

The Parkway Spire

Two New Emeriti: The Reverend David Pohl and Jane Perry Honoured



At its meeting on April 13, 2011, the Board of Directors, on behalf of the First Unitarian Congregation of Ottawa, was pleased to confer the honour of Minister Emeritus on the Reverend David Pohl.

Reverend Pohl served the congregation from 1961 to 1971. It was during his tenure that the congregation relocated from a small sanctuary in central Ottawa to a six-acre campus on the west side of downtown Ottawa, with a much larger sanctuary and enough land to eventually locate an apartment complex for seniors and a day care center for pre-schoolers.

Reverend Pohl served the congregation as a dynamic preacher, able administrator, and beloved pastor.

David and Martha Pohl returned to Ottawa for the weekend of May 7-8. Rev. Pohl preached the Sunday sermon in which he recalled

that 40 years ago, the press still covered sermons deemed newsworthy or controversial.

“When I preached on ‘The Ethics of Civil Defence,’ criticizing if not ridiculing the promotion of backyard bomb shelters in a nuclear age, the city’s civil defence director called to express not only his disapproval but outrage. In the late 1960’s, a diplomat from the U.S. Embassy attended a service here in which I reiterated my condemnation of the Vietnam War. Learning that I was an American citizen, he drew me aside at the coffee hour and accused me of being ‘a traitor.’ Ironically, several members involved in social action here, some of whom were unhappy or at least restive with what they perceived as my more pastoral than activist style of leadership, rushed to my defence, forcing him to beat a hasty retreat.”

Rev. Pohl closed with an observation about life on the prairie during the Dust Bowl years. “Nebraska writer Emily Uzondoski used the metaphor of a dust storm blowing away the precious topsoil to convey her concern that we not lose, through neglect, our own histories, our own personal and institutional stories. May we not let them become dust that vanishes into oblivion, either through neglect or disdain. In this glorious and free land, in this beautiful capital city on the route of the voyageurs, and in this house of cedar and glass that

shelters a free religious community, may you continue to honour your congregation’s legacy even as you dream new dreams for the ever-changing future and the children who succeed us.”



At a service on June 5, 2011, the First Unitarian Congregation of Ottawa celebrated Jane Perry’s 11- year tenure with us and, in recognition of her long and meritorious service, named her Director of Music Emerita.

During the farewell ceremony both Margaret Linton and Barry Read paid tribute to the outstanding contributions Jane has made to the First Unitarian Congregation. Margaret Linton recalled how one of the congregation’s great successes was initiated, inspired, and brought to fruition through Jane and an enthusiastic team: “Jane was an

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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 July, 2011

Joyce Turnbull

(613-733-9566)

Diane Van Oostdam

(613-798-0443)

Caring Contacts for August, 2011

Anita MacLean

(613-820-2892)

Cheryl Runnells

(613-253-0738)



Two New Emeriti

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integral part of the Steinway fundraising committee, and a cheerleader and facilitator for their efforts. She arranged a special fundraising concert series, drawing on her extensive connections with the professional musical community and her persuasiveness. She participated in our monthly pie making marathons several times, and was always a willing participant in sometimes crazy efforts to raise money and the profile for this project.”

In speaking of Jane’s time with us, Barry Read noted: “Choir practices with Jane have always been a joy and not to be missed as testified by how the size of the Chalice Choir has increased over the 11 years she’s been with us.

“She always conducted Thursday night practices positively and with good humour but without any doubt about who was in control. Jane is a professional of the highest degree with great expectations for her choirs, but she also has an approachability that belies the strength, rigour, and integrity with which she approached the task at hand—making beautiful music of the highest quality.”

While Jane will be deeply missed here we are glad that she will remain part of our larger Unitarian Universalist movement in Canada as she assumes the role of Director of Music at the Unitarian Church of Calgary, Alberta. We also look forward to honouring Jane’s legacy here by maintaining a high standard of excellence in our music program.

Rev. John N. Marsh, Minister

The Parkway Spire

Contributors

Tarrel Armstrong, Sean Barron, Jen Brennan, Wendy Doyle, Nicky Duenkel, Katherine Gunn, John Marsh, Jane Perry, Maury Prevost, Barry Read, and Kathy Yach

Production

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

Submissions

The deadline for submissions to the July/August issue is **Wednesday, August 10**. We welcome photographs or articles of 300 words or less that cover congregational events and activities. Contact publications@firstunitarianottawa.ca.

Subscriptions

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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
Summer office hours: Monday to Friday, 10:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.; Sunday, 9:00 a.m.–1:00 p.m.

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Members at Large: Scott Drennan, Alastaire Henderson, Louise Lefort, Paul Ward and Ed Willer; Youth Representative: Kegan EsKritt

Program Staff

Rev. John Marsh, Minister
minister@firstunitarianottawa.ca, x225
TBA, Director of Lifespan Learning
dll@firstunitarianottawa.ca, x234
Sara Brooks, Interim Music Director, music@firstunitarianottawa.ca, x230
Shannon Linton, Children’s Choir Director
childrensmusic@firstunitarianottawa.ca
Ellen Bell, Spiritual Care Visitor
Rev. Brian Kopke, Rev. Liz Benjamin, and Rev. David Pohl, Ministers Emeriti
Jane Perry, Music Director Emerita

Lay Chaplains

Bob Armstrong, Caroline Elson, Jan Glyde

Administrative Staff

Carolyn Turner, Director of Support Services
dss@firstunitarianottawa.ca, x228
Philip Downs, Custodian
custodians@firstunitarianottawa.ca, x224 or 613-898-1066 (cell)
Kevin McQuinn, Publications Officer
publications@firstunitarianottawa.ca, x223
Jen Brennan, Support Services Assistant
ssa@firstunitarianottawa.ca, x221
Marie Gabe, Lifespan Learning Assistant
lla@firstunitarianottawa.ca, x226



CAPITAL IDEAS

Summer Reading

In the last sermon before his retirement, one of my mentors urged his congregation: “Never forget life’s most important question: ‘What will you read this summer?’”

My mentor was half joking, but only half. It was consistent with his message that what was important in the congregational community was not what he, the minister, believed, but what the members of his congregation believed. His job was to encourage people to take seriously the world of ideas - what happened after that was beyond his control.

Unlike my mentor, I’m less of an intellectual and more of a meddler in other people’s lives, but I do take his question seriously and invite you to do so as well.

Two books on Unitarian Universalist history top my list. The first, *Guarding Sacred Embers, Reflections on Canadian Unitarian and Universalist History* is a wonderful collection of over 60 essays that explore many subjects I have long wondered about. It’s available in the Congregations’ BookShelf, and I commend it to everyone without reservation.

The second is *Stephen Fritchman: The American Unitarians and Communism* by Charles W. Eddis. Rev. Eddis is the Minister Emeritus of the Montreal congregation. For those who can never get enough of the history of radical politics in the United States, this book is a treasure. Fritchman often said that remaining neutral on the vital public issues of the day was one of the worst sins a person of faith could commit. Eddis certainly does not accuse Fritchman of being neutral.

The Sparrow by Mary Doria Russell is a recommendation from one of you who promised me a fun read with some interesting theological twists. Next is *The Eichmann Trial* by Deborah Lipstadt. The parallels between Eichman and Osama bin Laden intrigue me and will be the subject of my sermon this coming September 11.

The Best Laid Plans by Terry Fallis is the winner of this year’s CBC Canada Reads program. Next year I would love to stay abreast of the Canada Reads program – this year -- better late than never.

If you would like to tell me what you are reading please send me an e-mail.

I will be working three weeks midsummer in order to help integrate our new staff. I look forward to seeing some of you in the summer and all of you in September.

Onward!

John

Rev. John N. Marsh, Minister

CONGREGATIONAL DOINGS

UNITARIAN SENIORS’ SUMMER PROGRAM

Informal programs are planned for the summer months. Participants are asked to bring their own sandwiches. Tea, juice, and cookies will be provided.

In July, John Soar will lead the group in a light-hearted and entertaining quiz; Liz Benjamin will conduct the worship service.

When: Wednesday, July 27, Service: 11:30 a.m. Lunch (bring your own): 12:00 p.m. Program: 1:00 p.m.

Where: Worship/Fellowship Hall
RSVP: (only if you are not on the phone list): Maureen Sly at 613-728-7610 or mmsly@rogers.com by Saturday, July 23.

In August, Pat Hill will facilitate a “bring and share” activity. Those who wish to do so may bring an item of significance and share the story it represents. Worship service leader TBA.

When: Tuesday, August 30, Service: 11:30 a.m. Lunch (bring your own): 12:00 p.m. Program: 1:00 p.m.

Where: Worship/Fellowship Hall
RSVP: (only if you are not on the phone list): Maureen Sly at 613-728-7610 or mmsly@rogers.com by Friday, August 26.





PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Accomplishing Goals

During my time on the Board, I've seen the high level of volunteerism on the part of all members of our congregation. Whether people volunteer within our congregation or out in the wider community, they give freely of their valuable time and labour. Our achievements and good reputation in Ottawa would not be possible without this steadfast commitment.

I and the Board would love to be able to list and thank each of you, but you are so many in number that, instead, I am going to share a little poem to honour you all.

To Our Volunteers

You've been so very good to us
And helpful in every way.
You've made us treats and helped us out
On all our special days.
Today we'd like to honor you
For all that you have done.
And let you know
How special you are,
Each and every one.

Our Board composition has changed slightly after the May 29 AGM. I would like to take this opportunity to thank Bobbee Engel for all her hard work during the past two years and welcome Kim Elmer as Vice-President. We haven't had anyone in this position for a while, and I'm really looking forward to working with Kim.

Finally, I would like to extend my thanks and deepest appreciation to Jane Perry (Music Director), Nicky Duenkel (Director of Lifespan Learning), and Sylvia Furman (Administrative Services Officer). We know how much dedication each of you brought to your work with us, and please know that all of you will be greatly missed. Best of luck in your future endeavours.

Everyone, have a good summer!

Respectfully,
Kathy Yach

Splinters from the Board

At their April and May meetings the Board approved the following items:

- **Estimate:** \$45,000 for the paving, a four-day project to be completed this summer.
- **Cheque Procedure:** A letter will be circulated to all committee chairs on the procedure for cheque requests as recommended by our auditors.
- **CUC Delegates:** The list of delegates to the Annual CUC conference and the 2011 Resolution on Resolutions "prepared by a CUC resolution study group.
- **Staff:** Recruitment of a financial officer to report to Rev. John Marsh, whose first task will be to review and improve our internal financial systems, policies and procedures.
- **Committees:** The Book Shelf Committee directed \$100 of its proceeds to Unitarian House in memory of Frances Morrison.
- **Endowments:** The report and recommendations from the group which was set up to review the Endowment Fund Policy and our Investment Policy. The Board approved the recommendations from the Review Group.
- **Finances:** The appointment of auditors Raymond Chabot Grant Thornton for 2011.
- **Finances:** The Financial Statements of December 31, 2010, prepared by Raymond Chabot Grant Thornton
- **The Board Recommended:** To honour the Rev. David Pohl as Minister Emeritus of First Unitarian Congregation of Ottawa.
- **The Board Recommended:** To honour Jane Perry as Director of Music Emerita of the First Unitarian Congregation of Ottawa.

MUSICALIA

by Music Director Jane Perry

Beethoven at the First

Three nights of chamber music by Beethoven! Mark your calendars and tell your music-loving friends. This October, our church will be hosting two internationally known musicians who will perform the complete sonatas for violin and piano by Ludwig van Beethoven!

Beethoven wrote a total of ten sonatas for piano and violin. They have become the cornerstone of the chamber music repertoire, although they are rarely performed as a complete set.

The Italian-born and Ottawa-based pianist Mauro Bertoli was our "Steinway at First" artist in the 2010/11 concert season. His

breath-taking virtuosity had audience members leaping to their feet with applause! In this set of recitals, Mauro joins with the Austrian violinist Wolfgang David, with whom he will be touring Canada in autumn 2011. Take advantage of this unique and rare concert opportunity, and plan to buy your tickets soon!



The Complete Beethoven Sonatas for Violin and Piano

Part I: Monday, October 3, 2011, at 7:30 p.m.

Part II: Tuesday, October 4, 2011, at 7:30 p.m.

Part III: Wednesday, October 5, 2011, at 7:30 p.m.

**Wolfgang David, violin
Mauro Bertoli, piano**

Individual tickets: \$25 regular, \$20 senior/student, or pay what you can.

Three-concert pass: \$65 regular, \$55 senior/student.

Tickets and passes will be available as of July 15 at Leading Note Music (370 Elgin at Frank; 613-569-7888) and at the church office.

Memories from Jane's Farewell Ceremony



Hospitality Hour

The Summer Hospitality Hour schedule began on Sunday, June 26. The routine and procedures will be the same as those from last summer. Two volunteers are needed each Sunday to 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.

There are still a few Sunday volunteer slots available, especially in August.



Our resident pair of mallards have again chosen the planter to nest near the main doors to Worship Hall. Ducklings expected in early July.

Greetings from the Fall Fair Committee! The Fall Fair is but around the corner. Please mark your calendar for November 12, rain or shine!

Our annual Fall Fair is an important fund raising event, 100% volunteer and community driven, and it provides seven percent of the operating budget. This is the time that everyone can participate in a joyous and productive activity with others in the Congregation.

At present, the Organizing Team is seeking people to these roles:

- **Clothing Coordinator:** supports clothing convenors by ensuring they are informed and needs are met; acts as liaison with Organizing Team. Joyce Turnbull, 613-733-9566 will mentor; contact her for information.
- **Food Services Coordinator Assistant:** supports lunch room, cafe and other food services. Prue Craib will mentor; contact her for more information at 613-719-7786.
- **Assistant Director:** grows into co-director role; oversees the event, ensuring congregational policies are followed; leads the Organizing Team. Margaret Linton, 613-728-2446, mlinton@trytel.com for more info.

Fall Fair Valuables

Storage space (large or small) is needed; it allows us to accept items from those moving house this summer. Should you happen to have storage space we could borrow for the next six months, please call Katherine Gunn at 613-729-0504 or send a message to fallfair@firstunitarianottawa.ca

As you clean out the garage or basement this summer, please consider saving your treasures for the fair. Quality books and clothing (not children's), electronics (no TVs), furniture, antiques, sports gear, toys and DVDs make for great Fall Fair donations. Items should be in good working order!

Remember to save finer items for the Silent Auction—a great way to earn a charitable tax receipt. Don't forget to prepare your jams and jellies in heat-sealed jars.

Jewellery, stamps, and coins can be left at the office.

If your household items need to move before then, Katherine can route them into the Poverty Awareness Working Group's project assisting the Aboriginal Women's Shelter.

NOTES FROM THE OFFICE

The rev. John Marsh and the personnel committee are pleased to announce the hiring of new staff.

- Carolyn Turner joins us as a Director of Support Services, with 25 years of experience in office administration and project management. You can reach Carolyn at dss@firstunitarianottawa.ca, or 613-725-1066, ext. 228.
- Kevin McQuinn is our new Publications Officer. Kevin brings 15 years of experience in publications and web development. Kevin can be reached at publications@firstunitarianottawa.ca, or ext. 223.
- Sara Brooks as our Interim Music Director. Sara has experience as a music director as well as in the areas of choral programming and music direction. Sara can be reached as of August 15 at music@firstunitarianottawa.ca.

More detailed bios and photos coming in The September issue of *The Parkway Spire*.

INTEGRAL LIFE PHILOSOPHY

Can one be both spiritual and rational? The Integral Life Philosophy group discusses spirituality in the rational world. Some of the topics which have engaged us are Spiral Dynamics, the Enneagram of Personality, the shadow in personal development, the writings of philosopher Ken Wilber, and the evolution in science and spirituality. Newcomers are very welcome—try us out!

When: Alternate Saturdays, from July 2, continuing in the summer; 9:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.

Where: Please check the notice board at the lower entrance.

Contact: Dale Wilson: h.dale.wilson@gmail.com or Katherine Gunn: klgunn@magma.ca or 613-729-0504.

If there is enough interest, a second group will be organized with the schedule to be announced.

TWELVE STEPS TO A COMPASSIONATE LIFE

Would you like to join a reading group at First Unitarian on the *Twelve Steps to a Compassionate Life* by Karen Armstrong? Beginning in September, two groups will meet to explore the meaning, cultivation, and practice of compassion in our everyday lives. The sign-up sheet is in the Lifespan Learning Registration book outside the Lounge.

When: First group: to meet every third Saturday, from September 24, 2011, to June 2, 2012; 9:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.; Second group: schedule to be determined.

Contact: Facilitators: Paula Theetge: 613-260-1709 or at paulat@storm.ca; or John Gall: 613-237-3214 or at gaiafreedom@sympatico.ca



REFLECTIONS FROM NICKY

Departing Thoughts

Gathering my thoughts to compose my last submission to *The Parkway Spire*, I find myself reflecting on the richness of my experiences over the past two years as well as on a program that I hope will continue to grow and develop, even as I move on.

I take pride in the work we have done together to become a more fully integrated multigenerational congregation where children, youth, parents and other caregivers have found their place “upstairs,” and those without a clear connection to Religious Education programming have discovered an opportunity to join in where they perhaps never had before. We’ve crafted some wonderful activities and services together to this end!

As I prepare to leave, here are a few wishes for all those involved with RE at First Unitarian:

To the Children; I wish you lives of meaning, joy, wholeness, and giving where you are socially and environmentally responsible and where you experience peace.

To the Youth; I wish that you come alive to your potential, inspired to explore an inner life, to respect yourselves and one another, and to continue to seek truth.

To RE Parents; I wish you spiritual depth and nurturing for yourselves as you continue to realize the significance of your role as your family’s primary religious educators.

To RE Leaders; I wish you further growth as a community and in learning to nurture personal and social transformation in order to create a more just, peaceful, and sustainable world.

To Shannon, our Children’s Choir Director, I wish that the joy you bring continues to spread and grow, coming back to you tenfold!

To the new DLL; I wish that you be welcomed with open arms and easily find your way into your own unique role that leads to your fulfillment here.

To Rev. John Marsh, I wish for our continued friendship over the miles and the years, for a strong, splendid, and aligned new director team, and for the support to realize your visions.

To the Congregation; as a whole I wish you delight in all aspects of this vital RE program and the will to continue to support these extraordinary offerings.

A quote from Anais Nin comes to mind; “Life shrinks or expands in proportion to one’s courage.” The word courage comes from the French, *coeur*, or heart. I believe that what emerges from the heart is profound and potent and affects both ourselves and those whose lives we touch. I take this space to appreciate myself for the courage to move into this work and thank you all for the courage you offer to yourselves, one another, the children and youth, and of course, to myself. May we continue on this brave journey whether near or far!

Blessings to all,

A handwritten signature in cursive that reads 'Nicky'.

Nicky Duenkel
Director of Lifespan Learning

UNITARIAN GOGOS

After more than four years of existence, the Unitarian GoGos, a group associated with the Stephen Lewis Foundation (SLF), continues its dynamic work on behalf of African grandmothers and their AIDS-orphaned grandchildren.

Fund raising activities over the past year included our monthly Granny Squares Sales, a large (100 guests) and a well received African dinner in February, a successful Plant & Garden Sale in May. We also sold oatmeal cookies with glasses of clean Canadian tap water at the Old Ottawa South Porch Sale in September 2010.

Our accumulated contribution so far to the SLF from baking sales alone is more than \$10,000, and our total contribution through squares, dinners, jewellery sales, personal

contributions, etc., is more than \$71,000.

In addition, various members participated in lobbying efforts to support Bill C-393, "Canada's Access to Medicines Regime:" - a battle that has not yet been won. We were also involved in letter-writing campaigns and in the production of a video with grannies from all over the region singing a song donated by hip hop artist K'naan, recorded Easter weekend in the church.



As a group we are extremely grateful for the support of this Congregation in the work we are doing. Each month you enthusiastically support our Granny Squares Sales as well as other fundraisers. We are well aware of how lucky we are to have this wonderful facility in which to meet and to hold some of our activities. Many of our members, but not all, are affiliated with First Unitarian and some have joined the church as a result of their exposure through the GoGos. Because of the size of the meeting space, we can always welcome new members and are delighted to do so. We meet the third Thursday of each month at 4:00 p.m. in Room 5.

You will not see Granny Squares now until September, but we will be back in the fall and look forward to once again seeing you.

POVERTY AWARENESS WORKING GROUP: HOUSING INITIATIVES AND EVENTS

The Multifaith Housing Initiative

The Ottawa Multifaith Housing Initiative (MHI) is an Ottawa charity formed "to provide and to promote affordable home space, to encourage harmonious relations amongst tenants of diverse backgrounds, and to mobilize the resources of faith communities and others for these purposes."

Our congregation is a corporate member of MHI and is actively involved in many aspects of its work.

2011 Tulipathon

The annual Tulipathon, a major fundraiser and fun event of MHI, is a five km walk held at Dow's Lake during tulip season. We thank the 13 Unitarian walkers who took part this May and all who supported them with pledges. The Social Responsibility Council added \$25 for each walker and 10% to the total UU money pledged, which gave us a total of \$2382 from our congregation.

Site Stewardship Initiative

In the Housing Workshop at the May CUC conference, Werner Daechsel presented "The Ottawa Scene" and described a project undertaken by St. John the Evangelist Anglican on Elgin St. A parking lot of 120' x 120' was developed into a site for 119 one-bedroom apartments with parking as well as 24 parking spaces for the church. The result was a financial return of \$1 million and ten apartments purchased by MHI as accommodation for vulnerably housed residents.

Werner pointed out, "Surface parking may not be the best and highest use for church land. With thoughtful planning and compassion a congregation may be able to provide outreach for the vulnerably housed as well as a financial return to the congregation."

Canadian Unitarian Council 50th Anniversary Celebration

Unitarians and Universalists from across the country gathered in Toronto over the May long weekend to celebrate the first 50 years of the CUC. And what a celebration it was!

Attendance records for the Annual Conference and Meeting (ACM) were shattered. This year 53 youth came together to renew friendships, attend workshops, and celebrate transitions. The Sunday morning service in University of Toronto Convocation Hall saw the largest gathering of Unitarians and Universalists in Canadian history: a staggering 1,300 in attendance.

You may enjoy a videotape of this service as well as the ACM opening ceremony and the Confluence Lecture presented by Rev. Diane Rollert at www.CUC50.ca. Handouts have been posted as well for the leadership series presented by Rev. Robert Latham.



Easter Region Fall Gathering – Embracing Change

The 2011 ERG will be held in Fredericton, November 5-7, 2011. This annual gathering of Unitarians and Universalists from our Eastern Region is a great opportunity to build and renew friendships and learn more about other congregations. Workshops and activities will relate to the theme of “Embracing Change”. Activities for children and youth will also be featured.

If you are interested in providing a workshop at this event, proposal forms can be found at: www.cuc.ca/programs/gatherings.htm

If you plan to attend the ERG and share in the cost of the bus rental, please contact Carol Anne Deneka at deneka8031@rogers.com or add your name to the sign-up form on the Denominational Activities Board in Fellowship Hall. We are also seeking someone to drive the bus.

See you in Fredericton!

MexiCon Youth Conference



session led by April Hope. This set an expansive tone for a thoughtful midnight worship service. Friday evening also included the first meetings of small “touch groups” that gave each attendee a smaller “family” to connect with in the conference.

A busy Saturday opened with a delicious breakfast and then moved into morning

workshops including international cooking, piñata painting, and a scavenger hunt. Following a delicious MexiCon lunch, the group split up and set off to explore Ottawa with delegations departing for the Museum of Civilization and the Byward Market. The day just kept rolling with afternoon discussion workshops, incredible performances at an evening coffee

MexiCon, a youth conference for UU youth aged 14 to 20, was held with great success at First Unitarian on April 15-17. The 20 youth in attendance were from Ottawa, Montreal, Toronto, and New Brunswick.

The weekend opened with a warm welcome and games and then expanded into a partner yoga

house as well as a smashing (!) piñata party. Saturday midnight worship was a magical and musical experience held by candlelight and brought a beautiful flow of community through the group.

On Sunday morning it was time to clean up and head home. Our deep appreciation goes to all the supporters who made the weekend possible. These included overnight awake volunteers and a congregational crew that prepared the magnificent cuisine all weekend. Much thanks also goes to the Youth Group and their advisory team who worked for weeks to plan and run the conference.

Stephen Gabe, Youth Advisor

SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

WORKING GROUP MEETINGS AND ACTIVITIES

- Unitarian GoGos: Thursday, July 21, 4:00 - 5:30 p.m.
- Unitarian GoGos: Thursday, August 18, 4:00 - 5:30 p.m.
- eWaste Recycling Day: Saturday, September 17, 9:00 a.m.– 2:00 p.m.

Ottawa Food Bank

First Unitarian has supported the Ottawa Food Bank network for many years, with your food donations as well as much-needed money to purchase fresh foods for needy clients. The Poverty Awareness Working Group now co-ordinates the connection to the Food Bank.

We need your help! If you can take an occasional delivery of food donations from the church to one of the Food Bank locations, please contact Ria Heynen at r-j.heynen@bell.net or 613-828-8468.

Aboriginal Women's Shelter Project

Many women moving on from Oshki Kisis, the Aboriginal Women's Shelter here in Ottawa, have been assisted by our congregation. We collect donations of furniture and household goods, sort and store them, and deliver them to the women's new accommodations.

If you wish to help with this project, please contact povertyawareness@firstunitarianottawa.ca or Katherine Gunn, 613-729-0504.

eWaste Electronics Recycling Days - Past and Future

May 7, 2011: What a success!

A big "thank you" to the terrific volunteers who tirelessly unloaded from cars, vans, pickup trucks, the occasional bicycle, a wheelbarrow, and a couple of shopping carts. We received everything from a single telephone to a few trailers FULL of electronic junk. Thanks as well to those who greeted the steady flow of vehicles and kept everybody informed and those kind souls who made and served a delicious lunch to all the outdoor crew. A special thank you to all who spread the word into the community; our main form of advertising.

Unitarians and many other concerned Ottawa citizens brought castoff equipment, along with their thanks for a chance to dispose of it responsibly. About 340 cars delivered enough recyclable

electronics to fill four huge bins - over 13 tons in total.

It was a fundraiser, to the tune of \$2,200! The Ontario Electronic Stewardship (OES) program supports these recycling depots with guidance and big green bins as well as paying us for all we collect.

We'll do it again in September!

Please hold on to your outdated electronics over the summer, the TVs you plan to replace as technology changes, and the things that won't do for the Fall Fair.

When: Saturday, September 17, 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

What we can take: TVs, computer components, printers, radios, video and audio equipment, cameras, and phones. **Caution! NO microwaves or air conditioners!**

Contact: ewaste.sept17@gmail.com or Katherine Gunn, 613-729-0504.

Riverbank Cleanup

Despite the light showers, nine adults and two children picked up 12 bags of garbage and nine bags of recycling.

The most frequent items found were cigarillo tips, followed closely by take-out containers; the saddest item, a backpack full of handwritten notebooks; the largest item, a fly fishing pole.

Good cheer was shared by the intrepid few. Thanks to Marilen Gerber for organizing us.



TREASURE HUNT

On Sunday, May 15, at the All-Church-Picnic, children and adults took part in an exciting treasure hunt. Several enthusiastic volunteers got into the action by dressing up, climbing trees, picking up trash, and blowing bubbles—all part of the treasure hunt stations. Helped by parent volunteers, the young participants followed cryptic clues that led them through the stations where they met such characters as the two-headed monster: Nicky and Jane.



The kids enthusiastically picked up trash at one of the treasure hunt stations in the overflow parking lot and were surprised to find part of an old car engine in the woods. Seven-year-old Patrick, from the Faithful Journeys RE class, had a great time: “I especially liked the part where I got to light a sparkler on a cake!” The kids finally got to the ultimate treasure—building community with each other through creative problem solving.

Many thanks to all who played a part in this event, but a special thank you goes out to Joe Connor, Liz Benjamin, John Scott-Thomas, Roz Matthews, David Gero, Caycee Price, Nicky Duenkel, Jane Perry, Doug Robinson, Ellen Smith, Grace and Nic Smith, Karen Blakely, Dave and Clara Luck, Katy Brennan, Brent Nicolle, Alison Harvey and family, Sara Kohan, Jeremy Eskritt, Jenna Hill-Murphy, Meg Rowat, and John Marsh and the staff (for their coordinating efforts).

TIME & TALENT AUCTION: THE RESULTS ARE IN!

The sum of \$8,729.75 will go to the general fund of the Congregation of Ottawa, as a result of the many generous donations received and the numerous bidders who participated in the 2011 Time & Talent Auction. A huge thank you to all for your generosity and support!

Thanks also to the T&T Committee members for their help in putting it all together: Joan Auden, Hélène Lamb, Ruth Lanktree, Rose Mary Murphy, Asha Philar, and Jenny Rae.

*Marg Lee, Committee Chair
Time & Talent Auction*

Thank You! Merci! Gracias!

by Maury Prevost

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

- **Joan Turner** for her leadership as Chair of the Adult Learning Committee, and her very extensive efforts to achieve our recognition as a Lifespan Learning Congregation and exceptional work for Our Whole Lives (OWL).
- **The kind donors** who have brought personal care and household goods for the Aboriginal Women’s Shelter project of the Poverty Awareness Working Group
- **All the walkers in and donors** to the Multifaith Housing Initiative “Tulipathon” on May 1.
- **Katherine Gunn and all who worked on the eWaste Electronics Recycling Day** on May 7, especially Katherine Gunn as organizer, and all who postered and e-mailed to spread the word. The response from across the city was remarkable and heartening.
- **Susanne Ahlers and Bradley Ralph** for donating over ninety concrete retaining wall blocks for the Meditation Garden’s new settling pond for water flow control. Also, **Joan Auden** who provided transportation of these stones on such short notice.
- **Elizabeth Waechter** for her help with the transitions in staff.
- **Valerie and Doug Cousins** for hosting the reception for David and Martha Pohl.
- **The Property Committee and contractor** for getting the back side of the building back into shape by sanding and painting/staining the wood siding, trim and fencing.
- **All committee members and the many volunteers**, who stepped forward when needed to make the Nepali Gala a tremendous success. We are able to send \$4000 to the women and children living in the shelters of The Women’s Foundation of Nepal.
- **John Harrison**, Chair of the Stewardship Committee, for his inspired, humorous, tireless leadership of the highly successful 2011 pledge campaign.
- **Joycelyn Loeffelholz** for organizing “Arts Night” on the last Friday of each month from September to June.

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.

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WORSHIP SCHEDULE

July and August, 2011

July 3 Summer

Ellen Bell

Reflections on the season.

July 10 Starting from Mystery and Wonder (or How I Came to love Humanity)

Asha Philar

What exactly is the “direct experience of transcending mystery and wonder” that is mentioned in our UU sources? How do we experience mystery and wonder in our lives, and how does it inform our beliefs about justice?

Asha will explore these questions, using examples from her own life and spiritual journey. She will show how experiences of mystery and wonder have informed her activism as an environmentalist and given her a more compassionate and loving view of the world.

July 17 A Coincidence of Monologues

Curtis Murphy

Most of us have learned a way of debating and discussing in which the assumed goal is to convince others to adopt our point of view. How might we transform this into a culture of communication which is less adversarial and more creative?

July 24 Living on Earth as if we We Want to Stay

Mike Nickerson

Mike Nickerson, sustainability educator and author, will speak on living within our limits.



July 31 Civil Liberties in Canada: Myths and Realities

Dr. Monia Mazigh

Born and raised in Tunisia, Dr. Monia Mazigh immigrated to Canada in 1991. She speaks Arabic, French, and English fluently and holds a Ph.D. in Finance from McGill University. Dr. Mazigh was catapulted onto the public stage in 2002 when her husband, Maher Arar, was deported to Syria where he was tortured and held without charge for over a year. During that time, Dr. Mazigh campaigned vigorously for her husband’s release and later fought to re-establish his reputation and sought reparations. Dr. Mazigh has since authored a new book called *Hope and Despair*.

August 7 The Praying Lab

Rodrigo Emilio Solano-Quesnel [E.S.Q.]

With hands outstretched, bowing down, or walking the labyrinth: expressions of gratitude, humility, and reverence are also opportunities for experimentation and increased awareness. Join Rod ESQ for an exploration of the power of connection.

August 14 Feminism, Unitarian Universalism... and Music

Mo Gabe

This service interweaves aspects of the women’s movement and feminist counselling with women’s actions in our church and what we cherish as Unitarian Universalists. Along the way, we’ll discover how music comes into all of this!



August 21 From First Principles

Kirstin McKeown

Looking at applying the first of our seven Unitarian Universalist Principles—to affirm and promote the inherent worth and dignity of every person—in life in general, and specifically in making ethical and moral choices.

August 28 Love in the World

Chris Miller

A discussion of love in diversity and an ethic of love in our actions as well as connecting this Pride Sunday with larger actions of creating love in society. Chris Miller is an activist theologian, preacher, and educator in the Anglican Church, interested in areas such as economic, ecological and food justice, diversity, and peacemaking.

September 5 A Future of Our Free Faith

Sean Neil-Barron

Sean Neil-Barron will look at our faith for places for growth and the challenges we will face in the 21st Century.

In Memoriam

Brigitta Griffiths - May '11
Jack Knight - May '11
John McFadden - April '11
Frances Morrison - April '11
H. Llyn Seymour - April '11
George Wilson - April '11

A memorial service will be held for H. Llyn Seymour on July 14 at 7:00 p.m. with reception to follow .

If anyone becomes aware of the death of a member or former member, please call Lyn Gerley, 613-729-4706.