



First Unitarian Congregation of Ottawa
The Parkway Spire

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Deadline for next Spire submissions: August 22



New Director of Lifespan Learning

Welcome Liz Roper!

The Search Team for our next Director of Lifespan Learning is pleased to announce that after a rigorous selection process we have chosen Liz Roper.

Liz comes to us from the United Kingdom and, Canadian Citizenship and Immigration willing, she will join our staff team in August. She comes to us with a wealth of experience leading, mentoring and facilitating children, youth and adult Unitarian Universalist retreats, programs, camps, and multigenerational services in the United Kingdom, mainland Europe and the U.S. It is evident that Liz is passionate about the Unitarian faith in which she was nurtured and the Unitarian Universalist faith she found in North America. She has developed her skills to create nurturing environments for all ages to grow in their lives and spiritual journeys.



In Memoriam

Jean Runnells - died April 28, 2015

Elise Ziegler, wife of the late Edgar Ziegler - died May 3, 2015

Caring Contacts

July

Janet Clayton
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August

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Summer Office Hours

Summer is here and so are summer office hours. The office will be open Monday to Thursday from 9 a.m.-4 p.m. The building will be closed all July Fridays and the first two August Fridays. Regular hours resume Monday, August 17. **Have a wonderful summer, everyone!**
–Carolyn and Jen



President's Corner

Maury Prevost

Busy times and summer time

May and June have been really busy months for me, the Board, the Campus Planning Committee, and many others in our congregation. For some of us, this will continue at least until June 29, when we make our case to the City of Ottawa's Finance and Development Committee to reconsider the routing of the Western LRT extension through our campus. After that, I'm hoping to take better advantage of the rest, recreation, and other opportunities that the summer season provides.

Highlights of what the congregation has accomplished in the last two months:

- Hosting a successful Annual Conference and Meeting for the Canadian Unitarian Council May 15-17 at Algonquin College;
- Quickly moving forward on the new 2-year Aboriginal Issues focus and initiative for our Social Responsibilities activities, with our Aboriginal Sunday Service on June 21 and the work being done to support Centre 510 through a period of great need;
- Celebrating, on June 20, the twentieth anniversary of the Meditation Gardens; and
- Saying farewell to and celebrating the accomplishments of Jacob Caines and Susan McEwen. I want to add my personal thanks to Jacob and Susan for their work as Music Director and Director of Lifespan Learning, respectively.

The Board of Directors and our Minister, John Marsh, met in early June for an overnight retreat. The agenda included a team-building exercise involving construction of the "ideal volunteer" out of Lego pieces (very humbling for some of us); an update on the introduction of Theme-based Ministry this fall (stay tuned); a risk assessment exercise; review and discussion of our "policy governance" organizational structure;

priorities and key goals for 2015-2016; and some preliminary discussions concerning the 2016 budget and associated fundraising.

Summary of the results of our risk assessment exercise:

- Major weaknesses/threats identified: the LRT; CRA (perceived impact of social responsibility activities; finances/possible audit); financial situation; volunteer supply/demand; aging congregation; culture/organizational issues; infrastructure; declining membership; external communication/lack of profile; leadership deficit; UU diverse faith and opinions;
- Major strengths/opportunities identified: Our values and principles; our campus and history; our current and potential volunteers; our current and potential partners; our finances; the LRT; new Director of Lifespan Learning and Music Director; communications/social media.

Strengths and problem areas in the Policy-Governance organizational structure:

- What's working: Director role less onerous; recent search teams; clearer roles, responsibilities, accountability; better focus on big picture; less micro-management; better alignment between reality and policy/procedure; empowers staff; choice of Aboriginal issues as SR focus
- What's not working/what needs to change: Fundraising; demands on staff, especially Lead Minister; Property Team and SRC feeling disconnected from Board; volunteer recruitment, retention, coordination and recognition – empowerment; communication/understanding of organization model; office staff perceived as bad cops (bypass syndrome)

President's Corner

...continued from page 2

We also talked about our top priorities with respect to committees (report to the Board) and teams (report to Minister or other staff) needing renewal or new leadership, in particular the Worship Team, Committee on Ministry, Stewardship/Fundraising Team, Membership Team, Communications Committee, and Volunteer Coordination.

We are still refining the priorities and key goals for 2015-2016, but here is the current view, in two categories:

- Retained from the Strategic Plan priorities for 2014-2015:
 - Introduction of Theme-based Ministry
 - Nurture and integrate newcomers
 - Develop communication strategy/raise profile, outreach externally
 - Increase profile of and participation in social responsibility activities
 - Match goals and financial resources with focus on increasing revenues
- New priorities for 2015-2016:
 - Explore shared ministry approach
 - Strengthen volunteer recruitment, retention and recognition
 - Planning for 2017 50th year campus anniversary/Canada's 150th
 - Lay foundation for 2017
- Capital Campaign
 - LRT – mitigate impacts and maximize benefits
 - Successful integration of new DLL and Music Director/more intentional support for staff, including compensation review

There is much to work on, with your help and input. I will provide a progress report at the Fall Congregational Meeting on Sunday, October 25. In the meantime, I wish you all an advantageous summer.

~Maury Prevost

In the Spirit of Reconciliation How can we be a Partner? Food for Centre 510

Have you been wondering, since the release of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission Report, or Gilbert Whiteduck's address in June, what you can do to promote reconciliation with indigenous people? Here is an option to consider.

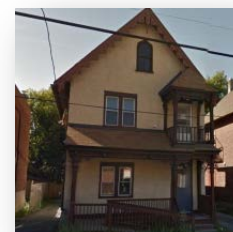
Odawa Native Friendship Centre is asking for temporary assistance to support Shewanjageamik, a.k.a. Centre 510, its drop-in on Rideau Street. Centre 510 provides 3 meals a day and various other programs, plus extremely important community for homeless and marginally housed Aboriginal people. Having had its federal funding re-directed to permanent housing (although the housing does not exist yet), Odawa expects to secure other funding by January 2016 for these crucial services. In the meantime, it needs \$150 per day for food and volunteers to help the cook and to visit with those who come to the Centre.

Initially, First Unitarian is raising \$900 to supply food one day a month for 6 months from July to December, and is encouraging those who are so inclined to volunteer. The Right Relations Network (RRN) will coordinate volunteer orientation by Odawa staff. RRN, a coalition of faith and other communities in Ottawa-Gatineau, is promoting this initiative across the region.

The Poverty Awareness Working Group is coordinating the Congregation's response. Through several generous donors, we have so far raised \$500. To make tax-receiptable donations in small monthly amounts or a lump sum through the Congregation simply write "PAWG/Centre 510" in the memo line of cheques or on cash donation envelopes.

If you or a group you belong to in the Congregation would like to help, please drop by the Social Responsibility table in Fellowship Hall after a Sunday service or contact Ellen Kammermayer 613-729-0058 (to volunteer), or Marlene Koehler at 613-722-6031 or Katherine Gunn at klgunn@ncf.ca (for general and donations information). Mi'gwech!

~Poverty Awareness Working Group



July Worship Services

July 5 Spiritual and Cultural Dimensions of Climate Change

Speaker: Asha Philar*

Worship Associate: Susan Mackenzie

Forget what you think you know about climate change. This sermon tackles a problem so large it may mean the end of humans as a species, with roots so profound that it calls us to question how we live, how we love, and what we are willing to do to save ourselves—and even if we are worth saving at all. But if we are up to the task, climate change could be an opportunity to change everything and create the world we want!

* Asha grew up attending church here and now lives in Guelph. She's an aspiring farmer and believes in the power of small-scale, sustainable farming to help create a post-carbon economy. She loves growing food, hanging out with pigs, and dreaming of a better world.

July 12 Laughing in the Face of Fear

Speaker: Susan Tanner*

Worship Associate: Bob Armstrong

The possibility of using humour as a strategy to confront fears—small and large but particularly in the climate of fear of crime and terrorism promoted by recent events.

Fear leads to overwhelm or paralysis and mitigates against rationality. Humour can be a

tool for social justice.

* Susan Tanner is an environmental / social justice advocate, mother of 2 sons, 2 step-daughters, and 6 step-grandchildren. She is a retired executive, lawyer, tribunal member, mediator, teacher, and more.

July 19 Reflections on Environmental Justice from a First Nations Perspective

Speaker: Ben Powless *

Worship Associate: Bob Stevenson



* Ben Powless is a Mohawk who was raised in Ottawa. He has a degree in Human Rights, Indigenous and Environmental Studies from Carleton University. He has worked with the Indigenous Environmental Network,

Canadian Youth Climate Coalition and Ecology Ottawa on stopping the expansion of the Alberta tar sands and related pipelines. He has organized with the Defenders of the Land network and Idle No More. He is a published writer, photographer and cyclist.

July 26 Laughter as a spiritual practice

Speaker: Amanda Tarling *

Worship Associate: Susan Mackenzie

While laughter is wonderful medicine, is mirth as a way to enlightenment or to our connection with the mystery? Come and join Amanda as we ponder ways to deepen our spirituality and connection through laughter.

* Amanda Tarling lives in Victoria and is an active member of Capital Unitarian Universalist Congregation. She is working on courses at Starr King School for the Ministry with the eventual goal of becoming a Unitarian Minister. Amanda is Lay Minister of the Salt Spring Island Fellowship.



Gamelan Players at Meditation Gardens' 20th Anniversary Celebration

August/Sep 6 Worship Services

August 2 Stranger Than We Can Imagine

Speaker: Rev Barnaby Feder *

Worship Associate: Phil Nagy

British scientist J.B.S. Haldane has said the universe is not only stranger than we imagine but stranger than we *can* imagine. Rev. Barnaby Feder, former technology reporter for the New York Times, explores where such a perspective leads us when considering the intersection of technology and faith.

* Rev. Barnaby Feder is a lifelong Unitarian from the San Francisco area. As a reporter, including at the New York Times, he wrote about environmental, technology and business topics. He has been the minister of the Champlain Valley Unitarian Universalist Society in Middlebury, Vermont, for the past three years.

August 9 Moving beyond charity: Accepting what is hard

Speaker: Shannon Balla *

Worship Associate: Bob Armstrong

Shannon will share thoughts on building stronger communities through active resistance to injustice. She will discuss the joys and challenges of engaging in meaningful social justice work in her own life. The service will invite reflection on the spiritual dimensions of the work of transformative change, both individual and collective.

* Shannon is involved in grassroots organizing on issues of poverty, migrant justice and prison abolition. She recently moved back to Ottawa from Southern Ontario and is rediscovering the networks and rhythms of organizing locally.

August 16 What Price a Life?

Speaker: Mo Gabe *

Worship Associate: Susan Mackenzie

When a life-threatening event occurs, it may spur us to ask some of the “big questions” of life and death and to observe with eyes that are more open than usual. Mo will examine issues of quality of life, and of how both the medical system and some alternative approaches have helped--and sometimes hindered--at a time of crisis.

* Mo Gabe was a Worship Associate here at First Ottawa for several years. In recent years, she has

worshipped at the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Ottawa, where she is a member of the Worship Cluster. She is very happy to have the opportunity to speak from this pulpit again.

August 23 A Welcoming Congregation

Speakers: Rev. Frances Deverell and Ron (Annabelle) Wilson

Worship Associate: Sharmila Khare

For a long time, First Unitarian has been an official “Welcoming Congregation” to people who identify as Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, Transgender, and Queer. Are we still as welcoming as we want to be? For our newer members, let’s explore what that designation means for both our individual members, for the congregation, and for the wider community.

August 30 Attitudes of Gratitude

Speaker: Sharmila Khare *

Worship Associate: Susan Mackenzie

How can gratitude make a difference in our lives and the lives of those around us? Come explore how to develop an “attitude of gratitude”.

* Sharmila Khare has been involved in Unitarian congregations in Canada, the U.S. and India for many years. She enjoys contributing to worship services.



September 6 The Spiritual Life

Speaker: Calogero Cumbo

Worship Associate: Bob Armstrong

There is a rhythm to the spiritual life, alternating between action and contemplation, each leading into the other; each needing the other. Calogero explores obstacles to being in the moment and to finding the balance between accomplishment and serenity.

Announcements

New Music Director

Deirdre Kellerman is an emerging choral conductor from Nova Scotia. She holds a Bachelor of Music in Vocal Performance from Acadia University and a Master of Music in Choral Conducting from the New England Conservatory. She has studied conducting with Erica Washburn, Christina Murray and Michael Zaugg and voice with Dr. Christianne Rushton. In 2013-14, Deirdre was the Assistant Conductor for the Newton Choral Society. She has also worked with the New England Conservatory Concert Choir and Chamber Singers, the Ontario Youth Choir (2012), Xara Choral Theatre and the Annapolis Valley Honour Choir. An avid chorister, Deirdre has sung with the National Youth Choir of Canada, as well as several seasons with Xara Choral Theatre and the Nova Scotia Youth Choir. Outside of ensemble singing, she has performed operatic roles including Rosalinda in *Die Fledermaus* and the Mother in *Amahl and the Night Visitors*. Deirdre is also an accomplished pianist, regularly accompanying for singers and choirs.



Deirdre Kellerman

From **The House Next Door**, best wishes for a wonderful summer.

Our courtyard is now filled with flowers: Residents' garden boxes, each with its own variety of planting and design, surround it and create inviting places to relax. These beautiful mini-gardens will grace our Strawberry Social and other summer events.

Unitarian Seniors' Program

July

John Soar will challenge the group with some lighthearted and entertaining quizzes.

Alex Campbell will lead the worship service.

When: Wednesday, July 29

Service: 1:00 p.m.

Program: 1:30 p.m.

Refreshments (\$3 or pay what you can): 2:30 p.m.

Where:

Worship/Fellowship Hall
RSVP (if not on the phone list): Maureen Sly at 613-728-7610,
mmsly@rogers.com by Sunday, July 26.

August

Ellen Bell will facilitate a "bring and share" activity. Those who wish do so may bring an item of significance and share the story it represents. Others may prefer just to come and be entertained. Ellen will also lead the worship service.

When: Thursday, August 27

Service: 1:00 p.m. **Program:** 1:30 p.m. **Refreshments** (\$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,

mmsly@rogers.com by Monday, August 24.

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).*

Hospitality Hour

I wish everyone a wonderful summer whether staying in the city or travelling away. Hospitality Hour continues through the summer with regular coffee served at the hatch & decaf and snacks out on the table. Each Sunday an experienced kitchen person will be present. Another volunteer is needed each Sunday to set up and serve/clean up after the service. This is a much lighter task than during the year. Please find a date when you can help out.

~Tarrel Armstrong,
Coordinator



Thank you Merci Gracias ~ compiled by Alastaire Henderson

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

- ♥ Thanks to the Campus Planning Committee members **Blair Erskine, Marlene Koehler, Guy Belleperche, Charles Lanktree, David Curry** (Unitarian House), and **Alex Cullen** (River Parkway) for their hard work preparing for the June 29 City committee hearing on the LRT project.
- ♥ Thank you to all the people involved in organizing and presenting our summer services this year.
- ♥ Thanks go to all those involved in organizing farewells for Jacob Caines and Susan McEwen, and all who participated in celebrating their accomplishments and legacy.
- ♥ A big thank-you to the CUC ACM Host Committee, led by **Kathy Yach** and **Marg Lee**, and all the volunteers from our congregation.
- ♥ Deep appreciation to **Ellen Smith** for hosting, at no charge, the June 5-6 Board retreat at Kirkman House in Arnprior.
- ♥ From Susan McEwen: Many thanks for your blessings and good wishes over these last weeks. I truly appreciated the opportunity to be part of a loving circle at Sunday's picnic and to receive your heart felt reflections. Thank you for your offerings of spirit, your caring presence, your thoughtful cards and sharing - all of your generous farewell gifts.
- ♥ Thanks to the Search Team that found our next Music Director: **Donna Bowen Willer, Nicki Bridgland, Doug MacDonald,** and **Jennifer Rae**, with assistance from **Susan MacKenzie, John Marsh** and **Susan McEwen**.
- ♥ Thanks also to the Director of Lifespan Learning Search Team: **Karen Blakely, Rozanne Lepine, Jolanta Scott** and **Tony Turner**. Staff assistance: **Jacob Caines** and **John Marsh**.
- ♥ Appreciation to tour guides **Caroline Polis, Sue Newman** and **Renee de Vry** for taking small groups of people through the Meditation Gardens as part of Ottawa Garden Days, June 19-21.
- ♥ And kudos to **Renee** and assistant **Rick Day** for the hours of work they put into preparing the gardens, and organizing the tours and the Twentieth Anniversary celebration!
- ♥ Thanks also to **Ellen Kammermeyer, Angela Beale, Doris Jelly, Susanne Ahlers, Lori Snyder, Margaret Linton** and **David Hudson**, who helped with preparations, set-up, and serving refreshments at the anniversary.

You can submit items by sending an email to Alastaire at bendersalas@gmail.com or by calling 613-562-2253 by the deadline.

Meditation Gardens' 20th Anniversary Celebration! And Ottawa Garden Days Tours

On June 20, supporters of the Meditation Gardens gathered to celebrate the gardens' 20th anniversary. We enjoyed lemonade and home-baked cookies while listening to the meditative music of the Gamelan Players of Ottawa (see picture on page 4), and heard three keynote speakers: Jan Glyde, on the gardens' meaning to her and husband Jack Wright; Joe Connor, on the value of the gardens to young people; and Alex Campbell, on the gardens' spiritual aspects.

Opened to the public in 1995 after a sustained effort of creation by congregants, the Gardens have matured into an award-winning, public landmark institution. We are literally "on the map" in the new Garden Council's first-ever Garden Map of Ottawa (<http://www.gardensottawa.org/>). Head gardener Renee de Vry and assistants delivered tours as part of Ottawa's Garden Days.



Social Responsibility Calendar

Tuesday July 14

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

Tuesday August 11

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

Sunday August 23

- 12:30 p.m. Mental Illness Working Group

Tulipathon 2015: Another Success!

Thank you all for donating to the Tulipathon, the walk-a-thon which raises money for Multi-faith Housing Initiative (MHI) to build affordable housing in Ottawa. Our congregation raised \$2,190 this year. The Social Responsibility Council added another \$544 through its commitment of \$25 for every walker plus 10% of the total, for an aggregate of \$2,734.

Altogether, the Tulipathon brought in close to \$30,000, coming from all faith groups in and around Ottawa, and some additional money is still coming in, according to MHI.



No Summer Fair Trade Sales

There will be NO sale of Fair Trade coffee, chocolate products or olive oil on Sundays through the summer. If you need to stock up, contact Ria Heynen, r-j.heynen@bell.net, 613-828-8468.

Social Responsibility Column

Truth and Reconciliation:
What can you do, you ask?

Our congregation was privileged to hear reflections on Canada's Truth and Reconciliation Commission final report by Algonquin Gilbert Whiteduck at the Annual Aboriginal Sunday service in June. In his sermon, Mr. Whiteduck wisely responded to the foremost question in most of our minds:

What can you do, you ask?

I am confident that we can transform the sad legacy of colonialism symbolized through residential schools and other destructive impositions.

* Pray for a peaceful reconciliation that is guided by respect and love.

* Speak with others; learn about this issue and the critical importance of: Canada's recognition of its colonial past and present; support for Indigenous people to make this land whole and healthy.

* Write a letter at least once a month calling on the Federal, Provincial governments to recognize the TRC recommendations; remind them of their obligation to be part of change, not part of rhetoric.

* Prepare petitions to various levels of government concerning the TRC and other issues. Have these

presented for the record.

* Call for a city wide walk and gathering for change in the Nation's Capital.

* Write op-editorials or send letters to newspapers.

* Create media events.

* Make reconciliation a primary federal election issue.

* Make public statements to Indigenous peoples about your support. Stand up. Be counted.

* Call upon and insist that every Ottawa and Gatineau school board include in its curricula the history of First Nations, including residential schools. Make them accountable to go beyond the talk.

* Insist that the City of Ottawa officially recognize the land where the city is built, particularly City Hall.

* Demand that all city staff receive cultural workshops to better understand Indigenous issues.

These are but some suggestions. That being said, things need to shift significantly if anything will happen to create the necessary momentum to create an environment for reconciliation. We must be prepared to say "To infinity and beyond".

Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada The publications of the Commission are available at www.trc.ca, and will be in our church library in the Lounge.



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