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Deadline for next Spire submissions:
November 15, 2020



From the Editor...

Virtual greetings to all! We are going through unprecedented times and it looks like we are in this pandemic for the long haul, which will likely keep us from gathering safely in our lovely sanctuary anytime soon.

In this issue, many submissions have a pandemic-related theme including a couple of personal accounts written for the section titled COVID-19 Reflections. I hope you enjoy reading these articles and that you’ll consider writing your own in a future issue. Be it poetry, personal accounts, projects, thoughts, or ideas, whatever you’d like to share with us, we’d like to hear from you.

In the next Spire, we will start a regular ‘Feature Article’ with a maximum 900-word count—one per issue. By doubling what our normal article word counts are, you will have an opportunity to express more in depth ideas, thoughts, or experiences. We will accept submissions on a first come, first served basis. If we receive more than one feature article per issue, we will put the second one in a following issue. We already have one piece to start us off in December—a personal narrative written by Maryan O’Hagan titled ‘Mindfulness in Transylvania’.

Until December then, be well and stay safe everyone!

~Marg Lee, Editor



In Memoriam

Sheila Kathleen 'Kay' Hefler, predeceased by Jim Harrington and by her first husband Norman ~ died October 26, 2019 in Deep River. Survived by her son, John.

Caring Contacts

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Pat's Ponderings ~ Rev. Patricia Guthmann Haresch



As I write this in mid-August, it seems like forever ago that we were together. I have missed being in your company. I have treasured the few socially distanced visits, phone calls, and Zoom meetings that I have had with some of you over the summer.

I am thinking back to a letter that the Rev. Susan Frederick-Gray, President of the Unitarian Universalist Association in the U.S. wrote to UUs in April of this year, titled *"This Is a Time to Do What We Can to Love Each Other"*. That was in April, and the pandemic continues.

This still is a time to be thinking of what we can do to love each other; to care for each other; to stay connected; to stay connected in safe and socially distanced ways if we are not in the same household or "bubble", yes?

Susan noted, *"It's important to remember that people's experiences of this pandemic—what it means in their own lives and the costs of it—are radically different."* Some have felt like they have been on an extended in-home retreat. Maybe it's gone on a bit too long now. Some have experienced job loss or financial uncertainty. Some have experienced extended periods without regular mental or physical therapies. Many are missing hugs and visits to or from far-flung family and friends. For families, it's been a challenge to have the kids at home and parents working, too. And now the worry of what the school year will bring.

At a time when we all face uncertainty, loss of some sort or another, we can feel anxious, we can be shorter with each other than usual. Small things may seem bigger. Just when we feel at our very edge, it is a time when we are all called to be extra patient and understanding, both with each other and also ourselves.

This is a time to do what we can to take care of ourselves, help those we can, and support each other. So how might we do this?

Set Aside Time For Connections

It can be so easy in a time of social distancing to feel isolated. Have you set aside a regular time either per day or per week to phone friends and family? Have you reached out to those who you miss? Do you have an outdoor area or meeting place where you could safely distance and visit with those in your life who bring you joy?

Perhaps there's a whole set of people you would connect with at FirstU regularly on Sundays, at meetings or other gatherings that you have missed. Why not call, send a note or email? Have you been attending any of the Zoom gatherings like the Sunday Hospitality Hour, Topical discussions, Trivia Night, Chalice Groups? This is another way to connect with those you have missed and maybe even make new connections.

Be Present & Listen

We all have our own worries and concerns in these times, so much so that we may not be paying as much attention to the worries and cares of those closest to us, or those we come into contact with. May we all take pause from time to time to really be present with those in our bubbles and those we are in contact with; to really listen and understand the other; hear how they are experiencing this time of pandemic and let them know we hear them.

Let Your Feelings Be Known

If you are really sad, lonely, or anxious, think of those you know who will listen to you without judgment. Let it out. Seek a professional if needed.

~ Rev. Pat



Religious Exploration ~ Neo Yaxley, Director of Religious Exploration



"We are all in this together, and we will get through this together" –Antonio Gueterres



For those raising young ones through COVID-19, this has been a challenging time. For the first couple of weeks of COVID-19, I thought the day we would be together again would be just around the corner. I never imagined not coming into FirstU regularly or holding classes in person with Rita and Krystal. I never imagined the doors closed for this long.

An important part of our FirstU family's routine is service with their children on Sunday mornings. It is also an important part of my son's routine and mine. In the early weeks of the shutdown, he would ask if we were going to church. He loved going in and seeing his friends, his educators and participating in activities. I loved working with the UU Kids and getting to know them personally and discover their strengths and the things that humour and excite them. But with COVID-19, our lives had to take a different shape and attending RE with his little friends was not possible, and I feel the loss of this.

On the brighter side, it was great to see how quickly the UU Kids group adapted to online classes. The approach taken for these classes was an opportunity to continue the community building, which occurred between these great groups of kids. For our younger children, I'm posting online UU lessons for them to

participate in with the guidance of their families. The positive feedback from families who participated in the lessons has been much appreciated.

Moving forward, I have focused on the natural process of constant change. Things are always changing, and this time will pass, and the doors will reopen. It will be a great day when we can gather together again and celebrate the growth of one another's children and open doors.

Until then, please continue to check the e-UU for lesson plans and our plan for moving forward with faith-based classes in September. If you have any questions or suggestions, please send me an email.

~ submitted by Neo Yaxley
dre@firstunitarianottawa.ca

P.S. Please continue to collect items for our COVID-19 time capsule.

When this is over,
may we never again
take for granted
A handshake with a stranger
Full shelves at the store
Conversations with neighbors
A crowded theatre
Friday night out
The taste of communion
A routine checkup
The school rush each morning
Coffee with a friend
The stadium roaring
Each deep breath
A boring Tuesday
Life itself.

When this ends,
may we find
that we have become
more like the people
we wanted to be
we were called to be
we hoped to be
and may we stay
that way—better
for each other
because of the worst.

—
LAURA KELLY FANUCCI

Musical Interludes ~ Deirdre Kellerman



What a strange summer it's been...

I'm grateful to our Summer Choir singers who have come together (on Zoom!) each week to sing together. While latency issues mean that virtual choirs cannot hear each other sing, it has still been a highlight of the summer to be together in musical community. Summer Choir has been my "test run" for our regular fall music program, so thank you, summer singers, for your patience!

While our choirs will not be meeting face-to-face for the rest of the year, I'm excited to be moving our programming to a fully virtual format. All three choirs (Chalice, Fusion and Three Rivers) will be active, regularly rehearsing to learn and record new music, develop skills, and deepen community. We will also be bringing back Song Circles on a monthly basis! If you are interested in joining our choral program, please get in touch. If you are a shy singer or have trouble getting yourself to rehearsals, this could be the perfect set up for you!

In our online services, you have heard musical offerings by singers and instrumentalists from our congregation, pulled together by the magic of technology! If you have a musical offering to share, please get in touch! I'd love to help you have your voice or instrument heard.

The pandemic has hit the music community particularly hard, and it's difficult to not be making music together in person. But I see resilience and creativity everywhere, and I know music will continue to be an important and thriving part of our First Unitarian community.

Yours in song,

~Deirdre Kellerman

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Settled Minister Search Committee Update

At the June 21 Annual General Meeting, the FirstU Congregation chose a search committee to look for our next settled minister: Amy Berubé, Mary Ella Keblusek, Jane Lindsay (chair), Mike Lloyd, Jodi McIntosh, Phil Nagy, and Lena Talback.

Since then, the Settled Minister Search Committee (SMSC) has been very productive getting its heads and hands around the work required by the search. The committee had an initial planning retreat on July 10-11. Retired UU minister, Rev. Stephen Atkinson, who the UUA assigned to us as a Transitions Coach, joined us.

Our focus since the retreat has been on budget preparation (with various options depending on whether travel is allowed next spring). The budget was presented and approved at the August board meeting. We have also been considering tweaks to some of the content on our website, to provide information prospective ministers would want to see, as well

as to keep the congregation informed of our progress with the search process.

As we enter the fall season, the congregation will have an opportunity to be involved in providing input in several ways.

A **congregational survey** will be circulated in early September to help guide the SMSC in its work. The survey is crucial to our search process for several reasons. It will help us accurately describe our congregation to prospective ministers, and it will help the SMSC identify what the congregation believes is most important when choosing our next minister. The survey will be available both online and in paper format. While the deadline for returning it will be mid-October, we would ask everyone to please complete it as soon as possible to allow us to start analyzing the responses.

There will be a variety of opportunities for individuals to

participate in **online Zoom sessions** to share their opinions in discussion formats. Some of these sessions will be open for anyone interested to sign up, while others will be targeted at making sure we hear from various demographic groups within the congregation.

In late September, we are expecting to host an **online workshop** called *Beyond Categorical Thinking*. Facilitated by the UUA Transition office, this workshop is intended to help the congregation have as expansive a perspective as possible for its calling of a new minister, one ideally suited to us. More details about this will be shared in the e-UU.

Thank you for all your support and interest in this intense but rewarding minister search process. If you have any questions or comments, you can reach us at:

MinisterSearch@firstunitarianottawa.ca

~ submitted by Mary Ella Keblusek



COVID-19 Pandemic Reflections: Can this Undesirable Virus Inspire Us?

Being relegated to your own address for months on end can have a myriad of effects on each individual. Isolation can make you lonely, worrisome, bored, anxious. It can make you reflective, appreciative, motivated and creative. If you are like me, it can make you feel all of the above, depending on what day it is. Since this has all happened, I've read more, tamed a chipmunk, sewn countless facemasks, taken up yoga and dyed my hair pink. I've also had days of deep depression and sadness. I really miss hugs.

I am so grateful to have a job that has kept me busy working from home, while offering the opportunity to learn new things and make adaptations to my regular work routine and priorities. While work and personal life have melded together in many ways (my 'office' is right under my nose at all times) it has also offered the flexibility to take a walk during the day if I need a break or run an errand when

stores are less crowded. I haven't eaten lunch from a bag in months, and I can sing out loud while I work. Conversely, I miss my work colleagues very much; the laughter and teamwork isn't quite the same via email. I miss visits from church members and the privilege to share in your good (and not so good) news in person. I miss my office space and the occasional stroll to Fellowship Hall to pinch a cookie from the Hospitality Hour cupboard.

What has encouraged me the most through all the ups and downs the pandemic has created is the unwavering thirst for connection with those we hold dearest. (I should have bought Zoom stock.) I guess it really does reveal that our priority is and should be human relationships. We've reconciled with ourselves that we can forego eating at restaurants, going to a movie or travelling, but we've refused to give up on maintaining the bonds we have with each other.

The pandemic has also reinforced that time is one of the most precious currencies we have. Time to (virtually or distantly) spend with people, help others, to truly reflect and feel fully.

I'm so thankful to see the lengths we've gone to protect each other from becoming ill. Distancing, wearing a mask and generally keeping to ourselves is a gift we give not only to those we love, but to people in our community that we don't even know. I appreciate that I haven't had to deal with the virus myself.

This is what inspires me to proceed with a positive mindset. I know we will keep going forward. There's still people to help, missions to accomplish, not to mention distancing cocktail hours and many more Zoom meetings to attend!

Miss you all.

HUGS,

Jen Brennan



Thanks, Merci, Miigwetch



- ♥ Let's give a big shout-out to **Margot Clarke** (Caring Contacts), **Alexandra Devine** (In Memorium), and **Isabel Burrows** (Meet a Member) for their continued contributions to each issue of the Parkway Spire. They have been doing this for a very long time and we appreciate their ongoing dedication!
- ♥ And a huge thank you to **Deirdre Kellerman** for making a commitment to stay with us for another year. Your devotion to the Music Program has been amazing and we are very blessed to have you continue in this role.

COVID-19 Pandemic Reflections: Hugs, anyone?

I live alone with my dog Molly. After five months resolutely coping (I thought) with this new pandemic, something happened that almost brought me to my knees.



It was a perfect August day...sunny & warm, no humidity, a slight breeze. Eight of us were gathered for a picnic at the Arboretum to celebrate my sister's birthday; two couples, a threesome, and a single (me). The birthday gal was welcomed with much cheering while we maintained safe social distancing. We chatted, we laughed, we joined in the hilarity as cards and gifts were opened. Each group brought their own food, plates and cutlery. After careful hand sanitizing, cake and ice cream were served. Battery-operated

candles adorned the cake (no moistly blowing out real candles here!). It was a carefully distanced, germ-controlled celebration. Perfect in every way . . . until the camera came out.

While gathering for our usual birthday photo session, I suddenly felt incredibly lonely. Others were together in their own bubbles, arms circling each other, some holding hands, while I stood by myself. Yes, we're family, and we all love one another dearly, and in more normal times I would have been closely tucked in among the rest, feeling very much a part of my close-knit family. Not this time. The closeness of others around me, as I stood apart and alone, felt so isolating!

The next morning, while walking Molly, I was overwhelmed by a very sudden bout of sadness. My tears were unstoppable. I couldn't help but think that for five months, I had only hugged one person (my daughter) and only once, when we threw caution to the wind and decided to share a meal together in my home. She too, lives alone, and

we both needed the comfort of the other on that particular day. How good that hug felt! We haven't done that since. She has expanded her bubble, understandably, to include many of her friends and I at age 70+ no longer feel safe hugging her.

To my family members reading this, you have been so incredibly supportive during this pandemic, and I am very grateful for that support. Having your daughter, granddaughter and son-in-law arrive all the way from Victoria, gave you such joy! It was wonderful to see them at the picnic. But it also reminded me how much I miss unrestricted connections . . . and a simple hand on my shoulder, a hug, a kiss on the cheek. So forgive me if you notice a slight hesitation on my part when someone suggests a group photo at our next 'socially-distanced' family birthday celebration! I'll sit that one out, until we can feel the joy of a real hug, huddled all together. Until then, virtual hugs everyone!

~ submitted by Marg Lee



Meet a Member: Alex Campbell



This series of brief bios of congregants was initiated by Isabel Burrows

“May we have a passionate zest for the world, much gentleness, and may we be more human to the end,” spoken as a benediction at the close of his sermons, Alex Campbell would seem to personify Teilhard de Chardin’s prayer.

Formative experiences from youth seem to have shaped the course of Alex’s life. Trained in piano and organ with singing coming naturally, musical performance, both sacred and secular, has been integral to his life. Ordained an Oblate priest, Alex’s mission to train and educate in spiritual development has been a constant in his life’s work, even after leaving the priesthood for marriage.

Born in 1941 and educated in South Africa, Alex moved to Ottawa in 1977 to unite in marriage

with Marlene and her five children. Equipped with degrees in Psychology and History of Philosophy, Spirituality, and Psychopedagogy, Alex worked for ten years at the Oblate-run Galilee Mission Centre in Arnprior, with its mission to *“...nurture people’s personal and spiritual growth, enabling them to contribute to a healthier world.”*

As a master practitioner of the Myers Briggs Type Indicator (MBTI), for many years Alex trained people across Canada to be ethical users of this personality instrument. During these years he was also a lecturer in spirituality and theology at Saint Paul University in Ottawa and wrote regularly for Novalis Liturgical press.

In 1993 Alex began work at the Perley and Rideau Veterans’ Health Centre. Starting out as Staff Development Director, responsible for all non-clinical education, by the time Alex took early retirement in 2001 he was also director of internal communications, coordinator of pastoral care (for the 250 veterans and 200 community residents), and pastoral care provider for the 200 community residents. Once retired,

he volunteered for ten years in the Day Program at the Maycourt Hospice. Skills learned there and his experience in Ministry come in handy at Unitarian House where Marlene and he now live.

His relationship with the Congregation began while singing with members of FirstU in the “Classic Silk” jazz ensemble. By now, frustrated with the intransigence of the Catholic church on theological and social issues, Alex found kinship with FirstU so he followed Marlene who had become a member in 1998, and applied for membership himself in 2003. He was soon sought out to be the first worship associate in the newly initiated program and quit only when appointed lay chaplain six years ago, as policy dictated. He was enlisted as chair of the ministerial support committee and has led and preached at worship services—and filled in as piano accompanist, sung in two choirs, volunteered in hospitality, and much more. Above all, Alex Campbell is a vital presence in our midst. We are blessed.

~ submitted by Jan Glyde



To Brighten Your day...

Three children were talking about their religions.

"I'm a Catholic," said one, "and our symbol is the cross."

"I'm Jewish," said the second, "and our symbol is the Star of David."

The third child said, "I'm a Unitarian Universalist and our symbol is a candle in a cocktail glass!"



The 2021 Pledge Campaign: The Importance of Participation

The 2021 Pledge Campaign is coming to a place near you (Oct 4)! You can expect to receive a ‘Pledge Campaign 2021 Package’ by September 30th. Despite COVID-19, we remain active and connected, and our planning and financial needs to sustain FirstU’s programs and services continue. Though our plans for 2021 may have some significant variability, we will carry on and thus our financial needs do so as well.

The percentage of our congregation that participates financially is a readily measurable indicator of our congregation’s vitality, diversity, sustainability and potential for growth; it is a measure of how together we are as a community. As such it is also a key element that ministerial candidates review closely. Since we

have already started the search process to get the best ‘settled minister’ for FirstU, the importance of pledging now cannot be overstated.

Just what amount you pledge and contribute is a personal matter, subject to the constraints of your own situation. That said, no amount is too small. If you are uncertain about what amount to pledge, there is an objective method and chart to help you decide at: <https://tinyurl.com/Pledge-Contribution-Chart>. You can also contact Larry Jones for more information.

Any amount is appreciated and builds towards achieving our vision to create a vibrant, transformational, multi-generational community known in Ottawa and the region as radically inclusive, spiritually grounded, actively engaged, theologically alive, a leader

in social justice and a beacon of hope. Roam through our Web Site at www.firstunitarianottawa.ca for details.

During the course of each Pledge Campaign, follow-up phone calls will be made to all non-pledgers/non-contributors to find out how you’re doing and what we can do to help.

We would be happy to answer your questions or concerns. If you are experiencing financial difficulties, we would like to know, in confidence, how we might help. Please contact the Stewardship Committee at stewardship@firstunitarianottawa.ca or speak directly with Larry Jones, Pledge Campaign Project Manager and Stewardship Chair at 613-299-2770.

~ submitted by Larry Jones



Pledging & Contributing Financially at FirstU

Just what is pledging about?

Basically, your pledge is a *commitment and plan* to contribute financially during the indicated fiscal year. Pledging is very much about planning—for FirstU in terms of next year’s budget and for the donor in terms of their personal financial planning.

Just making a pledge signifies the importance you place on supporting the FirstU community and the various programs & services that it provides to both you and the congregation as a whole.

Why is it so important?

Since pledges historically represent ~70% of our revenue, they are a critical part of our yearly planning and budgeting which leads to the presentation of the budget for approval at the Fall Congregational Meeting (in late October).

Contributing practicalities

Contributions made are counted ONLY in the fiscal year in which

they are received (as per Revenue Canada rules). The most practical and effective way to contribute is to do so through a PAC (Pre-Authorized Chequing Account monthly withdrawal), or through automatic monthly payments by Visa or Mastercard. All these methods are particularly relevant and easy during these COVID-19 times.

Some facts about FirstU pledging

The average pledge for the 2020 Pledge Campaign was \$1,534 with a pledging range of \$30 to \$11,000. All pledges are valued and much appreciated irrespective of the amount. Your participation is the most important factor in our community success.

Our FirstU financial reality

The 2020 total expenses amount to about \$680,000. With the current number of actively contributing congregants (360), that represents about \$1,890 per active congregant. FirstU pays the Canadian Unitarian

Council (CUC) yearly fees of just over \$100 per active member.

Although pledges can be made at any time, we strongly recommend they be made during the Pledge Campaign so that we can plan and budget accordingly. Similarly, donations will also be gratefully received at any time. If that donation corresponds with your submitted pledge, please ensure this connection is clearly noted.

We hope this brief article clarifies the pledging – contributing relationship, while recognizing our Revenue Canada constraints and your own given situation.

We would appreciate your comments and any concerns about pledging.

Michelle Jackson, Finance Manager
fm@firstunitarianottawa.ca

Larry Jones, Stewardship Committee Chair
stewardship@firstunitarianottawa.ca

Mary Oliver for Corona Times | Thoughts after the poem Wild Geese

You do not have to become totally Zen,
You do not have to use this isolation to make your
marriage better,
your body slimmer, your children more creative.
You do not have to "maximize its benefits"
by using this time to work even more,
write the bestselling Corona Diaries,
or preach the gospel of ZOOM.

You only have to let the soft animal of your body unlearn
everything capitalism has taught you,
(That you are nothing if not productive,
That consumption equals happiness,
That the most important unit is the single self.
That you are at your best when you resemble an efficient
machine).

Tell me about your fictions, the ones you've been sold,
the ones you sheepishly sell others,
and I will tell you mine.
Meanwhile the world as we know it is crumbling.
Meanwhile the virus is moving over the hills,
suburbs, cities, farms and trailer parks.
Meanwhile The News barks at you, harsh and addicting,
Until the push of the remote leaves a dead quiet behind,
a loneliness that hums as the heart anchors.

Meanwhile a new paradigm is composing itself in our
minds,
Could birth at any moment if we clear some space
From the same tired hegemonies.

Remember, you are allowed to be still as the white birch,
Stunned by what you see,
Uselessly shedding your coils of paper skins
Because it gives you something to do.
Meanwhile, on top of everything else you are facing,
Do not let capitalism coopt this moment,
laying its whistles and train tracks across your weary heart.

Even if your life looks nothing like the Sabbath,
Your stress boa-constricting your chest.
Know that your antsy kids, your terror, your shifting moods,
Your need for a drink have every right to be here,
And are no less sacred than a yoga class.

Whoever you are, no matter how broken,
the world still has a place for you, calls to you over and
over
announcing your place as legit, as forgiven,
even if you fail and fail and fail again.
remind yourself over and over,
all the swells and storms that run through your long tired
body
all have their place here, now in this world.
It is your birthright to be held
deeply, warmly in the family of things,
not one cell left in the cold.

~ *Adrie Kusserow* - used with permission from the author

[Adrie Kusserow](#) is a cultural anthropologist who works with
Sudanese refugees to build schools in war-worn South
Sudan. She is a professor of Cultural Anthropology at St.
Michael's College in Vermont and the author of two collec-
tions of poetry: *Hunting Down the Monk and Refuge*.



Celebrating Congregants



*Congratulations to Jim and Alexandra
Devine on their 60th Wedding
Anniversary, September 3, 2020*



Alexandra (Sandy) has been a very
dedicated member of FirstU since

the 1970's, following in the steps of
her equally committed parents, Ken
and Christine Deane. Sandy was our
Office Administrator in the 1980's
where she gained much knowledge
of our history and displayed her
calm and thoughtful approach. For
many years she has been a key
member of the Caring Network and
is also the Congregation's
representative on the Board of River
Parkway Children's Centre. These
are just some of her many
contributions made to keep our
congregation welcoming and caring.

Now we all send our heartiest
congratulations to Jim and Sandy as
they celebrate this special milestone
with their family. Happy 60th!"



Social Responsibility Council News

Child Haven Coping with COVID-19

The Child Haven Working Group supports Child Haven International, assisting children and women in developing countries with food, education, health care, shelter and clothing, emotional and moral support.

Due to the pandemic, the volunteer intern program which enriches the lives of the Child Haven children has been suspended. The children no longer benefit from interactions with volunteers who share their interests and talents or simply provide English conversation. News from the nine Child Haven Homes and four women's programs sponsored by Child Haven are in their July newsletter: www.childhaven.ca/newsletter.html.



You will see a piece about Bonnie Cappuccino by her husband Fred, and how she and son Robin who normally visit the Homes several times a year, only have contact via email and telephone. The good news is that there have been no cases of COVID-19 in any of the Homes.

Normally the children are schooled off premises, but State schools are

closed, and schooling is limited to on-line instruction and the availability of staff. It is not ideal, but the children are well nourished and cared for by conscientious employees and are shielded from the devastating economic impact COVID-19 has had on low-income and marginalized communities everywhere. The garment industry has been particularly affected by the pandemic. Millions of workers laid off from their garment factory jobs, and people surviving pay cheque to pay cheque, are in extremely desperate situations. In response, staff of the Chittagong Child Haven Home in Bangladesh donated 10% of their salaries, and with help from the children, packed 60 bags full of rice, lentils, and vegetables to distribute to local families in need. After hearing about this effort, Child Haven has taken over funding of these distributions as needed.



The women's tailoring programs in Ghaziabad and in Rahon, Punjab, have responded to the COVID-19 crisis in their communities by making facemasks for people who otherwise could not afford to purchase them. They have also

initiated a novel community awareness program with a catchy slogan which the poster illustrates.



Child Haven is very grateful to all who have made contributions despite the fact that twenty-one fundraising dinners having been canceled. The organization is able to pay for food, salaries and Home expenses for the next few months, but monies are down from where they should be for Fall funding and any support you are able to send would be greatly appreciated.

For donations please make cheques payable to CHILD HAVEN and mail to Child Haven, 19014 Conc.7, Maxville, ON K0C 1T0. Donations to Child Haven are tax receiptable. General full sponsorship is \$30/month or \$360/year.

~ submitted by Susan Mellor, Member, Child Haven Working Group



Social Responsibility Council (SRC) News - cont...

Poverty Action Working Group Keeps Busy!



The Poverty Action Working Group (PAWG) thanks all the members of our congregation who supported our motion at the Annual meeting in June 2020 that a letter be sent to Prime Minister the Right Honourable Justin Trudeau, Deputy Prime Minister (then) Honourable Chrystia Freeland and (then) Minister of Finance the Honourable Bill Moreau, to encourage them to move forward and work with the provinces, territories and Indigenous leaders to develop and implement a Universal Basic Income program to provide an adequate living level for everyone and address the persistent inequities within the present wage and social housing benefits structure of our country.



We thank everyone who supported the virtual Multifaith Housing Initiative (MHI) “Tulipathon” walk in May. Although we did not meet among the tulips this year, our congregation raised \$4,556 of the total \$68,665! We greatly appreciate your support for this important organization which develops affordable housing to help fix Ottawa's housing crisis and get at-risk people into secure, safe homes. On Sunday September 6, 2020 Sheldon Leong, Manager of Fund Development for MHI, will offer a presentation on Zoom prior to the Sunday service. Please join us and learn about Multifaith Housing and how you can get involved.

www.multifaithhousing.ca

October 17 is the International Day for the Eradication of Poverty. Canada’s “Dignity for All” campaign has a vision to create a poverty-free and more socially secure and cohesive Canada. A new approach because of COVID-19 is coming with dial-in options. We will keep you posted. www.dignityforall.ca

The Working Group’s support continues for Minwaashin Indigenous Women’s Support Centre, Capital Rainbow Refuge, and some smaller local refugee settlement groups, in collecting and delivering donations of furniture and household goods. It is such a treat to see how relieved and happy the families or women are when we arrive! PAWG very much appreciates the budget support from the Social Responsibility Council to maintain an inventory of these goods in storage.

We are also contributing to the community, along with other sewing enthusiasts from FirstU’s Knitters’ group and the Friends of the Meditation Gardens along with personal friends, by making Personal Protective Equipment: cloth masks, scrub caps and gowns, and so on. These are going to Unitarian House, Odawa Native Friendship Centre, community agencies and friends and family. Donations of fabrics and sewing supplies are entertaining us with creative results!

Does our mission interest you? Whether education, advocacy or practical projects, we’d be delighted to share information with you!

Contact Kathy Yach at: cityviewky@rogers.com

or by telephone at 613-224-6835.

Stay safe and healthy!

~ submitted by Kathy Yach, Chair, Poverty Action Working Group





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