

# Parkway Spire

## Shree Kumar Rai Legally in Canada

On Thursday, Shree Kumar Rai was legally admitted as a permanent resident. His wife and son are expected to join him in June. Shree has been in sanctuary at the church since February 27, 2007.

Notice about a church wide celebration will be sent out soon.

Shree was required to fulfil his deportation order and to meet all immigration requirements as would any other immigrant.

Shree has been offered employment as a sushi chef and is looking forward to contributing to Canada.

The Congregation agreed to accept Shree into Sanctuary

after the immigration system failed to recognize Shree as a genuine refugee, whose life was in peril if he returned to Nepal, his country of origin.

The Sanctuary Committee would like to thank the Hon. Jason Kenney, Minister of Citizenship and Immigration Canada and his officials for their work and commitment to finding a solution to Shree's case. We are also grateful for the assistance from the Hon. John Baird, M.P. for Ottawa West Nepean and Paul Dewar, M.P. for Ottawa Centre. Special thanks also go Peter Showler, the Director of the Human Rights Forum at the University of Ottawa, whose work and advice were indispensable to resolving the situation.

What are  
you doing  
on the  
Victoria Day  
Weekend?



## It's not too late to answer the call...

Come to Thunder Bay for the Canadian Unitarian Council's 2009 Annual Conference and Meeting!

As of May 1, the registration fee for adults is \$200, while full-time students pay \$150. You may also register on a per-day basis for \$95. And make your travel arrangements soon! The long weekend, Friday to Monday, May 15-18, is fast approaching. Check out Tango/Air Canada's seat sale at [www.aircanada.ca](http://www.aircanada.ca).

Please remember to pre-register for on-site meals during the conference. All restaurants on the Lakehead university campus will be closed, and there will be no other cash-purchase food options available on campus. All meals must be pre-ordered by **Thursday, April 30**.

An important part of the 2009 ACM is the Canadian Unitarian Council's

Annual Meeting, where resolutions are put forward for debate and voting.

Experience UU democracy in action! Go to [www.cuc.ca](http://www.cuc.ca) to learn about upcoming resolutions and share your views on these issues with one of the delegates who will represent First Unitarian in Thunder Bay. You will find the names of your delegates on the Denominational Affairs bulletin board in Fellowship Hall, or you may send your feedback to Carol Anne Deneka at [deneka8031@rogers.com](mailto:deneka8031@rogers.com).

The inside scoop: Elizabeth Bowen, a long-time active member of First Unitarian Congregation of Ottawa, prior member of the CUC Board, and Chair of the 2008 ACM Host Committee in Ottawa, has been proposed as a nominee for the CUC Nominating Committee. Congratulations, Elizabeth!

—Carol Anne Deneka

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of Ottawa**

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**Parkway Spire Team**

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**June Parkway Spire Deadline**

Friday, May 15, at 8:00 p.m.

E-mail [publications@firstunitarianottawa.ca](mailto:publications@firstunitarianottawa.ca)  
or go to [www.firstunitarianottawa.ca/connect](http://www.firstunitarianottawa.ca/connect)

# Sur ces entrefaites

Rev. Marcel P. Duhamel



There is a Buddhist parable that surfaces from time to time which I want to share with you. An abbot in a remote monastery wanted to communicate with a colleague who was abbot in a distant centre. He entrusted a scroll to two proven monks: one an older monk who had served long and well, and the other a young novice who showed much promise. They travelled together, not conversing much to save energy for the arduous journey. At length, they arrived at a stream they had to ford. A young, strikingly attractive woman was standing on the bank, weeping. She confided to the two monks that she needed to get across, but the swift current terrified her. The younger monk offered to carry her to the other side, an offer she eagerly accepted. The task was successfully accomplished, the young monk set her down on the opposite bank, and in her gratitude, the woman gave him a chaste embrace. She then set off in another direction. No sooner had she left then the older monk began chastising his young companion. “You touched that woman. Your hands were actually on her thighs as you carried her on your back! What you did is a violation of the precepts. I intend to report you to the abbot when we return.” As the pair journeyed towards their destination, he continued to berate the young man. Finally, the young monk turned to his companion and said, “Master, I put that woman down as soon as we reached the far bank; that was hours ago. Why are you still carrying her?”

Much has happened to you as a church in the past few years. We are shaped and formed by our past, but we should avoid being ruled by it. You are about to undertake a whole new chapter in the story that is the First Unitarian Congregation of Ottawa. You do so with my gratitude and with my blessings. As I write this, I have no idea where I will be next year. What I do know is that I will always carry you in my heart.

Amitiés,  
Marcel

## Valerie Cousins Appointed Vice-President

As you may know, at the Annual General Meeting held on March 29, Doug Cousins was appointed to the board as vice-president. However, Doug recently informed me that he must resign almost immediately due to work commitments in Montreal. I would like to take this opportunity to thank Doug for all the work he has done while on the board these past few years. We will miss you.

I am delighted to announce that Valerie Cousins has been appointed to the position of vice-president, effective until our next annual general meeting in 2010.

We are all so pleased that she has joined us, and we look forward to working with her. Welcome aboard, Valerie!

—Kathy Yach

*President, Board of Directors*

# President's Corner

## A Message from the President of the Board



As I write this, I have been your Board President for only one day.

First, some thanks are in order. I want to express my appreciation to outgoing Board members Bob Armstrong and Rodrigo Solano-Quesnel. Their energy, knowledge, and input were invaluable over the past few

years. I was also privileged to serve with Chuck Shields as President. He inspired me with his caring, dedication, and commitment to our congregation. Finally I would like to thank everyone who attended the Annual Meeting and participated in our elections.

For me, the board governs best when it reminds itself constantly that the real life and work of the church happens elsewhere: in worship service, in RE classes, in committees and councils, in choirs, in lifelong friendships we form in the congregation, and in our connection to the outside world through our acts of social responsibility and community caring.

To be a member of the board means that each of us holds, in trust, the welfare and highest aspirations of our congregation.

It is my hope that the new board will succeed in this goal during the next year, and I look forward to working with both the new board members: Roberta Engel, Louise Lefort and Ed Willer, as well as experienced board members: Doug Cousins, Tom Williams, Paul Ward, Susan Mackenize, Emma Gabe, Laurel Whalen and Chuck Shields.

Our congregational committees are on my mind. First, I am happy to say that Alastair Henderson has agreed to co-chair the Property Committee and Meg Gourlay will be Chair of the Rental Committee. However, we still need a second Co-chair for the Property Committee and a Chair for Campus Planning. If anyone is interested please call me at 613-224-6835.

Secondly, I plan to discuss committees at our next board retreat. I have asked some of the chairs of the standing committees to come and discuss the role of their committees. Moreover, each board member will be assigned two standing committees to reach out to. We are hoping these connections will help improve communications between the board and the committees. In addition, Valerie Cousins, as the vice-president, will be hosting the Advisory Committee meetings, which bring all the committees together to share common concerns.

Finally, we are entering the exciting period of Candidating Week. As you know, the Search Committee announced that John Marsh is our ministerial candidate, and he will be here from Saturday, May 2, to Sunday, May 10, to meet and to preach to the congregation. I urge all of you to take the time to meet him during this week.

On Sunday, May 10, after the service, we will hold a congregational vote on accepting John Marsh as our minister. I hope all of you who are members will attend. Your vote is very important to the future of this congregation.

—Kathy Yach

*President, Board of Directors*

Valerie Cousins is a life-long member of First Unitarian Congregation of Ottawa. She has also been a member of the Montreal and Toronto congregations. She has been involved in the church in many different ways:

- Conducted services for seniors' group
- Given many sermons over the years
- Served on the board of the Montreal UU Church for three years
- Served on Religious Education committee; taught five different grade levels in RE program
- Co-ordinated hospitality hour every Sunday for three years
- Sung in church choir for nine years
- Organized and conducted training for financial canvass for three years

- Wrote and developed Religious Education news for monthly bulletin
- Served as Chair, Committee on Ministry for three years
- Helped with Religious Education teacher training workshop for four years
- Served on transition team 2007–08
- Served as lay chaplain
- Founding committee to launch Small Group Ministry Program
- Chalice group leader for two years
- Worship Associate for two years
- Provided public speaking training
- Provided training workshops for chalice group leaders several times
- Provided training worship in Small Group Ministry for Unitarian Church in Ann Arbor, Michigan



*Valerie Cousins*

# Candidating Week Offers Opportunities for Discernment



*Reverend John Marsh, the recommended candidate for settled minister.*

*For more information on Rev. Marsh, or to download the Search Committee's special Candidating Week Supplement, go to [www.firstunitarianottawa.ca/members](http://www.firstunitarianottawa.ca/members)*

In the October *Spire*, we described the Search Committee as acting as the congregation's agent. This meant that committee members did not simply choose among ministers; we engaged with (candidate) ministers in thoughtful, mutual exploration. As you know, this mutual exploration process led to our unanimous recommendation of Rev. John Marsh as the candidate for settled minister. Our recommendation reflects our belief that Rev. Marsh's professional experience and personal qualities are a wonderful "fit" with your expressed expectations and preferences.

That we are "calling" a minister may puzzle you if you think of the process as simply hiring. However, according to the UUA Settlement Handbook, "For ministry to be effective, both the congregation and the minister must sense a 'call', a felt conviction that this match is right for both. ...The ministerial agreement (signed by minister and congregation) points to a

religious engagement, characterized by collegial partnership for the common good of the congregation, its members, the community beyond the congregation, and Unitarian Universalism." Unlike an employment contract, then, the ministerial agreement should reflect an understanding of ministry as a calling to be witnessed to, not merely a job to be performed.

During Candidating Week, May 3 to May 10, you will have opportunities to listen to, meet and engage with Rev. Marsh. Please check the Search Committee bulletin board in the West Lobby for times and places of these open house events. Use them to look for a sense of "rightness", or "fit" between the candidate and our congregation. In short, use this week to discover for yourself the sense that you want to join with others in offering Rev. Marsh a clear call to ministry here at First Unitarian. Then attend the congregational meeting following the May 10 service, where, if you are a congregational member, you may use your vote (by secret ballot) to express your conclusion.

—Kent Swinburne, Co-chair  
*Search Committee for a Settled Minister*

## Friday, May 1: Rally For Rights Women's Foundation of Nepal Fundraiser

*by Judy Dunlop*

In Nepal, a current draft constitution has no rights built in for women and children. As a result, they will be subject to the decisions of fathers and husbands.

For example, if a woman is beaten by her husband, he cannot be charged unless there are witnesses. If a child steals a loaf of bread, he will be charged with theft and thrown in with adult criminals. If a woman seeks a divorce, she may never see her children again.

On April 16, the Women's Foundation of Nepal, founded by Tara Upreti, held a constitutional assembly for over six hundred people. The attendees—including sitting and potential members



*Gaighat, Nepal: These women are staging a sit-in to demand justice for a woman who was killed by her husband and mother-in-law. Photo Credit: Raka Banerjee*

of Nepal's Parliament, the Prime Minister, and other influential people—were invited to discuss the lack of human rights for women and children, why this situation exists and how it should be changed. Now, the Women's Foundation needs \$20,000 to cover the cost of the two-day conference, or it will have to divert funds from its women's shelters and educational programs. Canadians have already donated just over \$7,500, but more is needed.

You can help by coming to the Rally for Rights on Friday, May 1, for entertainment, a silent auction and a delicious Nepali dinner. Donations are welcome if you cannot attend.

**Date:** Friday, May 1 **Times:** Show, 5:30 p.m.; Dinner, 6:00 p.m.; Full Show, 7:30 p.m.; Silent Auction, 5:00–8:30 p.m. **Tickets** (available in the office or from members of Canada-Nepal Solidarity for Peace): \$20 single, \$35 couple, \$5 for children or pay what you can.

# Lifespan Learning

## World Religions Weekend Enlightening

At the Perspectives on World Religions weekend this past April, J.W. Windland, founder of the Encounters World Religions Centre, gave wonderful, enlightening presentations on Hinduism, Sikhism, and Wicca, as well as an overall view of all world religions. We visited a Hindu Temple, a Greek Orthodox Church, and a Sikh Gurdwara. At each site, we were welcomed and treated to presentations. Learning about different religions, especially from such an interesting and knowledgeable teacher, is extremely broadening. We hope to bring J.W. Windland back again next year.

—Wendy Doyle

## Yoga for Seniors and Others

Join us for yoga classes, led by Linda Percy on Friday mornings in Fellowship Hall. Everyone is welcome.

**Dates:** April 17– June 26, **Time:** 10:15–11:15 a.m. **Cost:** \$105 for eleven weeks or \$10 drop-in. **Contact:** Linda Percy, 613-729-8913, or Wendy Doyle, 613-824-7462 or [adultlearning@firstunitarianottawa.ca](mailto:adultlearning@firstunitarianottawa.ca)

## New UU with Rev. Marcel Duhamel

For those who want to meet others and learn more about Unitarianism and the congregation.

**Dates:** Thursdays, April 30, May 7, and May 14 **Time:** 7:00 p.m.

**Registration:** contact Marcel or the church office at 613-725-1066, or sign up on the West Lobby bulletin board.

## Our Whole Lives (OWL) Plans

OWL Facilitator training for Young Adult and Adult OWL will be held at the church from October 23 to 25. Grades 1 and 2 and Grades 5 and 6 OWL classes begin in early January, 2010. There do not seem to be enough students to hold Jr. High OWL in September. Sr. High OWL will be held at the church from November 27 to 29. Young Adult OWL classes will be held winter 2010, dates TBA. Contact Joan Turner at [owl@firstunitarianottawa.ca](mailto:owl@firstunitarianottawa.ca)

## Bible Study

*Understanding the Bible: An Introduction for Skeptics, Seekers, and Religious Liberals* is a fine point of departure for the study of our rich religious legacy. Rev. Marcel Duhamel continues our exploration of this wonderful literature and western religious heritage on the fourth Wednesday of the month.

**Dates:** Wednesdays, April 29 and May 27 (last class) **Time:** 7:00 p.m.

**Place:** Room 4 **Contact:** Marcel, 613-725-1066.

## Painters' Circle

We are a lovely, welcoming group of painters looking for others to join us on Tuesday mornings in Fellowship Hall for encouragement, passing on of tips, coffee, talk, and painting together.

All levels are welcome, but there is no instruction, so it's not suitable for beginners. Drop by anytime to see us, but if you'd like to paint, please register beforehand.

**Contact:** Clea Derwent at 613-695-0505 or [clderwent@gmail.com](mailto:clderwent@gmail.com).

*Our shared vision is to promote learning for all ages as a fundamental spiritual practice in our community, with intention, willingness, and forethought.*

### Jen Brennan

*Director of Religious Exploration (DRE),  
[dre@firstunitarianottawa.ca](mailto:dre@firstunitarianottawa.ca),  
613-725-1066, x230*

### Marie Gabe, Assistant DRE

### Wendy Doyle

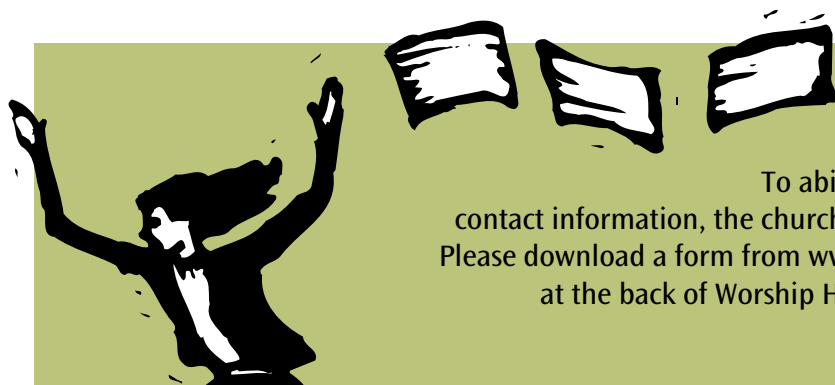
*Adult Learning Coordinator, 613-824-7462  
or [adultlearning@firstunitarianottawa.ca](mailto:adultlearning@firstunitarianottawa.ca)*

### Joan Turner

*Chair, Adult Learning Committee and  
Lifespan Learning Council, 613-721-0791 or  
[lifespanlearning@firstunitarianottawa.ca](mailto:lifespanlearning@firstunitarianottawa.ca)*

### Stephen Gabe,

*Youth Advisor and Senior High OWL  
Registrar, [stephen.gabe@sympatico.ca](mailto:stephen.gabe@sympatico.ca) or  
613-226-3250*



## Seeking Your Permission

To abide by new federal/provincial privacy laws for use of contact information, the church needs signed permission forms from all members. Please download a form from [www.firstunitarianottawa.ca/members](http://www.firstunitarianottawa.ca/members) or pick one up at the back of Worship Hall on Sunday morning. Return completed forms to the church office.

# Musicalia

## Chamber Music on Cleary

The series finishes its ninth season with two May offerings. Both concerts will take place in Worship Hall. Tickets: \$15 regular, \$10 senior/student, or pay what you can at the door.

**Sunday, May 3 at 3:00 p.m.**

### Music from My Bookshelf

Judith Vachon, soprano; Jane Perry, piano. Ottawa soprano Judith Vachon returns to the Cleary Avenue stage with an afternoon recital of works by Reynaldo Hahn, Roger Quilter, Erik Satie, and Jake Heggie.

**Sunday, May 24 at 8:00 p.m.**

### An Evening with Gershwin

Claudia Cashin-Mack, piano; Doreen Taylor-Claxton, soprano; Ioan Harea, violin. What better way to end the season? Come and enjoy the toe-tapping tunes of one of the world's best-loved composers.

## Music in Thunder Bay!

On the long weekend in May, the Canadian Unitarian Council will hold its Annual Conference and Meeting in Thunder Bay, Ontario. Musicians from First Unitarian will be in attendance! Singer-songwriter Tony Turner will make the trip to share his much-loved tune "Circle of Song" with the assembly. Music Director Jane Perry has accepted an invitation to conduct the ACM Choir again this year. And the conference theme song, "Answering the Call," was penned by Don Fraser, who will be there to help us sing it!

## Thank you, choirs!

The month of May represents the official end of the choral season at our church. The Chalice and Gospel choirs will sing in the service on May 10 (the last Sunday of Candidating Week), and will then head out the door to enjoy the Canadian cottaging season. Regular choir rehearsals will resume in September; watch the *Spire* for more information. Many thanks to all the choristers for dedicating time and cheerful energy to another great year of choral singing! Special thanks to Chalice Choir pianist, Elisabeth Morrison, for all of the support she gives us at Thursday-night rehearsals. See you in the fall!

—Music Director Jane Perry  
Feedback: 613-725-1066 x230 or  
music@firstunitarianottawa.ca



# Thank You! Merci! Gracias!

by Maury Prevost

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

- The Search Committee for their twelve months of hard work, which has led to the selection of Rev. John Marsh as the candidate to call as our next settled minister.
- The Time and Talent Auction, which raised at least \$6,000 for the Operating Fund: special thanks to Judy Donegan for coordinating; and Jennifer Rae, H el ene Lamb, Caycee Price, Bobbee Engel, Marilyn Prevost, Clea Derwent, and Joan Auden for helping.
- Chuck Shields for the great job he did as President of the Board for the past two years.
- All who participated in the Annual General Meeting of March 29, and especially Tom Williams for his work in presenting the financial reports.
- Perspectives of World Religions weekend April 3–5: thanks to J.W. Windland for his leadership; the Adult Learning Committee for organizing; Katrin and Karl Nagelschmitz, Ron Doyle, and Joan Turner for kitchen and clean-up duties; and to the members of the Community of Christ who attended our April 5 worship service.
- Meg Gourlay, who is stepping down as Chair of the Property Committee, for her stellar service during a time of great challenges and accomplishments in building renewal.
- Jane Lindsay, who is stepping down as Chair of the Personnel Committee, for her excellent leadership during a time of many changes in staffing configuration and personnel.
- Marilyn Prevost and Katherine Gunn for altering and laundering the curtains for the display boards in Fellowship Hall.
- Renee De Vry and Richard for looking after the fish tank in our office.
- Paula Theetge for the wonderful posters she makes for Adult Learning, the Unitarian GoGos, and for any other group that asks.

*This column is brought to you by the Volunteer Resource Council (VRC). Submissions can be made by email to [vrc@firstunitarianottawa.ca](mailto:vrc@firstunitarianottawa.ca) or by putting a hard copy in the*



## Unitarian House 25th Anniversary

Front and centre at the Unitarian House 25th Anniversary Service on March 30th (LtoR): Margit Olscher, Agnes Fennell, Oris Retallack, Vera Bayley, and Audrey Thoma.  
Photographer: Thomas Dent

# Announcements

## UU Round Table Lunch

You are invited to the 1000 Sushi Islands restaurant at 1696 Carling, 613-722-3803. Everyone welcome, especially newcomers.

**Date:** Friday, May 15 **Time:** 1:00 p.m. **Contact:** Tudy McLaine at 613-745-8074, or Norma Hatcher at 613-828-7638, by Thursday, May 14, to reserve a seat.

## Artspace Exhibition Schedule

May: Renate Hulley; June: TBA; July and August: Artspace Artists Summer Group Show

**Note:** Unfortunately, Valerie Cousins will not be launching her exhibit of paintings entitled "Life in the Desert—Landscapes from the American Southwest" in May as was listed in the last issue of the Spire. The exhibit has been rescheduled for early October. More news on this will follow in September.

## Glebe/Centretown/Ottawa South Neighbourhood Group

The group is having a meeting at the home of Helen McCuaig. Sharmila Khare will be giving a presentation on her experiences in the Khasi Hills of India. Please bring a small dessert.

**Date:** Sunday, May 31 **Time:** 7:30 p.m. **Place:** 708-10 The Driveway **Contact:** Helen at 613-232-4777 (Phone Helen for directions.)

## Spring Riverbank Clean-up

Once again, spring has brought a myriad of junk down the Ottawa River. Our congregation is responsible for stewardship of three kilometres of riverbank, from Woodroffe Avenue to Dominion Station.

On **Saturday, May 9**, we will meet for the annual clean-up at 9:15 a.m. at the church; gloves and bags provided. We also need nourishment for the volunteers. Call Margaret Linton, 613-728-2446, if you can supply or serve food or would like further details.

## Seniors' Lunch and Program

Guest: Sheila Rourke, who was part of a medical team in Guyana, will come to tell us about her experiences in that country.

If you wish to attend the lunch and you are not on our phone list, please call Maureen Sly, 613-728-7610, no later than Monday, April 27.

**Date:** Wednesday, May 27; **Service:** 11:30 a.m. **Lunch** (cost \$5): 12:00 p.m. **Program:** 1:00 p.m. **Place:** Worship/Fellowship Hall **Contact:** Kathie Elliott at [katharine.elliott@opera.ncf.ca](mailto:katharine.elliott@opera.ncf.ca) or 613-270-8308

## Reading for Growth

There are two active Reading for Growth Groups, which explore relevant issues through the reading and discussion of thought-provoking books.

The Monday afternoon group meets on May 11, 1:00–3:00 p.m., to discuss *The Selfish Gene*, by Richard Dawkins.

The Friday afternoon group will meet on May 29, from 1:00–3:00 p.m., to discuss *Planet India: How the Fastest-Growing Democracy is Transforming America and the World*, by Mira Kamdar.

At the moment, we have four people who are interested in forming a fiction reading group, to meet at a mutually agreeable time.

If you are interested in joining one of these groups or would like to attend as a visitor, contact Katharine Elliott at 613-270-8308 or [katharine.elliott@opera.ncf.ca](mailto:katharine.elliott@opera.ncf.ca)

## From the Environmental and Global Justice Working Groups:

Fair trade, organic, shade grown chocolate products and coffee will be sold on **Sunday, May 24**, after the service. And don't forget to buy your Zatoun Xtra Virgin olive oil and soaps.

Buying fair trade and organic products is one important way to give some hope and a future to small farmers in the developing world.

## Meet Philip Downs

If you've noticed our gleaming floors and sparkling clean kitchen, you've seen the handiwork of our new custodian, Philip Downs. Phil comes to us from a career in home renovations, professional cleaning, and administration.

## Monday Bookings

Scheduling custodians to cover the church's long hours of operation is a significant cost, and to economize on staff time, the board has agreed that on Mondays, the building will be closed to rentals and events, starting in May.

## Weaving Our web

The Unitarian Church of Montreal will be hosting Weaving Our Worship on the weekend of May 29–31, which should be a beautiful time of the year to visit Montreal! The workshop will be co-led by Coline Guerrier and Rev. Diane Rollert. **Contact:** [nguerrier@hudson.net](mailto:nguerrier@hudson.net)

## ICUU Job Opportunity

The International Council of Unitarian Universalists is seeking a part-time executive secretary and program coordinator, to begin mid-August.

The successful candidate may work from home, but must be able to travel (to Romania in September) to work alongside the retiring executive secretary. Contact Pauline Rooney at [paulinerooney@bigpond.com](mailto:paulinerooney@bigpond.com).

## Beaches Bed & Breakfast

Experience the Twenty-first Annual Beaches International Jazz Festival in Toronto, from July 17–26. The Neighbourhood UU is again offering Bed & Breakfast to Unitarians visiting Toronto at this favourite time of year. Go to [www.nuuc.ca/bed&breakfast.htm](http://www.nuuc.ca/bed&breakfast.htm)

## Caring Committee Contacts for May

Molly Brooke: 613-596-2900  
Marjorie Daechsel: 613-596-1471

## Lay Spiritual Care Visitors

When you want someone to talk to, we are here to listen. Call Ellen Bell, Lay Spiritual Care Visitor Coordinator, at 613-831-5205 to arrange a confidential visit.

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# AGM Roundup

At the Annual General Meeting of March 29, 2009, several motions were considered:

## Financial Matters

The meeting approved the transfer of the remaining amount in the Congregational Reserve Fund (\$45,000 approx.) to the Retained Earnings (deficit) account, the Financial Statements for 2008, and the 2009 Budget of Revenues and Expenses.

## Congregational Covenant

In discussing the recently completed covenant, some members challenged the inclusion of the UUA in the preamble in relation to the Principles and Purposes, but the matter was not put to a vote. The covenant was approved, with the line "When we encounter difficulties we forgive each other and ourselves" being moved to the end of the first section.

## Percentage of Membership to Call a Minister

Article 5.02 of By-Law No. 1 requires at least a two-thirds majority of the congregation in calling a new minister. It was proposed to raise the figure to 90 percent.

Some members emphasized the desire of an incoming minister for a

minimum of opposition, while others countered that no democratic institution calls for majorities greater than two-thirds. Bill Van Iterson pointed out that the By-Law concerns only the congregation's vote, where the high figure would not be essential; the minister would make his or her own decision on the vote to call and would doubtless decline the call if more than a very small number of "nay" votes were cast.

On a show of hands, the motion was defeated.

## Multi-faith Housing Initiative (MHI)

Ria Heynen, for the Poverty Awareness Working Group, moved that the congregation become a member of the MHI, for an annual fee of \$100. The motion was approved.

A second motion, that the group be allowed to endorse fundraising activities of the MHI, was sent to the Board.

## Approval of the Nominations of Board Members

The new members are Roberta (Bobbee) Engel, Louise Lefort and Ed Willer.

Approved Executive Committee:

- President—Kathy Yach
- Vice-President—Doug Cousins  
*[Since replaced by Valerie Cousins]*
- Treasurer—Tom Williams
- Secretary—Paul Ward

## Reaffirmation of the Lay Chaplains

Bob Armstrong, Caroline Elson and Rodrigo Emilio Solano Quesnel were reaffirmed.

—Submitted by Arthur Palmer

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## Sunday, May 3: Tulipathon Fundraiser

At the AGM in March, our Congregation voted to be a member of the Multifaith Housing Initiative (MHI) which provides rental housing for low-income families. Members of the Poverty

Awareness Working Group, along with members of other faith communities, will be marching from Dow's Lake to the NAC on Sunday, May 3, to raise money for MHI. To join the walk—the **Tulipathon**—or sponsor a walker, visit the Social Responsibility table in Fellowship Hall after the service. For more information about MHI or the Tulipathon, contact Ria Heynen at [m.heynen@eyecan.ca](mailto:m.heynen@eyecan.ca) or Mike Wheeler at [mewheeler@rogers.com](mailto:mewheeler@rogers.com).