

THE CANADIAN

UNITARIAN

Newsletter of the Canadian Unitarian Council Vol. 51 • No. 2 • Fall 2009



PHOTO: THANKS TO KALVIN DRAKE



President's Message

I feel very privileged to be twenty-fourth President of the Canadian Unitarian Council. It is a time pregnant with possibilities and challenges. We are excited at the possibilities created by the hiring of our new Executive Director (E.D.) Jennifer Dickson, and challenged by our current staffing levels and drastically reduced income due to the economic climate.

As Jennifer takes over the reins, it is the Board's job to ensure that the E.D. is achieving the stated goals of the organization within clearly articulated constraints. In the forthcoming year, the CUC Board is continuing its work on a number of key initiatives, including:

Doing the right things. We have asked Jennifer to recommend programs and services that reflect the real needs of our members, and to determine the resources required to provide these. This will involve a greater level of consultation with our members and your participation in crafting practical proposals. The membership will then decide to what level they are willing and able to provide the volunteer and financial resources necessary to implement the proposals.

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“The Future? It's Up to Us”

PHOTO: GORDON OLIVER



Thoughts from the Executive Director

As we go to press, I'm pleased to present this fresh new format for our newsletter, *The Canadian Unitarian*. The editor, Raquel Rivera, and all the writers met short timelines and provided engaging and inspiring stories and photos—thank you all!

As new Executive Director, it is a privilege to join the special Canadians who have served in this position. It is especially gratifying to have the opportunity to provide national support and services designed to contribute to the strength and voice of Canadian Unitarians. Together we face the fast changing economic, social and political circumstances in the world around us—changes that affect our communities, our regions, our country, and families around the world.

“One of the great misfortunes of history is that all too many individuals and institutions find themselves in a great period of change and yet fail to achieve the new attitudes and outlooks that the new situation demands. There is nothing more tragic than to sleep through a revolution. And there can be no gainsaying of the fact that a social revolution is taking place in our world today.”

From The Ware Lecture 1966, delivered by Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. at the Unitarian Universalist Association General Assembly.

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The Canadian Unitarian is the newsletter of the Canadian Unitarian Council. It's mailed free to all members for whom the CUC has a current address. * *The Canadian Unitarian* reports on newsworthy events in the denomination, including the annual conference each spring. It attempts to reflect all segments of Unitarianism and Universalism in Canada. We welcome all submissions; however, publication is based on the criteria of newsworthiness, relevance to readers, length and balance. We try to publish all letters to the editor, although they may be edited for brevity and clarity.

* Non-members can subscribe to the Unitarian for \$15 CDN or \$10 US. Send name, address and cheque to CUC office.

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President's Message

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Special attention to our youth. In addition to addressing the needs of our congregations, we are compelled to give particular attention to our youth as a result of recent changes in Youth Services from the UUA—as the form and level of ongoing support is currently unclear.

Doing things right. The Board is implementing a system of monitoring so that there is transparency in reporting the performance of the CUC Board and Staff, as well as increased accountability to the membership. Ultimately the monitoring reports will be available on the CUC website.

Grassroots democracy. In the past, the CUC Annual Meeting has been the focus of our democratic processes as a council of member congregations. For many members of our congregations, the proceedings of these meetings are formal and distant from the day-to-day realities of congregational life. The Board is keen to explore ways in which 'national issues' can be birthed, explored and energized within the local congregations—thereby becoming more reflective of a wider cross-section of people.

A national Canadian UU movement. We are anxious to pursue what it means to be a movement of religious and social progressives in Canada. How can we become recognized leaders in the field? Steps towards this include articulating a clear and distinct national identity, and exploring with our ministers how we can harness the potential created by the synergy of our personal, congregational, and national ministries.

Take your place at the table. There has never been a more relevant time to repeat the mantra, 'YOU are the CUC.' Whether it means participating in a Social Justice Monitoring Group or task force, sharing your talents and experience with others, or simply connecting with UUs outside your own congregation and across the country, the CUC provides a priceless opportunity for us all to play our part in fostering Unitarianism and Universalism in Canada.

The future? It's Up to Us!

Kalvin Drake
President, Canadian Unitarian Council

More information on the Board's short-term plan can be found on the CUC website (www.cuc.ca).



Thoughts from the Executive Director

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This quote refers to conditions North Americans faced in the sixties, but certainly the same thought describes today's circumstances. While the word 'revolution' may be too strong, we all know that the worldwide changes we are experiencing are highly consequential—for ourselves and for all our families.

It has always been a priority of Unitarians to play a role in periods of change. The Canadian Unitarian Council helps the people of our congregations contribute to global change. With communications technologies and financial capabilities, the whole world has become a neighbourhood. Now more than ever, it is our responsibility and opportunity to make it a village. No person can live alone; no nation can live alone any longer. I remember singing in the choir in high school in Ottawa, a lovely song Joan Baez sang from the words of John Donne, "*No man is an island entire of itself, every man is a piece of the continent, a part of the main... because I am involved in mankind, therefore send not to know for whom the bell tolls, it tolls for thee.*"

This truth is one I commit to in my new assignment, and am grateful for the opportunity, and especially for the many kind expressions of support and offers of help received.

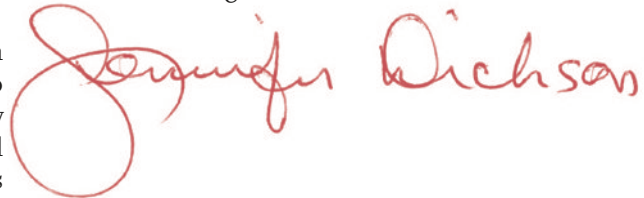
As we prepare for winter here in the most beautiful country on earth, I thank so many of you for your thoughtful responses to the National Survey we conducted August, September, and early October. Over four hundred responses have been received—well over the usual expected response for surveys! Our next step is to carefully learn from your input. We'll let you know the ideas, perspectives, and interests that the results demonstrate.

Over the past four months I have travelled from Salt Lake City to Romania, from Nanaimo to Winnipeg to Ottawa, from Thunder Bay to Niagara... meeting and listening to many committed Canadian Unitarians. I was honoured to meet Rev. Dr. Thandeka, who supports a Canada-U.S. partnership. I've also met with UUA President Rev. Peter Morales, another supporter of a strong UUA-CUC relationship.

My early program priorities include strengthening our Canadian Unitarian Council relationship with Unitarian Universalists in America, strengthening CUC support in areas such as youth and young adults, communications, Green Sanctuary, the voice of Canadian Unitarian Universalists on social issues, and recognition of Canadian Ministers and Directors of Religious Education.

Thank you all for the support I receive as I engage in this new assignment. As the work proceeds, I welcome your ideas and hope we'll meet soon...

With warmest regards,



Jennifer Dickson
Executive Director, Canadian Unitarian Council



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|--|--|--|
| 1 Rev. Jeff Brown, <i>Minister Observer</i> | 5 Sean Neil Barron, <i>Youth Observer</i> | 10 Jan Greenwood, <i>Social Responsibility Liaison</i> |
| 2 Philip Strapp, <i>CUC staff, Director of Finance</i> | 6 Rev. Anne Barker, <i>Communications Liaison</i> | 11 Rev. Christine Hillman |
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| | 9 Linda Thomson, <i>CUC staff, Director of Regional Services</i> | |

Theme for ACM Sparks Energy & Action

PHOTO: THANKS TO ACM
CONFERENCE MATERIALS



Paul Bramadat, keynote speaker

Mike Graham, Host Committee Chair for the 2010 CUC ACM in Victoria, BC, was back from a bicycle ride on a sunny weekend afternoon when he spoke with *The Canadian Unitarian* about the theme for next spring's conference.

"What sparked it actually, was a Latin mass..." The ACM's Sunday service will include the first ever UU Latin mass, written by Rev. Fran Dearman, who is also a classical scholar. The first words begin with the question, 'how shall we live?'

"It seemed to our small committee that there was nothing that we talk about in our churches that is not directly related to that question. And there will likely be nothing that we do at our conference that does not answer it in some part...You get the theme and it tends to generate energy... [it] helped us get focused, helped us talk about the upcoming conference to congregants and other churches and fellowships—see it as a concrete thing."

How Shall We Live? Reflecting a quintessentially Unitarian spirit, the theme seems to have worked its magic on the Host Committee. Dr. Paul Bramadat, Director of the Centre for Studies in Religion and Society at the University of Victoria, has been booked to be the keynote speaker for the conference. "He's going to be very good, I'm very happy about it," says Graham. Plans are also underway to generate interest in Unitarianism by promoting the Sunday service—on the island, across the Province, and into Washington State. And the choir of the First Unitarian Church of Victoria has already practiced one of the seven movements of a musical piece especially composed for the Latin Mass.


In what sounds like a winning combination, Graham describes himself as an optimist, chairing a committee of realists: "A great group of people, I cannot praise them highly enough..." 



PHOTO: TRAVEL AND BEYOND

Victoria Harbour, BC




UU Ministers Converge at CONVO

Who could imagine that 450 Unitarian Ministers from Canada, the United States, and all over the world would descend on Ottawa for six days in November? CONVO was here. Many of you have asked me, "What is CONVO?"

Every seven years Unitarian Ministers gather for an intensive period of training to enrich their ministries and enliven their spirits. We update our skills to the best that is known today, in areas such as leadership, preaching, storytelling, conflict resolution, spiritual direction, religious education, pastoral care, and racial justice. New topics on our agenda include disaster preparation and post-traumatic stress counselling. We share stories with each other about our successes and our failures, and affirm each other in the work that we do. We worship together and celebrate our ministries. We were thrilled to have Dr. Thomas Moore, author of *Care of the Soul*, as our keynote speaker as

well as many other fine specialists to lead our learning.

We are very honoured, in Canada, to have been the hosts of this event for 2009. By doing this we demonstrate our commitment to a continental approach to Unitarian ministry. We are telling our colleagues in the United States that in ministry, there is no split. We are still here. We are part of the Unitarian Universalist Minister's Association. We are partners in the work of building this faith community. We are highlighting Canada as a good place to come and work so that Unitarian Congregations in Canada will have a good selection of candidates when they decide to look for a minister.


Rev. Frances Leigh Deverell
from her column **Count Your Blessings**,
in the UUFO Newsletter.

A Hotbed of Highlights: **ICUU** in Romania

Bring together 80 UUs (including five from the CUC) from nearly 30 nations for a four-day meeting of the International Council of Unitarians and Universalists in Transylvania and how does one pick highlights?

For some it was the journey to the land where Unitarianism has existed for nearly 500 years. Or perhaps it was the pre-conference pilgrimage to Deva where the first Unitarian Bishop Francis David was imprisoned and died. For some it was the chance to explore the Hungarian culture in that part of Romania.

There was a visit to an ancient rural parish and a fabulous traditional goulash dinner, complete with gypsy music, deep in the Carpathian Mountains. We also enjoyed a visit to the current Bishop's house for dinner, with a concert by an amazing youth string quartet.

Why, one highlight might even have been the business meetings! Delegates adopted a progressive five-year Strategic Plan (visit www.icuu.net for details), a balanced budget, and two resolutions in support of embattled Unitarians in Eastern Europe.

A new Executive Committee was elected; this truly international body has members in the UK, the US, Nigeria, Australia, the Philippines, Transylvania, and Canada. Rev. Brian Kiely of Edmonton was re-elected as President.

Participants also got to meet and work with the new Staff of the ICUU. Rev. Steve Dick of the UK replaces the retiring John Clifford as Executive Secretary. The Rev. Jill McAllister—a founder of the ICUU—was introduced in the new role of Program Coordinator.



PHOTO: DIANE ROLLEN



PHOTO: BRIAN KIELY



PHOTO: ALEX SZETO

But most likely the strongest memories will be of fellow Unitarians, who met from all parts of the world. At shared worship, shared meals, and shared conversations and visits to the pub, attendees discovered some of the breadth of belief and experience that goes into making the fabric of our religion worldwide.



Brian Kiely
President, International Council of Unitarians and Universalists



PHOTO: GORDON OLIVER

Clockwise from top:

- Site of the Council Meeting, Unitarian headquarters and seminary in Koloszar
- Brian Kiely and Jennifer Dickson in front of centuries-old rural Unitarian Church
- Brian Kiely holds chalice used by Francis David 450 years ago
- Olga Flores of Bolivia presents a traditional gift of maize to Bishop Ferenc Beneczedi

PHOTO: THANKS TO JAN GREENWOOD



On October 24, the International Day of Climate Action, people from the desert community of Kamloops rallied together for information, song, letter writing, petitions and action plans. Organized by the UU Fellowship of Kamloops, they joined in spirit with many small and large crowds of Unitarian Universalists across Canada, as well as thousands of people around the world. We are aware that we cannot sustain our health, families, or be content, as daily assaults continue on our environment. The Unitarian Universalist seventh principle requires that we have respect for the interdependent web of existence. Respect also calls us to act on behalf

the government the authority to make regulations to meet the targets, including penalties for contravention.

Passage of this bill will fully prepare Canadian negotiators for the UN December Climate Change Conference in Copenhagen. Canada can play a crucial, leading role, called for by a majority of Canadians. We can no longer back away from commitments made and not enacted since Kyoto.

The transition to a new economy will not be easy. But research shows that it would create vast economic opportunities, encourage innovation and job creation, and assist efforts to reduce poverty.

Change of Climate Needed on Parliament Hill

As the world progresses toward agreement on—and implementation of—a new climate agreement, Worldwatch Institute 2009 says that achieving the needed energy transformation will require:

- Profound changes in government policies
- Strengthened global governance in the form of a new international climate agreement
- Mobilization of the private sector to develop and deploy new technologies

of and as part of this web. There can be no more ‘business as usual’, for we have to act collaboratively with other countries across the globe to reduce carbon dioxide emissions. We must require our government to take a lead role, to bring Bill C-311 back to Parliament for a vote.

Bill C-311 calls for Canada to cut greenhouse gas emissions to 25 per cent below 1990 levels by 2020 and 80 per cent below 1990 levels by 2050. It also gives

We cannot continue to deny the science that reveals the dangers and the need for immediate, drastic action—now and in the next years. Together we can effect beneficial change.


 Jan Greenwood
Social Responsibility Liaison,
Board Trustee, Canadian Unitarian Council.



PHOTO: LINDA STEVENSON

Spirits stay high at the rainy-day rally in Ottawa

Unitarian banners were much in evidence on Parliament Hill on October 24, when nearly a thousand Canadians rallied in one of over 5,000 worldwide actions for the International Day of Climate Action. The grassroots event was one of a series, organized to put pressure on the Harper Government to show some leadership on this issue. However, the Liberals share this lack of leadership, having joined with the Conservatives to delay the Climate Change Bill (which was supported by our CUC AGM last May). Members of the First Unitarian Congregation of Ottawa, the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Ottawa, and the Unitarian Church of Montreal, as well as representatives of Canadian Unitarians for Social Justice (CUSJ) participated. The rainy day was offset by the heartening fact that the day’s events were largely organized by young people, including the Sierra Club Group. They did an excellent job of combining music, dance and some stirring speeches in the rally.

 Bob Stevenson and Jean Pfleiderer

Record-High Canadian Presence at LREDA Conference

This year's annual fall conference of the Liberal Religious Educators Association in Providence, Rhode Island, saw the Canadian contingent represented by more than double the number of participants from the previous year. Included in the group were religious educators from five provinces, LREDA's administrator Cindy Leitner, Rev. Millie Rochester (Winnipeg), and CUC Executive Director Jennifer Dickson. Jennifer and the religious educators met to focus on Canadian issues, including youth ministry, in their spare time; those present expressed an interest in creating a day-long gathering devoted to Canadian issues, connected to next year's conference in New Orleans.

Keynotes at the conference were delivered by the Rev. Dr. Thandeka, Rev. Dr. Peter Steinke, and Kevin Tarsa, Minister of Music. The speakers modelled teamwork, and music was woven seamlessly throughout each session. Thandeka established that Unitarian Universalism relies on uplifting changes of heart, communities of care and compassion, and doctrinal freedom. When these elements are in place and healthy—within ourselves and our congregations—we are able to “love beyond belief.” Attendees also heard from past UUA president Rev. William Sinkford as he accepted the Angus H. MacLean Award for Excellence in Religious Education, newly-elected UUA president Peter Morales, and Rev. Elizabeth Strong, who presented her journey as a religious educator.

The Liberal Religious Educators Association (LREDA) is a continental organization that supports religious educators and the congregations they serve (www.lreda.org).



Clockwise from left: religious educators Caroline Farley, Vancouver; Lynn Sabourin, Vancouver; Betty Boomer, Waterloo; Sandy Cooper, Calgary; Andrea James, Winnipeg; Jennifer Dickson, CUC; Caroline Balderston Parry, Montreal; Ivy Trudel, Montreal

PHOTO: THANKS TO IVY TRUDEL

Great Ideas for RE in Canada

Many of our congregations are using materials from Tapestry of Faith, a series of programs and resources developed by the UUA's Lifespan Faith Development group that, “nurture Unitarian Universalist identity, spiritual growth, a transforming faith, and vital communities of justice and love.” Curricula may be downloaded and are available free for all ages (including some multigenerational courses) as well as resources on using the arts in children's programming, and support for non-musicians to incorporate music into their programs. Canadians Caroline Farley and Samaya Oakley are developing a Tapestry of Faith curriculum for high school youth called Virtues and Ethics.

If you aren't yet familiar with this visionary project, visit uua.org and search for 'tapestry of faith.'

Another common thread across the country is the use of Spirit Play, a model based on the Montessori method of delivery. The morning revolves around a story, told with small figures, which is followed by 'the wondering', to ask and discuss questions that arise. Additional activities allow children to explore at their own pace. Religious educators using this method rave about it! Facilitators must be trained, and Canada now has one certified trainer: Joy Silver of Beacon Unitarian in Port Coquitlam, BC. Curious? Visit spiritplay.net.



Andrea James

Director of Religious Exploration, First Unitarian Universalist Church of Winnipeg
Canadian liaison for LREDA (dre.uuwp@mts.net)

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Rites of Passage at UVic

'When does childhood end and adulthood begin?' This was a recent topic at the UVic Unitarian Club, now in its fourth year since being formed on the model of the UU Club of Queen's University.

Every Monday afternoon at the Univer-

vened and administered by a non-student who is inspired by the group's members. The effort has its own rewards! If you are interested in starting a campus ministry group at your university or college, please contact Peter Scales (peter@cuc.ca).



Peter Scales

British Columbia Warms Hearts

British Columbia ministers organized two Fall Heartwarming events in October to bring many of us together. These events convened at First Unitarian Fellowship of Nanaimo and North Shore Unitarian Church in West Vancouver. Both gatherings used similar schedules.

North Shore was an enjoyable combination of known and new acquaintances. The welcome was warm and included sing-along music, which connected to an opening service led by Rev. Stephen Atkinson. In clusters we practised small-group ministry based on a thoughtful theme question, which was raised in the earlier service and held special meaning

Saskatchewan Museum. Youth travelled from Winnipeg, Saskatoon and Edmonton; 13 children were lovingly cared for by Laura McNaughton; one adult participant made the brave journey from Thunder Bay by bus; lay leaders provided workshops and conference support. Four of the Region's ministers were in attendance, offering workshops and worship support. Linda Thomson, Director of Regional Services for the Canadian Unitarian Council, also hosted a workshop and co-led an informal CUC Update with the newest CUC Board Member, Rev. Anne Barker. But the richest strength—evident throughout the weekend—was the commitment of local organizer Trevor Lien, who seemed to be everywhere and doing everything. Lien spent his days with the adults, his nights with the youth, and his heart was clearly behind every move he made. Thank you Regina, for hosting—and thank you Trevor and Liz, for making it happen! The ripples will be enjoyed far and wide.



Anne Barker

A C R O S S C A N A D A A C R O S S C A N A D A A C R O S S C

sity of Victoria, members of the Unitarian Club gather to discuss issues and form community. At 4:30 p.m. attendees introduce themselves, light the chalice, check in, and engage in a topic chosen by the convener. The discussion is always lively, weaving together facts, opinions, experiences, and the UU principles. The campus ministry at UVic allows Unitarian students to stay in touch with the church of their high school years, as well as introducing unchurched students to Unitarianism.

The UVic Unitarian Club is supported financially by the Students' Society. It gets encouragement from the city's two UU congregations, as well as moral support from six professors and a former president of UVic, all UU themselves. The Unitarian Club also participates in interfaith events, which are beneficial to all.

Like many things in church life, starting and sustaining a campus ministry group is both easy and difficult. Undergrads are busy and easily distracted; grad students are often better able to bring the required long-term support necessary for a consistent group. Like most of the twenty religious clubs at UVic, the Unitarian Club is con-

for the participants. In pairs we discussed the priorities of each congregation. We also watched a video from the Nanaimo Heartwarming, which showed the Island UUs singing, and contained a message from Mike and Liz Graham, hosts for the 2010 Annual Conference and Meeting in Victoria, as well as a message from Jennifer Dickson, CUC Executive Director.

Thank you to the Reverends Wendy McNiven, Linda Weaver Horton, Trish Schwartzberg, Stephen Atkinson, Arthur Berman, Jane Bramadat, and Karen Fraser Gitlitz.



Jan Greenwood

Western Region Fall Gathering in Regina

Banking on the strength and commitment of dedicated Saskatchewan volunteers Trevor Lien (Regina) and Liz James (Saskatoon), Western Region was the only Canadian region to hold a traditional weekend-long Fall Gathering in October. The Unitarian Fellowship of Regina hosted members and friends from all corners of the Western Region, meeting both in the Regina Fellowship Hall and at the Royal

Goodbyes and Hellos in Alberta and Manitoba

This summer and fall have been a busy time for ministers in the Western Region.

Calgary said farewell to Rev. Meg Roberts after six years of dedicated shared ministry, and welcomed Rev. Fran Dearman as Interim Minister. Calgary's search committee are working to find a new settled minister—they received many responses to a congregational survey and are confident that the package they have prepared provides a true and positive description of the congregation.

Westwood Unitarian Congregation in Edmonton held an inspiring installation ceremony for their settled minister Rev. Anne Barker. People from Alberta and Saskatchewan congregations, and the CUC's Director of Regional Services Linda Thomson attended the ceremony and danced up a storm afterwards.

And Winnipeg waved goodbye to Rev. Fran Dearman as she finished her term as Interim Minister, and installed Rev. Millie Rochester on November 1 in an event attended by ministers and congregants from across Canada and the United States.

In other news, the Unitarian Congregation of Edmonton has welcomed Kat Hutter as the new Director of Religious Education, and the Lethbridge Unitarian Fellowship has a popular Sunday brunch group meeting on alternate Sundays from their fellowship meetings.

 *John Michell*

Sarnia & Port Huron Hosts Michael Dowd

Border congregation Unitarian Fellowship of Sarnia & Port Huron was among the last congregations to host evangelical evolutionist and spokesperson Michael Dowd before a diagnosis of cancer put a hiatus in his touring schedule. It was a great event—thanks very much to Sarnia & Port Huron for bringing this remarkable speaker to the region.

 *Rev. Christine Hillman*

tawa Fellowship two years ago. “Together, we have created a template that makes this concept a very low-cost venture,” the organizers point out, allowing other congregations an opportunity to consider putting on such an event more easily.

 *Kalvin Drake*

Kingston Fellowship, Outgrowing the Starter Home

The Kingston Fellowship’s Forward Plan-

at KUF, getting to know one another and each other’s traditions.

 *Jean Pfeleiderer*

Fall Fair and a Farewell in Ottawa

In November Ottawa First held two very important events back-to-back in mid-month. The Holly and Lace Bazaar, more familiarly known throughout Ottawa as the Fall Fair, took place on November 14. Replete with flea markets, jewelry, gift shop, restaurant, clothing store, silent auction,

Enjoying the fair in Toronto



PHOTO: DAVID MARLOWE

Avid audience for Rev. Julie’s story, Halifax



PHOTO: SCOTT DONOVAN

A N A D A A C R O S S C A N A D A A C R O S S C A N A D A A

Judy, Judy, Judy...and Lorna: Living Green in GTA

In September the Toronto area congregations organized ‘Living Green in the City’. The fair featured ideas for greening the city and living sustainably in our living and work places. It included speakers and exhibits from various environmental initiatives as well as the City of Toronto.

“This is the second annual fair organized by members from various congregations across the GTA and it’s a great opportunity to work together,” says Judy Magney, President of the Unitarian Fellowship of Northwest Toronto. Judy Magney is one of a trio of Judys (with Judy Clarke of Toronto First and Judy Newman of Don Heights congregations) and one Lorna (Lorna Weigand of Don Heights), who were the core of the organizing committee.

“In addition to living our seventh principle by promoting sustainability, this was an opportunity to strengthen bonds among ourselves and perhaps introduce Unitarianism to a new group of like-minded people,” says Judy Newman.

Toronto leveraged the experience of a similar event successfully staged by the Ot-



PHOTO: DAVID MARLOWE

Green Divas: One Lorna and Three Judys

ning Task Force has undertaken a serious search for a new building. KUF has occupied its first ‘home of our own’ building for a decade now and needs more space. Offers are going forward on local properties. At the end of October, KUF stopped renting its second-floor apartment in order to make use of the space for the congregation’s needs. Meanwhile, the Quakers continue to rent KUF for their Sunday afternoon services. Kingston’s Reform Jewish Congregation, Iyr Ha Melech, has also begun using the space on Saturday mornings. In October the three groups had a delightful potluck dinner together

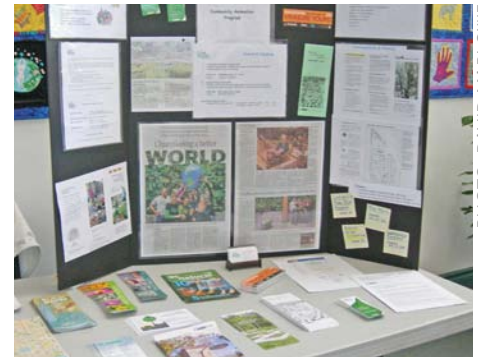


PHOTO: DAVID MARLOWE

Learning to live sustainably in Toronto

and a great deal more, the extravaganza is now the biggest church fair in the city. The annual event typically contributes some 10% of the congregation’s operating budget in one six-hour day (after months of hard organizing work ahead of time, of course).

On the Monday following, the congregation installed Rev. John Marsh as its minister. After two successful interim ministries helped to prepare the way, the congregation was delighted to call Rev. Marsh, who began his ministry with them in August. At the same time, Nicky Duenkel became the new Director of Lifespan Learning.

The Ottawa Fellowship is looking at next steps as its time with Rev. Frances Deverell draws to a close. Rev. Deverell, who has served the congregation part-time for several years, has decided to retire at the end of 2009. She previously served as minister with the Don Heights and Saskatoon congregations.

 *Jean Pfeiderer*

Media and Memories in Montreal

In Montreal, Lakeshore's 14th annual fundraiser for Child Haven brought out 170 people, and they were pleased to arrange a CBC radio interview for Fred and Bonnie Cappucino. At the 100th anniversary of her birth, the congregation has also been reminiscing about visits to LUUC by Dr. Lotta Hitschmanova and their long-time connections to USC.

 *Jean Pfeiderer*

ever he is scheduled to speak. Members have generally stated an appreciation for the professional and forthright approach that a knowledgeable and experienced minister can bring to a congregation.

...and almost 50 years strong

Next fall, we will be celebrating our 50th Anniversary. There are still a number of charter members living in our community, and preliminary plans are being developed now to mark this anniversary with as many members of our alumni as we can contact. We hope, as well, to put forth a program that will continue to encourage the value of our Fellowship to our community. Plan now to join us, if you can.

 *John van Abbema*

Beginning the Search in Saint John

The Unitarian Universalist Church of Saint John (UUCSJ) has established a Ministerial Search Committee. After a wonderful eight-

planned to have the formal statement of our requirements ready by the fall of 2010. If you are another congregation who is in the same situation and has advice or comments, we'd like to hear from you.

As well, we are interested in talking to UU ministers from elsewhere who may be visiting in the area and would be willing to present a Sunday Service.

 *Fred Webster*
community@uucsj.org (www.uucsj.org)

Outreach to All Faiths in PEI

The Unitarian Fellowship of Prince Edward Island continues to hold bi-weekly services at the Sherwood Motel in Charlottetown, space provided courtesy of one of our members. The Fellowship is also working on forming an interfaith group involving other local faiths, such as the Baha'i, and hopefully the local Jewish and Muslim communities. Although small, our core is a

A C R O S S C A N A D A A C R O S S C A N A D A A C R O S S C

North Hatley: Small Groups Not Just for Big Congregations

A *Cercle Gaulois* at North Hatley has been meeting for half a year now, discussing religious questions in French. An Energy Medicine group has begun monthly meetings as well, and a new English-language discussion group is just getting underway. North Hatley continues to sponsor Soulful Sundown gatherings at the Bishop's campus every other Sunday during the regular school term.

 *Jean Pfeiderer*

In Fredericton, Back from Retirement...

One main effort of The Unitarian Fellowship of Fredericton has been the engaging of a retired local minister to provide a service once a month and to be available for personal counselling and workshops. This has been a rewarding experiment from our perspective as well as an educational one for the minister, and we have benefited mutually. Our Sunday numbers are up when-



Summer gathering place at Bear River Native Reservation, NS.



Demonstrating pride in Halifax

PHOTO: THANKS TO RON BULMER

PHOTO: THANKS TO RON BULMER

year, part-time relationship with Rev. Kitsy Winthrop, the congregation has embarked on seeking another UU minister who can serve us in the future. A Ministerial Search Committee has been formed that is working with the congregation to first determine what sort of ministry is most appropriate, and then to reach out to possible ministers. To date, the committee has conducted a survey of all members and friends of the congregation, and over the course of the winter will follow up with group discussions and one-on-one meetings. It is

very dedicated group, and this brings much stability to our lay-led services.

 *Chris Vessey*

Fundraising in Halifax

The Universalist Unitarian Church of Halifax is embarking on ambitious fundraising efforts and an annual canvas over the next several months in order to secure sufficient funds to hire our current consulting min-

ister full-time at the end of her term. Rev. Julie Denny Hughes has been well-received by all and has expressed an interest in staying on in Halifax. New faces are seen each week for Sunday service, including lots of children!

In the meantime we continue to get inspiration from singing, hiking, fellowship, workshops and community action.



Ron Bulmer

Celebrating Thanksgiving at the UUCH, Halifax



A N A D A A C R O S S C A N A D A A C R O S S C A N A D A A C

Partir pour mieux revenir?

L'expression existe, mais je ne sais pas si elle me décrit dans mon cheminement actuel au sein du mouvement UU. Je m'explique.

En janvier 2009, je quittais Ottawa pour un nouvel emploi et une nouvelle ville. C'est dans la métropole torontoise qu'on m'offrait un poste dans un autre organisme sans but lucratif. Le nouveau défi, le poste et la mission de l'organisme m'intéressaient.

Ayant déjà habité à Toronto, je n'avais pas froid aux yeux. De plus, le déménagement me rapprochait de ma famille. Heureusement—et ce fut la première vérification—mon conjoint aussi y était disposé!

L'une de mes peines, toutefois, fut de devoir démissionner du conseil d'administration du Rassemblement unitarien universaliste d'Ottawa, la deuxième congrégation dans la capitale. Cela faisait quelques années que nous participions à divers niveaux. En juin 2008, j'avais renouvelé mon mandat au conseil pour une autre année. Toutefois, de nouveaux horizons m'attendaient.

Depuis mon arrivée à Toronto, j'ai assisté à quelques services de la grande congrégation First UU Church. Je me suis senti très à l'aise et je connais même plusieurs personnes, rencontrées lors de campagnes ou d'activités antérieures. Or, pour différentes raisons, je n'en suis pas (encore) devenu membre officiel et je ne participe pas régulièrement aux services hebdomadaires.

Cela ne m'a pas empêché de continuer à me sentir et à me décrire comme un Unitarien universaliste. Au fait, j'aime me présenter comme un « Franco-Ontarien végétarien Unitarien » et je prends plaisir à soit confondre ou intriguer par cette étiquette poétique.

Ces derniers temps, toutefois, les services et, surtout le fait d'appartenir à une communauté spirituelle, me manquent. Je me souviens que cela m'était également arrivé lorsque j'avais quitté Winnipeg pour Ottawa au début 2003.

Donc, serait-il temps de m'engager de nouveau?

De prime abord, on pourrait dire qu'il me fut nécessaire de « partir pour mieux revenir », selon l'expression.

Mais si je n'ai jamais cessé de me voir comme une personne UU, suis-je réellement parti?

Voilà peut-être une question à discuter en prenant un thé après un service. Après tout, les UU, nous semblons savourer les questions. Elles sont peut-être les treillis dans le jardin de nos réflexions, là pour soutenir les vignes de nos idées.



Gilles Marchildon

A National Ministry for a Vast Land: UUMOC

It has been wisely said that the best way to predict the future is to help create it. These are exciting times for our religious movement in Canada. As a 'living faith' we are continually evolving. In this extended season of change and renewal, the shared ministry we engage in challenges us all to write a new chapter in the history of our Canadian UU movement.

The Unitarian Universalist Ministers of Canada (UUMOC) exists as a professional collegial association to support and enhance the quality of ministry in Canada, and is a chapter of the continental UU Ministers Association, with professional guidelines for ministry and codes of ethical conduct. We are part of the Canadian Unitarian Council, and also in the process of transformation into a national organization. The primary goal of the UUMOC: to provide a more visible and proactive spiritual presence in shaping our shared ministry in Canada.

Over the past year or more, ministers have been engaged in several projects aimed at strengthening the spiritual well-being of our national association and the work we do together on various levels. An essential part of this work has been to review and reshape relationships we have with the Canadian Unitarian Council and Staff, resulting in a working covenant with its Board of Trustees and fine-tuning communication between us.

In keeping with our covenant with the CUC Board, ministers and lay leaders are working on many fronts to develop programming and services to enrich the growth and depth and breadth of our Canadian movement.

Ministers meet annually, immediately following the CUC ACM each May, and at various times throughout the year in regional gatherings from coast to coast. Last May four new initiatives emerged out of our creative planning and shared concern for congregational life. We've proposed a program called Northern Lights, a Canadian adaptation of Chalice Lighters, aimed at empowering individual fundraisers for special growth projects and needs of congregations. Minister on a Moose is another initiative to provide traveling ministers to smaller congregations without settled ministry. With the CUC Staff and Board, we are developing methods of communication through the sustainable use of electronic technology, without losing the authentic and intentional relatedness that is at the very heart of being religious. Finally, we seek to create a national shared voice for social justice, in order to project a coherent and unified UU vision on matters of regional, national and global concern.

Much of ministry is presence. As part of the Ministers in Residence program, in place for two years now, ministers volunteer to provide a spiritual presence at the ACM and at regional gatherings. We take active roles on various regional committees, and on national committees such as the ACM Worship and Program Planning groups and the National Identity Initiative. We have created a new elected position to enhance our executive team, a Ministerial Observer to the CUC Board, who attends Board meetings and teleconferences throughout the year to represent concerns of ministry in organizational development and planning.

We ministers are excited about the work we've set before us and to be doing this work together! We get to decide how we will evolve! In this vast land, unique in geography and history, our challenge has always been how to bridge distances and differences between us in innovative ways. In this time of transition and opportunity, we are called to create a vibrant Canadian UU movement.

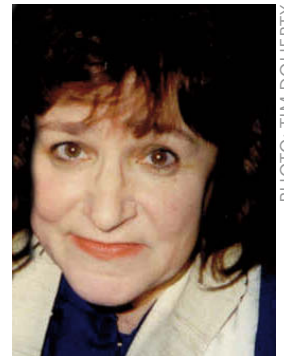


PHOTO: TIM DOHERTY



Rev. Carole Martignacco
Minister, UU Estrie—Unitarian Universalists of North Hatley QC
President, Unitarian Universalist Ministers of Canada (UUMOC)

The Canadian Unitarian Universalist Lay Chaplaincy Program was born in uniquely Canadian circumstances—broad spaces, a scarcity of human resources, and a lot of imagination. In 1970 most of the Unitarian congregations in Canada were lay-led, and the few ministers who served congregations were stretched too thin to provide services to all the Canadians who wanted a Unitarian experience of marriage or memorial after death. In response to the needs of Canadians in congregations scattered across the country, a program was developed in which lay members of each congregation could be licensed to perform legal marriages in all provinces. Memorial services and child dedications were also widely requested, and soon lay chaplains (called simply ‘chaplains’ until 2001) were creating and facilitating rites of passage for Unitarians and non-Unitarian members of their communities alike—all wanting a ritual that was personalized to reflect their own beliefs, traditions, and choices.

Only in Canada: 40 years of the Lay Chaplaincy Program

2010 marks the 40th anniversary of the Lay Chaplaincy Program; it has grown in size and influence. In 2008 46 Canadian Unitarian Universalist congregations sponsored more than 100 lay chaplains, who performed more than 800 rites of passage, most of them weddings and memorial services. Many of these ceremonies are officiated for non-Unitarians and they serve as outreach, promoting and showcasing Unitarian and Universalist values.

UU congregations respond to the characteristics of their geographical and cultural context to offer weddings and memorials that meet the needs of their communities. Ceremonies frequently take place outdoors, against a backdrop of local natural beauty. In Montreal and North Hatley, Quebec, lay chaplains offer rites of passage in the French language for their large francophone communities. Weddings are celebrated for prison inmates and their partners in Kingston, home to eight federal correctional facilities. Each congregation has its own lay chaplaincy committee that supports and supervises the work of the individual lay chaplains and develops their unique congregational lay chaplaincy program.

At the 2001 Annual Conference and Meeting of the Canadian Unitarian Council, significant changes were incorporated into the Lay Chaplaincy Program and voted on by delegates representing all congregations in Canada. A six-year term for lay chaplains was introduced, and as a result more Unitarian Universalists now have the opportunity to experience this special role. The CUC took on the responsibility for developing a comprehensive mandatory training program for all lay chaplains. Weekend workshops are offered in all regions of the country for new lay chaplains to learn basic skills and for more experienced lay chaplains to develop and refine their capacities.

The Lay Chaplaincy Program, in alignment with Unitarian Universalist values, has been among the most outspoken advocates for equal marriage in Canada. Since the early 1970’s Unitarian officiants have conducted ‘Services of Union’ for lesbians, gays, bisexuals, and trans people. Unitarian Universalist lay chaplains were excited and gratified when the Civil Marriage Act became law in 2005, extending the legal right of marriage to same-sex couples. Across Canada, hundreds of marriages for same-sex couples have been celebrated by UU lay chaplains since that date.

Two volunteer committees (East and West) coordinate the CUC Lay Chaplaincy Program, with liaisons in every Canadian UU congregation. Names and contact information for all liaisons can be found on the Canadian Unitarian Council website (www.cuc.ca).

PHOTO: THANKS TO STEPHANIE & LUCY LAGRAVINESE



Lay chaplain Maureen Farr-Eagan marries Stephanie and Lucy Lagravinese, from Massapequa, N.Y.

 Margo Rivera

Chair, CUC Lay Chaplaincy Committee—East (Central & Eastern Regions)

Sing it loud: Choir is for more than Christmas!

Ah, the church choir. Many recognize it as a staple of Sunday services and Christmas concerts, but did you know that it can also be a centre for healing, a builder of community bridges, and a positive force for social change?

Take, for example, the Chalice Choir at the First Unitarian Congregation of Ottawa. Over the last ten years, the choir has grown from a group of 20 singers to a thriving, multigenerational choral community of 50 folks who meet every Thursday night from September through May. Choir members come to sing, certainly, but they also come to share joys and sorrows, both as a group and then ministering to each other informally in our ten-minute coffee break. They come to recharge their batteries, these people who are busy church-committee members and nine-to-five employees. They come to experience the scientifically-proven, endorphin high that is a part of singing in a group. They breathe deeply! They come to experience the joy of community and to have fun—and they wouldn't miss rehearsal for anything.

The choir first started singing outside of the church's walls during the same-sex marriage debates. For the occasion, we called ourselves the choral SWAT Team (*Song Will Always Triumph*), and cheerfully sang our way up Parliament Hill during the rallies to support equal marriage.

Since then, we have sung at UU churches in Toronto and Kingston. We have performed at events for cultural and community groups. We have lent vocal support to many fundraisers for the Stephen Lewis Foundation. We have invited local choirs to come into our church to sing with us. And every time we do this, we build another bridge and create a shared experience.



PHOTO: MAUREEN MURPHY

Singing at the National Arts Centre, Ottawa

The Chalice Choir is a large ensemble, but you don't need a group of 50 in order to make your own choral joy division. You don't even need four-part harmony! You can get started with a group of three or four people who make a weekly commitment to work up a few songs, laugh together, swap stories, and get musically involved in the life of your church. As Canadian songwriter Allister MacGillivray writes, "*Here's to song, here's to time, here's to both with friends of mine.*" Now, get out there and sing!



Jane Perry

Music Director, First Unitarian Congregation of Ottawa
(music@firstunitarianottawa.ca)



PHOTO: SUE WILLIAMS

The Chalice Choir, First Unitarian Congregation of Ottawa

I Don't Do Old

by Sterling Haynes

there are things to do,
lilies to grow.
stella d'ore's blooms
are my galaxy.
irises' blue... fill
my eyes with
ecstasy,
i don't do old
i do global warming
with Suzuki, Schindler.
and Al Gore's concern
with climates
in crisis.

my affinity is with
the arctic—ice, melt, water,
polar bears
drowning—
i don't do old.
god's creativity,
and ideas light
my spirit.
art, literature
can fill me
with awe.
life is sweet,
never, i will

never age out,
i don't do old.
kindness spins
my web,
altruism, a.i.d.s, h.i.v.,
world poverty
are my bonds...
entanglements of
laughter are the gossamer
threads that
tie my connections together...
i won't do old

Sterling Haynes (jshaynes@shaw.ca) is a UU octogenarian writer in retirement. He worked 40 years as a doctor. He writes humorous stories for newspapers, journals and magazines. His work has appeared in The Medical Post, AlbertaViews, The Canadian Journal of Rural Medicine, and The New Quarterly. Sometimes he writes poetry with a medical twist.

Why is Youth Ministry Important?



PHOTO: THANKS TO ANNE BARKER


Youth ministry provides a home and place for youth in our churches. It supports their quests and their questioning in coming into their own. Personally, I can say without a doubt that support from youth, youth advisors, church members, ministers, and the wider UU community has truly changed the course of my life. I am in no way the only one. I challenge you, the UU community, to talk to your youth. Ask them why youth ministry is important to them; I'm sure you will be surprised and warmed by their answers.

In more tangible youth news: Tamara Brown, and Micha Champagne have been chosen as Co-Deans of CanUUdle X in Victoria, BC, which is shaping up to be one of the best. Young people from all over the country have applied to be part of the staff for this awesome event. Who knows what socially active, spiritually alive, and radically inclusive adventures will be in store for

the participants on the May 2010 long weekend (concurrent with the CUC Annual Conference and Meeting)?

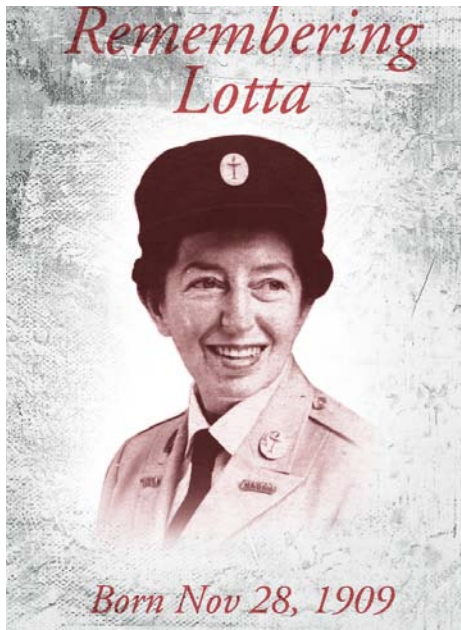
Across the nation, youth have been involved in leadership schools, basic advisory training, and attending conferences in both the United States and Canada. What has your youth group been doing? Give us a shout at youth@cuc.ca.

Finally, are you a young person interested in working with the Board, the Youth Observer and the Executive Director as part of a consultation to discuss staffing needs for youth ministry across Canada? Want to get involved? Give youth@cuc.ca a shout.

 Sean Barron
Youth Observer,

Board Trustee, Canadian Unitarian Council.

The Atomic Mosquito of 56 Sparks Street: A Sermon in Two Voices



From Jessica Purple Rodela's sermon honouring the 100th anniversary of the birth of Dr. Lotta Hitschmanova (November 28, 1909–September 1, 1990). The Reverend Jessica Purple Rodela serves the First Unitarian Congregation of Waterloo. She can be reached at JPRodela@uuma.org.

NARRATOR: She wore a uniform to work every day, dawn to midnight. The uniform was originally required by the United Nations, who declared in the aftermath of World War II that agencies may assist abroad only if identified by a uniform. The Unitarian Service Committee was assigned a variant of the olive-green army nurse's uniform and military-style hat; Lotta affixed ribbons and awards, and wore the distinctive garment every single day. The uniform commanded respect, and allowed access to places where civilians and women were often banned.

Dubbed 'the atomic mosquito' for her diminutive size and persistent voice in public service announcements, her tireless schedule of speaking engagements took Lotta across Canada and around the world. She created a buzz of sound-bites throughout the 60s and 70s in support of sowing the seeds to feed all the children of the world, to empower the poorest among us and to give rise, as a founder, to Canada's international development movement. Dr. Lotta, fighting the enduring war against poverty and hunger, created an army of her own and enlisted all Canadians to serve. Dr. Lotta—soldier of peace...

LOTTA: "We are here in this world to help each other and to make this world a better place to live. That is my philosophy of life. We are not here to enjoy ourselves and we are not here to make money and we are not here to live empty lives. We are here with a function, with a very important function that has been entrusted to us, and this is to make the world more livable and it lies in our hands and I am absolutely convinced that it can be done.

"Do you realize that two-thirds of humankind goes to bed hungry every night?"

NARRATOR: This was the challenge of Lotta Hitschmanova, founder of the Unitarian Service Committee. It was a challenge issued from the depths of her own experience; the unexpected fate of a child born into a wealthy, well-educated Jewish family in Prague, Czechoslovakia, 100 years ago, in 1909.

WWII thrust the world she knew into chaos and confusion. Because her journalism work had been decidedly and unapologetically anti-Nazi, her life was in danger. She had to flee.

She became the lonely acquaintance of hunger, the companion of two-thirds of the world. She was helpless as she wondered of news from home. In 1941 in France, she applied for a visa to go to the United States. Lotta didn't get the visa, but fluent in French, English, German, Spanish, and Czech, she did get a job as interpreter, helping other hopeful refugees. She sustained herself meagerly on a diet of beetroot and carrots, and twice collapsed on the street.

LOTTA: "Charity begins at home. Indeed it does. And then it goes on to embrace next-door neighbours and all those who need help. So start by caring for those near you and then give a thought, and if you can a dollar, to the children far away, who have no hope without your help."

NARRATOR: Inspired by the Unitarian Service Committee of the United States, which had rendered her aid in those dismal days of near-starvation in France, Lotta would eventually help organize six Unitarian congregations (Ottawa, Montreal, Toronto, Hamilton, Winnipeg and Vancouver) to sponsor the idea of a Canadian Unitarian Service Committee. In that first year, USC Canada sent \$64,985.38 and 180,000 pounds of clothing and toys, helping 1,100 children across Europe. From the beginning, Lotta was determined to create an agency with a personal touch. Hers was an agency that provided not just a 'hand out'; it was a 'hand up', affirming the worth and dignity of all persons.

Happy birthday, Lotta. May we all be worthy of such a legacy—putting our Unitarian faith into action, bringing the gift of hope to an ailing world, and healing the heartbreak with the sustaining nurture of food sovereignty, empowerment, and hope. Let us dare to realize Dr. Lotta's dream.