

The Parkway Spire

Generosity Remembered John Hanna (1914 -2000)

When John Hanna was planning his estate, his first thought was for the care and comfort of his wife, Dorothy Scott Hanna, and he arranged for his life savings to be used on her behalf for as long as she lived.

Upon her death, the remaining funds were to be distributed to other individuals and organizations he wished to support, including our Congregation. Dorothy died in December of 2010, and this year we are receiving a bequest as part of John Hanna's generous legacy.

John's son, Ed Hanna, remembers his father and our Congregation with affection. He writes the following:

"My father, John Hanna was educated as a scientist and spent most of his career in the government developing standards and specifications so we could be confident our clothes would fit, lifejackets would float, and seat-belts wouldn't break.

"He was the son of a high school principal and married to a minister's daughter so it is no wonder that he believed we can make the world better and that our institutions give us that power.

"It gave him much satisfaction at the end of his career to be doing that work internationally, but he got just as much from seeing the fabric-care label on a sweater from Eaton's.

"When I joined Cubs, he volunteered as a leader and stayed active in the Scout movement even after I matured out as a Rover at age 19.

"He was Chair of our Group Committee when we abruptly had to find a new sponsor, and he and the Committee brought us to the Unitarian Church, then on Elgin St. at Lewis.

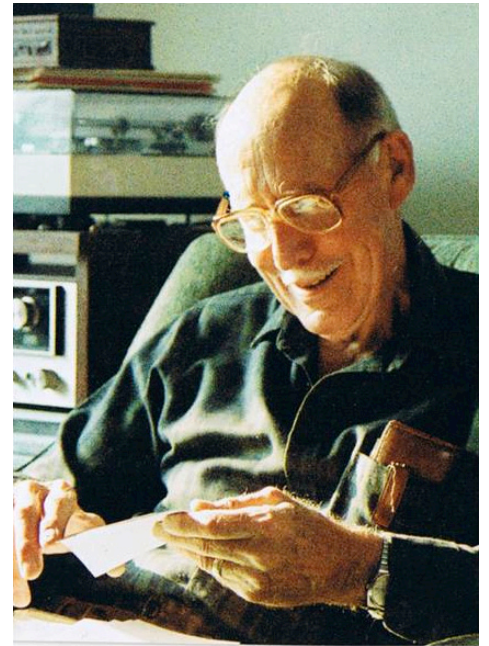
"Until then I think his only sense of the church came from his father-in-law who had been a Baptist missionary but said that were he to do life over, he'd be a Unitarian.

"As children we always saw Father busy with his hands: wood working, cooking, cutting firewood when we camped, building at the cottage, and taking pictures. And he was pretty good at it; all of us have a confidence about doing real concrete things that comes from him.

"That skill reflected his scientist's sense that the world has standards, be they penciled lines or moral ones, and that a good worker watches the lines. He was as careful to consider others and be an honest person as he was to make a perfect, efficient J-stroke. And he was committed to passing this sensible, meaningful way to live on to us.

"Our family had been Baptists, but after we kids had gone our own ways, and our mother died, Father connected once more with the Unitarians and remarried in your beautiful church by the river.

"His wife Dorothy, whose recent passing has resulted in this bequest, might perhaps have preferred an Anglican Church, but was always supportive of his belief that he could



contribute and find value in the humanism of the Unitarians.

"It seemed an admirable fit, and his efforts gave him much satisfaction—a satisfaction that all of us were very happy to see."

Many members here remember John's gentle smile, his service with several working groups in the Congregation, and his deep consideration of others.

We are in the midst of putting together a Book of Gratitude that will include the names of those who have left bequests to our Congregation. John's name will be one of the first to be so inscribed. We are all grateful for his legacy.

Rev. John N. Marsh, Minister

Lay Spiritual Care Visitors

When you want someone to talk to, we are here to listen. Contact coordinator Ellen Bell (613-831-5205) to arrange a confidential visit.

Caring Contacts for May, 2011

Isabel Burrows

(613-727-6152)

Marjorie Daeschel

(613-596-1471)

Caring Contacts for June, 2011

Ria Heynen

(613-828-8468)

Barbara Brown

(613-820-7332)



ARE YOU OR YOUR GROUP INTERESTED IN LEADING A SUMMER SERVICE?

High-quality, summer services are important, not only for our own congregants but also for those visitors who come in search of a church.

To lead a service during the summer, you or your group will need to submit a proposal to the Worship Associate Team by May 15. Applicants should consider that

- Summer services should include elements of worship that nurture a transformational spiritual experience.
- Sermons should not just be informational lectures. Topics should be important, appropriate, and connect with Unitarian Universalist principles and sources.
- The order of service should include elements of ritual, e.g., chalice lighting, community building, e.g., joys and sorrows, meditation, and music—at least two hymns.
- The application should include preferred date(s), worship service theme, name of the person who will present the sermon—include a brief biography if the person is not well known to our Congregation, and contact information for the applicant. Dates are available from July 7 to September 5.

The Congregation's worship associates will work with individuals and groups whose proposals for summer services are selected.

Applications can be e-mailed to Sean Barron at seanbarron@gmail.com, or paper copies may be left in the Worship Associates' mail slot in the Photocopying Room.

The Parkway Spire

Contributors

Tarrel Armstrong, Sean Barron, Margot Clarke, Ana Collins, Wendy Doyle, Nicky Duenkel, Katharine Elliott, Laurie Foster-MacLeod, Katherine Gunn, Alastaire Henderson, Ria Heynen, Sharmila Khare, John Marsh, Jane Perry, Maury Prevost, Barry Read, Sue Williams, and Kathy Yach

Production

Claire Harrison, Editor; Warren Scott, Arthur Palmer, Alastaire Henderson, and Judy Lishman, Proofreaders

Submissions

The deadline for submissions to the July/August issue is **Wednesday, June 8**. We welcome photographs or articles of 300 words or less that cover congregational events and activities. Contact publications@firstunitarianottawa.ca.

Subscriptions

Electronic subscriptions are free; contact publications@firstunitarianottawa.ca. For information on receiving the Spire via surface mail (cost \$12), contact the church office.



First unitarian congregation of ottawa

30 Cleary Avenue
Ottawa, Ontario K2A 4A1
Phone: 613-725-1066
Fax: 613-725-3259

E-mail: uuoffice@firstunitarianottawa.ca
Web site: www.firstunitarianottawa.ca
Office hours: Monday to Friday, 9:00–4:00 p.m.;
Sunday, 9:00 a.m.–1:00 p.m.

2010–2011 Board of Directors

Kathy Yach, President
Eleonore Benesch, Treasurer
Paul Ward, Secretary
Members at Large: Scott Drennan, Roberta Engel, Alastaire Henderson, Louise Lefort and Ed Willer; Youth Representative: Arden Hody

Program Staff

Rev. John Marsh, Minister
minister@firstunitarianottawa.ca, x225
Nicky Duenkel, Director of Lifespan Learning
dll@firstunitarianottawa.ca, x234
Jane Perry, Music Director, music@firstunitarianottawa.ca, x230
Shannon Linton, Children's Choir Director
childrensmusic@firstunitarianottawa.ca
Ellen Bell, Spiritual Care Visitor
Rev. Brian Kopke and Rev. Liz Benjamin, Ministers Emeriti

Lay Chaplains

Bob Armstrong, Caroline Elson, Jan Glyde

Administrative Staff

TBA, Director of Support Services
dss@firstunitarianottawa.ca, x228
Sylvia Furman, Administrative Officer
admins@firstunitarianottawa.ca, x229
Philip Downs, Custodian
custodians@firstunitarianottawa.ca, x224
or 613-898-1066 (cell)
Jen Brennan, Support Services Assistant
ssa@firstunitarianottawa.ca, x221
Marie Gabe, Lifespan Learning Assistant
lga@firstunitarianottawa.ca, x226

AND A RIVER RUNS THROUGH IT... The Ottawa Riverkeeper Speaks at First Unitarian

Recently, Meredith Brown, the Ottawa Riverkeeper, talked to congregants interested in environmental issues about the conservation of the Ottawa River and its tributaries, the Rideau and Gatineau.

With a \$250,000 budget, a board of directors, three core staff, and summer interns, the Riverkeeper handles river-related issues, including wastewater, wetlands, and chemical pollutants. Because no single government agency is mandated to protect the river, no overall conservation plan exists.

The Riverkeeper plays a key role in coordinating the efforts of many jurisdictions for effective collaborative action on the river. In 2010 the organization partnered with the National Capital Commission to hold the first-ever Ottawa River Summit where municipalities, First Nations, and government agencies could share information and best practices.

- **Wastewater:** Although Ottawa has the best wastewater facility around, untreated sewage still enters the river during rainstorms. More separate stormwater and sewage pipes as well as huge underground holding tanks are needed and called for in the city's Ottawa River Action Plan.
- **Wetlands:** Protecting wetlands is crucial for clean water. Once destroyed, the ecological goods and services these boggy areas provide are very expensive to reproduce, e.g. a multi-million dollar holding tank.
- **Pollutants:** As individuals, we can act to protect our rivers. Go green: many "chemicals of emerging concern" in our personal care and cleaning products, including endocrine disruptors that can feminize fish, aren't removed by water treatment plants. Agricultural pesticide residues are also present.

For more information: the Riverkeeper has a pollution hotline to call and volunteer opportunities at www.ottawariverkeeper.ca/get_involved

—Alastaire Henderson
Environmental Working Group
Photo: Reuel Amdur



SIGNIFICANT SUNDAYS!

May 8: Former First U Minister David Pohl is our guest speaker.

May 15: We celebrate our longtime pianist, Elisabeth Morrison, and hold our annual All-Church Picnic and treasure hunt.

June 5: A musical extravaganza in honour of Music Director Jane Perry.

Save These Dates!

CONGREGATIONAL DOINGS

CONGRATULATIONS!

To Janice Lee who won the quilt raffle.



UNITARIAN SENIORS' PROGRAM

RSVP only if you are not on the phone list: Maureen Sly at 613-728-7610 or mmsly@rogers.com

May: Michael Cassidy will entertain with reminiscences; Mo Gabe will conduct the worship service. **When:** Tuesday, May 31 **Service:** 11:30 a.m. **Lunch** (\$5): 12:00 p.m. **Program:** 1:00 p.m. **Where:** Worship/Fellowship Hall **RSVP** by Friday, May 27.

June: The Sage Age Theatre will present a humorous look at aging. Worship service leader TBA **When:** Thursday, June 30 **Service:** 11:30 a.m. **Lunch** (\$5): 12:00 p.m. **Program:** 1:00 p.m. **Where:** Worship/Fellowship Hall **RSVP** by Sunday, June 26.

ARTSPACE EXHIBITS

- **May:** Laurie Foster-MacLeod
- **June:** Paula Zoubek

Where: Lounge **Contact:** Laurie Foster-MacLeod, 613-728-1916

SITE DEVELOPMENT INTEREST GROUP MEETING

This group will meet to discuss the campus site. **When:** Sunday, May 15, 9:00 a.m. **Where:** Fellowship Hall

Want to Help? Take Part in the Annual River Bank Clean-Up

Our Congregation is steward to three km of river bank between Woodroffe and Dominion Aves. Join us! Gloves and bags provided. **When:** Saturday, May 14, 9:15 a.m. –12:00 p.m. **Where:** Church parking lot **Contact:** Marilen Gerber at gerber5@sympatico.ca



BUILDING A VOCAL COMMUNITY

On April 1-3, First U members attended a Montreal workshop led by Dr. Ysaye Barnwell to learn African chants and songs and African-American music, including spirituals, gospel music, and music from the Civil War.



PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Accomplishing Goals

I have strong memories from my childhood of my parents telling me about the roles that Mahatma Gandhi and Martin Luther King were playing in changing the world in India and the United States.

Both were activists and inspiring leaders; both believed in achieving goals through non-violence; and both overcame formidable obstacles as they set a course for the success of their causes.

What can we learn from their accomplishments? That each of them had four steps that they put into place to achieve their goal:

- Articulating a mission
- Establishing core values with models for specific behaviours
- Setting goals
- Developing a strategic plan to accomplish goals

As we, at First Unitarian, work to reach our own particular goals, we have succeeded in completing the first two of the steps listed above.

First, we have a Mission Statement: "We kindle the light within and inspire courage to nurture the web of life and to create a just and compassionate world."

Secondly, we have our Congregational Covenant in which we establish those core values which guide our behaviours. Entitled, "Nurturing our relationships with each other," these values are

- Knowing that we shall not always be of the same mind, we create an inclusive, welcoming, and safe space in which we value each other and everyone's contribution and opinions.
- We assume good intentions and honour people in their absence, talking with and to, rather than about, each other.
- We challenge or debate ideas respectfully and constructively.
- We demonstrate our caring and compassion with kindness and empathy.
- We welcome newcomers and help them find their way in the Congregation.
- We honour all generations and assist those in need.
- When we encounter difficulties, we forgive each other and ourselves.

Thirdly, the Board prepared a draft, "Strategic Plan with Ends, Strategic Intent, and Outcomes," which we shared with you during Stefan Jonasson's visit on April 10 and asked for input at that time. Your help is important to us to ensure that our mission, values, goals, and strategy reflect your needs and desires for our Congregation.

And finally, just a reminder that there will be the Annual General Meeting and Election of the 2011-2012 Board on Sunday, May 29 at 12:15 p.m. I hope you will all join us.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathy Yach, President

Splinters from the Board

At our Board meeting for March 2011, we accepted/approved the following directions and motions:

- **Bequest:** Approved directing part of a bequest from the estate of John Hanna in the amount of \$24,600 to the RBC Investment Fund.
- **By-laws:** Approved draft by-laws developed by a committee of the board
- **Bylaws:** Approved hiring of Jennifer Leddy from Carters Professional Corporation to do a draft of our new by-laws for the Congregation, for up to \$6,500. Funds from the Hanna bequest will be directed to this initiative.
- **Staff:** Approved "New Personnel Policies and Procedures" developed by the Personnel Committee.
- **Staff Hiring:** Approved the process presented by Rev. John Marsh for hiring a new music director.
- **Committees:** Approved the appointment of Ron Wilson as a member-at-large to the Social Responsibility Council Steering Committee.
- **Campus Planning:** Approved the Campus Planning document as amended.
- **Finances:** Accepted the statements of net worth presented by the Treasurer.



Note to readers: "Splinters from the Board" was a regular column of *The Parkway Spire* until a few years ago. The Board has now decided to bring it back so that the Congregation can have more information about Board meetings.

MUSICALIA

by Music Director Jane Perry

Celebrating Elisabeth Morrison!

We're so glad we had this time together...First U's long-time (21 years!) Chalice Choir pianist, Elisabeth Morrison, will be retiring from that role on Sunday, May 15.

Elisabeth has been a constant for the Chalice Choir, from her early days as a musical assistant to the then Music Director, the late Michael Cass-Beggs, through the transition to our current Music Director, Jane Perry.

Every Thursday night from September through May, Elisabeth has provided solid support to the



Chalice Choir, as choristers learned notes and tried out musical ideas. She has accompanied the group at Sunday-morning worship services and in concerts, always with sensitivity and grace.

In appreciation of Elisabeth, the Chalice Choir commissioned a new piece in her honour. The choir will sing it, with Elisabeth at the keyboard, on Sunday, May 15, in the morning worship service.

Come and celebrate this important member of our church community!



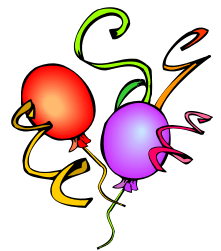
*And, Jane,
we're so glad
we had this time
together...*

"HERE'S TO JANE!"

Come and celebrate Jane's 11 years as musical director of the Congregation.

The Sunday service on June 5 will be a musical extravaganza in honour of her wonderful leadership and many accomplishments.

The service will be followed by a lunch of good food and a rollicking party, filled with music and cheer!



The Ewashko Singers in Concert!

After the all-church picnic on Sunday, May 15, stay on to hear one of Ottawa's best choirs as it presents "An Afternoon with Franz Liszt."

This concert features pianist, Frédéric Lacroix, and is directed by conductor, Laurence Ewashko.

Part of the concert proceeds will go to our church's Building Renewal Fund!

When: Sunday, May 15, 4:00 p.m.

Where: Worship Hall

Tickets: Available at the door

Chamber Music on Cleary Avenue!

These two May concerts represent the last-ever offerings of our subscription series. So, if you have not yet attended a Cleary Avenue concert and always wanted to, here is your last chance! The concerts feature international-calibre artists, right here in our own church. Individual tickets (available in advance from the church office): \$20 regular, \$15 senior/student, or pay what you can.

Die Schöne müllerin: Friday, May 6, 7:30 p.m.

Canadian baritone Matthew Zadow now makes his home in Belgium, from which he is building a European concert career. In this concert, Mr. Zadow presents Schubert's much-loved song cycle about the beautiful daughter of a miller and the man who loves her. With Ottawa pianist Dina Namer.

wires and pipes: Sunday, May 29, 7:30 p.m.

The young husband-and-wife team of cellist Kirk Starkey and flutist Sara Traficante are making joyful waves in music circles for their captivating and inventive use of electronica combined with live performance. Following the concert, audience members will be invited to a reception, where we will celebrate the many years of Cleary Avenue concert successes!

As I am away from May 1 to 26, I wish to thank those volunteers who will oversee the Hospitality Sundays for me: Carol Card on May 8, Elizabeth Wright on May 15, and Katherine Gunn on May 22.

So that these volunteers don't have to make phone calls to complete the sign-up sheets, please consider helping out when you can.

The Summer Hospitality Hour schedule will commence Sunday, June 26. The routine and procedures will be the same as those from last summer. Two volunteers are needed each Sunday to cover set-up, serve and clean-up. A third person is required to assist with clean-up.

In general, summer procedures are simpler than those of regular hospitality hours, taking less time for both set-up and clean-up.

Summer instructions will be provided and left in the slot on the bulletin board. Elisabeth Morrision has kindly agreed to assist me again this summer, making sure there are enough volunteers each week.

Have a great summer!

—Tarrel Armstrong
Hospitality Hour Co-ordinator



Reading for Growth Groups

Visitors and new members welcome!

Monday Non-Fiction: For May, this group will be reading *Mrs. King: The Life and Times of Isabel MacKenzie King* by Charlotte Gray; for June, *The Trouble with Billionaires* by Linda McQuaig **When:** May 9 and June 13, 1:00-3:00 p.m. **Where:** Lounge. **Contact:** Katharine Elliott (613-270-8308 or katharine.elliott@opera.ncf.ca)

Friday Non-Fiction: For May, this group will discuss *Ill Fares the Land* by Tony Judt. (No June meeting) **When:** May 27, 1:00-3:00 p.m. **Where:** First U **Contact:** Margot Clarke, 613-820-6596 or mmclarke@magma.ca

Tuesday Fiction: For May, this group will discuss *Secret Daughter* by Shilipi Somaya Gowda; for June, *The Help* by Kathryn Stockett. **When:** May 3 and Jun 7, 1:00-3:00 p.m. **Where:** Lounge **Contact:** Katharine Elliott, 613-270-8308 or katharine.elliott@opera.ncf.ca

Introducing Ourselves

Would you like to learn more about Unitarian Universalism? We will ask about your spiritual journey so far and share the histories of Unitarianism and Universalism and the Ottawa congregation. Led by Rev. John Marsh. **When:** Saturday, May 7, from 9:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m., lunch included. **Registration:** In book on table beside the Lounge or Rev. John Marsh, 613-725-1066, ext. 225, minister@firstunitarianottawa.ca

Yoga for Seniors and Everyone Else

Give yourself the gift of peace and well-being through yoga, and

improve your flexibility in a relaxed setting. Drop by to try it out! Leader is Linda Percy. **When:** Friday, April 29-June 24, 10:15-11:15 a.m. **Where:** Fellowship Hall **Cost:** \$85 for 9 weeks or \$10 drop-in **Contact:** Linda Percy, 613-729-8913 or Margot Clarke, 613-820-6596.

Reiki Share

All Reiki practitioners are invited to enjoy a calm, balanced and energized Reiki session. Meet colleagues to share your knowledge and experiences, explore group meditation and distance Reiki healing. **When:** Wednesday, May 25, 7:30-9:30p.m. **Where:** First U **Cost:** Donation of \$10 (\$5 to church) **Registration** (in advance if possible): ottawareikishare@gmail.com **Contact:** Janet Clayton, 613-733-9566

Survey of Adult Learning Experiences and Interests

Are you getting what you want from Adult Learning at First Unitarian? The Adult Learning Committee will be seeking your views so that we can continue to strengthen and improve our adult learning program. Look for the survey in May, and please take a few minutes to fill it out. Electronic and hard copies will be available.

Proposals for Adult Learning Courses and Events

Are you thinking of giving a course or offering a presentation or event in the summer or fall of 2011? Please complete the Proposal for an Adult Learning event form. **Contact:** Wendy Doyle, adultlearning@firstunitarianottawa.ca

RE Social Action Sunday: May 29

Shannen Koostachin of Attawapiskat First Nation, who died in 2010 at the age of 15, had a dream: safe schools and culturally based education for First Nations children and youth. She worked tirelessly to convince the federal government to give First Nations children a proper education. Now it is our turn to carry her dream forward.

In 1990 Canada ratified the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child and committed to protect and ensure children's rights.

To recognize this obligation, we will schedule an extra Social Action Sunday. It will be a day to work with the first UU principle and to act to protect the rights of all Canadian children to a quality education.

During this day, children will learn about the UN Convention and then connect that knowledge with the impetus behind Shannen's Dream.

The children will then lead a letter-writing (the wee ones will be doing postcards) campaign in support of Shannen's Dream with the help of the UU United Nations Organization.

—Ana Collins, Social Action Sunday
Coordinator

RE Events Calendar

May 1

Children's Worship, NOW Room

May 8

Regular RE

RE Leader Appreciation Breakfast, 9:15 a.m., Fellowship Hall

May 15

All Group Fun in RE! (final official session of the program year)
All-Church Picnic, after RE/service

May 29

Social Action Sunday for Children (indigenous/children's rights)



REFLECTIONS FROM NICKY

The Year in Review

With our RE program year soon coming to an end, I've been reviewing the year. I thought about our new program elements and how they went. It's interesting how, once something becomes a part of what we are doing, it can seem like it has always been there!

This year, we've had a successful introduction of Family Ministry Teams, with RE families connecting with one another and becoming more visible in the Congregation as a whole. The Halloween procession, Night Tree event, Congregation-wide Art Project on Compassion, Chocolate Dessert Fundraiser, and Heritage Feast were added to our regular programming and successfully complemented older favourites like Mystery Pals. Some of these events will return next year while others will be replaced with new and innovative ones—just to keep things interesting!

Our Easter Canned Goods Hunt and four Social Action Sundays addressed at least three of the UU Principles. Children learned about, and acted upon, the impacts of human toxins on watersheds, homelessness, the endangered Eastern Loggerhead Shrike, and indigenous peoples' and children's rights. Several of these experiences were also shared with the full congregation.

And let us not forget our newly enlivened Services for All Ages—the USC service in October when Frog and Toad planted a garden(!), the Screaming Latke/Mitten Tree service in December, a new (for us) Christmas Pageant, the meditative Winter Service based on Jane Yolen's Owl Moon, and our giant puppet and choral extravaganza on Earth Day. Also, our wonderful children's choirs added immensely to these services as well. I'd say our experimenting with a different format for these multigenerational services was quite a success, wouldn't you?

Our overall increase in multigenerational events this year has, I think, been a rich and positive addition to our congregational offerings. They have added a wee bit more energy upstairs on certain Sunday mornings—that being the very nature of multigenerational experiences—reminding us that religious communities are one of the few places left in our culture for meaningful interactions and relationships across the generations. In general, the passion and engagement downstairs this year has been sensational, coming from both children and parents. Any number of times, newcomers, after spending a morning in a session with their children, have filled out an application to continue, just bubbling with enthusiasm.

Thanks again to all who contributed, in so many innumerable ways, to making this year in RE such a success. We literally couldn't do it without you! Who knows what awaits us around the corner next year...

A handwritten signature in cursive that reads "Nicky".

Nicky Duenkel
Director of Lifespan Learning

P.S. Need RE ideas for the summer? Check out UU World's Family Pages at <http://www.uua.org/religiouseducation/families/153856.shtml>

AGM and BOARD NOMINATIONS for 2011-2012

FIRST UNITARIAN CONGREGATION OF OTTAWA ANNUAL GENERAL AND ELECTION MEETING AGENDA

Sunday, May 29, 2011

1. Opening meditation
2. Report of the scrutineers
3. Approval of the agenda
4. In memoriam
5. Approval of the minutes of the Congregational Meeting, January 30, 2011
6. President's remarks
7. Minister's remarks
8. Financial statement for 2010
9. Final budget for 2011
10. Approval of audited statements for 2010
11. Appointment of auditor for 2011
12. 2011 budget update
13. Ratification of acts of the Board since January 30, 2011
14. Appointment of lay chaplains
15. Report of the Nominating Committee
16. Election of the Board for 2011-2012
17. Next scheduled congregational meeting
18. Other matters and motions
19. Adjournment



**Kathy Yach
(President)**

Kathy joined First Unitarian in 2004 and has served as its president for two years. The church year, 2011-2012, will be Kathy's third consecutive year as president. She served as the Director, City View Centre for Child and Family Services, from which she retired in 2004, and was a trustee with the Ottawa Board of Education for 13 years, two as its chair. Kathy taught in the Early Childhood Education Program at Algonquin College and is presently Vice-President, Council on Aging of Ottawa. She sits on the boards of two day-care centres as well the board of Victoria's Quilts Canada. As a member of the May Court Club of Ottawa, she is convenor of its emergency food box program and is involved in The Hospice at May Court. Keith and Kathy Yach have two children and six lovely grandchildren.

Note: Although our By-Law Number One states that two years is the "normal" term for President, it does not preclude longer service, and Kathy's candidacy conforms to the overall limit for consecutive years of service on the Board.

**Kim Elmer
(Vice-president)**

Kimberly has been a member of the Congregation since 2007. She is an educational consultant with over 30 years' experience in program development, classroom teaching, behaviour management, workshop facilitation, and administration. She has been a police officer in Arizona, a high school English teacher in Connecticut, and is currently the Human Resources Manager at Bridgehead where she is an instructional designer and training facilitator and manages recruitment, hiring, and staff development. Her particular interest is in employment accessibility by creating partnerships with community organizations that help place underrepresented segments of the work force, i.e., newcomers to Canada, differently abled people, retired people, and mothers/fathers who are returning to work. A volunteer for the church library and a greeter, she is also currently serving on the Board of Directors of River Heights/River Parkway Schools as well as on her own condo Board.



**Eleonore Benesch
(Treasurer)**

Eleonore has been a member of the Congregation since 1974. She served on the Board of River Parkway Preschool Children's Centre for several years and has recently rejoined their board. She is a past executive director of the Children's Centre and the Greenboro Day Care



(CONTINUED ON PAGE 9)

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 8)

Centre since their founding in 1979 and 1989 respectively. As executive director, Eleonore was responsible for a budget of \$1.5 million and the day-to-day management of the organization. She initiated and led the development of the two child care centres, including their design and construction. She continues to be an advocate in the field of early childhood education.



**Scott Drennan
(Secretary)**

Scott joined the Congregation in 2001. He has worked in telecommunications since moving to

Ottawa in 1996 until 2008 when he and his wife, Becky Hogue, left on a bicycle journey around the world. Scott has served on the Associate Minister Search Committee, the Nominating Committee, and the Committee on Ministry. He has also been involved in choir, Fall Fair, and OWL as a volunteer and facilitator. Scott has a keen interest in congregational and denominational affairs and has been a delegate to CUC ACMs and a participant in several Eastern Regional Gatherings, CU*UL school, and the Large Church Conference in 2008.

**Ed Willer
(Member-at-large)**

Ed served in the Canadian foreign service for 33 years. After retiring in 2000, he joined the faculty of the Pearson Peace-keeping Centre. His experiences at home and abroad provided him with opportunities to act on behalf of justice and peace at work and within his chosen faith



communities. In 2007 Ed and his wife, Donna Bowen-Willer, became members of the Congregation. They have a daughter, a son, and a joy-giving young grandson. They await the arrival of a second grandchild.

**Louise Lefort
(Member-at-large)**

Louise has been a long-time member of our Congregation and values the role that it plays in her spiritual life. She says that, for more than 30 years, this spiritual community has enhanced her work as a family physician. She has volunteered as an RE teacher, a choir member, greeter, green mugger, and Board member. She was married at First Unitarian, her three sons participated in the RE program, and she now brings her enthusiastic four-year-old grandson to "church school." Louise has finished her second year of a three-year term and looks forward to the coming year.



**Paul Ward
(Member-at-large)**

Paul served as acting treasurer in 2009 and was secretary to the Board for the past year. He retired as federal Assistant Auditor General, but his passion has been in Ottawa's health care facilities and the field of bioethics. He spent 25 years on hospital and health care boards, including the Royal Ottawa Hospital (president) and Grace Hospital and Manor (chair). Paul currently serves on the Board of WPBS TV. He and Lesley have three daughters and six grandchildren. Aqua-fit and dog-walking help in his battle to get from fat to fit.

**Alastaire Henderson,
(Member-at-large)**

Alastaire joined the Congregation in 2000, after attending services for a year. She has worked as an administrative assistant, a hospital technician, and a teacher of English as a Second Language. She is currently an editor with the federal government. Her congregational involvement includes co-chairing the Environmental Working Group, founding Friends of the Meditation Gardens, and singing in the Chalice Choir. She is interested in community gardening and passionate about animals and books.



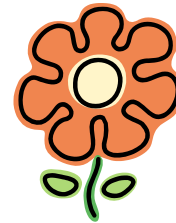
**Kegan Eskritt
(Youth representative)**

Kegan has been a member of the Congregation for the last year and has been attending the youth group for two years. His family has been involved for a long time in the church. Kegan has a strong interest in music and has been playing drums for the last six years. He wanted to be the youth representative to the Board to better understand the processes that govern the church and to represent youth in decisions that are made. He finds it a way to give back to our church community.

**It's your
Congregation.
Come out and be
counted!**



SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY



WORKING GROUP MEETINGS AND ACTIVITIES

- United Nations: Sunday, May 1, 12:30 p.m.
- eWaste Recycling Day: Saturday, May 7, 9:00 a.m.–2:00 p.m.
- Granny Squares and Fair Trade Sales: Sunday, May 8, 11:45 a.m.
- River Bank Clean-Up: Saturday, May 14, 9:15 a.m.–12:00 p.m.
- Unitarian GoGos: Thursday, May 19, 3:45 p.m.
- United Nations: Sunday, June 5, 12:30 p.m.
- Fair Trade Sales: Sunday, June 12, 11:45 a.m.
- Mental Illness: Sunday, June 12, 12:30 p.m.
- Unitarian GoGos: Thursday, June 16, 3:45 p.m.



eWaste Day is Saturday, May 7

9:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

Bring all your old electronics to the UU parking lot so they can go to recycling heaven—brought to you by the Environmental Working Group.

This recycling is a fundraiser, since the provincial Electronic Stewardship program pays for the waste it takes away. Tell your friends, neighbours, and colleagues!

We need your old computers, printers, televisions, telephones, and related accessories but, sorry, no microwaves or air conditioners.

Be part of a traffic or recycling team. **Contact:** John Turnbull at 4johnrt@live.com or 613-820-7259 or Katherine Gunn at klgunn@magma.ca or 613-729-0504.

Unitarian GoGos Plant & Garden Sale

Bring Your Donations: Do you have outdoor or indoor plants to share? Please pot, label, and give care directions. We'll also take garden tools and ornaments. **When:** Friday, May 13, 4:00-7:00 p.m. **Where:** First U Lower Level **Contact:** Elizabeth Waechter at unitariangogos@gmail.com or 613-722-7862.

Come to the Sale: Great items for gardeners! Perennials, house plants, decorative stones and pots, tools and ornaments, as well as some plants in the Gardens, will be for sale. Light refreshments. Proceeds to the Stephen Lewis Foundation Grandmothers to Grandmothers Campaign and the Meditation Gardens. **When:** Saturday, May 14, 9:30 a.m.- 3:00 p.m. **Where:** First U Front Patio **Contact:** Elizabeth Waechter at 613-722-7862 or unitariangogos@gmail.com

Ron Wilson Joins the Social Responsibility Steering Committee

The Social Responsibility Steering Committee (SRSC) welcomes Ron Wilson as Co-Chair. A retired high school teacher and long-time Unitarian, Ron adds his new SRSC role to Adult OWL facilitation, care of the Meditation Gardens, Fall Fair coordination, and singing in the choir.

Ron joins Co-Chair David Hudson and other committee members in the SRSC role of guiding the Social Responsibility working groups as well as administering SR funds and reporting to the Congregation. Four percent of the congregation's annual pledges are dedicated to social action and social justice work. For 2011/2012 these SR funds will be approximately \$16,000.

The 11 working groups are: Environmental, Poverty Awareness, United Nations, Canada Nepal Solidarity, Welcoming Congregation, Child Haven, Mental Illness, Global Justice, Sanctuary, Refugee, and the Unitarian GoGos. The full Council of all working groups meets two or three times a year, while the SRSC meets approximately monthly.

Working groups, which have at least six members, design annual work plans in accordance with our Unitarian Principles and project expenditures to support their work. The SRSC approves and monitors the work plans and presents Town Halls on SR activities as needed.

Reports of the groups' activities in the Congregation's Annual Report provide a great overview of the wonderful work UUs in our Congregation contribute to Ottawa, the region, the country, and the international community. The congregation has an illustrious social action past. We trust the four percent will continue to make a difference. And...welcome, Ron!

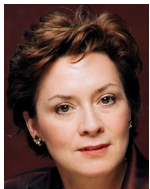
Child Haven June Dinner

An Indian buffet dinner, Indian dancing, Silent Auction and Sales tables, MC'd by Max Keeping, to raise funds for children's homes in India, Bangladesh, Tibet, and Nepal. **When:** Friday, June 17, 6:00 p.m. cocktails, 7:00 p.m. dinner **Where:** Tudor Hall, 3750 Bowesville Rd. **Cost:** \$50 (\$30 tax deduction) **Tickets:** Fellowship Hall, after Sunday services **Contact:** Dave Basu or Parin Bhimani at 613-422-1573 or davebasu@rogers.com

The Congregation Enjoys a Heritage Feast!



UNITARIAN FELLOWSHIP TO HAVE SPECIAL SPEAKER



Gretta Vosper, author of *With or Without God: Why The Way We Live is More Important Than What We Believe*, will be a guest speaker at the

Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Ottawa (UUFO). She is an innovative Canadian minister who presents a new way of looking at Christianity and religion.

Currently Minister of West Hill United Church in Toronto, Rev. Vosper is the founder of the Canadian Centre for Progressive Christianity, an organization that provides resources and support to those exploring the boundaries of Christian thought both inside and outside of their congregations.

The service will include music by the Ottawa Gay Men's Chorus.
When: Sunday, May 15, 10:30 a.m.

Where: École Séraphin-Marion, 2147 Loyola Avenue. For further information, check out

- Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Ottawa at ufo.org
- Canadian Centre for Progressive Christianity at progressivechristianity.ca/prc
- Westhill United Church at www.warmplace.ca

Thank You! Merci! Gracias!

by Maury Prevost

A Special Thanks: Joan Turner, Joe Connor, their daughter Joie, and family are very grateful for the caring, love, support, and generosity that followed the diagnosis of bone cancer of their granddaughter/daughter Amy, age 12, this past June. Complex inpatient treatment at CHEO was successful; prognosis is excellent. Particular thanks to Nicky Duenkel and Jill Burns for planning and organizing and RE families, teachers, and angels for preparing homemade food for many months for Amy and her family. Thank you all!

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

- **The donation of two stoves:** one to our lower level kitchen from Kathie and Ted Elliott and one for the Volunteer Room arranged by Kay Walker. Thanks from the Property Committee.
- **All members of the Family Ministry Team** who organized our Heritage Feast, a wonderful opportunity to celebrate World Community via food!
- **Our RE Leaders and RE Committee members** for supporting another rich, successful year of RE! And a special thanks to all the children for all you've taught us grown-ups along the way!
- **Gerry Taylor-Woelfert** for creating the two lovely spring wreaths recently put up inside the church building.
- **Ana Collins** for organizing another fun and insightful Social Action Sunday.
- **Marg Lee** for agreeing to take over the coordination of the Time and Talent Auction.
- **Jodi Banner** for organizing the Easter Canned Goods Hunt and **the volunteers** that helped make the morning run smoothly.

From Magdalene Albert: "I would like to express my appreciation to those who offered thanks and good wishes upon my departure, whether in person, by card, or by email. Your kind comments meant a lot to me. Good-bye and all the best from Mad."

Maury Prevost is the editor of this column. You can submit items by sending an email to mmprevost@sympatico.ca or by calling 613-231-7391 at least 48 hours before the Parkway Spire deadline.

WORSHIP SCHEDULE

May and June, 2011



May 1 Truth

John Marsh and Susan Howard Lynch

Oscar Wilde once said, "Truth is rarely pure and never simple." In this themed service, we'll bring reports from a group discussion about truth. RE will have its own service also based on truth. Parents are encouraged to talk with their children after the service to compare notes. (This much is true.)

May 8 "So the Wind Won't Blow It Away"

Rev. David Pohl

We are delighted to welcome David and Martha Pohl back to Ottawa. David served as minister of this Congregation from 1961 to 1971 – the time during which the church relocated from Elgin St. to Cleary Ave. David will share stories from those years and give us some reflections for our future.

May 15 Rekindling the Light

John Marsh and others

This sermon is about the extraordinary. For example, something extraordinary happened on the TV show, "Dancing with the Stars," that provided inspiration for this talk. Also, and even more extraordinary is the dedication and tenure of our retiring piano accompanist, Elisabeth Morrison, who has served our Congregation for 21 years.

We celebrate her tenure with a special musical piece commissioned in her honour by our choir: "When Our Inner Light Goes Out" by Toronto composer, Cassandra Luftspring.

Everyone is invited to stay after the service for the All-Church Picnic and treasure hunt.



May 22 TBA

Alex Campbell

May 29 "The Blessed Community"

Fred Cappuccino

Child Haven has gone through the ups-and-downs of 26 years as a Gandhian experiment. Fred is Minister Emeritus of the Unitarian Fellowship of Ottawa. He and his wife Bonnie are directors of Child Haven.

June 5 Encore! "Here's to Jane"

Our Choirs and others

This service will be primarily a musical celebration of the accomplishments of this Congregation's music program under the leadership of our departing Music Director Jane Perry. Join us for a special reception following the service.

June 12 Courage

John Marsh and Susan Mackenzie

June 19 Fatherhood

John Marsh and others

June 26 Canada, America, and Me

David Dymont

Our speaker says, "Writing the book, *Doing the Continental: A New Canadian-American Relationship*, felt like a life project. In seeking to learn more about this element of the web of our collective lives, the project became, in part, a mediation between conflicting approaches." In this genre of books, the author, with gusto, weaves his or her personal story with the object of study.



SEEKING NEW WORSHIP ASSOCIATES

Have you ever thought about being a worship associate? Two associates tell why they had decided to assist Rev. John Marsh on Sunday mornings.

Susan Mackenzie, who has been a worship associate for three and a half years, says, "Although public speaking has never been either a strength or a favourite activity of mine, I truly enjoy my WA work and, to my surprise, found myself comfortable in the pulpit from the first service I did. I also discovered that I like doing the homework and finding readings to complement the Sunday worship theme."

Susan believes that the pleasure she has in her worship associate work has much to do with the opportunity it provides to serve a community she loves in a way she finds meaningful.

For Mo Gabe, the experience has been both a privilege and a challenge. She says, "I wanted to be of service, learn to grow spiritually, and share my journey with the Congregation. I learned how a service is put together, I discovered where to research suitable readings, and sometimes I wrote my own! And my confidence increased as I learned to relax when 'up there.'"

Moreover, Mo says that the peacefulness that accompanies her on Sunday mornings was further deepened by knowing what makes a good service. "This is a benefit that I continue to enjoy to this day," she adds. "The love and compassion I feel when I am serving is one reason I enjoy serving."

If you are interested in becoming a worship associate, please speak to John Marsh or one of the current worship associates.