

THE PARKWAY



Our New Staff: Meet the New Team Members

Over the summer months some of us have had an opportunity to meet the new members of the staff at First Unitarian. With the coming of autumn and the gearing up of activities we thought it would be a good time for the rest of the congregation to become acquainted with the new personnel in the office. So here they are:



Carolyn Turner, Director of Support Services, brings over 25 years administrative experience to her position as Director of Support Services. Her last position was Executive Assistant to the president of a not-for-profit organization. She has also worked as a instructor in the area of communication and leadership, as well as time management. In addition, she has many years of experience as a Life Skills coach. Her earlier background is in the area of finance and training and she was also employed for several years by an organization that worked with and trained volunteers. Carolyn is a widow with two grown daughters. Her passion (other than her children) is supporting others to reach their full potential with laughter and fun being a main component. Carolyn is looking forward to a long and happy association with the First Unitarian Congregation.

Susan McEwen returns to the First Unitarian Congregation of Ottawa as our **Director of Lifespan Learning**. After serving the congregation as Director of Religious Exploration from 2005-2008, Susan spent the following three years studying and teaching yoga, developing curriculum for UUs and yoga students of all ages, and deepening her own mindful spiritual practice. She welcomes this precious opportunity to serve again in a spiritual community, coming to the work well grounded in experience and open to new possibilities. She looks forward to participating as part of the program team, to connecting with individuals and groups in covenantal relationship, and to animating the vision for lifespan learning, as together we “promote learning for all ages as a fundamental spiritual practice in our community, with intention, willingness, and forethought.”



Sara Brooks, the Interim Music Director, is a native of Chatham, Ontario. Sara received a BMus from Acadia University (2006) and a MMus in piano performance from the University of Ottawa (2008). While completing her master’s degree, she had the opportunity to study with choral conductor Laurence Ewashko, serving for two years as both rehearsal pianist and assistant conductor for the University’s Calixa-Lavallee ensemble. Upon graduating, Sara founded the Capital Chamber Choir, a 24-voice ensemble, whose mandate is to promote Canadian Choral repertoire. The ensemble is now in its third full season. Sara was recently invited to work with the Vancouver Chamber Choir under conductor Jon Washburn, at the 31st annual VCC National Symposium. In addition to her new post as Director of Music at the First Unitarian Congregation of Ottawa, Sara is employed as assistant chorus master and assistant conductor for Opera Lyra, Ottawa.

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Born in Tianjin near Beijing, **Mary Du**, our new **Accounting Officer**, received her B.A. from Tianjin Normal University. Along with her family, she immigrated to Canada ten years ago. Mary studied at Algonquin College in Ottawa and received her Business Accounting Diploma in 2009. She worked for several businesses in Ottawa as well as elsewhere in Ontario before coming to First Unitarian in February of this year. For fun she likes reading, cycling and spending time with her family and friends.

Kevin McQuinn, Publications Officer, received his B.A. and M.A. from the University of New Brunswick before heading to Vancouver to pursue further post graduate studies in History. Since coming to the Ottawa/Gatineau area in the mid-nineties Kevin has worked as a freelance graphic designer, web designer, editor, freelance writer, publicist, researcher and post secondary teacher. At present he is also actively involved, along with a small group of like-minded individuals, in staging and promoting concerts around Ottawa.



We would also like to welcome **Gareth Auden-Hole** as our new **Supervisor of Sound and Light**. Gareth is responsible for the training and scheduling of sound technicians and the care and feeding of the sound system. Gareth is an audio engineer, musician, and producer, as well as part-time custodian and sound technician here at First Ottawa.

The Parkway Spire

Contributors

Tarrel Armstrong, Sean Barron, Jen Brennan, Wendy Doyle, Sara Brooks, Katherine Gunn, John Marsh, Shannon Linton, Susan McEwen, Maury Prevost, Renee Devry, 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 October issue is **Wednesday, September 7**. 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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2010–2011 Board of Directors

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CAPITAL IDEAS

Enter, Rejoice and Come In!

Summer laziness is wonderful, but it will be good to be together with the full complement of choirs and lifespan learning classes and all that the beginning of a new year at the First Unitarian Congregation of Ottawa entails. This summer involved record heat waves in parts of the world (as have the previous few summers), a stock market crash (as has happened before), the Tea Party in the United States influencing things way out of proportion to its numbers, anticipating the tenth anniversary of September 11, 2001, and a general sense among some that things are wobbly if not downright scary.

My own sense is that the world has always been a scary place, but that should not cause us to hesitate about expressing our truths, working to make society express the values we hold most dear, living our lives to the fullest and enjoying the good things life offers.

One of my summer reading indulgences was from Lemony Snicket's "Series of Unfortunate Events" books for young adults. Klaus Baudelaire doubts his own goodness and is reassured by Dewey that he and his siblings are "noble enough ... That's all we can ask for in this world." Then Snicket comments that...

Dewey was wrong when he said that being noble enough is all we can ask for in this world, because we can ask for much more than that. We can ask for a second helping of pound cake, even though someone has made it quite clear that we will not get any. We can ask for a new watercolor set, even though it will be pointed out that we never used the old one, and that all of the paints dried into a crumbly mess... We can ask for justice and we can ask for a handkerchief, and we can ask for cupcakes, and we can ask for all the soldiers in the world to lay down their weapons and join in a rousing chorus of "Cry Me a River," if that happens to be our favorite song. But we can also ask for something we are much more likely to get, and that is to find a person or two, somewhere in our travels, who will tell us that we are noble enough.

Substitute "have essential worth and dignity" for "noble enough" and you have something close to what we aim to do for each other here. And, as will be demonstrated at coffee hour and potluck suppers, we sometimes give each other cupcakes as well.

So let's celebrate the new additions to our staff, continue to dream big about what we would like, be realistic about what we are likely to get, accept serendipity when it happens, deal with the inevitable wobbliness of our world, and see each other at church.

Onward!

Rev. John N. Marsh, Minister

SEPTEMBER SERVICES

September 11

10:30 a.m. and 5:00 p.m.

Remembering 9/11: Shifting Perspectives on Evil in Our World: Eichman, bin Laden, Breivik

- **John Marsh**

There are parallels between the capture of Adolph Eichman and the assassination of Osama bin Laden. The trial of Eichman captivated the world and gave us a more nuanced understanding of the nature of evil. The treatment of Osama bin Laden meant that the West would not have to look at bin Laden or ourselves very deeply. Now Anders Behring Breivik will give us another opportunity to stare into the void.

September 18

10:30 a.m. and 5:00 p.m.

What does it Mean to Belong?

- **John Marsh**

"Now that the new Interim Leader of the New Democrats is being criticized by some for having once taken out a membership in the Bloc Quebecois I can see that it is time for me to make a true confession about one of my past affiliations. I will also offer some reflections on the meaning of membership in voluntary associations in general."

There will be a church picnic and open house for staff offices following the 10:30 a.m. service.

September 25

10:30 a.m. and 5:00 p.m.

Beethoven's New Themes

- **John Marsh**

Prior to Beethoven music celebrated wealth, military triumphs, love, the glory of God. Beethoven was the first major composer to probe and celebrate the human psyche. He intended his music to inspire and glorify humanity, to help humans identify their place in the order of creation; in other words, he made his secular symphonies take over some the traditional functions of sacred music.

There will be a potluck supper and open house for staff offices following the 5:00 p.m. service.



PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Accomplishing Goals

I hope that each and everyone of you had a pleasant and relaxing summer.

I would like to take this opportunity to welcome the following staff to their new positions: Carolyn Turner, Director of Support Services; Susan McEwen, Director of Lifespan Learning; Sara Brooks, Interim Music Director; Kevin McQuinn, Publications Officer, and Mary Du, Accounting Officer. We are all looking forward to working with you.

Given the changes in staffing this year, I would like to ask that if you have a particular problem or concern about any staff member, please speak to Rev. John Marsh rather than speaking directly to the individual. We do have a covenant at First Unitarian that we should be adhering to on a daily basis.

In June the Board extended Rev. John Marsh's contract for another five years after a very positive evaluation of John's performance over the past year.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathy Yach

General Congregational Meeting 2011

Unitarian Congregation of Ottawa
General Congregational Meeting
Sunday, October 30, 2011 at
12:15 p.m.

Draft Agenda

1. Opening Meditation
2. Report of the scrutineers
3. Approval of the agenda
4. Approval of the minutes of the Annual General Meeting on May 29, 2011
5. President's remarks
6. Financial statements and 2011 budget
 - a. Appointment of auditors of the congregation for financial year ending December 31, 2011
 - b. Financial status to September 30, 2011
7. Election of the Nominating Committee
8. Ratification of the acts of the Board since May 29, 2011
9. Receipt of annual program reports for 2010–2011
10. Date of the next Annual General Meeting and Election
11. New business
12. Adjournment

A Request from our Property Committee

One of the tasks of our Property Committee is to conduct long-range planning to make sure that our building continues to be safe, functional and beautiful. Part of our planning involves estimating the replacement cost of major parts of the building such as the roof, patios and front steps. Such items have a life span of between twenty to forty years. We are also at the stage where we have to estimate replacement costs for our air handling system. At the same time members of the congregation have been encouraging us to consider air conditioning for parts of the building and to investigate the development of alternative forms of energy for the entire building. Finally, we also have a number of maintenance projects to plan and organize each year.

Our Committee needs professional advice on such matters and we are turning to the Congregation to let us know of persons who can help us to obtain expert advice and to carry out our various responsibilities. Please contact me, Bob Stevenson, at stevbob@sympatico.ca with your suggestions.



MUSICALIA

by Interim Music Director Sara Brooks

Hello friends! It is with great excitement that I introduce myself as your Interim Music Director for the coming season. As I settle into the program here at First Unitarian, I have felt most warmly welcomed – and for this I thank you!

What a privilege it is to work in such a beautiful musical environment. Naturally the lovely space and very fine instruments are most inspiring. But more than this, I find myself looking forward to beginning rehearsals with so many very fine ensembles. I anticipate great collaborations ahead as we participate in services and concert events.

As in past years, our music program is a very welcoming environment. We are very pleased to welcome new voices and new friends of the program. Do visit our Music board outside of the main office for news and details on our various ensembles, or e-mail music@firstunitarianottawa.ca for more information.

As I settle into my time with you, please do stop into the music office and say hello! Office hours will be regular and I am always up for coffee breaks and social visits!

Looking forward to the musical celebrations ahead....

Sara

On your mark, get set, GO! The new choral season is set to begin

Chalice Choir

Thursday, September 8, 7:30-9:30 p.m. in Worship Hall. No audition necessary and new singers always welcome!

Gospel Choir

Sunday, September 18, 9:30-10 a.m. in Worship Hall. No audition necessary!

Chamber Choir

Sunday, September 25, 12:30-1:45 p.m. in Room 6. This is an auditioned choir of 25 voices. To arrange an audition time contact Sara Brooks at music@firstunitarianottawa.ca

***NEW* Evening Vocal Ensemble**

Providing music for two 5 p.m. services per month, this new ensemble will tackle a variety of repertoire and musical styles!

If you'd like to be involved in this exciting project, please e-mail Sara at music@firstunitarianottawa.ca for more information.

Children's Choir

- Shannon Linton

We are pleased to announce that Children's Choir rehearsals will resume on Sunday, September 18. The Junior Choir (ages 4-7) will rehearse for half an hour beginning at 9:45 a.m. in the NOW room every Sunday. The Intermediate Choir (ages 8-12) will rehearse for half an hour beginning at 12:00 p.m. in the NOW Room every Sunday. Any interested choristers and parents are asked to e-mail Shannon Linton at childrensmusic@firstunitarianottawa.ca.

Also, we are very excited to begin our Youth Choir program in January 2012, for singers ages 13-19. Rehearsals will be at 12:30 p.m. on Sundays in the NOW Room and will run for an hour. Any interested choristers can e-mail Shannon Linton at childrensmusic@firstunitarianottawa.ca. Like the children's choirs, the Youth Choir will perform at services and concerts throughout the year, and will occasionally sing at evening services.

I look forward to making music with all of you very soon!

Beethoven at the First

Wolfgang David, violin
Mauro Bertoli, piano



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 rarely performed complete set of sonatas for violin and piano by Ludwig van Beethoven!

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!

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.

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 at Leading Note Music (370 Elgin at Frank; 613-569-7888) and at the church office.

Summer Activities in the Meditation Gardens



Work in the Meditation Gardens this summer has proceeded at an intensive pace and will continue to do so as the season gives way to autumn. Renée De Vry estimates that there is still a good deal to accomplish before to the “Official Opening” of the well project can take place and the assistance of willing volunteers would be greatly appreciated.

- Among the infrastructure improvements made in the Meditation Gardens this summer is a new brick wall along the raspberry-and-roses berm in the south garden. The wall was designed to include a bench alcove for bird watching and quiet reflection. Painted green benches have also been added in several other restful spots.
- In the north garden, you’ll notice the fresh soil and plantings behind the new parking lot curb as well as a big patch of emerald green clover at the far north end.



- Also in the north garden, work is ongoing on a new brick wall to replace the crumbling shale one that borders the path along the main pond.
- Renée has made progress on our ongoing naturalization project. Many native species (from Solomon Seal to Asters) have been planted throughout the gardens.
- Work on the “well project” has also been moving forward. This is in preparation for the installation of the solar array and submersible pump. The hope is that this can be completed before the ceremony officially “opening” the garden well will take place in late September.
- Throughout the summer a number of wedding parties have used both south and north gardens as beautiful backdrops for their wedding photos.
- The fire pit hosted a mid-summer evening gathering of pagan followers.
- As for the gardens’ wildlife: in late June our resident mother duck hatched 6 ducklings (in the planter by the main doors) and a few days later took them to the Ottawa River; two litters of rabbits were born in the garden; a mother raccoon and her four offspring have been regular visitors; and two pairs of goldfinches and a wren have been seen at the feeders, among other birds.

A special thanks to Cam Cowley of Tree Climbers for donating several thousand dollars in tree trimming services to the church.

Plans for fall 2011

If you’d like to learn more about the Friends, our September meeting will be held on Sunday, September 25 at 12:30 p.m. in Room 14.

LIFESPAN LEARNING

The Gifts Among Us



As we begin a new season in spiritual community, I am inspired by this question: What gifts are present among us? Just as the acorn holds within it the makings of a majestic tree, so this assembly of souls possesses all that is needed to grow and sustain a loving, dynamic, responsive community that nurtures our shared vision and enthusiasm for learning across the lifespan. While we are all blessed with the precious opportunity to support one another in discovering and sharing our unique gifts,

I feel especially excited about this aspect of joining you this fall. I look forward to connecting with UUs of all ages with a sense of curiosity about and gratitude for the ways each of us contributes to this community as we journey along together.

I begin my work with you on a part-time basis in the latter half of August as I wrap up the final weeks of classes at my Arnprior yoga studio and prepare to move to Ottawa at the start of September. As September gets underway I will be in the full time swing of things in Lifespan Learning and settling into a new home in the city. I warmly welcome you to contact me here at the church by e-mail or telephone should you have questions, reflections, or greetings to share.

With love and blessings,

Susan

Some dates to note in our shared journey this month:

September 10 ~ Fall R.E. Leaders' Development Retreat at Baxter Conservation Area

September 11 ~ ER Registration begins, Children activities downstairs after Time for All Ages

September 18 ~ Ingathering Service: a new season of Religious Exploration for children and youth begins

Women's Spirituality Group: Full Moon Ritual

The Women's Spirituality Group is hosting a "Full Moon Ritual" on Tuesday, September 13. Ingathering at 7:00 PM; Ritual starts at 7:30.

Join us in celebration. Weather permitting, we will meet outside around the fire pit on the south garden (although we will not be having a bonfire). In the case of bad weather, we will meet indoors. Please bring a lawn chair or contact Laurie if you need one. Snacks and/or treats are welcomed for afterwards. Please arrive on time, as there is a closed-door policy once the ritual begins. We are an open circle and always welcome newcomers.

Facilitators: Laurie Foster-MacLeod & Renée De Vry.

Information: Laurie: 613-728-1916 e-mail: laurie3empress@ca.inter.net

Cost: \$3.00 donation.

ADULT LEARNING SURVEY

The results of the recent survey on adult learning experiences and interests are now in. The survey shows that there is strong interest and participation in our adult learning program, with 84% of respondents indicating they had participated in at least one learning activity at First Unitarian in the past two years. Overall, the reaction to our current adult learning program was quite positive; with 76% of respondents rating it as good to excellent. Twelve percent rated it as fair, while 12% responded 'don't know'. This means we have room for improvement and for better communicating our learning program.

In terms of interest in future learning activities, 55% of respondents indicated that in the upcoming two years they would be interested in participating in discussion groups such as the Integral Philosophy group (currently meets on Saturday mornings). There was also significant interest in our regular enrichment programs (e.g. Reading for Growth groups) and in our core curriculum courses (e.g. Building your own Theology, Articulating your UU Faith). Seventeen respondents (33%) indicated they would be interested in chalice groups/small group ministry.

The top three priorities for future special presentations or courses were: Spirituality, including spiritual practices and exploring spiritual paths (65%), Social Justice issues (59%), and Environmental issues (41%).

The feedback from the survey will help inform and direct our adult learning program for the next few years. A special thank you to all those who took the time to complete the survey.

ADULT LEARNING

Upcoming Courses

The following are some of the adult learning courses and activities scheduled for this fall. For a more complete listing, check out the Fall 2011 Lifespan Learning Guide which will be available in September. Unless otherwise indicated, you can register for courses by using the sign-up sheets in the Lifespan Learning Registration Book outside the Lounge or by e-mail adultlearning@firstunitarianottawa.ca.

Quick! What's a Unitarian-Universalist?

Answer this question and build your own 'elevator speech'. Participate in "Articulating Your UU Faith", a Unitarian Universalist Association course which uses readings, personal reflection, group exercises and discussion, to help you communicate your liberal religious faith. Facilitated by Chuck Shields and Barbara Freeman.

When: Tuesday, September 20 and 27, October 11 and 18, and Thursday, November 3, 2011 at 7:30 p.m.

Contacts: Chuck Shields, 613-232-6708, or Barbara Freeman, 613-322-2036, or send an e-mail to adultlearning@firstunitarianottawa.ca

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.



Understanding the Enneagram as a Tool for Releasing our Potential'

This two-day workshop, sponsored by the Integral Life Practice group, will be offered on Saturday, September 17 and October 1 at First Unitarian under the leadership of Jane Lindsay, experienced coach, consultant and Riso-Hudson trained Enneagram teacher. The Enneagram is a dynamic system of personality types which blends ancient wisdom with modern psychology in a powerful tool for strengthening relationships, communicating more effectively and living mindfully. The tuition for the two full days of this workshop is \$190 (including HST). If the fee is a barrier please contact us.

This workshop will help you

- Develop a practical understanding of the Enneagram's dynamic nature.
- Appreciate the patterns of assumption, attention, energy, gifts and weaknesses of its nine types.
- Reflect on ways you personally connect with all types but have one core type.
- Explore the Enneagram as a tool for communicating more effectively, expanding your options, loosening "stuck" patterns, building better relationships and opening to your fullest psychological and spiritual potential.

For information contact janelindsay@sympatico.ca or 613-761-9249 and to register contact Paula Theetge at paulat@storm.ca or 613-260-1709.

Caring Contacts for September, 2011

Alexandra Devine
613-224-569
Hélène Lamb
613-829-7151

"Twelve Steps to a Compassionate Life" Reading Groups

Beginning in September, First Unitarian will sponsor reading groups on the book "Twelve Steps to a Compassionate Life", by Karen Armstrong. The book complements the Charter for Compassion which was signed by some 1000 religious and secular leaders in 2009 and calls upon us all to live by the Golden Rule – to always treat others as you would wish to be treated yourself. Underpinning the twelve steps is the recognition that compassion can be learned and taught by example. The belief is that individual transformation leads to societal change.

The reading groups will follow the guide developed by the Charter for Compassion team. Our goals are to foster a greater understanding of compassion and identify ways to regularly practice compassion in our personal and community life.

We already have enough participants registered to form three groups, two on Saturday morning and one on Monday evening. There are still spots available. The registration deadline is September 11.

When: Every third Saturday from September 24 to June, 2012, 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. or every third Monday from September 26 to June 2012, 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.

Where: First Unitarian. Rooms to be decided.

Registration: Sign-up in the Lifespan Learning Registration book outside the Lounge.

Required reading: Karen Armstrong, "Twelve Steps to a Compassionate Life", Toronto: Alfred A. Knopf Canada, 2010. ISBN: 978-0-307-40065-9. Retail: \$25.

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

Reading for Growth

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

One group meets every second Monday afternoon. On September 12, it will be discussing "Paris to the Moon" by Adam Gopnik from 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. in the Lounge.

The other group meets on the last Friday afternoon of the month in the Church from 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. The next meeting is on Friday, September 30 at 1:00 p.m. to discuss "The Language of Life" by Francis Collins. If you are interested in joining this group, please contact Margot Clarke at 613-820-6596. We have just formed a new RFG Fiction Group which will hold its next meeting on Tuesday, September 6th at 1:00 pm in the Lounge. It will be discussing "Cutting for Stone" by A. Verghesse. Anyone who would like to join us is welcome.

If you are interested in joining one of these groups or would like to attend as a visitor, please contact Katharine Elliott at 613-270-8308.

Yoga for Seniors and Everyone Else

Would you like to try Yoga? Improve your flexibility, balance, strength and peace of mind? We have a wonderful teacher, Linda Percy, and a congenial group. Everyone is welcome. Drop by on Friday morning to try it out!

When: Friday mornings, September 16 until December 16 (except not November 11), 10:15-11:15 a.m.

Where: Fellowship Hall

Cost: \$125 for 13 weeks or \$10 drop-in

Contacts:

Linda Percy, 613-729-8913, or Margot Clarke, 613-820-6596.

Holly and Lace Bazaar (aka Fall Fair)

When? Saturday, November 12 – mark your calendar!

What is it? Our Bazaar is a Congregational happening where our First Unitarian community works together to create an enjoyable and mutually profitable event where we, along with our friends and neighbours, donate our useful leftovers and home made goods for sale and where we can find unique gifts, furnish our homes or update our wardrobes. It's the biggest church bazaar in town (as far as we know), but we all have to work together to put it on.

Why? We have fun working together to support our congregation financially as well as Ottawa community services.

Who? Everyone can participate by donating goods, volunteering time off site or on site before or during the fair, even working at home, as well as shopping on the big day!

Ellen Smith is the volunteer coordinator. Contact her at by phone at 613-623-5890 or e-mail: kirkmanhouse@bellnet.ca.

How can you help?

In September:

- Make extra preserves (sealed Mason jars please), save stamps and coins.
- Find and organize treasures you can part with (and encourage your friends and neighbours to "declutter").
- Offer storage space.
- Volunteer to organize a booth, work on communications, help with recycling or transportation.

In October:

- Sign up for a job during the week of the fair: making food, moving furniture, first aid, organizing, selling, counting money, clean up, transportation . . .
- Pack up those treasures you are going to donate.

In November:

- Bring your items in.
- Publicize in your neighbourhood, building, school, clubs, and so on.
- Show up for your job and meet new and old friends.
- Shop on Saturday, November 12 or clean up after the fair.
- Join the collective sigh of relief and congratulations of a job well done on Sunday, November 13.

A special requirement from now until the Bazaar is storage space for donated items. If you have a dry, secure storage such as a garage we hope to hear from you.

Please contact Katherine Gunn, klgunn@magma.ca or

SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

Social Responsibility Meetings and Activities

- Fair Trade Sales: Sunday, September 11, 11:45 a.m.
- Global Justice Working Group meeting: Sunday, September 11, 12:30 p.m.
- Social Responsibility Steering Committee meeting: Monday, September 12, 7:30 p.m.
- Unitarian GoGos meeting: Thursday, September 15, 3:45 p.m.
- eWaste Recycling Day: Saturday, September 17, 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.
- Global Justice Working Group's Town Hall Meeting "Who's Policing the Police" Sunday, September 18, 12:15 p.m.
- Social Responsibility Council meeting: Wednesday, September 21, 7:30 p.m.
- United Nations Working Group Holtom Peace Lecture: "Democratic Development Abroad: Dos and Don'ts", Ed Broadbent, Tuesday September 27, 7:30 p.m.
- Social Responsibility Volunteer Fair: Sunday October 2, 11:45 a.m.

eWaste Electronics Recycling Day : Saturday, September 17

Bring in your outdated electronics; those TVs you have replaced as technology changes, and the things that won't do for the Fall Fair because they are too old or don't work and will simply end up in a landfill. It's a fundraiser for the church as well. Our eWaste Day in May this year raised over \$2000, so spread the word to your family, neighbours and colleagues.

The other way to help is to join the fun and volunteer to direct traffic, serve lunch, or to unload the cars.

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

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

Where: First Unitarian parking lot.

Contacts: John Turnbull 613-820-7259 or Katherine Gunn, 613-729-0504 or buy e-mail: ewaste.sept17@gmail.com.

Town Hall Meeting

Sponsored by our Global Justice Committee

"Who's Policing the Police?"

Controversial videos from the Ottawa jail and the largest mass arrest in Canadian history at the G20 Conference in Toronto are just two of the concerns that should raise questions about the need for greater transparency and accountability from our police forces.

Join us for a panel discussion following the Sunday service.

When: Sunday September 18 at 12:15 PM

Where: Worship Hall

Social Responsibility Volunteer Fair: Sunday October 2

Come to Fellowship Hall after Sunday service to see what Social Responsibility, Unitarian-style, is all about. The eleven Social Responsibility Working Groups will welcome you with displays and details about the wonderful work they are doing in our local community, our country and internationally. This will be your chance to see the many ways you can participate, whether on occasions that fit your own schedule, or on a regular basis.

Contact: Ron Wilson, Chair, Social Responsibility Steering Committee, rawwill@sympatico.ca or 613-747-7584.

NOTES FROM THE OFFICE

As promised, this issue of the Spire includes bios and photos of the new staff who have come on board at First Ottawa over the last few months. It has been a pleasure to work with these new people, and we are very excited to be able to welcome back Susan McEwen, who returns to us as the new Director of Lifespan Learning.

You will notice the office has been reconfigured; our new Director of Support Services, Carolyn Turner, has decided to move into the main area to "be more available and approachable to all." Sara Brooks and Jennifer Channin, our Interim Music Director and Intern Minister, now occupy the old DSS office. Kevin McQuinn, Publications Officer, and Mary Du, Accounting Officer, have the much brighter and more pleasant 'old' Music office. The space vacated by them has been converted to a fantastic supply closet for all office paraphernalia. The old supply closet is now a Worship Closet and contains our minister's supplies as well as other worship related items, such as candles. The staff, old and new, look forward to welcoming you at the September 18 morning service and the September 25 evening service for an 'Open House' of sorts, to show off these changes.

Environmental Working Group in Summer

On a late July Sunday, sustainability educator and author Mike Nickerson spoke on the theme, “Living on Earth as if we want to stay,” based on his latest book. He delivered a passionate talk on the urgent need for an alternative to the endless economic growth model driving almost all political and corporate decision making; an alternative that can be acknowledged as legitimate and practical.

Mike spiked his talk with comparisons of the development of individuals and cultures from childhood to adolescence to maturity, as involving “toilet training” (recycling of waste), control of greedy impulses, and ability for foresee consequences. In Mike’s view, as a culture we are in late adolescence but seeking ways to mature and

take responsibility for our huge collective impact on the planet.

Mike stressed that it is imperative to attain maturity now that we fill the planet and are bumping up against its physical limits. The rewards of such maturity are great. Having dethroned the relentless pursuit of growth in material consumption, we can turn to other kinds of growth. The fundamental desire to grow that both individuals and cultures feel can be redirected toward enriching connections to family, friends, and our local communities, and engaging in service to others.

The Environmental Working Group is considering a book discussion group based on Mike’s book. If you are interested in participating in such a group, please contact Alastaire at hendersalas@gmail.com. For more information on

sustainability, go to www.sustainwellbeing.net.

EWG’s special project, the congregational community-shared agriculture (CSA) arrangement with Saffire Farms, is now well into its second season. Since late June, CSA farmer Gord McGregor has been filling our weekly baskets, bags or knapsacks with lettuces, bok choy, carrots, beets, onions, and more. We are looking forward to tomatoes, peppers, potatoes and zucchini!



*Gord McGregor
& a happy customer*

2011 Holtom Peace Lecture



Edith Holtom (1893–1978), a committed peace activist, was the founder and president of the Ottawa Peace Council from 1949 to 1969, and worked tirelessly throughout her life to support the principles of the UN Charter and the prohibition of the atomic bomb. The Holtom Peace Lecture was established by Edith Holtom’s family in 1984, to honour her memory.

The 2011 lecturer is Ed Broadbent, Leader, New Democratic Party 1979-1985. Founding president “RIGHTS and DEMOCRACY”. Currently visiting professor, Institute for Canadian Studies, University of Ottawa. The title of Mr. Broadbent’s lecture will be: “Democratic Development Abroad: Dos & Don’ts”

When: Tuesday September 27 at 7:30 p.m.

Where: First Unitarian Church, 30 Cleary Ave, Ottawa (off Richmond Rd, east of Woodroffe).

Question/answer session & refreshments; ample free parking.

For further information please contact: 613-725-1066.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Friday Reading for Growth Group

The Friday Reading for Growth group will be meeting on September 30. The title chosen for this meeting is "The Language of Life" by Francis Collins.

When: Friday, September 30, 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Where: The Lounge

Glebe/Centretown/Ottawa South Neighbourhood Group

The group will meet on Sunday September 25, 2011 for a pot luck dinner and planning session. All UUs in or near this section of the city are welcome to join us to enjoy a delicious meal and help us plan our activities for the coming year.

When: Sunday, September 25 at 6:30 p.m.

Where: The home of Trudy Kassner, 108 Belmont Avenue

Contact: Trudy Kassner
613-730-2823

Unitarian Seniors' Program

Kent Swinburne will present "The Search for a Settled Minister". John Soar will conduct the worship service.

When: Wednesday, September 28; Service: 11:30 a.m., Lunch (\$7): 12:00 p.m., Program: 1:00 p.m.

Where: Worship/Fellowship Hall

RSVP: by Saturday, September 24 (only if you are not on the phone list): Maureen Sly at 613-728-7610 or mmsly@rogers.com.

Introducing Ourselves Workshops

Saturday, October 8, 9:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. (lunch included)

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

Four Tuesday evenings: November: 1, 8, 15, 22 at 7:30 p.m. to 9:15 p.m.

Artspace Exhibits

Fall Schedule:

September: Group Show of ArtSpace Artists

October (until the Fall Fair):

Joycelyn Loeffelholz-Rea

Artspace is in the Lounge

Contact: Laurie Foster-MacLeod:
613-728-1916

UU Round Table Lunch

Open to all UUs and guests. Lively discussions take place among members of the group, who have diverse interests and experiences. Our meeting location changes every three months.

When: Friday, September 16th at 1:00 p.m.

Where: Biago's 1349 Richmond Road

RSVP: by Thursday, September 15
Tudy McLaine (613-745-8074, mclaine2d@hotmail.com), or
Marjorie Daechsel, (613-596-1471)

Unitarian House Family Fun Day and Courtyard Sale

Entertainment by Fumblin' Fingers 10:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. ;

Unitarian House Seniors Skid Club

11:30 a.m. to Noon followed by Elvis (Paul Warren) Noon to 1:30 p.m.

Yard sale, bake sale, BBQ, children's play area, silent auction and lots more.

All proceeds go to the Residents' Association.

When: Saturday Sept. 10, 2011; 10 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

Where: Unitarian House of Ottawa
20 Cleary Ave., Ottawa

Hospitality Hour

After a fabulously warm and restful summer, it's time to get busy in the kitchen with fall Hospitality Hour. A very big thank-you to all those volunteers whose efforts ensured a successful summer refreshment time. A special thanks goes to Elisabeth Morrison who substituted for me on many Sundays.

Hopefully the fall sign-up sheets will fill up in a timely fashion - always a great help to me. I encourage committees and groups to look ahead to when they can volunteer.

As an evening service commences on Sunday September 11, juice and water will be offered as beverages after the service for those who wish to 'meet & mingle'. Water jugs and juice will be prepared as part of the tasks of the morning hospitality team and placed in the refrigerator. Glasses will be left on the counter. A volunteer is needed each week for about 15 minutes before the evening hospitality hour to set out the water and juice and then for about the same amount of time afterwards to do the dishwashing of the used glasses. A sign-up sheet will be available on the Hospitality Hour bulletin board. Directions will be left in the kitchen.

Look forward to seeing you on both sides of the hatch in September.

