

First Unitarian Congregation of Ottawa

The Parkway Spire

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Fall Deadline for Submissions:
September 4, 2013

UU-UNO Seminar Report

On April 3, twelve people, including eight youth, made an incredible, four-day, life-changing journey to New York City to participate in the annual Unitarian Universalist United Nations Office (UU-UNO) Spring Seminar. This seminar attracted 135 participants from across North America, including 85 youth. The seminar theme, Sex, Love, and Violence: Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity in a Globalized World, focused on stopping violence and discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity (SOGI).

Ottawa youth were **Jack Belleperche, Grace Smith, Prakriti Kharel, Robyn Zanetti, Olivia Gibbs, Victor and Jean-Luc Robinson and Arden Hody**. Arden also took on a key leadership role as part of the conference organizing committee. The youth were joined by Ottawa youth leaders **Tony Turner and Susan McEwen**, panelist **Joanne Law** and young adults **Yasmin Strautins and N’Kem Odit**.



The group attended a panel session, Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity 101, where Alex Kapitan led an informative discussion on how gender is stereotyped in North American society, and how it is impossible for everyone to define their gender and who they love according to society’s rigid views on sexual orientation.

In another session, we learned of the persecution and triumphs of lesbian-gay-bisexual-transgender, queer and intersex (LGBTQI) people. In one panel, Joshua Boyles, a gay man who battled HIV, told a story that touched the heart, of how he had battled addictions, homelessness and prostitution. But he triumphed and now tells his story to help others.

A panel presentation on religious perspectives was held in a UN building. We learned how individuals in many faith traditions—Christian, Muslim, Unitarian, Hindu—are making a difference through empowering others, fighting AIDS, and combating homophobic violence and laws around the world.

We were shocked to learn such disturbing facts as that 76 countries have laws that criminalize sexual orientation and gender identity and, in seven of those countries, these laws carry the death penalty. Even in North America, there are other forms of discrimination in schools, health care, and housing.

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UU-UNO Seminar Report *continued...*

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We learned that 40 percent of homeless people in NYC are LGBTQI, and youth from non-accepting families are eight times more likely to commit suicide.

We were deeply disturbed that right wing, fundamentalist forces in the U.S. are using outlandish false messages that gays were responsible for the Rwandan genocide, Nazism, and for American moral decline. These forces of hatred are now influencing African countries such as Uganda that criminalize homosexuality.

However, there is momentum building to stop this violence and discrimination. Participants learned how LGBTQI allies are using the power of social media to build a social movement aimed at changing laws and cultural perceptions through communicating positive messages and debunking hatefulness.

For example, we heard from Andre, a co-founder of All-Out.org, which rallies support for LGBTQI issues around the world. Andre spoke about a campaign, “We Won’t Be Silenced”, which has rallied support against a bill passed in St. Petersburg, Russia, prohibiting assembly or public speech about LGBTQI-related issues. All-Out.org brought so much attention to the issue that many countries, including Canada, now warn people about travelling to St. Petersburg.



We also learned about All-American wrestler Hudson Taylor, who (after witnessing discrimination of gay athletes) founded “Athlete Ally”, using his celebrity status to educate athletes, teams, and leagues and encourage them to take a pledge to respect all individuals in sports.

Trans activist Joanne Law, the only Canadian panelist, spoke of the many positive things being done in Canada such as awareness programs in the military and police forces, unions and social agencies to help workers understand and constructively deal with transgender issues.

As well, participants got involved in improv theatre, role playing and slam poetry that highlighted the many sides of discrimination and demonstrated how art can be used to help understand complex issues and communicate positive messages.

The Spring Seminar ended with participants contributing many positive ideas to a Seminar Statement. On Saturday morning we worshipped together at the UN Church Center as a declaration of our unity for inherent worth and dignity of ALL people regardless of sexual orientation or gender identity.

All of us now feel challenged to bear witness and help LGBTQI people obtain equal rights and recognition. We were asked to imagine how would we feel, what would we do if any one of us were being oppressed? How can we foster understanding and acceptance?

In closing, we are grateful to the First Unitarian Ottawa’s UN Working Group for financial support, and the youth especially would like to thank the congregants who purchased CDs, panini sandwiches and chocolate treats throughout the year, which helped offset the cost of this valuable learning opportunity.

In Memoriam

Otto Adamitz ~ Died April 14, 2013

Roger Eckstrand ~ Died April 25, 2013

Caring Committee

Caring Contacts:

June

Joyce Turnbull
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July

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Anita MacLean
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Capital Ideas!



A Rare Accomplishment

Last month, I managed a rare accomplishment. The number of people who have run over themselves with a car they were operating is larger than you might expect, but it still comprises a select group. I believe some of us have been recognized with a Darwin Award. To my way of thinking, there ought to be some kind of special acknowledgment for our group as a whole.

There were exceptional circumstances involved in my case, but this is a common affirmation in our little club. The folks who manage to run over themselves without having exceptional circumstances involved are an even smaller group; they have their own club. The groups do not talk to each other much.

The special circumstances in my case involved my Smart Car conking out at a traffic light. After the light turned green, then yellow, then red, then green again without my being able to restart the car, I got out, put my shoulder to the open door frame, and started to push the car out of traffic's way. A Smart Car has a very short distance between the front and the back wheels. As the car started to move, I felt a pressure on my back foot. Instinctively I tried to pull my foot towards me. It didn't budge. It was then I realized what I had accomplished.

I did not look back, but continued to roll the car forward. Going forward at such junctions is, I believe, the best option; stopping to reflect deeply on the experience risks paralysis. It's better to go on to the next accomplishment. There will always be the opportunities to reminisce later at the clubhouse.



A Step Forward

As we go forward as a congregation, I am gladdened by the vote at our annual meeting to support the Multifaith Housing Initiative (MHI) and its capital fund drive. The affordable housing situation in our city is not good. The MHI operates 72 units and is planning to double that in the next five years. It will not solve the problem, but it is a significant step in the right direction. Working with the MHI will give us the opportunity to learn more about the problem, to work with others in different faith communities toward being a part of the solution, and to become better advocates for government-sponsored solutions. In some places, the divisions between people of different faiths are regarded as a societal problem. How fortunate that we get to join together with folks of different faiths to be part of a solution to a common problem!

The View Looks Fine from My Side

It has been said that "people like to know that their clergy have suffered, but they don't like to watch them bleed." Unfortunately, anyone who wants to meet with me between June 10 and July 1 may have to endure just that. I am going to undergo a medical procedure for pre-cancerous red spots on my face, a kind of chemotherapy in a cream jar. For 21 days I put the cream on. This creates open sores. Then it takes 10 days for the skin to heal. I will not be representing our faith in the pulpit during this time, but I will be in the office regularly and going on retreat with our board of directors in June to plan next year's budget.

Onward!

~ John Marsh



Religious Exploration – Sharing a moment with Susan

“Everything changed the day he figured out there was exactly enough time for the important things in his life.” ~ Brian Andreas

An Invitation to Lifespan Learning

As a Lifespan Learning congregation, we promote learning for all ages as a fundamental spiritual practice in our community, with intention, willingness, and forethought. This is an invitation to you, an invitation to join us in our ministry of learning and growing with children, youth, and adults. This is an invitation to brighten your own path by shining your light for others, to serve as companion, guide, helper, or visionary. This summer please consider how you might share your gifts in our 2013-14 program year, beginning in September.

Our children will one day fill our pews

They will take seats on the Board. They will become ministers, educators, musicians, administrators, and custodians. They will be Greeters. They will volunteer on the finance and other committees. Let us serve them now as their caring, loving, thoughtful companions and guides, whose presence cultivates the fullest embodiment of UU values and unique individual gifts in our community and beyond.

“It’s hardest to love the ordinary things, she said, but you get lots of opportunities to practice.” ~ Brian Andreas

Join us as:

A Sunday Morning Religious Exploration Leader

Leaders work in teams from September to May to provide a safe, nurturing environment for children while guiding them through activities. This role entails some preparation and ongoing communication with co-leaders and includes attendance at our fall and winter day retreats. (Commitment: two Sundays per month, plus two full-day retreats)



Left to Right: Keiran Cummings, Joe Cacciotti, Sydona Elliott, Beth Elliott, Elizabeth Wright, Robbie Wright, Norah Parker, Ana Liora Chernushenko, Daniel Shengulette, Alison Patrick, Andre Tymowski, Liz Benjamin

A Religious Exploration Angel

R.E. Angels assist in a children’s group with materials preparation, snack, or as an activity helper. (Commitment: one Sunday per month.)

A Library Angel

Library Angels help to maintain our R.E. Library by processing, re-shelving, and organizing books. (Commitment: occasional or weekly, depending on interest.)



Left to Right: Keomi Murakami-Cacciotti, Bronwyn Parker, Tristan Patrick, Olivia Gibbs, Maya Murakami-Cacciotti

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Sharing a moment with Susan continued...

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An Occasional Specialist

What special gifts could you offer to our children, youth, adults, and to the R.E. community?

Storytelling, dance, sign language, environmental awareness, outdoor know-how, drama, photography, carpentry...we welcome you!
(Commitment: once or many times a year, depending on your interest.)

The Christmas Pageant Coordinator

The Coordinator organizes props and costumes and helps with the logistics of rehearsals, as well as of the final performance on December 24.

(Commitment: Sundays after service in November and December.)

“I only do this until I get dizzy & then I lay down on my back & watch the clouds, she said. It sounds simple but you won't believe how many people forget the second part.”

~Brian Andreas

Our youth are finding their place in the world

They are walking through the transition from childhood to adulthood. They are creative, open to possibility, and their lives are full and busy with family, friends, school, and work. What does our faith community offer them and how can they serve and contribute?



Left to Right: Robyn Zanetti, Susan McEwen, Arden Hody, doing yoga in Central Park, NY.

Join us as a Youth Advisor

Advisors are adult members of the congregation, aged 25 or older, who support the Youth Group from September to June at Sunday morning meetings, as well as at special events such as youth conferences, retreats, and field trips. (Commitment: two Sundays per month, one evening meeting per month, plus two or more weekends and/or evenings over the course of the year.)

“I asked her what she planned to do with her life & she said she was way beyond that point already. I'm just happy I remember to be there when it happens, she said.”

~ Brian Andreas

As Unitarian Universalists, we are called to keep learning and growing all our lives

Our Adult Learning Committee offers religious exploration opportunities for adults within and beyond our faith community, including the Mindfulness Meditation group, the Integral Philosophy discussion group, evening and daytime Yoga, Introducing Ourselves, Mapmaking, and Articulating your UU Faith. Take a look at our twice yearly *Lifespan Learning Guide* for more details.

Join the Adult Learning Committee

A small, dedicated group meets monthly to plan, implement and evaluate our adult learning programs based on input from the congregation. All you need to bring is a commitment to the importance of our adult learning program, a willingness to bring ideas to the table, and your time. (Commitment: one meeting per month, or on a one-off basis; help to plan and organize events. Total time 3-8 hours per month.)

“Everything changed the day he figured out there was exactly enough time for the important things in his life.”

~ Brian Andreas

Please contact Susan McEwen, Director of Lifespan Learning, with your interest.

dll@firstunitarianottawa.ca,
613-725-1066, ex. 234



Thank You Merci Gracias

— compiled by Alastaire Henderson

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

- ✚ Many thanks to our Religious Exploration Team of **Mary Jo Murdock, Jennifer Murakami, Karen Blakely, Alison Harvey, and Sarah Dewar** for their warm and generous spirit of dedication to our ministry with children.
- ✚ Gratitude to all of our R.E. Leaders, Youth Advisors, Library Volunteers, Sunday Morning Angels, and myriad of occasional volunteers who bring their gifts in support of our programs for children and youth.
- ✚ Appreciation to our Adult Learning Committee of **Eva Berringer, Colleen Glass, Wendy Doyle, and Burt Curtis** for their commitment to growth and learning throughout our lives!
- ✚ Many thanks from the Unitarian GoGos to Joan Turner for all her work and leadership at our recent Plant & Garden Sale, as well as the many other GoGos and others who helped make the sale so successful.
- ✚ A big thank-you to all the Friends of the Meditation Gardens who helped make the May 11-12 Plant Sale a success, even in cool, blustery weather. Special thanks to **Renee de Vry** and friends for coordinating everyone's efforts and putting in many hours of labour themselves.
- ✚ Hugs and thanks to **Ron Wilson** for his hard work to complete the log frame for the new vegetable patch just beyond the south end of the Meditation Gardens.
- ✚ Many thanks to the 13 people from our congregation who walked in the Multifaith Housing Initiative's (MHI) Tulipathon for affordable housing this year. Also thanks go to all Unitarians who made a financial pledge.
- ✚ Warm thanks from the Poverty Awareness Working Group to volunteers who help move furniture, sort donations and tidy the storage for the Aboriginal Women's Shelter Project, and to congregants who offer household goods, furniture and financial support.
- ✚ Thanks so much from Kye to those who came out to our Creating Safer Spaces group in April. We had great conversations, asked challenging questions, took time for deep introspection and learned about each other. This was a brave and thoughtful group I feel lucky to have worked with. Special thanks to facilitators **Phyllis, Eva and Kalyani**, who put in extra work to help create this workshop series.

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

Worship Services in June

June 2 - Bridging: Transition and Change — Susan McEwen and others

We begin by recognizing the bridging of our junior youth into Youth Group and our senior youth into young adulthood. From here we explore the transition, change, and opportunities for transformation inherent in the human experience. Join us as we honour the joys and challenges of being with the one constant in life — change.

June 9 - Flower Communion — John Marsh

Everyone is invited to bring a flower to church this Sunday to place at the front of the sanctuary and exchange it for another. We will hear the story of Norbert Capek and the origins of Flower Communion.

June 16 - National Aboriginal Day — UN Working Group

The service will focus on the Indigenous healing arts used to mitigate the challenges First Nations face. It will incorporate traditional Algonquin ceremony, including opening and closing addresses by Elder Annie St Georges, drumming and round dance. Ceremonial smudging will take place to the left of the church entrance, at 10:00 a.m.

A Celebration of Life

A Celebration of the Life of Christopher (Kit) Yeatman

- August 21, 7:30 p.m.

Longtime church member **Kit Yeatman** died this past February. There was a service for him in Deep River, where he and his wife Norma lived and worked for many years, and he was an active part of that community. However, Kit was an active part of our community as well, and many of his friends here were unable to attend the service in Deep River. So we will be pleased to have a service of remembrance and celebration in our sanctuary this summer.

— John Marsh, Minister

Summer Worship Services

This summer's worship services begin on Sunday, June 23, and run until Sunday, September 1. They represent a diverse collection of voices from within our congregation and beyond. Join us this summer!

June 23 – *Hymn Service: A celebration of our faith in song*

This is an opportunity to hear your favourite hymns from the Unitarian hymnal or any other hymnal. Bring a copy of your favourite hymn to sing and it will be added to the service.

June 30 – *Climate Change, from denial to hope*

Environmental Working Group
Responses to the climate change crisis. Discussion of the psychology of denial, the development of environmental ethics, and practical steps toward the mitigation of, and adaptation to, a changing climate.

July 7 – *Whether we believe in God or not, we share common values*

Chipo Shambare
Some of us believe in a God while others do not. Some of us believe that each person houses a divine spirit, while others do not believe in any sort of divinity. Our common value is a belief in openness, tolerance, and compassion for others and our environment.

July 14 – *The Meaning of Life*

Rod Emilio Solano-Quesnel
A discussion of life's meaning through the works of two influential Unitarian Universalist authors, Robert Fulghum and David Eagleman.

July 21 – *Art as a Means of Reconciliation for Aboriginal People*

Global Justice Working Group
Louise Profeit-Leblanc is our guest speaker. Louise is the Aboriginal Arts Coordinator at the Canada Council for the Arts here in Ottawa.

July 28 – *The Pattern of All Things*

Lynn Harrison
As Unitarian Universalists, we affirm the interconnectedness of all life. When we notice the patterns around us (and in us and created by us) we deepen our connection to the Whole. What about patterns we'd like to change? We'll reflect on those, too...as we have many times before.

August 4 – *Scepticism in Religion*

Reuel Amdur
Beyond the growing influence of unbelief and the decline in church affiliation in the Western world, scepticism has infiltrated into both Christianity and Islam.

August 11 – *Anatomy of a Peacekeeping Mission*

Phyllis Eleazar
We all know about peacekeeping missions, but who are these peacekeepers anyway?

August 18 – *Queerly Gathered: A Story*

Sean Neil-Barron
Beyond LGBT is a wonderfully weird world of queer where all that seems stable is subverted. Queer theology and queer theory have yet to make a break into mainstream culture, yet their potential for our faith and our world are limitless. We already have a queer faith both in the pews and in our practice, but are we living into our queer potential? Let's explore this together.

August 25 – *Gay Pride Day*

Frances Deverell and others
A special service in celebration of Gay Pride Day.



September 1 – *Life Lessons from our 5000-kilometre, 13-country, 13-month Walk for Peace*

Mony Dojeiji and Alberto Agraso
Mony and Alberto embarked on a 5000-kilometre walk for peace from Rome to Jerusalem, as a contribution to the voices of peace in the aftermath of 9/11. This was a pilgrimage, on foot, in the tradition of pilgrims of old leaving all behind, and to seek answers to the eternal questions: Who am I? What is the purpose of my life? What is God?



Announcements

Glebe/Centretown/Old Ottawa South Neighbourhood Group meeting

When: Sunday, June 23 at 6:00 pm.

Event: This is our annual spring/summer potluck supper.

Where: Trudy Kassner's home, 108 Belmont Ave

Contact: Trudy Kassner at 613-730-2823 or trudyk@magma.ca

All are welcome. Bring something to share with the group.

Reminder: The neighbourhood group doesn't meet in July and August. We'll announce the exact date of our September meeting in the next issue of the Spire. It will be a Sunday in late September at 6 p.m., a potluck, and we'll also begin to plan our meetings for 2013-14. Do plan to bring both your contribution to our meal and your ideas for topics/speakers for our future meetings.

Please contact **Ann Denis** at adenis@uottawa.ca if you would like to be added to the email list. You will receive information about "to be announced" topics when they are confirmed. A reminder is also usually sent during the week before the monthly meeting (no meetings in July, August and December).

Monday Reading for Growth

The Monday Reading for Growth Group will be meeting on June 10 at 1:00 p.m. in the Lounge. We will be discussing the book *The Case for God* by Karen Armstrong.

New members and visitors are welcome.

Contact: Anita MacLean at 613-820-2892, anitamaclean@rogers.com

Women's Personal Growth Group summer meetings

The Women's Personal Growth Group will be meeting monthly throughout the summer.

When: Wednesdays June 5, August 7, and Sept. 4, at 7:15 p.m.

Where: in Room 6.

On Wednesday, July 3, there will be a special daytime gathering at Isabel's cottage. All women are welcome.

Contact: Evelyn Algar, 613-728-5761, evelyn.algar@rogers.com



Unitarian Seniors' Program June

Our guest speaker will be **Dr. Ruth Ellen**, a geriatrician working at The Ottawa Hospital. **Jan Glyde** will lead the worship service.

When: Tuesday, June 25. Service: 11:30 a.m. Lunch (\$7): 12:00 p.m. Program: 1:00 p.m.

Where: Worship/Fellowship Hall

RSVP (only if you are not on the phone list): **Maureen Sly** at 613-728-7610 or mmsly@rogers.com by Saturday, June 22.



July

John Soar will challenge the group with some lighthearted and entertaining quizzes.



Liz Benjamin will lead the worship service. Participants are asked to bring their own sandwiches; tea, juice, and cookies will be provided.

When: Thursday, July 25. Service: 11:30 a.m. Lunch (bring your own): 12:00 p.m. Program: 1:00 p.m.

Where: Worship/Fellowship Hall

RSVP (only if you are not on the phone list): **Maureen Sly** at 613-728-7610 or mmsly@rogers.com by Tuesday, July 23.

August

Ellen Bell will facilitate a "bring and share" activity. Those who wish to do so may bring an item of significance and share the story it represents. Others may prefer just to come and be entertained. Ellen will also lead the worship service. Participants are asked to bring their own sandwiches; tea, or juice; cookies will be provided.

When: Wednesday, August 28. Service: 11:30 a.m. Lunch (bring your own): 12:00 p.m. Program: 1:00 p.m.

Where: Worship/Fellowship Hall

RSVP (only if you are not on the phone list): **Maureen Sly** at 613-728-7610, mmsly@rogers.com by Monday, August 26.

Social Responsibility Column

Calendar

Sunday, June 2 –12:30 p.m.
UN Working Group

Tuesday, June 11 – 9:00 a.m.
Poverty Awareness Working Group

Sunday, June 16
United Nations Working Group
Summer Service: National
Aboriginal Day Service

Sunday, June 16 –12:30 p.m.
NOT FOR SALE! Human
Trafficking and Prostitution, Talk
by Kim Pate, Executive Director,
Canadian Association of Elizabeth
Fry Societies

Thursday, June 20 – 4:00 p.m.
Unitarian GoGos
Sunday, June 30
Environmental Working Group
summer service

Sunday, July 7 –12:30 p.m.
UN Working Group

Thursday, July 18 – 4:00 p.m.
Unitarian GoGos

Sunday, July 21
Global Justice Working Group
summer service

Sunday, August 4 –12:30 p.m.
UN Working Group

Thursday August 15 – 4:00 p.m.
GoGo Grannies

Sunday August 25 – 1:00 p.m.

Fair Trade Sales

On Sunday, June 16 in Fellowship Hall after the service, sales of organic coffee and chocolate products; we also have Zatoun products such as soap, za'atar and Xtra Virgin Olive Oil. No sales in July and August. If you need anything during the summer months, please contact **Ria Heynen**: 613-828-8468, r-j.heynen@bell.net

Unitarian GoGos

The Unitarian GoGos raise funds, awareness and advocacy for Grandmothers and Orphans in sub-Saharan Africa through the Stephen Lewis Foundation, Grandmothers to Grandmothers Campaign.

Next Meeting: June 20, 4:00pm
Everyone is welcome.

Contact: unitariangogos@gmail.com, or **Wendy Doyle**, 613-824-7462.

The Pride Parade: August 25 March with us!

The Welcoming Congregation Working Group warmly invites our LGBTQI (lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer/questioning and intersex) members and friends, and all our allies to join us in the Pride Parade on Sunday, August 25. Gather by 12:45 p.m. at the First Unitarian banner on the west extension of Wellington Street at Commissioner Street, below the Garden of the Provinces. We extend a special invitation to the UU youth who recently visited the United Nations and heard much there about LGBTQI rights internationally. Consult the Pride 2013 website www.capitalpride.ca for updates on the parade route and the fair that follows on the grounds of Ottawa City Hall. Let's have a great Unitarian presence at the parade this year!



Nepali Gala

Another successful Nepali Gala was held Saturday April 27, 2013. This seventh annual event is a fundraiser for the abused and abandoned women and children of the Women's Foundation of Nepal. Almost \$4,500.00 was raised this year!

The Social Responsibility Council supports the work of the Canada-Nepal Working Group. Many volunteers assist the Canada-Nepal Solidarity for Peace group and the Women's Foundation. Support goes to Nepalese immigrants in Ottawa and the women and children of Nepal.

Gratitude and thanks goes out to First Unitarian, to all those who came to the Gala, and to the Gala volunteers. It takes many hours and many hands to put on an evening of fundraising.

Judy Dunlop did her usual spectacular effort at the Silent Auction! The cooks, led by **Suren and Geeta Upreti** provided a delicious Nepali meal. A special treat was the Nepali dancing. Many others need to be mentioned: **Prakriti, Nabin, Ashutosh, Jane, Francis, Karl, Alison and Tara**. Thanks to all the unnamed volunteers.

The needs for food, shelter and education continue in Nepal. Hopefully, through the generosity of many, the Nepali Gala will take place again next year.

Thank you/Dhanyabhad!



Pride Parade

Social Responsibility Column *continued...*

UN Working Group Talk – NOT FOR SALE! Human Trafficking and Prostitution

Kim Pate, Executive Director, Canadian Association of Elizabeth Fry Societies, has specialized in forensic mental health. She has worked for 29 years in and around the legal and penal systems and is a part-time professor at the University of Ottawa, Faculty of Law. Info: www.elizabethfry.ca/caefs_e.htm

We are unfortunately embedded in a patriarchal society which still tolerates purchasing human flesh, in the form of prostitution. A 2008 UN study of trafficking determined that 79 percent of human trafficking was for sexual purposes and 76 percent of that traffic was composed of girls and women. The UN enacted the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, in 2010.

For human trafficking to be profitable, there must be customers who pay. Sweden, Norway and Iceland have banned purchasing prostitution services. Canada is a signatory to the anti-

trafficking protocol but, rather than taking the step of criminalizing the purchase of prostitute services, continues to consider the women to be the problem. It is time we changed this.

Tulipathon 2013

The Multifaith Housing Initiative's (MHI) annual Tulipathon fundraising walk was a rousing success this year. In warm sunny weather in early May, 31 faith communities walked together from Commissioner's Park at Dow's Lake, beside the Rideau Canal to Bank Street and back. The walkers' pledges raised over \$31,000 in support of MHI's capital campaign to double the number of its affordable housing units. Thirteen of the walkers were from First Unitarian, and their sponsors donated \$2,890, which was \$1,000 more than last year! The Social Responsibility Council budget matches the pledges by adding \$25 per walker, and up to 10% of the total pledges, for an additional donation up to \$600. So our total this year was a creditable \$3,490. Well done, walkers and pledgers!

Hospitality Hour

Three groups have recently signed up to cover Hospitality Hour. In June, the Voyager Men's Group (2nd time this year!) and the office staff will each take a turn. In September, the Go Go Grannies will provide their wonderful squares selection while hosting.

A reminder, particularly to those who do not use the dishwasher often:

Please follow the directions for emptying the dishwasher and **TURN OFF** the machine when finished; the line on dial on the right-hand side must be on the 'O'.

Summer sign-up sheets will be posted by the end of May. Tasks for the summer are simplified, need fewer volunteers and take less time. Please sign up. An experienced person will be in the kitchen each Sunday.

Thank you for everyone's help over the past year!

–*Tarrel Armstrong, Coordinator*

Meditation Gardens Summer Update

The Meditation Gardens have a very welcome new neighbor – the Environmental Working Group's project, a raised-bed vegetable patch! Thanks to Ron Wilson, the frame was built in April, and seeds have now been planted for lettuce, arugula, peas, radishes, carrots and Swiss chard, with tomatoes and beans to follow. We plan to share this very local harvest with Unitarian House and the Food Bank. If you'd like to help with watering, weeding, and delivering, contact **Alastaire**, 613-562-2253, hendersalas@gmail.com.

Second Chance Plant Sale

As cold weather discouraged some gardeners from coming out to its May plant sale, the Friends of the Meditation Gardens are holding a follow-up sale on June 8-9, offering donations and plants being thinned out or removed from the Gardens. Contact: **Renée** reneeknowsbest@rogers.com, for information or to donate.



Liz Benjamin watering garden



Alastaire Henderson, Lori Snyder, Doris Jelly; Photo: Liz Benjamin

Greetings from the 2013 Fall Fair Committee!

A Fall Fair Heads-Up

If you are new to the congregation, you're in for a treat. This is the social and fundraising event of the year and akin to old home week for Ottawa UUs. Please mark your calendar for **Saturday, November 16**, rain or shine!

Our annual Fall Fair (aka Holly and Lace Bazaar) has small tasks, big tasks, on-site tasks, and at-home tasks where you can volunteer before or at the Fair. People also contribute by donating their gently used treasures; making jams, jellies, sweaters and crafts; preparing squares, salads and baking; organizing a section of the bazaar; selling, serving, counting money; and schlepping goods into our building and then the leftovers out to community organizations.



Silent Auction

Fall Fair 2013 Organizing Team:

Director - **Margaret Linton**

Site Services - **Katherine Gunn**

Site/Property Management - **Ron Wilson**

Finances - **Bob Armstrong**

Volunteer Coordinator - **Ellen Smith**

Clothing Coordinator - **Jen Brennan**

Finer Goods Coordinator - **Paula Theetge**

Books, Bytes, Beats, Bric-a-Brac Coordinator - **Melanie Davidson**

Food Services Coordinator - **Kate Kirkwood**

Feel free to contact us for more information, by calling the church office at 613-725-1066 or writing to FallFair@firstunitarianottawa.ca.

The Organizing Team is seeking people to grow into these roles:

- **Assistant Director** - grow into Co-director role; oversee the event ensuring congregational policies are followed; lead the organizing team.
- **Co-Convenor for Flea Market** – gather a team to organize the donated goods; display and sell these items.

Contact: **Margaret** 613-728-2446, mlinton@trytel.com for more information.

Save those valuables

As you clean out the garage or basement this summer, please consider saving your treasures for the Fair.

- Quality books, clothing (not children's), electronics, small furniture, antiques, sports gear, toys, music and DVDs make for great Fall Fair donations. Items must be in good working order!
- Remember, too, the finer items for the Silent Auction – those gifts no longer used; a great way to earn a charitable tax receipt.
- Jewellery, stamps and coins can be left at the office at any time.

Note: A change this year – Flea Market is going upscale! This should allow us to make the flea market less crowded. If an item will not sell for at least \$1, then please do not donate it.



Sale items

Storage Space (large or small) is needed

It allows us to accept items from those moving house this summer. Should you happen to have storage space we could borrow for the next six months, please call **Katherine Gunn**, 613-729-0504 or send a message to

FallFair@firstunitarianottawa.ca

If your household items need to move before then, call **Katherine Gunn** who can route them into the Poverty Awareness Working Group's project assisting the Aboriginal Women's Shelter.



Diane van Oostdam sorting donations



First Unitarian Congregation of Ottawa

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For information on receiving the Spire via surface mail (cost \$12), contact the church office.

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