

THE PARKWAY *Spire*

FALL FAIR 2011

**Your Guide to the Holly and Lace Bazaar
Saturday, November 12, 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.**

For over thirty-five years bargain hunters from far and wide have made an annual pilgrimage to First Unitarian in search of everything from antique jewellery to tea sets to computers - the perfect deal. This year should be no different!

To help donors and shoppers alike we have prepared a guide (with a few factoids thrown in) to make the Fall Fair an enjoyable experience for all.

Update On Sales Areas

Christmas novelties are new this year! They will be sold alongside linens in Worship Hall. Children's clothing, shoes and fabrics will not be sold this year; however, any thing received will be sorted and donated to community organizations.

Shhhh! Silent Auction

This year's silent auction contains Ottawa Senators' Tickets! Please contact Paula Theetge if you have a special item which you would like to contribute, 613-260-1709 or paulat@superaje.com

Stamps and Coins

We rely exclusively on the congregation for donations! We would like to get Canadian stamps still on envelopes because some people collect the city/ town postmarks on the envelopes as much or more than the stamps themselves. Drop off your stamps and coins at the office. Contact Barry Read, 592-5563, baread@rogers.com

Do you know that the proceeds of last year's Fall Fair constitute an amazing 5 to 6 percent of the congregation's operating budget?

Jewellery

Bring us your jewellery any time, in fact the earlier the better, so that we can do some cleaning and repair where possible. Broken jewellery has a market of its own. Deliver all donations to the church Office, addressed to "Jewellery."

Electronics and Computers

CRT monitors and TVs, with some exceptions, cannot be accepted and it would be better to deliver these to an e-waste facility. Contact: John Turnbull, 613-820-7359, or Katherine Gunn, 613-729-0504, klgunn@magma.ca

Do you know that it takes the coordinated efforts of almost 400 volunteers to prepare and run our Fall Fair, the Holly and Lace Bazaar?

Jams and Jellies

It's time to make those lovely jams and jellies for the Fall Fair. Food safety requires Mason-type jars, with screw rings and separate inner lids, that are heat-processed, not sealed with wax. Sorry, no grocery store jars. Contact: Prue Craib, craibhill@rogers.com, 613-719-7786

Want to Help Out?

We need movers, sorters, drivers, bakers, sellers, and helpers. We would also like to borrow bridge tables, trucks, trailers, and vans, and as always, donations of good, saleable stuff! Please call Ellen Smith 613-623-5890 or e-mail her at: kirkmanhouse@bellnet.ca.



Calling All First Responders

We are looking for those qualified in first aid to be on site throughout the day for the Fall Fair. If you are trained and certified and are willing to volunteer for a shift, or know someone who might be, please contact Margaret Linton at 613-728-2446 or mlinton@trytel.com.

Bring Us Your Bags!

Please help recycle and collect your plastic bags leading up to the Fall Fair. We will offer them to shoppers who require them at the point of sale. Please hold on to them until the first week of November, then drop them at the back of the church on November 6.

(continued, page 12)



2010 - Waiting in line to get in!

Caring Committee Contacts for November

Joan Crighton
613-260-0469

Christine MacDonald
613-828-6332

*We listen, we phone, we
bake, we drive*



In Memoriam

*James (Jim) Burrows
Katharine Smith*

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

HOSPITALITY HOUR

There are a number of updates about “coffee and tea” this month:

- We have listened to your many requests to have decaffeinated coffee available at Hospitality Hour. A self serve thirty cup ‘decaf’ coffee urn has been placed on the middle table in Fellowship Hall. Let me know if this amount is not enough. The price is the same as regular coffee.
- A couple of the older 30 cup coffee urns were falling apart and/or had missing or irreplaceable cords. There are now two new urns (a 30 cup and a 40 cup). If anyone has a 30 cup coffee urn at home, in good condition that they wish to donate, it would still be useful. With the Fall Fair’s demand for functioning coffee urns, updating was necessary.
- As the spigot was bent on the old 55 cup ‘tea urn’ (making it unusable), a new one was purchased. Directions for making tea are the same as for old one. This is actually a coffee urn but will only be used for tea, as indicated on the urn.
- Once again we require a co-ordinator to ensure there is someone signed up to set-up juice and water and wash the few glasses after Sunday evening Hospitality Hour. Set up and clean up requires a few minutes before the service, and about 15 minutes after. In the meantime, if you know you will be at service on a particular Sunday, please sign-up to do set-up and clean-up. Please print your name on the list, even if you are doing it just that evening. It gives us some idea as to who is available on Sunday evenings.
- Finally, check when you are available to help out at Hospitality Hour in November and December. Thank you to the groups who have helped out in October.

- Tarrel Armstrong

The Parkway Spire

Contributors

Tarrel Armstrong, Sean Barron, Jen Brennan, Wendy Doyle, Sara Brooks, Jennifer Channin Katherine Gunn, John Marsh, Shannon Linton, Maureen Sly, Susan McEwen, Alataire Henderson, Maury Prevost, Barry Read, Renee De Vry, Margaret Linton, Eve Berringer and Kathy Yach

Production

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

Submissions

The deadline for submissions to the October issue is Friday, October 14. 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.



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CAPITAL IDEAS

September 30, 2011 should be a day to remember and celebrate. It is the day the Supreme Court of Canada ruled that the Vancouver Safe Drug Injection Clinic would be allowed to stay open. It is a landmark ruling affirming the worth and dignity of every person.

There was never any question that the clinic was working. Studies had proved that it was. The Harper government wanted to shut it down because its philosophy was counter to the government's philosophy that the way to make Canada safer is to lock up anyone who might be considered dangerous, to govern us by making us fear each other and give us the impression that we somehow need Harper to protect us from each other.

People who rely on non-prescription injected drugs can certainly be scary. Their addiction can lead them to smash car windows, snatch purses, or do anything to get a fix. Hence, the logic of giving them the drug they crave, as well as the means and the hope of escaping of their addiction.

By threatening to lock them up rather than offering them a means of rehabilitation, Harper is also doing a favor to the tiny group of rich individuals who stand to benefit by having more money invested in Canada's prison industry—money that will be used, in part, to re-elect Harper and support the agenda of expanding the prisons indefinitely.

Even conservatives in the state of Texas, who have followed a similar philosophy for the past thirty years and reached the impressive pinnacle of having one out of every 20 men in their state either in prison or on parole, have begun to see the folly of their ways.

Terry Milewski, writing in Macleans, notes: "...for three decades, as crime rates fell all over the U.S., the rate in Texas fell at only half the national average." That didn't change the policy — but its cost did. Faced with a budget crisis in 2005, the Texas statehouse was handed an estimate of \$2 billion to build new prisons for a predicted influx of new prisoners. They told Rep. Madden to find a way out. He and his committee dug into the facts. Did all those new prisoners really need to go to jail? And did all of those already behind bars really need to be there?

Madden's answer was no. He found that Texas had diverted money from treatment and probation services to building prisons. But sending people to prison was costing 10 times as much as putting them on probation, on parole, or in treatment.

Part of the reason we can applaud our Supreme Court is because although their decision was prudent, they did not base it on cost effectiveness, but on the basis that drug addicts, while easily victimized, are still human beings with rights.

As pastor Martin Niemoller during the days of Nazi Germany famously wrote:

First they came for the communists, and I didn't speak out because I wasn't a communist.

Then they came for the trade unionists, and I didn't speak out because I wasn't a trade unionist.

Then they came for the Jews, and I didn't speak out because I wasn't a Jew.

Then they came for me and there was no one left to speak out for me.

See you in church,

November Services

November 6, 10:30 a.m.

Vision

- John Marsh

An ancient proverb says that the young will see visions and the old will dream dreams. How do we receive or shape a vision and how do we hold on to it in the face of daily details?

We will also be commemorating our veterans in advance of Remembrance Day and noting how the War of 1812 (currently being repackaged and coming soon to a public square near you) influenced the vision of Canada.

Children are invited to proceed directly to their own service downstairs this morning. This morning will also be the beginning of our Mystery Pals program.

November 6, 5:00 p.m.

Special Service featuring Billy Boulet and a Gregorian jazz ensemble which utilizes the melodies of Gregorian Chants in their own instrumental jazz arrangements. Intern Minister Jennifer Channin will offer reflections.

November 13

The Power of No

- John Marsh

The Occupy Wall Street Movement is life affirming. It has also sent a strong message of disapproval to the way the world economies have been shaped over the last decade. This gives us an opportunity to reflect on the society we dream of building cooperatively, and the limits of our tolerance in the face of overwhelming inequalities.

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PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Two Events to Inspire Us

To-day as I write this article two major events are taking place.

The first of these is the worldwide action of individuals and groups, collectively referred to as the "Global Justice Movement", who are voicing their opposition to what has come to be described as "corporate globalization" by promoting the equal distribution of economic resources.

In many countries around the world we see millions of people suffering from the effects of recurring turmoil in the banking sector and the stock markets which have resulted in the specter of a growing global recession along with mass unemployment, and personal foreclosures. Many people feel that these problems have been solely caused by a small group of greedy individuals seeking to amass vast amounts of wealth through the control and manipulation of corporations and stock markets.

The second event is the dedication of the Martin Luther King Jr. Memorial at West Potomac Park in Washington D.C.

During his life Dr. King led mass protests against racial segregation and discrimination through civil disobedience and other non-violent means. His efforts were acknowledged internationally when he became the youngest person to receive the Nobel Peace Prize. He was assassinated on April 4, 1968 in Memphis Tennessee and in the wake of his violent death a wave of urban rioting spread across the United States. In 1986 Martin Luther King Jr. Day was established as a U.S. federal holiday.

His words, deeds and the events that surrounded him continue to impact on our lives today. Though he can be remembered for so many things, two in particular may serve to recall what he truly represented. The first is the song "We Shall Overcome" which filled the air wherever he appeared and since has become the international anthem for those seeking to redress society's wrongs. The other is that immortal phrase delivered repeatedly during his Washington Mall speech: "I have a dream..."

His enduring legacy, like the reverberating echo of that phrase, is the belief that, no matter the difficulty, we possess the ability to effect change through non-violent means.

Unitarians are committed not only to spiritual growth and transformation but to involvement in the world. Working for civil rights and combating oppression are essential parts of our spiritual journey just as they were for Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Our faith community has worked for justice for over a hundred years. We helped to abolish slavery, we advocated for free speech and supported the rights of women and gays.

I personally hope that as we move forward we, as Unitarians, can work towards finding solutions for the problems that many people face today.

Respectfully submitted,

Splinters from the Board

- The Finance Committee presented the preliminary 2011-2012 Operating Budget which had a \$53,000 projected deficit. The Finance Committee could not recommend approval of this draft budget. The budget will be reviewed by the Board and presented to the congregation at the Congregational meeting at the end of October, 2011.
- Alastaire Henderson gave a report on the "Friends of the Meditation Garden". She noted the enormous amount of volunteer labour Renee de Vry has put into the gardens over the past four months. Thanks Renee.
- The Friends hope to raise sufficient funds to cover the cost of installing a solar array, getting the well pump operational and erecting an arbour at the south entrance. A 2012 "Meditation Gardens Calendar" and holiday cookie sale are planned as a fundraiser. They are also planning to hold a spring gala to celebrate the efforts made by volunteers and others towards the completion of these projects and to recognize major donors for their contributions.
- DSS Carolyn Turner reported the hiring of two part-time custodians, Benoit Aubry and Andrew Nowak.
- She also noted that the Building Renewal Fund has received \$410,006 of the \$424,266 pledged, with only \$14,260 still outstanding. The full amount should be received by the end of 2012.
- The Board is planning to have their retreat this year over the week-end of Oct 28-29.
- The following motion was passed by the Board: "That on consultation with our insurance agent, the Board has decided not to consider outside sleep over requests as they are too risky and costly." The Board would like to recommend that in the future members of the congregation offer to billet people who need a place to stay.
- The Board approved the following special collection at Sunday Services for the following organizations: the USC, the UN, the CUC, the UUA, and the Christmas Eve service (Food Bank and Minister's Discretionary fund).
- The Board approved the purchase of a yellowwood tree to be dedicated in honour of Renee de Vry for her contribution to the Congregation through her work in the Meditation Gardens.



Voice Lost, Freedom Found

I hold few convictions when it comes to religious matters. For example, I don't know what god is, or if there is an afterlife, or whether love has any cosmological importance or is just a human emotion. One thing I am certain of, though, is that god/the universe has an ironic sense of humor. This conviction is reinforced again and again by experience.

A few weeks ago I gave a sermon here at First Unitarian Ottawa entitled: "We Have Found Our Voice." It was about democracy and the Occupy Wall Street demonstrations. In this sermon, I spoke about how disheartening it is when people lose their voices in society. I was speaking metaphorically.

Lo and behold, I now find myself recovering from an autumn cold and have, literally, lost my voice. All I can manage is a hoarse whisper. God, you got me again!

Normally, a temporary handicap like this would be a cause of frustration for me. This time, however, it is a reminder of how lucky I am. I feel grateful that it is only my physical voice that has gone quiet, and not my metaphorical one. How lucky I am that I live in a society where I can share my views on politics and social policy, without fear of persecution! How lucky I am to be part of a faith community where I can write, "I don't know what god is," and no one will kick me out the front door or try to convert me. How lucky I am to live at a time when a call to action by a small Canadian magazine (Adbusters) can result in thousands of people in New York City speaking out against injustice, and that gathering can inspire a movement in cities across North America.

I know that by next week I will be able to laugh, sing, and speak aloud again. There are others, though, who have never and will never know the freedom to say out loud what is in their hearts. How precious and rare our little space of freedom is!

This is why I am laughing with god at this witty little joke—not literally, of course, for no sound comes out but my breath. Instead, I quietly smile.

- Jennifer Channin

Fellowship News

The Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Ottawa (UUFO) has had an exciting start to the new year.

Inspired by our own discussions, Sunday talks and readings over the past year, and moved by the leadership sessions with Rev. Robert Latham at the CUC ACM, we have begun a dialogue about a mission. Kelly McDowell (Congregational Services Programmer for Canada's Eastern Region), assisted by Valerie Cousins, helped thirty of us begin exploring more deeply why we come together as a (religious?) community. We are making plans for continuing discussions and expect these will crystallize into a mission statement before the end of the year.

As members of First Unitarian know, we are hoping to move forward in our search for a permanent "home". We have been very grateful for and impressed by the support received from First Unitarian members in responding to our capital campaign this fall. Having our own space is one key step in our dream to have a stronger UU presence in east Ottawa.

And finally, we wish to welcome Jennifer Channin, the intern minister we are sharing with Ottawa First Unitarian. She has been a delight. We have very much enjoyed Jennifer's professional support so far and we look forward to more of her thoughtful talks, music and gentle sense of humour.

November Services

(continued from page 3)

November 20

Take My Hand

- Jennifer Channin

Have you been saved? This is not a question we Unitarian Universalists frequently ask each other, but maybe we should. Many of us have had experiences in our lives that turned us from a path of despair to a path of hope and love. Some of these saving experiences led us here to this liberal religious community. Let us explore how ours is indeed a saving faith.

We will be dedicating infants and children during this service. If you are a parent and are interested in having your child or children included please speak to John Marsh or Susan McEwen.

November 27, 10:30 a.m.

Waiting

- John Marsh

Much of our lives is spent waiting. Yet, many of us are not that good at it. This will be an Advent reflection on both waiting and living fully in the moment.

November 27, 5:00 p.m.

Special Service A dramatic Reading of Grace Paley's short Story, "The Loudest Voice" with Klezmer music by "A Touch of Klez" featuring our own Fred Brown.

Grace Paley's poignant and often hilarious short story of a young Jewish girl called upon to narrate her public school's Christmas pageant explores the meaning of belonging both to a world culture and specific community—our connections to our family during times of celebration and our transcendent connection to the Divine.

Dinner will be available following the service.

UPCOMING...

November 4, 2011, 7:30 p.m.

A Musical Mosaic

Join graduates of the University of Ottawa School of Music in an evening of classical favourites. Don't miss these talented artists as they present works by Strauss, Massenet, Bach, Shostakovich, and Gershwin.

Artists include:

Whitney O'Hearn, Mezzo Soprano

Jacqueline Woods, Piano

Peter Crouch, Trumpet

Joanna Dempster, Soprano

Diana Lam, Flute

Billy Boulet, Saxophone

Matty Walton, Piano

Freewill offering to be taken in support of the FUCO music program.



MUSICALIA

by Interim Music Director Sara Brooks

The Choirs of First Unitarian present - Winter Lights - a choral celebration of the season.

Saturday, December 3, 2011, 4:00 p.m. – Worship Hall
Mark your calendars and join our five vocal ensembles in their annual musical celebration of the winter season! Our ensembles include the Chalice Choir, Chamber Choir, Gospel Choir, and both the Intermediate and Junior Children's Choirs, under the direction of Interim Children's music director, Kaley Duff. A reception will follow – don't miss out!

Introducing Kaley Duff, Interim Children's Music Director

A native of Ottawa, Kaley Duff grew up very active in the city's choral life, first at her local church, and later with the Ottawa Children's Choirs. Upon graduating from the Arts Vocal Programme at Canterbury High School, she went on to major in piano at the University of Ottawa, studying with pianist Sandra Webster, and also completed a minor in voice. Kaley sang with several ensembles during this time, including the Ontario Youth Choir, and also studied conducting with David Currie and Lawrence Ewashko. A recipient of several scholarships and awards, Kaley graduated with her Bachelor of Music in 2011, and is currently completing a Masters of Arts in music theory. Kaley continues to be active in Ottawa's choral community, singing with the Capital Chamber Choir under the direction of Sara Brooks. She has also been involved with OrKidstra's choral programme since 2009, where she currently conducts the Senior and Chamber Choirs. In addition to her choral experience, Kaley began Orff music training at the Royal Conservatory of Music in Toronto this past summer with specialist Joella Hug. Kaley continues to teach piano at her private studio in the east end of Ottawa, and also works as an accompanist and cantor at several churches. Kaley is very excited to be working with the children's choirs at First Unitarian Congregation of Ottawa for the remainder of this fall season.

November and December Guest artists at 5:00 p.m. services!

We are thrilled to have some special musical events lined up for our evening services in coming months. Be sure to mark your calendars!

November 6: Gregorian Jazz Consort

Billy Boulet, arrangements and saxophones, Tony Dunn, piano, Marie-Christine Desrosiers, double-bass, Matt Aston, drums

November 27: Fred Brown Klezmer band

December 4: Felix Wong, Piano

December 11: Avery Vine, Piano

December 18: Phyllis Knox, Soprano



LIFESPAN LEARNING

Sharing a Moment with Susan



It is often said that youth are the future of our faith. While there is truth in this statement, there is another even more important truth—youth are also the present of our faith. Our most vibrant, dynamic and growing congregations also have vibrant, dynamic and growing youth ministries. This work is important not just for youth. People of all ages benefit from the intergenerational relationships that are possible when youth ministry is integrated into the life of the congregation.

Beth Dana and Jesse Jaeger
(Ministry with Youth Renaissance Module,
Unitarian Universalist Association)

A rich opportunity exists right now in our congregation. The door is open and the space alight.

We are blessed with a growing Youth Group of more than twenty 14 to 20 year olds. This group welcomes brand new members; younger youth fresh from our Coming of Age and Junior High OWL (Our Whole Lives Sexuality) education programs, teens with some experience in UU

youth ministry, and older youth who are looking towards bridging into the young adult community. Our Youth Group is currently supported by three dedicated volunteer youth advisors, as well as occasional parent volunteers and other youth allies. We all benefit from the thoughtful work in recent years which yielded a Youth Ministry Handbook to provide us with a comprehensive collection of applicable guidelines and protocols, including safe church policies, for youth ministry.

This fall our youth have gathered for Sunday morning meetings, shared a weekend retreat at the Hudson-Linton cottage, hosted Coffee Hour, and chosen representatives for the Youth Programming Committee, including a Youth Board Representative and a newly created position of Social Action Coordinator. Discussions are underway about topics for Chalice Group explorations, social justice projects, a youth-led worship service, conferences near and far, a Senior High OWL weekend, and ways for youth to connect with and serve our wider congregation.

Youth group activities provide youth with a place to:

- experience their own power
- congregate and explore their ideas
- feel fully loved and accepted by other youth and advisors
- express themselves in a non-judgemental environment
- take on youth involvement in the Congregation
- explore religious ideas
- support and build leadership skills
- build community
- take on meaningful projects
- share friendship and have fun
- be genuinely who they are

A rich opportunity exists right now in our congregation. The door is open and the space alight.

We are perfectly poised to enhance our vitality by offering more youth advisors to nurture this ministry. We seek youth advisors and allies! Are you called to embrace a role in youth ministry as part of your spiritual practice and contribution to our faith community? Are you interested in serving as a youth advisor who supports our group on Sunday mornings in their youth-led meetings? Would you like to learn more about ways to help with special events and projects? Please give me a call or send an e-mail and we will set aside some time to talk about how you might connect with youth ministry.

Susan



NOVEMBER EVENTS

November 6 .

Children's Worship
10:30 a.m. in the NOW Room
Mystery Pals begins!

November 12

Fall Fair!

November 13

Outdoor activities for
Spirit Play Group
Chalice Group for Youth
10:30 a.m. in the NOW Room

November 27

The Loudest Voice
5:00 p.m.
Service with Klezmer Band
Last Sunday for Mystery Pals ~

ADULT LEARNING

What moves us: Unitarian Universalist Theology

Developed by Rev. Dr. Thandeka and led by Jennifer Channin, Intern Minister at First Unitarian, this nine-session program provides a framework for deep and longtime Unitarian Universalists to engage in theological reflection, not as an intellectual exercise, but as a process of meaning-making that equips one for living in the world as a Unitarian Universalist person of faith. This program explores the life experiences of both historic and contemporary Unitarian Universalist theologians, highlighting that which caused in them a change of heart, a new direction, new hope, and a deeper understanding of their own liberal faith.

These workshops offer participants a chance to engage with and bring their personal experiences to bear on the very questions explored by each theologian in turn. The program offers a pathway for developing not only one's own personal theology but also a deeper understanding of the threads of our Unitarian, Universalist, and Unitarian Universalist theological heritage."

When: Monday evenings, November 14 & 21, December 5 & 12, February 6, 13, 20, 27, March 5 from 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.

Registration: Sign-up in Registration Book outside the Lounge or email adultlearning@firstunitarian.ca

Contact: Jennifer Channin (613) 725-1066 ext. 229

Women's Personal Growth Group

The Women's Personal Growth Group will meet on Tuesday November 1 at 7:15 p.m. in Room 5. Note the change of date due to Fall Fair set up. Everyone welcome.

Introducing Ourselves

This course is designed to give newcomers as much information as possible. We will ask about your spiritual journey so far, share the histories of Unitarianism and Universalism and of the Ottawa congregation.

Led by Rev. John Marsh.

When: Tuesday, November 1, 8, 15, and 22, 7:00 to 9:15 p.m. or

Saturday, November 26, 9:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. (lunch included)

Registration: in Registration Book outside the Lounge or adultlearning@firstunitarianottawa.ca

Contact: Rev. John Marsh, 613-725-1066-225, minister@firstunitarianottawa.ca

Friday Reading For Growth Group

The Friday non fiction reading group will discuss "The 'God' Part of the Brain" by Matthew Alper

When: Friday, November 25, 1:00-3:00p.m.

Where: The Lounge

Contact: Margot Clarke at 613-820-6596 or adultlearning@firstunitarianottawa.ca for more information about this group

Integral Life Practice

Can one be both spiritual and rational?

The Integral Life Practice group discusses spirituality in the rational world. The discussions influence our individual world views, help us to learn about our own psyches, and reveal new spiritual horizons. Newcomers are very welcome – try us out!

When: Alternate Saturdays, next meeting November 5, 9:30-11:30a.m.

Where: Please check the noticeboard at the lower entrance

Contact: Dale Wilson, h.dale.wilson@gmail.com, or Katherine Gunn, 613-729-0504, or adultlearning@firstunitarianottawa.ca.

The Caring Committee Executive helping Betty Stern celebrate her 90th birthday. Front row: Barbara Brown, Ellen Bell, Bette Stern (in red dress), Isabel Burrows. Back row: Lyn Gerley, Alexandra Devine, Christine Deane, Diane Schmolka, Ria Heynen, Margot Clarke, Maggie Cox.





The following New Members were welcomed into to the Congregation at the New Member Recognition Service on Oct. 2, 2011

Jim Armstrong

Jim Armstrong was born in Winnipeg and grew up in Calgary. Much of his career involved financial research, and he recently retired from the Bank of Canada where he worked for 35 years. Both of his parents are in their late 80's and still reasonably active, so Jim believes his genes will keep him in good health for decades to come.

Shirl Bemis

Shirl joined the United Church at age thirteen, but says that she spent more time counting the pipes in the organ than listening to the sermon. She has always enjoyed going to different churches to see what they were like, and remembers, at age ten, peering into the windows of the Holy Rollers Church to see if the people really rolled around.

She first came to this Congregation in 1961, when it was a little old stone church on Elgin Street, primarily to take her children to the RE program. More recently, after separating from her husband, she has come back to the Congregation which, she says, has helped her a great deal.

George Brown

George is a lawyer who has served on the Ottawa City Council and is currently President of the Ottawa Community Loan Fund which provides short term loans to individuals and groups to start or expand small businesses. He is married and has two grown children.

George, who was raised in a Catholic family and considered becoming a Jesuit, is interested in contemporary theological studies and also twelve-step spirituality. He enjoyed walking with other members of our Congregation at last year's Tulipathon event to raise money for Ottawa's Multifaith Housing Initiative and looks forward to more community events.

Pat Gere

Pat is the principal and director of a large Montessori school here in Ottawa. In the past, she has been active in Unitarian congregations in Mississauga and London. Although she doesn't want to take on any commitments that would involve more meetings in her life, Pat says she is open to being asked to help out for special RE mornings when the children are following a different curriculum than normal.

Kenneth Gibson

Ken Gibson was born in Belfast, Northern Ireland and came to work in Ottawa as an engineer in 1962. He married Moira, also from Northern Ireland, that same year. They have worked and lived in a number of countries since that time and, on retirement, sailed and lived for the next ten years on their sailboat before returning to Ottawa.

Ken comes from at least three generations of Unitarians, and one of his first memories of social justice was when his grandparents provided refuge for a family from Spain who were fleeing from the Fascists during the Spanish Civil War.

Doug MacDonald

Doug has been a friend at First Unitarian since the mid-1980's. Never one to rush into things, he decided this spring to become a member. Doug describes himself as "a happy retiree," filling his time in singing and theatre, including appearances in productions of Opera Lyra Ottawa, Tara Players of Ottawa, the Savoy Society, Théâtre lyrique de Gatineau, and the Ottawa Choral Society.

Doug's other passions include cycling, writing and editing, travel, grandchildren, and wondering how we all got here. He is most glad to join the First Unitarian Congregation of Ottawa.

Elizabeth Renger

Elizabeth was born and raised in the Netherlands. She was the seventh and youngest child in a family that valued education. Her upbringing was strict Calvinist and included ideas about a god who "loves conditionally and punishes sinners." Elizabeth's journey has led her to an understanding of a divinity within that is accepting and loving. She has continued to value education and, like her father, has become a teacher. She is also a mother and grandmother.

Rose Skrapits

Rose has a B.Ed. from the University of Toronto, and came to Ottawa in 1983 to pursue a graduate degree in counselling. She has been a teacher/guidance counsellor with the Ottawa-Carleton School Board since 1987.

She spent her early years as a Lutheran, dabbled in Catholicism in her early 20's, mainly to shock her parents, and has been spiritually free-floating through life ever since. She is very happy to be joining the Unitarian Congregation, and feels that—at long last—she has found her spiritual home. She genuinely likes the humanistic, open, thoughtful, reflective, and welcoming tone of our congregation.

Wendy Tomlinson

Wendy was born and grew up in Winnipeg. She has since lived in Regina, Yellowknife, St John's, and Dublin, Ireland and is a teacher by trade.

As a child Wendy was fascinated with Lotta Hitschmanova. She remembers watching Lotta on TV wearing a soldier's uniform and talking about helping others in difficult places around the world. She was impressed that a woman was doing that job!

So ...as an adult looking for a place where people cared about all people, she came to the Unitarian Church. Wendy loves the inclusiveness here, the many activities to reach out and help others, and the acceptance of all philosophies of life.

SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

Social Responsibility Council Activities

Sunday, November 6

**Environmental Working Group,
Brainstorming meeting, 12:30 p.m.**

Thursday November 17

**Unitarian GoGos Monthly meeting,
4:00 p.m.**

Sunday November 20

Fair Trade Sales, 11:45 a.m.

Grannie Squares Sales, 11:45 a.m.

**Global Justice Working Group
Monthly meeting, 12:30 p.m.**

Monday November 21

**Child Haven Working Group
Meeting, 7:30 p.m.**

Gorgeous Kazuri Jewellery Sale

Hosted by the Unitarian GoGos, the sale of Kazuri Jewellery made by Kenyan Women is coming again. Don't miss it! Come and see all the beautiful styles. All the proceeds go to the Stephen Lewis Foundation Grandmothers to Grandmothers Campaign.

Where: 1857 Appleford Street, off Ogilvie Road, 613-749-4900

When: Saturday & Sunday, November 19 & 20, 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

Payment: Cash or cheques only

eWaste Electronics Recycling - We Did It Again

A happy band of First Unitarian volunteers descended on the church and its parking lot early on Saturday, September 17 for our second eWaste Day. We welcomed those citizens of Ottawa as well as from our Congregation and the Unitarian Fellowship of Ottawa who brought outdated, unwanted and broken electronics for collection. Compared to last May, when we saw a great many old computers, this time the focus was on televisions. The change to digital broadcasting in August was the primary reason for the appearance of so many TVs.

Many thanks to Bob Stevenson's team who directed traffic and kept everyone safe on the roadways. Thanks as well to Becky Hogue's kitchen team who encouraged us with snacks, drinks and a great lunch, and to John Turnbull's and Ron Wilson's unloading team who "schlepped" and packed about seven tonnes of e-junk into the bins.

Final figures aren't in yet, but this e-Waste day raised about \$1,000. These recycling depots are supported by the provincial government's Ontario Electronic Stewardship program, which brings in the big green bins and then pays the church for the contents after they take the bins away. This time, the community newspaper, *The Kitchissippi Times*, covered the event with a major story! Next date: Saturday, April 28, 2012 Mark it on your calendar!

The Environmental Working Group—at a Crossroads

For the past couple of years, the EWG has been in a holding pattern, with only three active members, infrequent meetings, and activities that are mostly restricted to arranging speakers with the assistance of Adult Learning. Our only other associated activity, the Riverbank Clean-up sub-group, has continued to hold spring work parties once a year along our stretch of the Ottawa River.

Should we disband?

This seems to fly in the face of positive response to the message of the speakers we have brought in, as well as the expressed desire for more activities related to the environment, as expressed by Congregants in a 2011 Adult Learning survey. For example, following Mike Nickerson's talk at the July 24 service, which was based on his book, "Living on Earth as if we want to stay", the idea of a book discussion group was floated.

Should we change focus?

Would Congregants come to meetings with a more specific focus? If so what would that be: a particular campaign, a voluntary simplicity circle?

Should we hand over the reins to younger people?

Members from Generation "X" and the "Millennial Generation" may want to take a different approach to environmental issues.

Should we look in new directions?

Do we need a web presence? Is there a need for increased co-operation with, and support for, other Ottawa environmental groups?

We will be holding a meeting in November to discuss the way forward. Please join us for a brainstorming session on Sunday, November 6, in Room 15 at 12:30 p.m. Contact Alastaire, 613-562-2253 or by e-mail: hendersalas@gmail.com.



THANK YOU! MERCI! GRACIAS!

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

- Scott Drennan for his work on interlinking computers in the church office.
- Barry Read and Carolyn Turner for all their work on the 2012 budget.
- Bill van Iterson for his work on the snow removal contract.
- Carol Card for her service as Chair of the Lay Chaplaincy Committee.
- Mary Duncan for her leadership in organizing a successful Holtom Lecture given by Ed Broadbent.
- Wendy Doyle and Kevin McQuinn for producing the fall edition of the Lifespan Learning Guide.
- Karen Blakely, Amy McRobert and all those who helped host the September 18th BBQ picnic.
- The great crew of traffic, lunch and unloading volunteers who happily collected about 7 tonnes of electronic waste on September 17.
- Renée De Vry, the Friends of the Meditation Gardens, and all their helpers for continuing to enhance the gardens and keep them so beautiful this summer and fall.

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.



BookShelf Mission Statement

We provide Congregants with the opportunity to purchase carefully chosen, high-quality adult and children's books, while supporting independent local booksellers. We also offer books on Unitarian Universalism and spirituality to all seekers.

Open most Sundays in Fellowship Hall,
September to June.

Fair Trade Sales from the Environmental and Global Justice Working Groups

Fair Trade, organic, shade grown coffee and chocolate products will be for sale after the Sunday service on November 20, in Fellowship Hall. We also have Zatoun Xtra Virgin Olive Oil from Palestine as well as a few other Zatoun items.

The profit that we make on the chocolate and coffee is donated to organizations such as USC including the Seeds for Diversity program, Ecology Ottawa, Pathways to Education and others.

Fair Trade, organic products enable fair payment to the workers, support the farming communities, and keep soil and water free of pesticides.

"HOW TO BOIL A FROG" – OTTAWA PREMIER

Join us for a sometimes humorous, sometimes serious look at our relationship with the earth. This film from the North Shore Unitarian Church has been nominated for a creative writing award.

Followed by a discussion. Everyone welcome. Bring a friend.

When:
Friday,
November
18,
7:30 p.m.



ANNOUNCEMENTS

Unitarian Seniors' Program

Sara Brooks and the Chalice Choir will lead the annual pre-Christmas carol sing. Seniors of all ages are welcome to come and sing along. Arthur Palmer will conduct the worship service.

When: Tuesday, November 29

Service: 11:30 a.m.

Lunch: (\$7): 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, November 25.

The **Campus Planning Committee** will be holding a Campus Planning Workshop on December 4 from 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. in Fellowship Hall and on January 15 at the same time and place.

Glebe/Centretown/Ottawa South Neighbourhood Group:

Topic for our November meeting: "Reclaiming Equality: A Challenge for the Next Generation". Western democracies have made huge strides since WWII in creating the most productive and equitable societies in history. Today that progress is challenged by the rise of market-based neo-conservative thinking. Mike Cassidy will lead the group in a discussion inspired by the thinking of former NDP leader Ed Broadbent.'

When: Sunday, November 27, 2011,
at 7:30 p.m.

Where: Home of Rosemary Bonyun and Ernie Criddle, Unit 106, 7 Kippewa Drive

Contact: Rosemary 613-563-0594
Please bring a small dessert to share.

Deadline for the December issue of the Parkway Spire is Friday, November 17th

Fall Fair

(continued from page 1)

Parking Passes

All volunteers will need to place one in their windshield on the day of the Fair in order to park on Byron Avenue. Passes will be available electronically from Margaret Linton, please contact her directly. A small number will also be photocopied and made available at the church during the week before the Fair and given to shuttle drivers.

Dropping Off Donations

Please keep your donations at home until the week prior to the Fall Fair. They will be gratefully received at the church from Monday, November 7 to Thursday, November 10, between the hours of 9:00 a.m. and 9:00 p.m. Throughout the week, there will be signs on the exterior doors as well as in the lower hallway to guide you to the right rooms, so try to group

like items together. Helpers will be available at the door to assist with boxes on weekdays, 10:00-11:30 a.m. and 1:00-2:30 p.m.

Exceptions to this are:

- Jams, jellies and baking, which can be dropped off on Friday, November 11 until 5:00 p.m. or Saturday morning, November 12th, before sales start.
- For those whose only window of opportunity is Sunday, November 6 after service, donations may be brought after 1:00 p.m. while rooms are being set up.

If you have a pressing need to bring donations to the church earlier, call ahead of time about storage. Contact Katherine Gunn at 613-729-0504 or klgunn@magma.ca.

Please pack donations, especially books, so they are easy to handle, and store. If possible it would be nice if they are packed in labelled boxes. And please remember, we can't sell

things if they are damaged, dirty or mouldy!

Did you know that by eight o'clock on the morning of the Fall Fair, there is already a long line-up to get in the door? Complementary cups of hot tea or coffee will chase your chills away.

Key Fall Fair Coordinating Committee Members

Director:
Margaret Linton
613-728-2446
mlinton@trytel.com

Volunteer Co-ordinator:
Isabel Burrows
613-727-6152
iburrows@rogers.com

Friends of the Meditation Gardens

Fall Update

We are excited that work on the garden-well project in the south garden has gone so smoothly this fall. So far we have accomplished the following:

- a settling pond created, with a water-retaining dam in place
- a south entrance arbour erected, with solar array in place
- buried conduit connecting array to well pump (in progress)
- a pumphouse (under construction)

We are deeply grateful to Renée de Vry and her friends, Rick Day and Mario Bernatchez, who have worked long and hard on these projects, with a little help from the Friends.

Fundraising Plans

We have also been lucky to have several generous donors toward the well project, and in addition are undertaking fundraising activities to defray costs.

- At the end of October, we held a Halloween cookie sale in Fellowship Hall.
- The Friends will be selling plates of assorted cookies and other baked goods before Christmas.
- A beautiful 2012 Meditation Gardens gift calendar will be available for sale from November until the New Year.

We are planning an outdoor "gala" next spring to officially open the new well and to honour the valuable financial and volunteer work contributions made to this project.

PROOFREADERS NEEDED

The Canadian Unitarian is seeking proofreaders. If you are interested please contact Judy Lishman at dlishman@sympatico.ca.

