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Deadline for next Spire submissions:  
**June 17, 2017**



## In Memoriam

**Mary C. Simpson**, wife of the late John H. – Died March 15, 2017  
**Dorothy N. Wright**, wife of the late Whitman – Died March 21, 2017  
**Dan Alexander Morrison**, husband of Elisabeth – Died April 8, 2017  
**Gerry Taylor-Woelfert**, predeceased by Kenneth Taylor and Edward  
Woelfert – Died April 13, 2017  
**Cheryl Runnells**, wife of Vern Runnells – Died April 14, 2017  
**Frieda van Duffelen**, wife of the late Frank – Died April 15, 2017

## Caring Contacts

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# In the Interim

~ Rev. Dr. Paula Gable

## Leave-Taking

Shakespeare wrote *"Parting is such sweet sorrow."* Although he had deep insight into many matters, I disagree with the bard on this one. After serving as your Interim Minister since August of 2016, I will find it bittersweet (not sweet) to part with people I have come to care about deeply. Yet, an important part of interim ministry is leaving well: celebrating our shared accomplishments, acknowledging shortcomings, tying up "loose ends," saying thank you and farewell.

As I write my final missive to you, I do not yet know where my husband Mark, dog Millie and I will "land" once the mysterious process of Interim Ministry Placement is over. (We have found that Millie loves the snow and would like us to stay in the northern tier. We are certainly factoring her needs, as well as ours, into the decision. ☺) I liken the Interim Ministry Selection Process to a combination of on-line speed dating between congregations and Interim Ministers; an NFL draft system; musical chairs and a cosmic crap-shoot. It is a bizarre and sometimes stressful process that has been developed by the Unitarian Universalist Association over the decades. For all its quirks and limitations, it's the best one we've found to date – because it works.

I say parting will be bittersweet because although it will be hard to leave this beautiful city and congregation and its many "polite" people, Mark and I also look forward to a new adventure with another fine group of Unitarian Universalists.

I would like to leave you with some parting thoughts that I presented in Question and Answer form during the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary on Cleary Avenue celebration on April 23. And, what a glorious event it was!



**Q1. What is the most important thing you have learned in your ministry that you would like to share with children and youth?**

**Answer:** As often as possible, let Love guide your actions. This truth was reinforced for me by the quote I discovered shortly after the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Service:

*The most important motive for work in school and in life is pleasure in work, pleasure in its result, and the knowledge of the value of the result to the community.*

~Albert Einstein

**Q2. For you, what is the role of God in UU?**

**Answer:** For me, Christian scripture says it well: *"God is love and those who abide in God abide in love and love abides in them"* (1John 4:16). In fact, I wrote my first dissertation based on that quote. I believe that when we engage in service to others, we manifest love in action – one of the most sacred things we can ever do. As Mother Theresa once said, *"We can't all do great things, but we can all do small things with great love."* God is love and service is love in action.

## In the Interim cont...

**Q3. What was the “burning coal” or main focus of your ministry at First Unitarian Ottawa?**

**Answer:** The emphasis of my work at First U Ottawa was to help YOU find YOUR “burning coal.” From the Jewish wisdom tradition we learn, “Without a vision the people perish.” (Proverbs 29:18.) If I learned only one thing in my recent doctoral program in Executive Leadership and Organizational Development, that truth would be enough.

You MUST have a sense of where you want to go in order to get there. If you want to go north follow the North Star. You may not get there ... but you will certainly head in the right direction. So, I urge all of you to give serious thought to your vision for the future. It is challenging, exciting work. And, it will be among the most valuable things you can ever do to ensure the long-term viability of First Unitarian Ottawa. I also urge you to continue to deepen your work in covenanting and right relationships, because these are at the heart of our identity as Unitarians and UU’s.

The more mundane aspect of my work was almost invisible, yet nearly as important. This was to strengthen the “inner workings” of the congregation. All the stuff that most people consider boring: looking closely at FUCO’s mission, vision, values and goals; editing and writing policies and procedures – what I call an “Operations Manual” for my successor. This includes developing covenants and a process

for conflict resolution. I truly believe **We are Better Together** – especially when we are in right relationship with one another and work together to realize our shared vision. It’s simple – but it’s not always easy.

**Q4. What would you hope for FUCO in the future?**

**Answer:** To build on all the good work we started – and to enjoy the different experiences and perspectives that various ministers (lay and ordained) may bring. Continue to strengthen and grow this spiritual community as you work for justice and nurture right relationships between individuals, this congregation and the wider world. We can do much more when we act as a team committed to a shared vision. Far more than we can ever do as individuals with personal agendas, because, ultimately, when we work in harmony to realize shared goals, we are much better together.

Finally, I wish for you enough challenge and conflict to help you grow; enough peace and calm to allow much-needed time for deep breathing and reflection; and a great deal of love and joy along the way. You deserve the best in life, because you give so freely of yourselves to others. Make sure to include yourselves in your own circle of compassion.

I love and will miss you all,



Rev. Dr.<sup>2</sup> Paula R. Cannon Gable



# We're Better Together: Celebrating 50 Years of Kindling the Light Within Sunday Service, April 23, 2017



# Lifespan Learning~ *Liz Roper*



We have been working hard in the Lifespan Learning Program over the past few months, focusing on the Board's strategic priorities for this year, in particular:

- **Effective Governance:** Strengthen our governance structure and provide opportunities for congregation members to learn about and engage on policy governance.
- **Become an Intergenerational Congregation:** Work to build a true intergenerational congregation, where all from cradle to grave are valued and encouraged, and provided opportunities to engage together in the work and life of the congregation.
- **Offer Strong Programming:** Ensure that First Unitarian has the programming in place. This includes sustaining a rich music program; strengthening and enriching Lifespan Learning programs; and expanding spiritual growth programs, including small group ministry, to enrich the lives of members while encouraging newcomers to stay and grow with us.

- **Maximize impact of Social Responsibility programs:** Strengthen coordination of, and communication about, our social responsibility activities to increase congregational participation, with a special focus on truly intergenerational involvement to maximize and celebrate the impact of our activities.
- **Become more comfortable with various types of diversity:** Educate ourselves and others toward a better understanding of diverse identifications, including race, sexuality, gender, age and ability, with the hope of expanding our inclusivity to live out our principles more fully.

In children's Religious Exploration (RE), we started visioning sessions in January with a visioning consultant. Now the RE team is working to put our vision, mission, goals and objectives into place. Our team is working under a temporary charter to focus our energy and give us a place to start looking at our governance structure within Lifespan Learning. We have created a mission for the children's RE program based upon the wishes and vision of the congregation. Keep your eyes peeled for our goals and objectives for 2017-18!



## **Children's Religious Exploration Mission**

Guided by the Unitarian Universalist Principles and Sources, the RE program provides a safe, welcoming, and inclusive environment to learn, grow, and explore individual spirituality.

FIRST UNITARIAN CONGREGATION OF OTTAWA

## Lifespan Learning *cont...*

### **Our BIG “Thank You”!**

While we have been busy working on our future, we have had some fantastic volunteers in our classrooms providing excellent programming!

- ♥ In our 0-6 class, *Chalice Children*, we are led by **Marie Gabe, Karmen Walther, and Elizabeth Wright**. We are supported by **Jennifer Murakami, Corinne Lemay-Lafontaine, Glenn Nugent, and Janet Milroy**.
- ♥ In our 6-12 class, *Holydays and Holidays*, we are led and supported by **Caycee Price, Liz Roper, Carl Sonnen, Cleber Figueiredo, Alan Beatty, Arden Hody, Julia DeFalco, and Rob Echlin**.
- ♥ We have just restarted our youth group – thanks to our new youth co-ordinator – **Dale Brydon**! He is supported by **Amy Bérubé, John Harrison, Rob Echlin, and Brent Nicolle**.
- ♥ We have a fleet of angels who help on Sunday mornings – many people have flown forward to earn their wings. A special mention goes out to those who have made multiple commitments: **Jan Andrews, Sarah Baxter, Eva Berringer, Lindsay Beatty, Nancy Cloutier, Alastaire Henderson, and Maury Prevost**.

If you would like to see what we do and lend us a hand then take a look at our schedule:

<http://www.signupgenius.com/go/10c0a4eaaab28a4f85-sunday>

### ***Multigenerational community***

We are committed to building a multigenerational community here at First Unitarian of Ottawa. How many people in the congregation do you know by name? How many of them are under 18? How many of them have a difference of more than 20 years in age to you? We have more and more opportunities for you to spend time with all the members of our congregation and make connections.

### ***Multisensory Worship Services***

The main focus point of our faith gatherings is in Worship Hall on a Sunday morning. Thanks to a wonderful worship team, staff, and volunteers, we have enjoyed shared worship services where people of all generations can grasp a topic on different levels and discuss our shared faith. For example, with *Horton Hatches the Egg* – “What promises do you make, like Horton did on his egg?” – a child or adult can discuss this together. We are looking forward to having people of all ages celebrate with Ellen Bell on the occasion of her ordination as a Community Minister, on May 7!



# Lifespan Learning *cont...*

## **Congregational Night**

Our congregational night (Tuesdays) has been a great success, with a shared potluck meal where people can sit and share over food before they head off to their individual programs.

Song circle was a fantastically popular activity for all ages, a great kick-off to the season!

Social justice activities like Adult OWL classes, and Truth Healing and Reconciliation events (e.g. the blanket exercise) are reaching new crowds.

Storytellers from around Ottawa come to thrill us with their tales and also give us some tips on how to tell our own stories well.

For more information about what's yet to come, find us at:

[www.firstunitarianottawa.ca/night](http://www.firstunitarianottawa.ca/night)

## **Big "Thank You" go out to:**

- ♥ All the **staff and volunteers** who have come together to offer programming, fellowship and food!
- ♥ **Nancy Cloutier** for providing great food for our potlucks.
- ♥ **Francis Murphy, Alex Campbell, Joycelyn Loeffelholz-Rea, Phil Nagy, Anne Nagy, Bill Van Iterson, Katherine Gunn, and Jessica Loadenthal** for putting together, leading and supporting programming.
- ♥ All our **childcare providers** for looking after our children.

## **Adult Learning**

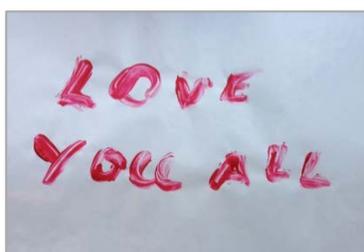
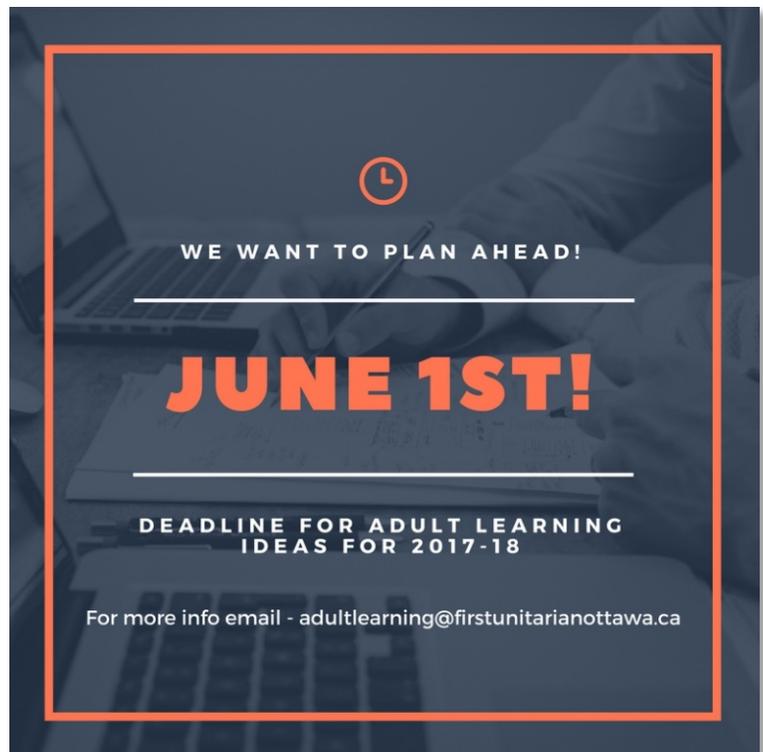
First Unitarian has so many fantastic ideas and passions that we want to start planning ahead so we can fit more of them in! The Adult Learning Team is going to be choosing the programming for the 2017-18 congregational year at its June meeting.

If you have an idea of a program you would like to offer, or help with, then please fill out one of our proposal forms (on the next page) and get it to us before June 1<sup>st</sup>.

For more details, please email:

[adultlearning@firstunitarianottawa.ca](mailto:adultlearning@firstunitarianottawa.ca)

~Liz Roper, Director of Lifespan Learning





## Lifespan Learning *cont...*

### PROPOSAL FORM FOR ADULT LEARNING EVENT

Name:

Phone:

Email:

Are you a member of the First Unitarian Congregation of Ottawa?

Yes      No

Name of Your Event:

Description of Your Event:

Do you anticipate a fee for participants?

Proposed Meeting Time:

Place:

Number of Sessions:

Number of Participants Expected:

This event is intended for:

How does this event relate to Unitarian Universalism?

Could this event be intergenerational?



# Music News ~Deidre Kellerman



There's nothing like singing to keep the cold of winter at bay! And that's exactly what our busy choristers have been doing, with a total of six hours of rehearsal a week between the three ensembles, plus lots of singing at Sunday services and our monthly Song Circles!

And now that spring is here, we have a big concert to share and a new program to get excited about.

### **Greatest Hits: A Choral Concert Celebrating 50 Years at Cleary Avenue**

Join us on **Saturday, May 6 from 7:00-9:00 pm** for an evening of our favourite songs from over the years. The concert will feature the Chalice Choir, Fusion, and the Three River Singers, as well as Tony Turner. Prepare to sing along! Admission is by donation.



### **Song Circle**

Our monthly Song Circle program is now a part of Congregational Nights! Join us on Tuesday May 30 for an hour of rousing singing. Lyric booklets are provided and feature protest songs, musical theatre tunes, Unitarian favourites and many more.

(Potluck starts at 5:30 pm, programs begin at 6:30 pm.)

### **NEW: Summer Choir**

Thursdays, 7:00-8:00 pm, May 25 to August 24  
**Note:** \*No rehearsals July 20 or 27\*

Sad that choir is almost done? Interested in singing but winter weather kept you away? Looking for a low-commitment way to participate in the music program? Our new Summer Choir is for you! From late May to August, we'll rehearse for an hour on Thursday evenings, preparing music for the following Sunday. No long-term commitment is required; if you want to sing on an occasional Sunday, just come to rehearsal the Thursday before.

There is a place for everyone to make music at First Unitarian! If you are a singer, a wanna-be singer, an instrumentalist, a drummer or a music enthusiast, chat with me to discuss how you can get involved in the music program.

Keep your eyes and ears out for more information about our regular choir start-up in September!

Yours in song,

~Deidre Kellerman, Music Director  
[music@firstunitarianottawa.ca](mailto:music@firstunitarianottawa.ca)



# *save the date*

Sunday May 7 2017, 10:30 am  
First Unitarian Congregation of Ottawa

## **ORDINATION OF ELLEN BELL**

The Board of Directors of both FUCO and The UU Fellowship of Ottawa voted unanimously, in accordance with congregational polity, to ordain Ellen Bell as a Community Minister during a joint ceremony at First Unitarian. All of the UU ministers in Ottawa will participate in this auspicious event.

The service will be similar to other Sunday morning worship services -- with the addition of a rousing Processional March, the Act of Ordination, a Laying on of Hands, and other time-honored traditions. Children will attend the beginning and end of the service and will meet in the Volunteer Room for child-friendly activities during the "adult" portion of this worship. We will host a light reception after the service.

This is an important event in the life of these congregations and we hope you can attend to affirm Ellen's long-time ministry and celebrate the realization of one of her biggest dreams.



# June Worship Services

## June 4

**Judgement – Why it's best left to others**

**Speaker: Guy Thatcher**

We all make snap judgements. It's a left-over vestige of the time when we evolved into humans 250,000 years ago on the African savannah. We needed to be able to determine quickly whether a stranger was a threat or not. We still make snap judgements, even though the threat is usually non-existent. Sometimes these judgements can be tragically wrong, as I learned while walking ancient pilgrimage trails in France and Spain.

Bio: Guy Thatcher walked ancient pilgrimage routes across France and Spain, hoping to discover the reason for the compulsion that drove him there. What he found instead was the timeless land of rural France and Spain; beauty, silence, mountains and plains, rain and relentless sun, snow in May; heartbreaking climbs, fatigue, and injury; friendly and welcoming people, new friendships; despair, transcendental joy, birth and death; and, churros con chocolate. He came away with a renewed belief in the remarkable goodness of ordinary people from all over the world as they shared an extraordinary journey.



## June 11

**Unitarian Meaning in our Lives**  
**Speaker: Doug Cousins**

Doug's sermon deals with the question of how to find meaning in our lives—from a Unitarian perspective.

Bio: Doug Cousins has been a Unitarian since October 6, 1984 (the day he married Valerie Lavoie Cousins, a lifelong Unitarian), and has been a member of this congregation since 1987. Doug has been active in church affairs over the past 30 years as a Board Member and as Chair or Co-Chair of many fundraising campaigns, including the successful "Raise the Roof" Campaign. Doug also co-chaired the task force which reaffirmed our church's commitment to the Our Whole Lives youth program.

## June 18

**Bringing Death back to Life**  
**Speakers: Jackie Holzman and Jim Nininger**

A community that recognizes that all natural cycles of sickness and health, birth and death, and love and loss occur every day within the surroundings of its institutions and regular activities – is a compassionate community. Its residents recognize that care for one another at times of crisis and loss is not a task solely for health and social services but is everyone's responsibility. Compassionate communities are inclusive of schools, workplaces, faith communities, art, literature, unions, etc.

## June 25

**Supporting Algonquin Land Defenders: Why it matters**  
**Speaker: Joan Kuyek**

Joan will talk about her involvement with Indigenous land and water defence, particularly in regard to mineral exploration and development, and about the role organizations like MiningWatch Canada play in supporting communities affected by mining.

Bio: Joan Kuyek has been a National Coordinator of MiningWatch Canada, a pan-Canadian coalition of environmental, labour, social justice and Aboriginal groups. She also has a long history as an adult educator and community development practitioner. She has worked for *The Church and the Economic Crisis Project* of the United Church of Canada and for the Sudbury Community Legal Clinic.



Photo: MiningWatch

## Library News

### Interested in the History of Unitarian Universalism in Ottawa and Canada?

There are three books on this subject that may be borrowed from our adult lending library in the Lounge—books relevant to the fact we are celebrating the 50th Anniversary of our congregation at 30 Cleary Avenue this year. All three have things to say about our congregation's history during the last 50 years. The library has several copies of each, which may be borrowed for four weeks and renewed (unless requested by someone else):

- *Looking Forward at the Past! A History of the Unitarian Congregation of Ottawa*, by Joycelyn Loeffelholz-Rea (a history of our congregation from 1898 to 1988);
- *So Far—So Good! A Chronology of 100 Years of Unitarianism in Ottawa*, by Jean M. Ahmed (a chronology of our congregation from 1898 to 1998);
- *Unitarians in Canada, Second Edition*, by Phillip Hewett (a history of Unitarian Universalism in Canada from about 1814 to 1995).

These books have things to say about the history of our congregation's 50 years at our present location, and can be found in the "Unitarian Universalism (History)" section of our library.

~Brian Cowan, Library Volunteer

## Not Just Young at Heart

*"Young adults are seeking community and meaning, though they may not be able to define their specific needs."*

If you've looked around on Sunday mornings, you know that our pews aren't as full as they used to be and that they contain, by far, more older adults than younger ones. Many other UU congregations are in the same situation. Yet the future of First Unitarian and our denomination clearly depends on attracting a younger demographic.

*What do we offer young adults now? And what are they looking for?* While we believe Unitarian Universalism has lots to offer all ages, we currently don't have specific programming for this age group. In fact, no staff or lay leaders have direct responsibility for addressing the needs of young adults.

A few years ago, young adults (roughly defined as 18 to 35) at First Unitarian created a group called the Noble Birds. They organized worship services, potlucks and social activities. With time, however, key people "aged out" or moved away. Or simply ran out of time and energy. Unfortunately, the group lost momentum and currently exists only as a Facebook group. Other congregations have seen a similar pattern: when young adult groups operate independently, without support from congregational leadership, they fail to create a sense of connection to the wider community.

Research shows that young adults:

- are a diverse group
- have busy and variable schedules that can make it hard to attend Sunday morning services
- are seeking community and meaning, though they may not be able to define their specific needs
- have many new ways of connecting, from online forums to quasi-religious social organizations

*How could we better welcome and integrate young adults?*

To come up with some answers, First Unitarian has joined with congregations across the country in a Canadian Unitarian Council (CUC)-led initiative on the topic. A small group, consisting of Carol Card, Sarah Baxter, Jenny Suurland, Agnes Davis and Chris Hughes, has been learning about the issues and will be working with a CUC mentor on concrete initiatives First Unitarian can take. As part of the process, a young adult "mystery shopper" will visit our congregation soon!

Please talk to us about this important project and engage with the young adults you see at church. If you are between 18 and 35 yourself, consider filling out the survey on the congregation's website ([www.firstunitarianottawa.ca/new-page.html](http://www.firstunitarianottawa.ca/new-page.html)) to let the CUC know about your experiences in Unitarian Universalism.

~Carol Card and Sarah Baxter

## Meet a Member: Katherine Gunn



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

Spending time with Katherine Gunn, to get a feeling of who she was to share with Spire readers, I was left with one impression...a "kaleidoscope", not a word usually used with respect to a person, but defined as

*a constantly changing group of bright and interesting objects (1971 Concise Oxford Dictionary).*

Growing up on a farm north of Toronto is responsible, she says, for her pragmatic problem-solving style. Her post-secondary education

was in geology, up to the post-graduate level, and she was employed at the Department of Energy, Mines and Resources. However, her path there did not follow a traditional route. She was singled out for various provincial and federal committees to explore what the computer held for the future in the earth sciences. She was in at the ground level of computer use. This is why, early on in her days with First Unitarian, she was a computer advisor to so many of our members.

Katherine retired early because she had so many other things to do:

- Move and remodel a 100-year-old house, sell it, and build a new one of her own design on the original lot.
- Belong to a motorcycle club after repairing the old lemon of a bike her brother gave her in a swap.
- Enjoy the power and speed of car racing.

At the same time, she kept busy hands in the quiet activity of a wide variety of crafts: beading, fibre arts, and knitting.

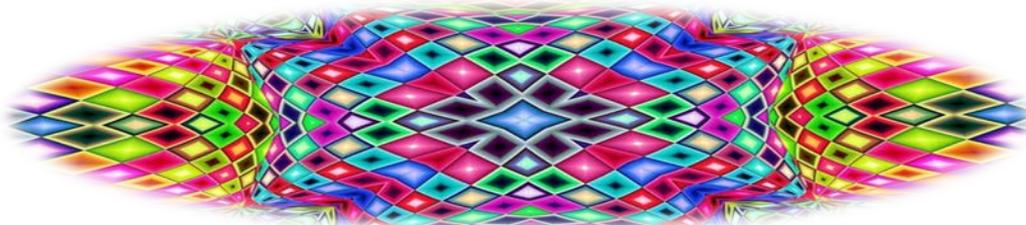
Along the way, in the mid-80s, the Lubicon First Nation of Alberta and their land rights issues as an Indigenous people grabbed her attention. She speaks of their plight as the hinge point of her past, current, and all-consuming concern with Indigenous issues. Now her focus is with the Minwaashin Aboriginal Women's Shelter, a project under First Unitarian's Poverty Awareness Working group.

How did she find her way to First Unitarian? Katherine saw a poster about a Women's Spirituality meeting. Intrigued, she attended, to learn that it coincided with a CUC meeting. Later the same evening, she came to May Revels under the direction of Michael Cass-Beggs and thought, "What a church!" She has been with us ever since and her commitment is history.

In her own words, Katherine sees our church as:

*a cohesive community of people holding many of the values I consider important, which includes being part of a community"*

~Marianne Wood



## Fall Fair in Spring?

***Even in spring, you can think of ways to contribute to the church's biggest fundraiser!***

***Donations:*** As you change over your seasonal clothes, look at the winter duds you didn't wear but that are still good, or the summer ones that are just no longer "you", and consider putting them aside. As you open/sell the cottage, are there good things appropriate for the Fair? Jewellery can be brought to the church office any time, as cleaning and repair is an ongoing operation. And remind your friends to save their good stuff for the Fair too. Storage will be available at the church after mid-October. Re-use is good environmentalism!

***Volunteering:*** Volunteers have the most fun at the Fair so mark your calendars for **Saturday, November 18** and the preceding week. We are especially looking for coordinators for food (thank you, **Kate Kirkwood**, for your past years of service!), clothing, a coordinator of communications, and a convenor for volunteer food.

***Publicity:*** It's never too early to advertise the Fair. People plan far ahead and they want to know when the Fair is. Now's a good time to let your friends and neighbours know.

Small notices are available at the information desk in the West Lobby for you to pick up and post in your condo or carry in your purse to distribute.

***Special Items:*** Walkie-talkies would be useful for the parking attendants, so please keep a look-out for any no longer used or that we might borrow. And if you have space to store items till November, we would be grateful.

***Contact:*** Sherri Watson, [smwatson@magma.ca](mailto:smwatson@magma.ca), for more information.



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## The Spire Team needs YOU!

***Do you have a talent for editing? Do you pay attention to detail?  
Are you a photography buff who attends our services and events?  
Do you have an hour or two to spare every couple of months?***

If you answered yes to any of these questions, we'd love talk to you about joining our publishing team. Please contact the Spire Team at [publications@firstunitarianottawa.ca](mailto:publications@firstunitarianottawa.ca)

## Announcements

### Friends of the Meditation Gardens

In May, watch for masses of red and white tulips to appear throughout the gardens, planted in celebration of Canada's 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary!

Our **Spring Potluck and Garden Clean-up** will be held on **Sunday, May 7**, at 12:30 p.m. in Room TBD. Please bring along some food to share and enjoy social time with gardeners excited about the new season. Newcomers are welcome!

**Contact:** Alastaire  
[hendersalas@gmail.com](mailto:hendersalas@gmail.com)  
613-562-2253

### Congregational Community-Shared Agriculture(CSA) delivery

From farmer Gord McGregor: "We won't be doing a CSA this year, but I would like to keep in touch because we may do a couple of deliveries later in the year, if folks are interested in what we are offering ... we are concentrating on garlic production and a few canning and storage crops. We will also continue to keep bees so there will be honey available, and organic beef, goat meat and pork for sale."

If you're interested and not on Gord's list (based on last year's CSA customers) you can contact him at [www.saffirefarms@gmail.com](http://www.saffirefarms@gmail.com)



### Glebe/Centretown/Old Ottawa South Neighbourhood Group

#### May

**Note:** *Exceptionally, the meeting will be held June 4, 2017*

**When and on what:** Sunday, June 4 at 7:30 pm. Maury Prevost will be talking about "What's happening at the CUC and what it means for our congregation".

**Where:** in the Courtyard Corner, Unitarian House, 20 Cleary, hosted by our members living in Unitarian House. Park at the church and enter by the door in the back corner of the Courtyard. All are welcome. Bring a small dessert (finger food) to share.

**Contact:** Helen McCuaig  
613-232-4777  
[nell.mccuaig@gmail.com](mailto:nell.mccuaig@gmail.com)

#### June

**When:** Sunday, June 18 at 6:00 pm. Our spring pot luck.

**Where:** #106, 7 Kippewa Drive, Ottawa

**Contact:** Rosemary Bonyun 613-563-0594

[rosemary\\_bonyun@sympatico.ca](mailto:rosemary_bonyun@sympatico.ca)

All are welcome – bring your contribution to our supper and ideas for our 2017-18 program. Whether you live in the neighbourhood or not, contact Ann Denis at [adenis@uottawa.ca](mailto:adenis@uottawa.ca) if you would like to be added to the group's e-mail list and receive notices of its activities. All are welcome. The group usually meets the third Sunday of the month (barring holidays or other scheduling conflicts). The group does not meet in July and August.

### Unitarian Seniors' Program

#### May

**Music at the Movies!** Join Deirdre Kellerman, Music Director, for themes and favourites from classic movies. From *The Wizard of Oz* to *Evergreen*, *The Godfather* to *My Fair Lady*, you'll hear some of the best movie music for voice and piano. Joycelyn Loeffelholz-Rea will lead the worship service.

**When:** Tuesday, May 30: **Service:** 1:00pm **Program:** 1:30pm

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

**Where:** Worship/Fellowship Hall  
**RSVP** (if you are not on the phone list): Maureen Sly, 613-728-7610, [mmsly@rogers.com](mailto:mmsly@rogers.com) by Saturday, May 27.

#### June

Beverlee McIntosh from the Funeral Co-operative of Ottawa will review the essential decisions around funeral planning and discuss a range of options for simple or traditional funerals and memorial services. Guy Thatcher will lead the worship service.

**When:** Wednesday, June 28

**Service:** 1:00pm **Program:**

1:30pm **Refreshments** (\$3 or pay what you can): 2:30pm

**Where:** Worship/Fellowship Hall  
**RSVP** (if you are not on the phone list): Maureen Sly, 613-728-7610, [mmsly@rogers.com](mailto:mmsly@rogers.com) by Sunday, June 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).*



## Thank you Merci Meegwetch

~ compiled by Alastaire Henderson



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

- ♥ A huge thank you to our custodial staff: **Lori Clarke, Kevin Quinn, Moe Harkat, Maryssa Rietchlin** and **Charles Pereira**, who have been assisting in making our Congregational Nights a success, and have been working hard to prepare our space for the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebrations.
- ♥ Kudos to **Bill Van Iterson** for organizing three presentations on the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous People. Our guest, Will David, was able to answer a variety of questions on the situation in Canada. This series was an outreach project of our Global Justice Working Group as the majority of attendees were from outside our congregation.
- ♥ The Unitarian GoGos give a big thank you to **everyone who eagerly buys** our Granny Squares and other baking once a month after church. Every bit of money we make really helps the Grandmothers and Orphans in Africa through the Stephen Lewis Foundation.
- ♥ Gentle Yoga, the Unitarian GoGos and other Adult Learning events thank **Paula Theetge** for the beautiful posters she makes for them.
- ♥ Appreciation to **Tarrel Armstrong** and **her small dedicated crew** for keeping us coffee'd, tea'd and cookie'd so faithfully every week.
- ♥ Kudos to all of the participants (up to 40 per session) in our first Truth, Healing and Reconciliation study, completed April 15. Special thanks to facilitators, **Linda Goonewardene, Paul McGinnis, Marlene Koehler**, and **Maury Prevost**, and to our Adult Learning Team and the CUC Truth, Healing and Reconciliation Reflection Guide Task Force for their support.
- ♥ Hearty thanks to the **Nominating Committee** for all of their hard work in nominating the Ministerial Search Committee, as well as Board directors, and officers for our April 30 AGM. Thanks also to everyone who expressed interest in serving on the Search Committee or Board of Directors.
- ♥ A big round of applause for the Search Team tasked with finding our second Interim Minister: **Bob Armstrong, Amy Bérubé, Sarah Dewar, Jane Lindsay, Jill Whitford** and **Phil Nagy**.
- ♥ The Aboriginal Women's Shelter project gives thanks for the constant and invaluable support of **Ian Gorman, Ron Wilson, Lori Snyder, Janet Standish, Linda Jones, Diane Ziegler** and others who help when they can, as well as our many regular donors of furniture and household goods.

You can submit items by sending an email to Alastaire at [hendersalas@gmail.com](mailto:hendersalas@gmail.com) or by calling 613-562-2253 at least 48 hours before the Parkway Spire deadline.

# Social Responsibility Council

## How Does Social Responsibility Work at First Unitarian?

Unitarians are known worldwide for their support for social justice, and involvement in many local, national and international causes. In fact, many people find their way to Unitarian Universalism by looking for a like-minded community, one that takes action based on our principles.

In our congregation, the Social Responsibility Council (SRC) consists of eight Working Groups, each focused on its own subject area. The Council is guided by

the Social Responsibility Coordinating Team, formerly the Social Responsibility Steering Committee.

A working group must have at least six active members of the congregation, and present an Annual Work Plan and budget for review and approval by the Coordinating Team.

The Coordinating Team is responsible for allocating the Social Responsibility budget, which is 3% of annual pledges to the congregation. In addition to the budget from the congregation, some of the Working Groups do their own fundraising. The

congregation's commitment to social responsibility is inspiring, and the Working Groups thank the congregation for its continued support. Members or visitors are welcome to attend meetings of these groups to find out what they do and are encouraged to watch for announcements of talks, workshops, and so on.

At the request of the Board of Directors, the Coordinating Team organized the selection of a congregational Social Responsibility focus. The 2015 Annual General Meeting of the Congregation chose Indigenous Issues as our focus through 2015-2017.

## Who Does What?

### Social Responsibility Coordinating Team:

Interim Co-Chair: Ed Willer, [edwin.willer@sympatico.ca](mailto:edwin.willer@sympatico.ca)

Co-Chair: David Hudson, [davidhudson2446@gmail.com](mailto:davidhudson2446@gmail.com)

### Working Groups and their Chairs or Contacts:

Child Haven + Canada-Nepal Working Group  
Environmental Working Group  
Global Justice Working Group  
Mental Health Working Group  
Poverty Awareness Working Group  
Refugee Working Group  
United Nations (UN) Working Group  
Unitarian GoGos Working Group  
Indigenous Issues Congregational Focus

Leslie Baird, Chair, [baird.leslie@gmail.com](mailto:baird.leslie@gmail.com)  
Mike Fletcher, Chair, [fletchmo2@gmail.com](mailto:fletchmo2@gmail.com)  
Anita MacLean, Chair, [anitamaclean855@gmail.com](mailto:anitamaclean855@gmail.com)  
Paul McGinnis, Chair, [paulmcginnis9@gmail.com](mailto:paulmcginnis9@gmail.com)  
Marlene Koehler, [marlene@koehler.ca](mailto:marlene@koehler.ca)  
Bob Stevenson, Chair, [stevbob@sympatico.ca](mailto:stevbob@sympatico.ca)  
Chair vacant  
Joan Turner, Chair, [joan@joejoan.ca](mailto:joan@joejoan.ca)  
Bill van Iterson, [bill@vaniterson.net](mailto:bill@vaniterson.net)

**Note:** To reach any of the chairs or contacts by telephone, please call the church office.

# Social Responsibility Council cont...

**Unitarian GoGos' Annual Mother's Day Weekend Garden, Goodies and Gift Sale!**

**Saturday, May 13 and Sunday, May 14, 9:30 am to 1:30 pm**

Find us outdoors at First Unitarian, with perennials, jewellery, scarves, home baking, floral arrangements and small gift and household items. All of our proceeds go to the Stephen Lewis Foundation.

**Contact:**  
[unitariangogos@gmail.com](mailto:unitariangogos@gmail.com)  
 or Joan Turner  
 613-721-0791.

**Capital Rainbow Refuge (CRR)**

CRR has just welcomed H.F., a lesbian from the Middle East, to safety in Ottawa, thanks to an arrangement with the Canadian Unitarian Council (CUC) as the sponsorship agreement holder.

CRR raises all the money and other supports for its LGBT refugees, and the CUC helps with the sponsorship arrangements. H.F. joins several other LGBT Muslims sponsored by CRR. They include a lesbian couple from Southeast Asia, who are now Canadian citizens, a gay male couple and a single gay man from the Middle East. All of them have escaped threats of death, torture and assault in their countries of origin because of their sexual orientation. Here in Canada, they are all doing well.  
 ~Barbara Freeman

**SRC CALENDAR**

**May**

**Sunday May 7,** 12:30 pm  
 Global Justice Working Group

**Tuesday May 9,** 7:00 pm  
 Global Justice Working Group: Film on Colonialism

**Saturday-Sunday May 13-14,** 9:30 am - 1:30 pm  
 Unitarian GoGos' Garden, Goodies and Gifts Sale

**Saturday May 13,** 11:30 am - 5:30 pm - CUC AGM Online

**Thursday May 18,** 1:00 pm  
 Unitarian GoGos

**Friday May 19,** 9:00 am  
 Social Responsibility Coordinating Team

**Sunday May 28,** 12:30 pm  
 Mental Health Working Group

**June**

**Sunday June 11,** 12:00 pm  
 4:00 pm - 50th Anniversary Open House

**Thursday June 15,** 1:00 pm  
 Unitarian GoGos

**Friday June 16,** 9:30 am  
 Social Responsibility Coordinating Team

**Sunday June 25,** 12:30 pm  
 Mental Health Working Group





# First Unitarian Congregation of Ottawa

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Facebook: [www.facebook.com/First-Unitarian-Congregation-of-Ottawa](https://www.facebook.com/First-Unitarian-Congregation-of-Ottawa)

Twitter: <https://twitter.com/UUOttawa>

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

## 2015–2016 Board of Directors

Maggie Sharp, President [president@firstunitarianottawa.ca](mailto:president@firstunitarianottawa.ca)

Terry Kimmel, Vice President

Maury Prevost, Past President

Chuck Triemstra, Treasurer

Eva Berringer, Secretary

Members at Large: Guy Belleperche, Amy Bérubé, Jennifer Shaw-Read, Jill Whitford

## Program Staff

Rev. Dr. Paula Gable, Interim Minister [revpaula@firstunitarianottawa.ca](mailto:revpaula@firstunitarianottawa.ca) x225

Liz Roper, Director of Lifespan Learning [dll@firstunitarianottawa.ca](mailto:dll@firstunitarianottawa.ca) x234

Marie Gabe, Lifespan Learning Assistant [lla@firstunitarianottawa.ca](mailto:lla@firstunitarianottawa.ca) x226

Deirdre Kellerman, Music Director, [music@firstunitarianottawa.ca](mailto:music@firstunitarianottawa.ca) x230

Ellen Bell, Spiritual Care Visitor

## Lay Chaplains

Alex Campbell, Nicki Bridgland

## Administrative Staff

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Michelle Jackson, Accounting Officer [accountant@firstunitarianottawa.ca](mailto:accountant@firstunitarianottawa.ca) x222

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Bob Armstrong, Carol Card, Margot Clarke, Brian Cowan, Ann Denis, Alexandra Devine, Barbara Freeman, Rev. Paula Gable, Katherine Gunn, Alastaire Henderson, Deirdre Kellerman, Liz Roper, Maureen Sly, Sherri Watson, Marianne Wood

**Next deadline for submissions: June 17, 2017**

## Subscriptions

Electronic subscriptions are free, contact: [publications@firstunitarianottawa.ca](mailto:publications@firstunitarianottawa.ca)

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

## Spire Editorial Team

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