



First Unitarian Congregation of Ottawa

The Parkway Spire

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Deadline for next Spire
submissions: **Feb 13, 2017**



Celebrating 50 Years at Cleary Avenue!

In 2017, First Unitarian Congregation of Ottawa will mark its 50th anniversary here in the award-winning building at 30 Cleary Avenue. We have many accomplishments to celebrate. Everyone is invited to join the festivities, so mark your calendars now and plan to attend these special events! The bulletin board outside the church office will be kept up to date with event details, opportunities to help out, and other 50th Task Force information.

See page 17 for a full listing of upcoming events!





President's Corner

~Maggie Sharp

Last year, 2016, gained a bit of a reputation as a bad year, a time when we lost some great lights, and saw a great deal of ugliness next door and across the pond. Within the congregation, we had our own share of struggles, many of which were raised at the December 'check-in' town hall.

Most of these issues had been percolating below the surface for some time. Of course, the purpose of transition years is to dredge them up, so we can deal with them collectively and compassionately, to become a more welcoming place for each other and our future settled minister. As we turn the page on a new year, I would like to offer some reflections on the challenges we encountered, and what we can do about them in 2017.

Our RE program, deeply important to many of us, including those whose little ones have long since flown the nest, is struggling to re-invent itself for a new generation of children and parents. I see RE as a major "selling feature" of our congregation, once we find a model that works for 21st century families. If you like kids, whether or not you have any now, I'd encourage you to get involved and see how your talents can support the next generation of UUs and their parents. The January 21st facilitated visioning session would be a good place to start.



Also generating debate are Rev Paula's experiments in worship. I am struck by how deeply personal our reactions are – what feels welcoming to one may leave another feeling cold, and vice versa. But guess what? Our shared faith is based on valuing diversity and inclusion – this is UUism at its truest. These experiments are like a New Year's resolution to do more yoga. It may be uncomfortable, but it helps open our minds, stretch our religious muscles, and really live our values. If you're looking to take on a new little religious practice this year, I suggest seeking out people who actively dislike the parts of the service that you love – I've personally found hearing other perspectives surprisingly rewarding.

Lastly, our governance system (or lack thereof?), and confusion about appropriate roles and responsibilities, is causing significant stress, for both congregants and staff. A large congregation like ours needs a suite of well documented structures and policies to function effectively. Otherwise it's an ongoing exercise in frustration. If you have a good head for policy and organization, there will be many opportunities in this year to help staff, volunteer leaders and the Governance Committee develop structures and policies that will serve us well. We'll discuss all this at a town hall on governance in late January or early February.

Looking ahead to 2017, and the last four months of my presidency, it's clear there is lots to do to get ready for a new settled minister next year, and many opportunities to get involved, each in our own way. A pivotal event to mark in your calendars will be the first visit from our UUA Transition Coach Jeff Donohue, over the weekend of February 25-26.

Best wishes to all for a happy and healthy 2017!
~Maggie Sharp

In the Interim

~Dr. Paula Gable



Below is an excerpt from my sermon on Sunday, January 15, the day preceding the American statutory holiday celebrating the birth of Martin Luther King (MLK), Jr. I wish to share it because it points to the crucial need for a compelling vision in order for a congregation to survive and thrive in the 21st century.

Whenever I read MLK's writings, I reconnect with the incredible power of his vision to transform society; a transformation aligned with the Biblical imperative to "Do justly; love mercy and walk humbly with the divine"; a moral imperative to dismantle the structures of oppression that imprison the human spirit.

There is clearly much work to be done before we can live into my own deeply cherished vision. It is a vision of a peaceful United Nations of world citizens who realize that diversity is our greatest strength and beauty. We are so much better together – even if we are different. Learning to embrace our differences will likely be what allows our species to survive and thrive.

To realize peace and cooperation on earth, I believe we must wake up to the reality that we are all part of the same human family, "children of the same God" if you choose to use traditional theological language. What affects one affects us all. Until we see this, we will continue to see others as "the competition", rather than allies who can help us solve shared problems.

Paraphrasing another great 20th Century prophet, Paramahansa Yogananda,

We must either learn to live together as brothers and sisters or we shall perish together as fools.

I understand that a sweeping vision of world harmony with liberty and justice for all is a lofty goal. Some might call it naïve. I call it hopeful; because as a person of faith in the Trustworthiness of the Universe, I have reason to be hopeful. As Martin Luther King Jr. said in his *I Have a Dream* Speech:

With ... faith we will be able to transform the jangling discords of our nation into a beautiful symphony of brotherhood. With this faith we will be able to work together, to pray together, to struggle together.

...and I add "To realize our shared dream together." As MLK said at his Noble Peace Prize Acceptance Speech in 1964:

With an abiding and an audacious faith in the future of humankind, I refuse to accept the idea that the 'isness' of our present nature makes us morally incapable of reaching up for the eternal 'oughtness' that forever confronts us.

How do we, as Unitarian Universalists, challenge the "isness" of today's social ills, while "reaching up for the eternal "oughtness" that forever confronts us?

As your Interim Minister, it is my job – my calling – to help you realize the "oughtness that forever confronts us." I think that by now, most of you have realized that I AM NOT A PLACEHOLDER UNTIL YOUR NEW SETTLED MINISTER ARRIVES.

Instead, I am the person you called to help you discern your own strengths and growing edges; the way to nurture right-relationships; the way to envision your future. My role is to ask you again and again, "***Where are you now? What is your mission? What are your dreams for the future? What is***

In the Interim cont...

holding you back? How will you overcome these challenges to realize your shared dreams?"

I have heard several people say that the mission of First Ottawa is beautiful but too "vague." It sounds good but it doesn't really tell us how to live together in community. The same goes for our covenant, which will be the topic of future sermons.

I encourage you to think deeply about this congregation's mission statement. How does it inform your own life? And, how you would like it to help shape your shared future? If it doesn't, that is telling too.

According to David Brubaker, author of *Chaos Theory and Congregation Life*:

Healthy Congregations Have a Clear and Shared Center. A shared Identity is vital not only for internal unity but also for our engagement with others outside of our congregations. A shared purpose is equally important, as it provides "social glue" for members who can work or serve together... Furthermore, a vital congregation faces outward, not just inward.

Brubaker adds the caveat that there are times to adopt an inward focus (such as during a culture review process [such as Interim Ministry]). But this must be balanced by a healthy dose of outward focus as well.

The most effective antidote to a destructive conflict is to adopt an outward focus. Much like an individual, a congregation that is only internally-focused will inevitably identify multiple flaws that sometimes appear impossible to overcome.

For your congregation to be vital in the future, you need a clear understanding of shared identity, purpose, dreams and values. Everything hinges on your ability to clearly

identify your shared Mission, Vision, and Values; to nurture right relationships; and to embrace at least a little "chaos" or disequilibrium as your congregation goes through the process of reaching a healthier, more energized "new normal" in the future.

Just as MLK's work for racial equality in the US began with a dream, your work must also be grounded in a shared dream if it is to become a reality. Paraphrasing Mr. Plumbean in the January 15 Time for All Ages during our Sunday service...

Our congregation is us and we are it. First Unitarian is where we like to be and it looks like all our dreams.**

May the ongoing challenge of identifying your dreams and working to realize them be a joyful, enlightening, chaotic, and fulfilling adventure for each and every one of you.

In faith, with a sincere and abiding wish for your highest good,

Paula

Rev. Dr. Paula R. Cannon Gable
Interim Minister



** With help from Liz Roper and her RE team, Congregation members created our dream of First Unitarian at the January 15th service.

Religious Exploration (RE)

~ Liz Roper



RE Visioning with Consultant - January 21, 9 a.m.-1 p.m.

Get your tickets here –
www.eventbrite.com/e/re-visioning-with-consultant-tickets-31092633905

We have limited space, childcare to organize, and lunch to prepare, so we need your RSVPs asap!

Our Religious Exploration program is one of the keystones for growth, sustainability and diversity in our congregation. As times change, our needs change and our programs change. Our re-visioning is where we start, with what our shared vision is for our future as a congregation and our future as an RE program. We have invited an expert in the field as our consultant to guide us in this process. All members and attendees of the congregation are invited to come and support this process.

Re-visioning Session Structure

We will start with an “appreciative inquiry” process: looking at what has worked well, what keeps families attending, what keeps the congregation supporting the program.

We will then move on to what we want for the future: what we want our children to be learning, what changes to make in program structure, and which kind of major components we wish to see (e.g. worship, coming of age, OWL etc.).

Afterwards, we will have a shared lunch with participants in the Truth Healing and Reconciliation workshop that is meeting in the afternoon, 1:30-4 p.m.

What happens next?

The staff, RE team, board members, and key interested parties from elsewhere in the congregation will be working together before and after this meeting to put the

congregation’s mission and vision into an action plan. This action plan will then be presented to the congregation for us all to enact together.

Session Leaders

Kim Mason - our invited consultant.

Kim is a credentialed religious educator and trained RE interim with ten years of congregational experience and five years as district staff. She has worked with a variety of congregations, lead trainings as a UUA facilitator, directed visioning processes for district committees and guided congregations through the RE interim steps. She has worked with multiple congregations and a district board using the Policy Governance model and is very familiar with the creation of ends and the establishment of limitations (the foundations of Policy Governance).

Kim is currently enrolled in her first year of ministry training at Meadville Lombard Theological School, Chicago, and will be flying up to join us during a break in her intensive session this semester.

Liz Roper - Director of Lifespan Learning.

Liz has been with First Unitarian since August of 2015. She is a trained interim of religious education, with experience in different sizes of congregation and Unitarian organizations in different countries. She has completed training courses in pastoral care, UU identity, philosophy of RE, youth advising, and OWL. As a born Unitarian she has a lifetime of involvement including board positions, national delegation, senior leadership at Unitarian camps, national young adult presidency and conference organization, international peace involvement, and RE reform. Her background is in pastoral education and special needs inclusion in mainstream programming.

...continued on p. 6

Religious Exploration cont...

Sunday Morning Staff

We are happy to announce that we now have two staff members for Sunday morning support!

Marie Gabe - our dedicated Lifespan Learning Assistant

Marie has been working with us for many years and her behind-the-scenes support has been invaluable to our congregation. Now we get to see her face on Sunday mornings too! Marie has a background in Waldorf education and was the Director of Religious Education at the Unitarian Fellowship in Ottawa. We are lucky to have her to share her skills with us in our classrooms and in worship.



Marie Gabe helping tell the story at the Jan 15th Service

Karmen Walther - our new Classroom Assistant

Karmen is a mature Early Childhood Education student who has had connections with our congregation for many years, starting with our youth OWL program, as a participant! She will be concentrating on our early years classes and supporting our children and volunteer leaders on Sunday mornings. She is compassionate, patient, and intuitive, and a wonderful addition to our staff team.

Contemplation Room!

As you may have noticed, Room 1 is having a makeover; we are creating a contemplation space. This space will be for individuals to take some time in peace or for groups who wish to book a curated contemplation space.

The room will be cozy and calm, with meditation resources and different sensory stimulants to bring us back into our physical bodies. This is also a great practice for children who can be overstimulated during group activities, a space where they can compose themselves and return to our group when they are ready. The space is based on a sensory room design that Liz created in her previous position in the Special Needs department of a mainstream high school - great for stress reduction, quiet conversation, or deep contemplation. Please come by and sit a while.

We will be slowly creating a resource library for members. If you would like to see this grow, please speak with the office about making a donation to Lifespan Learning or speak with Liz about other ways to help.

Congregational Night

We are launching a congregational night at First Unitarian Ottawa! This will be another day of the week when we can share fellowship while pursuing further spiritual growth, social justice, and lifelong learning. Keep your eyes peeled for the official start date in the E-UU!

The evening will start with a shared meal where everyone from our youngest members to our eldest can break bread together and get to know one another. From there we will split up to pursue our own program choice, or be cared for by childcare workers.

We will have different programs to choose from so that every member of a family can join in our congregation at the same time. We will offer courses for newcomers, for those looking to deepen their understanding, and for those looking to serve within our community.

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Religious Exploration cont...

Congregational Night Schedule

Shared Fellowship Meal - 5:30-6:30 p.m.

Programming and Childcare - 6:30-8:30 p.m.

The kind of programs we run may be as follows:

Week 1	Week 2	Week 3	Week 4
UU writers group	Build Your Own Theology	UU writers group	Build Your Own Theology
Intro to UU	Mapmaking	Mapmaking	Mapmaking
Spiritual Parenting	Discovery Circles	Spiritual Parenting	Discovery Circles
OWL grades 4-6	OWL grades 4-6	OWL grades 4-6	OWL grades 4-6
UN Indigenous Rights Workshop	Holtom Lecture	UN Indigenous Rights Workshop	Gender Equality Panel
RE team	Adult Learning	Board	Worship Team

Colour Key

	Newcomers
	Social Justice
	Leadership
	Lifelong Learning
	Spirituality and Small Group Ministry

We anticipate that there will be months when a lot is going on and months when people will have an opportunity just to come together in fellowship and attend a low-key course, or sit in our new contemplation room to ponder. The flow of the year and what kind of courses are offered is really up to the shared vision of the congregation so please let us know what is important to you in your spiritual community and development.

Of course, as with everything at First Unitarian, this cannot happen without your commitment! We are looking for people committed to lifelong learning, social justice, multigenerational community, and diversifying our community to serve and lend their skills to this effort. We will be working on rotation and short-term commitments to ensure everyone is able to benefit from the programming provided, while still having the resources to run the programs.

Catering - Do you love to cook or organize other chefs?

Hospitality - Do you have a passion for people, and are not afraid of a dishwasher?

Facilitators - Do you have skills in leadership and encouraging others to reach their potential?

Children's leaders - Do you have energy, enthusiasm, and patience?

If you have any skills that you would like to share, please get in touch.

Contact: Liz Roper at DLL@firstunitarianottawa.ca

~Liz Roper, Director of Lifespan Learning

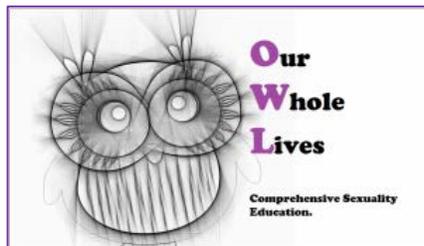
Our Whole Lives (OWL) program

The Values of Lifelong Sexuality Education

Throughout our whole lives, we exist in this world, growing and changing and inter-relating as sexual beings. From birth to death, gender, sexuality and relationships define our human experience. And yet, when describing Our Whole Lives (OWL), the comprehensive sexuality education curriculum regularly offered at First Unitarian, to new people, they are often surprised that there might be new things to learn through all the stages of growing up, from kindergarten to adulthood.

Often it is the Adult OWL that gets the most questions.

Haven't we already gone through sex ed in high school? I'm already a mother of three, I think I know how babies get made. But the value of Our Whole Lives' approach to education is that it is based on age-appropriate information. When you are in kindergarten you learn about how babies are made; when you are approaching age 12, you learn about feelings and changes that come with puberty, through junior high and high school you learn more and more about navigating your emerging identity, values, and relationships. By the time you get to adulthood, you are probably pretty prepared to handle a budding teenage romance.



But what about what comes next? Have you thought about navigating aging and relationships? How to approach new, adult partners about sexual consent and preferences? Have you done any self-reflecting on the role that sexuality plays in your life as a parent, or a grandparent?

OWL is a comprehensive sexuality education curriculum that centres on our Unitarian Universalist values and principles. Our trained facilitators work to introduce children, youth, and adults to age-appropriate information about sexuality and identity within a caring community environment that fosters trust, compassion, and self-esteem. We strive to offer this programming to all at First Unitarian, as one way we foster education, understanding, and respect for all.

Children learn about “normal behaviour” by observing the adults in their lives. As adults, are we always conscious of our behaviour and the messages we send about sexuality through physical touch, or gendered language and

expectations? At our best, we demonstrate that everyone deserves respect, healthy relationships are paramount, and that we each bear responsibility for our choices. These are values that we all want to foster. By maintaining this program at church, we offer a place where kids can go deeper into the exploration of their identities in a safe and caring environment. We answer questions honestly, and strive to serve the needs of all participants. We acknowledge that learning is a lifelong journey that does not end at age 18, that experience does not always equal understanding, and that self-discovery is a valuable exercise for all.

If you are curious about OWL offerings at First Unitarian over the coming months, if you are engaged and interested in the idea of joining our team of trained facilitators, or if you would like to find out more about the program, the OWL team invites you to attend a **General Information Session on Sunday February 19, in Room 5 at 12 p.m.**

Come and find out more about what we might offer you or your loved ones, and find support in navigating this world as a sexual being.

See also:

www.firstunitarianottawa.ca/owl

~Sarah Baxter

Our Whole Lives (OWL) Program cont...

OWL Team at First Unitarian Congregation of Ottawa:

Sarah Dewar (OWL Director) sarah.dewar@gmail.com

Sarah Baxter (Elementary OWL) dontpanick@gmail.com

Lena Talback (Jr. High OWL) silver1234@outlook.com

Lauren Delrio (Sr. High OWL) lauren.i.delrio@gmail.com

Note: *If you have previously been trained in facilitating OWL or would like to get trained, please contact Sarah Dewar,*



Our OWL K-1 class getting into a demonstration of where babies grow in the uterus, and how they are born.

sarah.dewar@gmail.com

OWL Grades 4-6

OWL for 9-11 year olds is an 8-session program for learning about and discussing the physical and emotional changes of puberty. Participants will read “It’s Perfectly Normal” by Robie H. Harris, and examine topics such as values and sexuality, communication, and decision making. This session will run on Tuesday evenings, 6:30-7:30 p.m. between February and April. Parents are invited to attend an info session on January 22 after the service in Room 15 if you are considering signing up, or have any questions about the program. Ready to sign up or can’t make the info session?

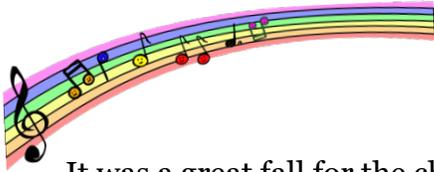
Contact: Sarah Baxter. dontpanick@gmail.com

Musical Interludes

–Deidre Kellerman



Music News!



It was a great fall for the choirs at First Unitarian. We sang our Winter Concert to a full house on December 10, which featured a new setting of “For So the Children Come” written specifically for us by Ontario composer Jeff Enns. Thank you to our audience for such positive feedback, to our volunteers for their help and, of course, to all the singers for their energy, talent and hard work!

Chalice Choir is always looking for new members. We welcome everyone, no matter your experience. Check in with me to see which choir may be the best fit for you.

Christmas Choir

A big thank-you to everyone who participated in our Christmas Choir for the 7:30 Christmas Eve service! It was great to see so many faces, both new and familiar. Keep your eyes out for a new version of this program next December.

Song Circle

Come join us in our monthly Song Circle, from 4-5 p.m. on the last Saturday of each month. Lyrics will be provided and include favourites from many eras and genres. Have a favourite you’d like to sing? Put it in the suggestion box on the music bulletin board. This is a musical activity for all ages and all abilities ... come one, come all, and SING!

Saturday January 28
Saturday February 25
Saturday March 25
None in April
Saturday May 27

Calling all instrumentalists

Interested in music but choir isn’t your thing? We would still love to have you participate! Whether you can tinkle the ivories, strum a tune on guitar or play a mean set of spoons, if you’d like to share your music, let me know! We are also looking for drummers (or those interested in trying it out) to play our djembe - either with the choir, or during a hymn. If you can clap your hands and count to four, you can play the drum!

Looking forward to making music together throughout 2017!

Yours in song,
Deidre Kellerman
music@firstunitarianottawa.ca



Staff News

Here are some images of what we've been up to in the office and around the building, both professionally and for fun...

Honouring our Covenanting: This past fall we created a staff covenant, which now hangs in the main office...

First Unitarian Congregation of Ottawa Staff Covenant

We strive to create a workplace that has a welcoming environment in which we do good work and enjoy ourselves.

We encourage direct communication and collaboration.

We cultivate a playful spirit that allows for the flow of new ideas, vibrancy and creativity.

We respect the expertise that Staff members bring to their work and actively seek each other's input and guidance when appropriate.

We ask one another for help and support when needed and we support each other in fulfilling our varied responsibilities in positive ways.

We commit to learning and celebrating our differences while working together to realize the values-based vision of FUCO and of Unitarian Universalism.

We respect boundaries and act in ways that show high regard and appreciation of one another.

We take our work, but not ourselves, (too) seriously.



Our Annual Christmas Party!



In early December some of us participated in a Xmas cookie exchange...



Overview of Search Process for our next Settled Minister

This overview is based on a start date for a new settled minister in the August-September 2018 time frame, which assumes two years of interim ministry since Rev. John Marsh's departure. Our regional Transitions Coach will be Jeff Donahue, a member of the UU congregation in Binghamton, New York. If you have any questions or comments on this process, please contact Maury Prevost at: mmprevost@sympatico.ca

Timeline and key activities:

January-February 2017	Board, Transition Team, and Nominating Committee develop Search Committee selection process
February 25 & 26, 2017	First visit by Transitions Coach Jeff Donahue
Feb. to mid-April 2017	Identification and selection of Search Committee candidates (process TBD)
April 30, 2017	Election of Search Committee (SC) by congregation at Annual General Meeting
May-September 2017	SC forms, organizes, meets with Transitions Coach, starts collecting information from congregation, starts compiling information packet
May-October 2017	Congregation provides input to SC, e.g. in meetings and through a survey (these and other means TBD)
June 2017	Board appoints a negotiating team to work on compensation package and draft agreement for next Settled Minister
July-October 2017	Negotiating team completes the above
October-November 2017	SC finalizes Application for Minister, Congregational Record, and information packet
November 30, 2017	Deadline for Application and Congregational Record
2018	
January 2, 2018	Names of interested candidates become available to SC
January to early February 2018	SC contacts candidates, exchanges information with candidates of interest, conducts phone interviews, starts contacting references, and selects 3-4 pre-candidates
February-March 2018	Pre-candidating weekends, including neutral pulpits
March 30, 2018 at 12 noon Eastern	SC makes contingent offer to first choice candidate
April 2018	SC conducts background check and interviews further references
April 2018	Negotiating team concludes contingent ministerial agreement, including compensation
April 2018	Board announces candidacy to congregation, after completion of above steps
April-May 2018	Candidating week and congregational vote on candidate

Meet a Member: Bette Stern



The second in a series of short biographies of congregation members, a project initiated by Isabel Burrows.

Bette goes to bed at midnight and gets up at 7 a.m. every day; she always sleeps well. Despite being 95 years old, she is full of energy, has no aches or pains anywhere and has a near-perfect memory of the past.

She was born on October 19, 1921 in New Haven, New York. After graduating from high

school at 16, 8th out of a class of 238, she went to business school in Syracuse, NY and was living there when the Second World War broke out. She worked for the Women's Army Corps (WAC) during the war, and during this time she became engaged to an engineering student, Robert Hansen, an army private. He was posted to Germany and didn't return until 1946. He broke off the engagement because he found Bette too "la-de-da". (Maybe because she had picked out a snake-skin purse as a Christmas present? Bette wondered.) Nevertheless, they corresponded for years afterward.

Sometime later, Bette moved to New York; she loved New York. She found work in a clothing company and then in a photographic studio. When models failed to appear, Bette took their place. One day she went to a local swimming pool and there met her husband, Seymour Stern, a writer and film critic. They later moved to Los

Angeles where they lived for 18 years, joined the Unitarian church and had three children.

They left the US during the Vietnam War to avoid their eldest son being drafted into the army, and settled in Ottawa. Bette became a member of First Unitarian, worked for the government, went back to school and, at the age of 70, received her BA. For years she was active in the church working for many groups including the Peace Group, Caring Committee, Social Action, and UU Women's Federation.

Bette has been to China, most of Europe, Cuba, Costa Rica, Ecuador and the Galapagos. She loves to travel more than anything else in the world.

"I'm not much of a housewife," she admits.

Thanks to our Spiritual Care leader, Ellen Bell, Bette can still attend church regularly.

~Interview and write-up by Margaret Zielinski

2017 Parkway Spire Schedule

For your reference, listed below are the 2017 submission deadlines and publication schedule. The next deadline can also be found on the front page of each issue of the Spire, and in the monthly calendar on our congregational website; go to www.firstunitarianottawa.ca/ and click on Calendar.

Issue	Deadline	Publication
March/April	February 13	March 1
May/June	April 15	May 1
July/August	June 17	July 1
September/October	August 19	Sept 5 (after Labour Day)
November/December	October 14	November 1

Another Successful Fall Fair in 2016

Happily, and with gratitude to all the volunteers and donors, we can report another successful Fall Fair. Our goals of building community, supporting the budget, and sharing our left-over donations were all well met in true Unitarian spirit.

The net revenue will contribute about 9% of the church budget, or about one staff salary. Although down about 5% from last year, over a 4-year period, we continue to meet average total figures, albeit within that period there are upward and downward trends. It is noteworthy that while expenses run about 6%, this doesn't take into account the effort of the 300 volunteers that make the Fair run.

The core group, whose work affects all aspects of the Fair, started a couple of months in advance to ensure it all ran smoothly:

- **Ron Wilson**, Site Management (e.g. set-up of the church)
- **Katherine Gunn**, Site Services, (e.g. waste management and dispersal of left-overs)
- **Margot Clarke**, Volunteer Coordination (filling the position on a temporary basis she thought!)
- **Cleber Figueiredo**, Communications, and
- **Bob Armstrong**, Finance
- **Paula Theetge**, Finer Goods,
- **Gwen Harmen**, Bits, Bytes & Books
- **Kate Kirkwood**, Food.

Special thanks go to those who took on new leadership roles: **Gay Stinson**, **Susan Tanner** and **Theresa Kot-Brander** in the three areas of Women's Clothes; **Joan Auden** in Gift Shop, **Cleber**

Figueiredo in Communications, **Katrin Nagelschmitz** in the International Café.

But thanks to *all* the convenors who have their booths running like well-oiled machines and still make sure everyone has fun. It is such a wonderful time of getting to know each other better and appreciating our fellow church members.

We also must say an appreciative farewell to **Ron Wilson**, our Site Manager for the past 10 years. His ability to three-dimensionalize our space and turn it into a bazaar has been invaluable. His creative solutions to individual room problems and his generous contributions have made him the friendly Father of the Fair. At the same time, we gratefully recognize the courage of **Mike Fletcher** in stepping up to fill the gap for future years!

There wouldn't be a Fair of course without donations of still valuable goods, so thanks to all the donors! Overall, the impression is that there was slightly less volume but good quality coming in, resulting in less having to go to other charitable organizations.

Where necessary, some items go to Value Village but points are collected allowing purchase of articles needed for the Fair or elsewhere in the church.



Another Successful Fall Fair cont...

Donations of food, coffee and other Fair supplies, which also contribute to the bottom line, included:

- Food for volunteers through the week
- **Bridgehead coffee** for the long line of early buyers
- International café food from **Mia's Restaurant** (Indian food), **Montha McGinnis** of the Siam Bistro (Pad Thai), **Shree Kumar family** (momos), **Joan Auden and Ed Cuyllits** (Mediterranean), **Karl Nagelschmitz** (German).

The Fair is also a time to share Unitarian values and principles with the outside community. This year we set up a Communications & Outreach tent so the buyers waiting in line could learn more about the church & what we do. And many volunteers who are not members of First Unitarian love to join the spirit of our Fair.

When will Fall Fair be at First Unitarian in 2017? In order to avoid conflicting with Remembrance Day, Saturday November 11, the Fair will be on **November 18**.

~Sherri Watson

It takes a beloved community



And a huge **THANK YOU** to **SHERRI WATSON**, the Fall Fair Coordinator!!



Communications & Outreach Committee Report

Progress to date and plans for 2017

The Communications & Outreach Committee has primarily been concentrating on internal communications, but we have done a few things which will eventually lead to an outreach program as well.

1. Organizational Matters:

A Committee Charter was created and approved; a draft Discussion Framework was prepared; and a communications client list was initiated to identify those potentially needing communications assistance. We distributed a survey to various groups and we prepared a summary report.

2. Focus Group: This was held last spring and resulted in insights from participants on what communications improvements were needed.

3. Stewardship Program:

We provided assistance to the Stewardship Committee in revising their pamphlet and letter for the annual fundraising campaign. Since this is now a year-long campaign, work continues on a method to visibly portray the financial progress.

4. Banners: We produced two banners presenting Unitarian principles and

sources for display in Worship Hall which have been well received.

Additional banners may be considered in the future.

5. Twitter: Committee member Rozanne Lepine posts regular tweets—both original and re-tweets. @UUOttawa now has approximately 275 followers and is following approximately 1000 fellow tweeters. A formal strategy on what should be posted is under consideration.

6. Facebook: Jen Brennan and Liz Roper are currently the prime posters to Facebook. A strategy for the use of our Facebook pages and its interworking with the McArthur Road fellowship is underway.

7. The E-UU Bulletin continues to be a primary method of communication with the congregation. It is issued weekly on Fridays from the office.

8. Congregational Website: A new web design should take place in 2017. If you have any expertise in this area, know anyone who does, or have any ideas as to how to accomplish this at minimal cost, please let the committee know.

9. Media relations and advertising: Committee member Terry Kimmel has taken on the task of heading up media relations and advertising. He has

produced a preliminary list of media contacts for future use.

10. Print publications:

An inventory of print publications is being developed to determine their value, the sponsoring client, and their audience in preparation for a rewrite and reformatting of each one, and/or amalgamation into a larger group brochure.

11. Publicity: Committee members attended the Fall Fair to raise the profile of the congregation. They set up a tent in a strategic location and used it to distribute souvenir buttons, and to do outreach with Fall Fair attendees.

12. Consultation: A consulting firm (Fifty Strategy and Creative) has been engaged to develop a new brand and an accompanying branding strategy. Four focus groups are being formed to participate in this activity.

13. Recruitment: The Committee needs more members, especially with specific skills such as: web site design, social media, blogging, etc.

Information: If you have questions, comments, or an interest in joining the Committee, please contact Chris at chris@thehughes.com.

~Chris Hughes, Chair



Upcoming Events Celebrating 50 Years at Cleary Avenue!



An Evening with Tony Turner
Friday, February 10, 2017 - 7:30 pm
Where: Fellowship Hall, First Unitarian Congregation of Ottawa
Who: All are invited to join Tony in this musical "kick-off" to 50 years on Cleary Ave.

What: In celebration of First Unitarian Congregation's 50th anniversary at our award-winning building, our first scheduled event of the year features our own Tony Turner, accompanied by two other musicians. Tony's trio will entertain us with a concert of Tony's original music, selections from his three critically acclaimed CDs, as well as a few surprises. Tony is an award-winning songwriter, articulating songs that channel the ties that bind and the spirit of the times.
Admission: Suggested donation is \$5.00. Refreshments will be served during intermission

Please note: Childcare will be provided for this event for children of the congregation. Parents must indicate their childcare requirements by responding before February 1, to Kathy Yach, cityviewky@rogers.com

A Steinway Celebration
Saturday March 4, 2017 - 7:30 p.m., Worship Hall. This professional-level concert includes emerging pianists in the area.

50th Anniversary Celebratory Dinner
Saturday April 22, 2017 - 5:30 p.m., Fellowship Hall. Plan to reunite with past and current friends as we gather together for this multi-generational potluck dinner, where you will have a chance to reconnect with some special guests. You won't want to miss it!

Multi-sensory 50th Anniversary Service
Sunday April 23, 2017 - 10:30 a.m., Worship Hall
Greatest Hits: A Choir Concert Celebrating 50 Years at Cleary
Sat. May 6, 2017 - 7:30 p.m., Worship Hall

Open House: An Afternoon Celebrating 50 Years at Cleary
Sunday June 11, 2017 - 12:00-4:00 p.m., 30 Cleary Ave.

Members and guests are invited to drop in for displays, tours, activities, and refreshments. The focus is on significant contributions the congregation has made over the last 50 years.

STAY TUNED...

A Steinway Celebration

An evening of classical piano celebrating the 10th anniversary of our beloved Steinway

Saturday March 4th at 7:30

Greatest Hits: A Choir Concert Celebrating 50 Years at Cleary Ave

Saturday May 6th at 7:00

Social Responsibility Council

SRC Calendar

January

Friday, January 20, 9:30 a.m. - Social Responsibility Steering Committee

Sunday, January 22, 12:30 p.m. - Environmental Working Group

Sunday, January 29, 12:30 p.m. - Social Responsibility Council, with all Working Groups

February

Saturday, February 11 - Unitarian GoGos' African Party

Thursday, February 16 1:30 p.m. - Unitarian GoGos

Friday, February 17, 9:30 a.m. - Social Responsibility Steering Committee



SRC ANNOUNCEMENTS

Fair Trade Sales on Sundays

The Global Justice Working Group will sell Fair Trade products (coffee, chocolate, Zatoun olive oil and za'atar spice) on Sunday February 12, in Fellowship Hall before and after the service. These products are not only Fair Trade, but are produced in a co-operative of small farmers so that the profits stay in the small communities.

UN Working Group Meetings

First Sunday of each month in Room 6, 12:30 p.m.

Holtom 2017 Lecture Tuesday March 7, 7:00 pm.

Irvin Waller

“Eliminating Violence in our Homes and on our Streets: an achievable peace for Canada?”

A long-time member of First Unitarian, Dr. Irvin Waller, will deliver our next Holtom Peace Lecture. Casual reading of our news media might suggest crime is increasing and intractable. Irvin has won international recognition for his work as the founding Executive Director of the International Centre for the Prevention of Crime, affiliated with the UN. Irvin travels the world to advise and consult with UN agencies and national governments on evidence-based methods of crime prevention. Lecture followed by refreshments and discussion.

Information: Mary Duncan, 613-286-8801, meduncan@sympatico.ca

**UU-United Nations Office (UNO) Spring Seminar
New York City,
Thursday to Saturday,
April 6–8, 2017
Theme: “Arm in Arm:
Interfaith Action to
Disarm Our Planet”**



Participants will consider interfaith engagement with issues such as:

- Reducing gun violence and the proliferation of small arms;
- Nuclear disarmament and the abolition of other weapons of mass destruction;
- Use of unmanned drones;
- Strengthening global peace and security;
- Racial implications and consequences of armed violence.

More info:

www.uua.org/international/events/seminar, and www.facebook.com/events/1004334049696301.

Register by January 23 to save on the registration fee; registration closes Feb. 27.

Note: The seminar is multigenerational and open to adults and youth over 14 years of age.

Social Responsibility Council

Multi-faith Housing Initiative (MHI)

First Unitarian is a member of the Multi-faith Housing Initiative in Ottawa, which works to provide affordable housing for those facing or at risk of facing homelessness. MHI's latest project is The Haven, a 98-unit mix of low-rise apartments and townhouses in Barrhaven. The Poverty Awareness Working Group encourages you to make a unique birthday, anniversary or special event gift to MHI towards the \$500,000 capital campaign for The Haven. An alternative is to pledge over three years. Details are on the Social Responsibility bulletin board in Fellowship Hall, and each Sunday at the Social Responsibility table.

Information:

Marilyn Prevost,
mmprevost@sympatico.ca

~From the Poverty Awareness Working Group

Books on Indigenous issues *Now in the First Unitarian Library in the Lounge:*

1. *What we have learned: Principles of Truth and Reconciliation*, Murray Sinclair, Chief Wilton Littlechild, Dr. Marie Wilson. 2015.
2. *From Truth to Reconciliation: Transforming the legacy of Residential Schools*. Castellano et al. 2008, Aboriginal Healing Foundation.
3. *Reclaiming Connections: Understanding Residential School trauma among Aboriginal Peoples— A Resource Manual*. Deborah Chansonneuve, 2005. Aboriginal Healing Foundation.
4. *Les survivants s'expriment*. 2015. Commission de vérité et réconciliation du Canada. *Commission de vérité et réconciliation du Canada:*

- Appels a l'action*. 2012. 260 pp.
5. *Commission de vérité et réconciliation du Canada: Appels a l'action*. 2012. 13 pp.
 6. *The Inconvenient Indian: A curious account of Native People in North America*. Thomas King, 2012.
 7. *Dancing with a Ghost*, Rupert Ross. 1992.
 8. *The Comeback*, John Raulston Saul. 2014.
 9. *UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples*. 2007.
 10. *Nation to Nation: Aboriginal Sovereignty and the Future of Canada*, Bird et al. 2002
 11. *North Boys: The story of Jimmy and Charlie*, Lucy van Oldenbarneveld and Laura Cabott. Video, 2012.
 12. *Readings in Aboriginal Studies, Vol.5: Aboriginal People and Canadian Law*, Isaac et al. 1996.
 13. *Indian Legends of Canada*, Ella Elizabeth Clark. 1960.
 14. *Seen but Not Heard: Native People in the Inner City*, Carol La Prairie, Dept. Of Justice of Canada. 1994.
 15. *Skyscrapers Hide the Heavens: A history of Indian-White relations in Canada*, J.R. Miller. 1989.
 16. *Hidden in Plain sight: Contributions of Aboriginal peoples to Canadian identity*. Newhouse et al. 2005.
 17. *Indigenous nationhood: Empowering grassroots citizens*, Pamela Palmeter. 2015.

Msinapkigin kakiosotc kadek wedi kiji makowendemik awedi migwam nitam
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"This plaque is placed here to publicly acknowledge that the building of
the First Unitarian Congregation of Ottawa is located on
traditional and unceded Algonquin Territory. January 8, 2017."

"Cette plaque vise à reconnaître publiquement que le bâtiment de
la First Unitarian Congregation of Ottawa est situé sur le territoire
traditionnel et non cédé des Algonquins. le 8 janvier 2017."

Social Responsibility Council

Syrian Newcomers Two more Families have arrived!

We are delighted to report that two of the community groups with whom we have Memoranda of Understanding to sponsor Syrians have welcomed families to Canada!

On November 21, 2016, *SalamOttawa* welcomed the Abdulrahman family (parents and two children). They settled into their permanent home in early January, after temporarily staying with one of the group members.

Then just two days later, *Ottawa Welcomes* gave a warm welcome to the Alkarad family (parents, grandparents and one child). The father, Mohammed Alkrad was a champion wrestler in Syria. While living in a Jordan refugee camp, he built a training program that welcomed 25,000 children in the past four years.

He is now connected with the National Capital Wrestling Club. To find out more about him, see [Ottawa Welcomes](#) Facebook page.

Our third community partner, *Boat of Hope*, is waiting patiently but has not yet received any news about when

the family might arrive. Our fourth community partner is a family which needed help sponsoring their relatives, who arrived in Ottawa in September and are settling in well.

Meanwhile, we are almost at the end of First Unitarian's formal sponsorship period for the Al Aloush family (although many on the team will continue their strong ties of friendship) and we are working to ensure they are well-prepared to move forward in their settlement process in Year 2.

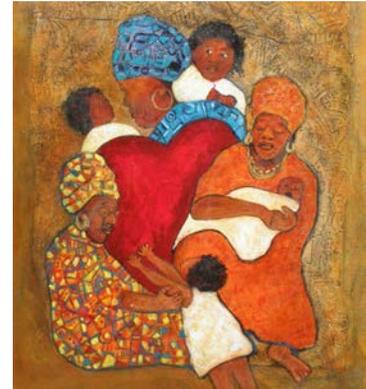
The second family sponsored by First Unitarian was introduced to the congregation on December 11, 2016. Both parents are studying hard to improve their English. They are expecting another child in February, and Nadeen hopes to continue her studies shortly after the baby is born. We expect the third First Unitarian family to arrive by next summer at the earliest.

To follow our activities you can check out our blog at:

<http://www.firstunitarianottawa.ca/refugee-info.html>

~Jan Andrews and Trisha Paul-Carson, Co-Chairs, Syrian Refugee Sub Group

Unitarian GoGos celebrate 10th birthday



This January 2017, the Unitarian GoGos celebrate their 10th birthday. After the International HIV/AIDS conference in Toronto in 2006, Canadian grandmothers vowed that they would not rest until African Grandmothers could rest. We and other Grannies groups raise awareness, educate about the HIV/AIDS pandemic in Africa, and raise funds for the Stephen Lewis Foundation (SLF) to address the needs of African grandmothers and children in 15 countries in Sub-Saharan Africa. Through the Foundation, we also help build solidarity among grandmothers across countries, religions and cultures to turn the tide of AIDS in Africa.

Unitarian GoGos, a Social Responsibility Working Group, meets monthly at First Unitarian. You are invited to attend on February 16 and beyond, and consider joining. Our membership is 25-30 women, mostly retired, many grandmothers. Yes, we bake and sell Granny squares after church monthly but you don't have to bake to belong.



Social Responsibility Council

Unitarian GoGos cont...

GoGos Party for Africa

On **Saturday, February 11**, we celebrate our 10th anniversary with our biggest annual fundraiser, complete with Sheila Green and her band; Three Rivers Singers; Silent Auction items from Africa; gift certificates from local restaurants; museums, etc.; plus appetizers, sweets and cash bar.

Please contact:

unitariangogos@gmail.com or Wendy Doyle, 613-824-7462 to attend. Attendance is by donation to the SLF.

Unitarian GoGos are delighted that the Ottawa-Gatineau Region Grandmother's Network will hold its Regional Gathering "Reflect, Rejoice and Rejuvenate" at First Unitarian, on Friday March 31.

This is the last of the regional Granny Gatherings at which Stephen Lewis and Ilana Landsberg-Lewis will speak across Canada, celebrating the 10th Anniversary of the Foundation. Several African grandmothers will attend this very special event.

Contact: Sheila Green, sgreen8954@hotmail.com for more information.

~Joan Turner, Chair

Canadian Unitarian Council–Rainbow Refuge Update *Lesbian refugee couple now Canadian citizens*

The two South Asian women who were sponsored in 2012 by the Canadian Unitarian Council (CUC), this congregation and Capital Rainbow Refuge (CRR) are now Canadian citizens. The delighted couple attended the early December ceremony accompanied by some of their CRR family members and were treated to brunch afterwards. They are both working, attending school, and doing well despite their demanding schedules.

In addition, the male couple sponsored two years later under the same CUC-CRR arrangement are also fine. One is a management trainee in a coffee company and his partner, who works for the same company, is preparing to attend university next year. This is amazing for two men who spoke very little English when they first arrived in Canada.

A single gay man that CRR also sponsored has moved to Toronto to work, but is still being supported by the group. CRR feels it is important that all our newcomers make their own decisions. CRR also keeps names and identifying information about our newcomers confidential because as LGBT people, they are never entirely out of danger, and like to make their own choices about how much information to reveal about themselves.

Under our sponsorship arrangement, the CUC signed the federal government's Sponsor Agreement Holder forms for the newcomers, and CRR took responsibility for their financial, healthcare, education, job searches, and social and other supports. And some members of this congregation, acting as individuals, have helped from time to time.

~Barbara Freeman,
CRR member



Announcements

Glebe/Centretown/Old Ottawa South Neighbourhood Group February

When: Sunday, February 19 at 7:30 pm.

What: "The 50th Anniversary of First Unitarian (at Cleary)" Cathy Yach and her 50th Anniversary Team

Where: 113 Sunnyside Ave., Ottawa.

Contact: Ann Denis at 613-730-0283

or adenis@uottawa.ca

All are welcome. Bring a small dessert (finger food) to share.



The Bridge Club

This club resumes play on Friday, January 20, 7:00-9:30 p.m. in Room 3.

Subsequent dates are February 24, March 24, April 21, and May 26. The format is multi-table rotational. Cost is \$5 per evening. New players of all levels welcome.

Contact: Marilyn or Maury Prevost, 613-231-7391, mmprevost@sympatico.ca

Friends of the Meditation Gardens

The Friends are holding their first planning meeting on **Sunday, February 5**, at 12:30 p.m. in Room 6. Please bring your own lunch or a potluck dish if you like.

We'll be looking back at our experiences in the gardens last summer and forward to improvements and initiatives for the coming gardening season. New members and ideas are welcome!

Contact: Alastaire, hendersalas@gmail.com 613-562-2253.



Unitarian Seniors Program

January

Anne Raina will speak about her book, *Clara's Rib*, the true story of her younger sister growing up in the Royal Ottawa Sanatorium with tuberculosis. Patricia Stockwell will lead the worship service.

When: Thursday, January 26.

Where: Worship/Fellowship Hall

Service: 1:00 p.m.

Program: 1:30 p.m.

Refreshments (\$3 or pay what you can): 2:30 p.m.

RSVP (if you are not on the phone list): Maureen Sly at 613-728-7610,

mmsly@rogers.com by Monday, January 23.

February

John Soar will speak about an English garden in winter. Ellen Bell will lead the worship service.

When: Tuesday, February 28

Where: Worship/Fellowship Hall

Service: 1:00 p.m.

Program: 1:30 p.m.

Refreshments (\$3 or pay what you can): 2:30 p.m.

RSVP (if you are not on the phone list): Maureen Sly at 613-728-7610,

mmsly@rogers.com by Saturday, February 25.

Note: Earphones available in Worship and Fellowship Halls. Service and program can be recorded on a CD (cost \$5) or be available as a broadcast from our website (free), provided permission for such has been given by the speaker(s).

Announcements

Environmental Award for EWG Chair, Mike Fletcher

Congrats to Mike on winning the City of Ottawa's **2016 Environmental Excellence Award** for his persistence and hard work in bringing more electric vehicle charging stations to Ottawa.



Way to go, Mike! Maybe one day soon, EV stations will be more common than gas stations.

UU Round Table Lunch

When: Third Friday of the month: January 20, February 17, March 17

Where: Mia's Restaurant, 917 Richmond Rd, 613-695-3333

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

Contact: Tudy McLaine, 613-745-8074 or Marjorie Daechsel, 613-596-1471, by the preceding Thursday evening to reserve a table.

Hospitality Hour

In 2016, 2 church groups volunteered to host a Hospitality Hour - the Poverty Awareness Group and the Go Go Grannies. It was much appreciated, giving our regular volunteers a break. The Voyageur Men's group volunteers twice a year to help out in the kitchen. Again kudos for their support. Thank you to members who have shown up to help on an ad hoc basis as well. Anyone in helping on a regular basis is most welcome.

Helping out with serving coffee at the north table or at the hatch after the service, can highlight a group or committee. Don't be shy to contact me if interested. Another way to help out is to drop off snack contributions to the kitchen- could be fruit and veggie trays, bought cookies and cakes or homemade items. Please identify them as for hospitality hour and who is donating them. Or send me an email or call to let me know items are dropped off. All donations of time and/or food are so appreciated.

~Tarrel Armstrong
Hospitality Hour coordinator





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Office Hours: Monday to Friday, 9:30 a.m. – 4:00 p.m., Sunday, 9:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m.

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For information on receiving the Spire via postal mail (cost \$12 per year), contact the office.

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