fellowship Hall **RSVP** (if you are not on the phone list): Maureen Sly at 613-728-7610 or mmsly@rogers.com by Saturday, June 27.

Note: *Earphones available in Worship and Fellowship Halls. Service and program can be recorded on a CD (cost \$5) or be available on the Internet (free).*

GoGo Grannies Garden, Goodies and Gifts

Come rain or shine for a wonderful selection of plants (perennials, herbs, geraniums and more). Great home baking, and jewellery, including necklaces with beads from Ghana, crocheted necklaces, scarves and much more. Hosted by the Unitarian GoGos and the GoGo Grannies of Alymer, Quebec. All proceeds go to the Stephen Lewis Foundation Grandmothers to Grandmothers Campaign. Please bring cash, or a cheque with ID.

When: Saturday and Sunday, May 9 and 10, 9:00am – 2:00pm

Where: First Unitarian Congregation, outdoors on West side of the building

Contact:

unitariangogos@gmail.com
613-725-1066

Fair trade, organic La Siembra chocolate and coffee products are for sale before and after the Sunday services of May 10 and June 14, in Fellowship Hall. We also sell Zatoun Xtra Virgin olive oil, soap and za'atar from Palestine. These fair trade co-ops work with small farmers, with the aim of keeping the money within their communities. All products are organic, and the coffee and cocoa beans shade grown. Brought to you by the Global Justice Working Group.

Announcements

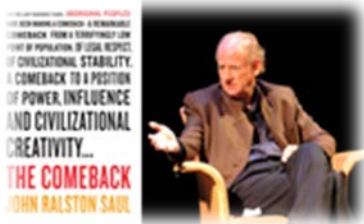
Enjoy Painting with Others

We are looking for new members of the Painters' Circle. Join a friendly group of varying ability from beginners to those with years of experience. All media are welcome. (Note: we are now open to oil painters again.) No instruction, but we discuss what we are doing with each other and give advice when asked, which is really stimulating.



When: Tuesdays 9:30 am to 12:00 pm, continuing through the summer. Fee of \$10 per week is negotiable if this is difficult.

Contact: Clea Derwent, adultlearning@firstunitarianottawa.ca or 613-695-0505, before showing up.



Friday Reading for Growth Group

The group will meet at 1:30 p.m. in the Lounge on May 29 to discuss "The Comeback" by John Ralston Saul.

For the June 26 meeting, the book will be Tony Judt's "Ill Fares the Land".

Newcomers are welcome.

For more information, contact Margot Clarke, 613-820-6596, mmclarke80@gmail.com

Cornucopia Organic Garden

Now that the congregational vegetable plot has expanded its mandate to include providing organic fresh and dried herbs to Parkdale Food Centre, as well as continuing to provide fresh vegetables to Unitarian House, we felt we needed a new, official name. We chose the Cornucopia name from a list of submissions.



If you're interested in volunteering with our group, we need waterers, weeders, pickers and deliverers during the summer months. Commitment can be for any period of time (long or short) that you're in Ottawa. Please contact Alastaire Henderson: hendersalas@gmail.com 613-562-2253.



The House Next Door

Unitarian House is holding its annual Spring Fundraising Dinner!

When: May 12, 2015 at 6:00 p.m.

Guest speaker: Joel Haslam, host of CTV's Regional Contact (You may recall his show on the Naked Truth calendar)

A Silent Auction, a Lovely Meal and Friendship. Tickets: \$130 with a \$100 donation receipt Please join us!

Announcements

Coffee Fundraiser

The Child Haven International Working Group and the Youth Group invite you to a coffee house fundraiser in support of Child Haven International.



When & where: Saturday, May 23, in Fellowship Hall, at 7:00 p.m.

Interested in performing or just helping out? Contact Dave or Karen at kadaluck@sympatico.ca

UU Round Table Luncheons

Round table luncheons for **Friday May 22** and **Friday June 19** will be at Cora's Restaurant, 1355 Richmond Road.

All Unitarian Universalists and guests are invited for lunch, for lively discussions with persons of diverse interests and experiences. Lunches are held the third Friday of each month at 1:00 pm.

Contact: Tudy McLaine, (613)745-8074 or Marjorie Daechsel (613) 596-1471 by the 3rd Thursday evening to confirm.

Glebe/Centretown/ Old Ottawa South Neighbourhood Group

May

When: Sunday, May 24 at 7:30 p.m.

Event: Julie Harris will talk about "Taking and Giving: Working as a Historian for Inuit".

Where: 113 Sunnyside Ave., Ottawa.

Contact: Ann Denis at 613-730-0283, adenis@uottawa.ca

All are welcome. Bring a small dessert (finger food) to share.

June

When: Sunday, June 21 at 6:00 pm.

Event: This is our annual spring/summer potluck supper.

Where: 108 Belmont Ave, Ottawa ON K1S 0V3.

Contact: Trudy Kassner at 613-730-2823 or trudy@kassner.ca

All are welcome. Bring something to share with the group.

Reminder: The neighbourhood group doesn't meet in July and August. We'll announce the date of our September meeting in the next issue of the Spire. It will be a Sunday in late September at 6pm (a potluck) when we'll also begin planning our meetings for 2015-16. Do plan to bring both your contribution to our

meal and your ideas for topics/speakers.

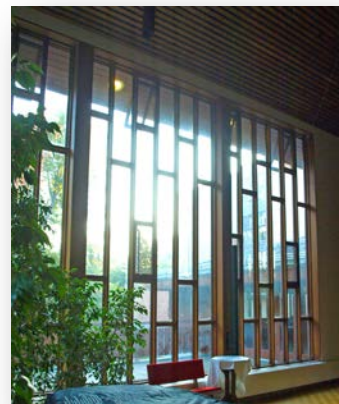
Please contact Ann Denis at adenis@uottawa.ca if you would like to be added to the group's email list. You will receive information about new topics once they have been confirmed. A reminder is also usually sent the week before the meeting.

Hospitality Hour

Dedicated volunteers are the backbone of successful Hospitality Hours. We do have the best people helping out!

I want to highlight the help of the men who do the dish-washing each Sunday. There are 4 or 5 men who willingly offer their assistance when asked. The dishwashing trays are awkward and heavy, and having those strong arms makes light work with hot trays.

~Tarrel Armstrong
Co-ordinator





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Next deadline for submissions: June 20, 2015

Subscriptions

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For information on receiving the Spire via surface mail (cost \$12), contact the church office.

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