

## Out for a day

BY MARY BENNETT

**“C’mon Out and Celebrate” the corner sign** at 49th and Oak said to the commuters driving by. The Unitarian Church of Vancouver (UCV) commemorated “National Coming Out Day” by encouraging all its members and friends to be “Out for a Day” at the worship service on Sunday October 14. The festive event featured a homily introducing UCV’s new “Coming Out Ceremony” which can be offered to individuals who wish to celebrate their different affectional and sexual identity with supportive loved ones.

“Our goal is to provide optimism and cheer to the coming out process,” said Unitarian Lay Chaplain Dan Enright, the host and organizer of the event. “With National Coming Out Day (October 11), we thought the solidarity of having anybody choose to be out for a day would demonstrate our support for people who are not “straight”, and the difficulties that they may have in their personal journeys, because of social stigma, family strife, religious persecution or internalized homophobia.”

National Coming Out Day is organized by a US human rights group, which encourages Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgendered and Queer (LGBTQ) people everywhere to wear identifying symbols to demonstrate their presence in all walks of life, all ages and all ethnic groups.

The ceremony is a customizable ritual patterned on familiar cultural ceremonies such as child blessings, weddings and memorials. The process of coming out as LGBTQ is often cited as the most significant event in the person’s life, and the Unitarian Church of Vancouver and the Canadian Unitarian Council thought it appropriate that there be an enriching, transformative ceremony available to help the person and their loved ones commemorate this important life realization.

“I also think there is value in having this event and ceremony offered by a church,” continued

PHOTO: CHRISTINE LYON, THE VOICE



*“Congratulations You’re Out!” cake at the coffee hour following the worship service that used elements from the Coming Out Ceremony booklet Dan Enright has produced.*

Dan. “We are a diverse spiritual community with varied beliefs, but one thing we can all agree on is homophobia is against our religion.”

After the Sunday service, there was a special post-service gathering to celebrate the presence of the “temporary and permanent” out people. Straight people were very welcome to attend.

In an article entitled “Church makes it easier to be different,” in the *Vancouver Courier*, Sandra Thomas wrote, “A long-standing joke in the queer community is that the prize for recruiting a straight person is a toaster oven, which actor Ellen DeGeneres alluded to at the end of her groundbreaking TV series in which she announced she was a

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## Dichotomy on the Sunshine Coast

BY FRANCI LOUANN

this is a rough and rocky point  
timbers from a long-gone wharf  
stand sentry  
in the divided sea

on one side  
the surf pounds  
the wind blows cool

on the other  
a quiet bay  
a warm refuge

the way down to the safe place  
is more difficult  
once settled  
I note the stench of still water

*Franci Louann is the past poetry editor and has spent many hours encouraging other Unitarian Universalist poets. The Canadian Unitarian wishes to honour her contribution by showcasing her work. “Dichotomy on the Sunshine Coast” appears in the anthology Shoreline – Water Poems. This collection was published May 2007 and is available from the CUC office.*

CUC members are invited to submit short, spiritual poems: about five words to a line, 30 lines of poetry (including spaces between stanzas), and a short bio to Janet Vickers at [poetry@cuc.ca](mailto:poetry@cuc.ca)

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 *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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## Out for a day

• continued from front page

lesbian. T-shirts reading “Ellen’s Toaster Oven” became cult favourites, which is why a toaster oven will be the door prize at the church’s event.”

As it happened, the toaster oven was forgotten in the worship service which had many moving from tears to laughter frequently. The decision then was to give it to the church’s sponsored refugee family.

A journalism student from Langara attended and interviewed Enright. Her article in the *Langara Voice* stated, “His message was simple: ‘be true to yourself.’ He said there are thousands of ‘uncloseted queers’ who feel the need to adopt façades to hide their real identity.”


“We are surrounded by hundreds of Clark Kents,” he said in his service.

In a reading from the children’s classic, *The Velveteen Rabbit*, Enright sent a positive message to those who are still in the closet:

“Once you are real you can’t be ugly, except to people who don’t understand,” he read.

Enright then invited attendees, many adorned with brightly-coloured pipe cleaners in a symbolic show of support, to “stand up and come out for a day.”

It was a good week for outreach at the Unitarian Church of Vancouver. Through the efforts of Michael Scales of the Ordination Committee, the cover story of the *Courier* was also all about a Unitarian. Scales, who had never written a news release before, did a Google-search for how to write one. Then, he says, “I wrote up a one-page snappy piece with three hooks.” He sent it to 21 media contacts, got one nibble and... a 3,000 word, cover story. He described it as a fishing trip – he landed a big one on his first time out.

You can see the full stories through the links at: <http://cuc.ca/canu/OnlineNews.htm> 

## A Faithful Fool for the Downtown Eastside

The Unitarian Church of Vancouver combined the foolish with the sacred in a special ordination service on Sunday September 16th, at 7:00 pm. Laura Friedman, a member of the Faithful Fools, was ordained as a Unitarian minister.


As a Faithful Fool, Rev. Friedman serves in the Downtown Eastside through a “ministry of presence,” that guides people from all walks of life to respectfully bear witness to the poverty and the hardships that exist for people who live on the street and in the Downtown Eastside. Witnessing is a spiritual practice involving personal action and meditation that is based upon sacred traditions of both Christians and Buddhists.

The Faithful Fools ([www.faithfulfools.org](http://www.faithfulfools.org)) is a charitable, educational, and



Rev. Laura Friedman was ordained by the Unitarian Church of Vancouver. Photo from the Street Retreat at CUC ACM 2007.

interfaith organization created in the economically disadvantaged Tenderloin District of San Francisco in 1998 by a Unitarian minister, Rev. Kay Jorgensen, and by a Catholic nun, Sister Carmen Barsody. Both women were in Vancouver to conduct this unusual ordination service and many members of the audience were dressed in festive and foolish attire for the event. The event opened with a procession led by a fool on stilts, playing the didgeridoo.

The congregation enjoyed a weekend full of joy and fun, inspiration and involvement, with more to come. 

For more information on the Faithful Fools in Vancouver, contact Rev. Laura Friedman at 604-656-5922 or at [toweringtrees@gmail.com](mailto:toweringtrees@gmail.com)

# Young Adults

by Robbie Brydon

## In Young Adult circles

**Circles are not always obvious.** This year's *Opus*, the continental spiritual retreat for UU young adults, was titled

provided soulful, powerful, thoughtful and sometimes very comedic entertainment and ministry throughout the

**OUR ANTI-OPPRESSION MATERIAL WAS PRESENTED IN CYCLES – CIRCLES – OF DISCRIMINATION AND LIBERATION AND EACH STEP WAS SPOKEN TO POWERFULLY WITH NARRATIVES FROM THE EXPERIENCE OF PEOPLE PRESENT.**



A closing circle of the conference.

PHOTO: ASHA PHILAR

“The Circle Game,” but did not seem to hold tightly to the theme – until you stopped to think about it.

The five days at Unicamp in August were the first time that *Opus* had returned to a site, having occupied the same ground four years previously. It was remarkable to note the changes – and consistencies – within the community in one turn of the circle.

Our anti-oppression material was presented in cycles – circles – of discrimination and liberation and each step was spoken to powerfully, with narratives from the experience of people present.

Three stalwart members of the community aged out in a tearful farewell around the campfire. One member-to-be, the charming Leif Bailey, joined us for the first time at the age of five months.

Our numerous phenomenal musicians – professional and otherwise –

conference. For me, personally, it was the closing of a circle as music I had first heard there, four years ago, came back in powerful ways.

The 80 of us, a dozen Canadians and four Brits included, strengthened old bonds, built new ones and looked for ways to extend the music, the worship and the vibrancy we have beyond our young adult circles. Let's share our new dreams, maybe better dreams and plenty – before the last revolving year is through. **U**

*Robbie Brydon is a member of Toronto First and the UUA Regional Organizing Consultant for Young Adult/Campus Ministry for the St. Lawrence District of the UUA*

**Young Adults are actively involved in organizing the CUC ACM. Join the email list by sending a blank email message to [cuc-acm-young-adults-subscribe@yahoogroups.com](mailto:cuc-acm-young-adults-subscribe@yahoogroups.com).**

by Joel Fox

## Exciting new wave for the Young Adults

**After the ACM, a** couple of us young adults (YAs) got to talkin' about havin' ourselves a camping trip. The word was spread and soon we were set for four days on Island View Beach, in Victoria.



*Kellina Dyer and Cora Babey at the BC Young Adult camping trip.*

The weather was perfect for all four days with barely even a cloud. We awoke each day to sunshine's happy glow and feasted merrily on the apple and plum trees that abounded. We soon found the beach and some of us went for a little swim. The water was cold and rocks and shells sliced up my feet, but it was so refreshing! We also enjoyed flopping down on our beach towels and bathing in the sun. Relaxation was the name of the game here, and we knew how to play it. Oh, the joys of having absolutely no responsibility! Every night, we wandered over to the beach and built a campfire and warmed ourselves under the starry sky. During the days, we enjoyed delicious gourmet dishes, chatted, played cards, hung out with some other YAs we met – and Curtis and I had one hysterical laughing fit.

Unfortunately, right towards the end of the trip, some misunderstandings and hurt feelings surfaced and we realized there were some group dynamic issues that needed to be resolved. Some post-trip discussion produced valuable insights that will help make sure everyone's needs are met in future trips.

Overall, it was a definite success, and we are all excited for the next one. Unlike the few YA cons out there, smaller, regional gatherings such as this are affordable, flexible and as frequent as people want. You really get to connect with the others in your area. It's a great way to create community. YAs, get connected!

*Joel lives in Comox, BC and is the Soulful Sundown Coordinator for the ACM [feeltheharmony@yahoo.ca](mailto:feeltheharmony@yahoo.ca)*



## Jean Pfleiderer

CUC President

### Taking our time

**With only three face-to-face meetings** a year, board meetings can become marathons. February is nearly all business as we hide from raw weather at whatever Toronto-area congregation has been good enough to host us and complete the work to prepare for May. May brings us early to the ACM site, where we meet before the conference begins, and then conduct the annual business meeting of the Council itself.

In glorious September, though, we retreat as well as meet. This year, we gathered at Unicamp, north of Toronto on the Niagara Escarpment. In a setting of wood smoke and homey dining hall food, we took time for an orientation of two new board members, Rev. Christine Hillman (Central region) and Ron Bulmer (Eastern region); a new Youth Observer to the Board, Nick Nesbitt-Larking; and the new Director of Regional Services – West, Laura McNaughton.

We took time for discussion and reflection, and were joined for a day by Revs. Frances Leigh Deverell and Wayne Walder, liaisons from the Unitarian Universalist Ministers of Canada.

We took time for an evening procession through the camp's new labyrinth, and we took time together to talk late into the night.

The September meeting is very much a business meeting, no question about it – but in many ways, it is something much more. It sends us off into the busy fall not only with a sense of commitment to the Council that we serve, but also with a deepened appreciation of the pace of the natural world and of the value of taking time for each other.

*In faith,  
Jean*

*Jean Pfleiderer is the CUC president. You may contact her at [jeanp@cuc.ca](mailto:jeanp@cuc.ca)*

## Governance

by Calvin Drake

### News from the Board

**In 2001, the CUC adopted a five-year** plan (entitled *Of Regions And RNGs*), which charted our course as the CUC took over the responsibility for delivery of many of the services previously provided by the UUA. This summer we conducted a formal assessment of that five-year plan. Many of you provided input by responding to an on-line survey, the results of which were compiled and analyzed. The report (to be available on the CUC website shortly) was overwhelmingly positive – with kudos to our wonderful staff and the leadership of the day. The report also contained a number of recommendations for improvement, many of which have already begun to be addressed.

The Board's current planning process is called Go-4-It! (Go On! Go Deep! Go Out! Go Big!). The board spent much of its September meeting discussing various strategies and potential initiatives. We recognize the creative tension involved in maintaining our strategic mandate to build vital religious communities in Canada while also acknowledging a growing desire among our congregations for a stronger influence on the national and even the international scene.

The Board also welcomed reports from staff indicating that the CUC's

current regional and lifespan learning service delivery is on track with the 2007 annual plan and budget.

*Nick Nesbitt-Larking, Youth Observer, Rev. Christine Hillman, Board Member in the Central Region and Ron Bulmer, Board Member from Eastern Region joined us for the first time.*



The CUC Board operates under the Carver model of governance, whereby the Board focuses on policy (“ends”) rather than operations (“means”). This model provides an effective way of delineating board and staff responsibilities in not-for-profit organizations. As part of our retreat, the Board took time to re-educate itself on the fundamentals of this model.

Technology offers opportunities for the Board and our member congregations to communicate and interact more effectively. The Board committed to testing web conferencing as a way of increasing the frequency of “live” meetings and reducing Board meeting costs.

#### LATE BREAKING NEWS

We're proud to announce that at the meeting of the International Council of Unitarians and Universalists in Oberwesel, Germany, Rev. Brian Kiely, minister of the Unitarian Church of Edmonton and a past president of the CUC board was elected President. Email [icuu@cuc.ca](mailto:icuu@cuc.ca) If you wish to send congratulations.

# Why Buy Nothing – or not on Nov. 23

**CUC first endorsed Buy Nothing Day, an initiative of Adbusters Magazine, in 2003. Our 2007 news release quotes president, Jean Pfeiderer, “We believe in world community. We also believe that we cannot shop our way to fulfillment. We encourage people to ask themselves every day, ‘Why do I want to own this?’ We think people are trying to fill spiritual needs by accumulating possessions, when what they really want is fellowship.”**

“We are urging Unitarians to buy less,” said Pfeiderer, “and live more. Gandhi once summed up his philosophy as ‘Renounce and enjoy’. If we take the focus off spending, we can see other aspects of life more clearly.”



Unitarians and Universalists might Buy Into this concept because:

- We “walk the talk.” Buying nothing for a whole 24 hours is challenging. How big a challenge is determined by how strictly you define buying, and nothing. Do you turn off your electricity? Eat only garden produce? Walk or cycle to work instead of driving or taking a bus? Delay all pay-per-use telephone calls?

- We believe that we are not only a part of, but also responsible for, the interdependent web of all existence. We have to be conscious of our consumption, how necessary it is, and what the costs are to the earth and to all living creatures.

- We value the inherent worth and dignity of all people. Some people work for extremely poor wages, under unhealthy conditions, to produce inexpensive widgets that we mostly don’t need. Because we don’t need them, we will only buy them if they are very cheap. One way to help slow down that race to ultimate cheapness might be to stop purchasing silly goods (or “bads”) and put that saved money into social justice projects.

- We want to grow spiritually. There’s nothing like a good dose of nothing to put a person into a spiritually growthful space. It makes you aware of all the noise and stuff that fill your other 364 days. Empty yourself – it’s good for you.

*Rev. Wendy McNiven is a member of the CUC Environment Monitoring Group and the CUC spokesperson for this event. She is Consulting Minister for the UU Fellowship of Kamloops, BC. To contact Wendy: [wmcniven@uniserve.com](mailto:wmcniven@uniserve.com)*



Buy Nothing Day is a silly, poorly thought out, and subtly anti-commerce concept which I find off-putting. I guess if we had any bankers as members then they have to take the day off on Friday the 23rd! Is this why we don’t see any?

Any members who were store keepers would be disappointed as well. Again is this why we rarely see them at our churches?

I agree with buying less, but buying nothing for one day is silly. What about the natural gas that flows to our furnaces; the electricity that makes our life move and the gasoline that we will use (to go to UU meetings)? All of these are truly significant vectors of our “progress” to the “hell” of global warming. Are we going to turn off the furnaces, shut off the power and cancel movement on the 23rd. I suspect not.

A reality of the interdependent web of existence in Canada is the very high relative dependence on our economy on foreign trade. Last I looked we were third, behind only Germany and Japan. Let’s hope our foreign customers don’t take the 23rd off, thereby reducing our annual GDP by about half a percent.

As a long-time UU who enjoys the ebb and flow of enterprise I say: give me a break.

*Al Earl, Unitarian Fellowship of Kelowna*



For the CUC news release and other position statements related to the environment, see: [http://cuc.ca/social\\_responsibility/environment](http://cuc.ca/social_responsibility/environment)

## Premises of our faith

# Making a good thing better – and bigger



### FROM MAY TO SEPTEMBER IN SAINT JOHN

That's the time it took the UU Church of Saint John to remodel their new home, a two-storey building dedicated September 23. Volunteers did as much of the work as they could. There are still a few things to finish of course, like the new street sign attached for now to a power pole.

More than 90 people showed up for the dedication, double the number in the congregation. Among the visitors – a dozen from the Fredericton fellowship, and three ministers from other denominations.

*George Legris, UUCSJ*

### FROM SEPTEMBER TO MAY IN WEST VANCOUVER?

On September 9th, 2007, North Shore Unitarian Church in West Vancouver made a historic decision. After hours of previously held information sessions, the congregation voted 80% in favour of selling its property to an ecologically-minded housing developer. The Board negotiated a bold contract, including safeguards to lower the still substantial risk the congregation has courageously decided to take. The membership was proud of the high quality of consultation preceding the vote and is inspired by the possibility of eventually moving to a more accessible location. We're ready to Go-4-It!

*Stephen Atkinson, Minister  
North Shore Unitarian Congregation*

**Two congregations in** Southern Ontario are completing major building changes over the fall.

The Unitarian Congregation of South Peel embarked on an ambitious Millennium renewal project to expand and update their facilities. The first step was to completely retrofit the rental building which became the home of Tiny Treasures Montessori School. Then the Great Hall was started following green principles. The design included energy conservation through the building systems, and building materials were chosen carefully.

The renovated and refinished Steinway piano's glorious sound complements the excellent acoustics of the Hall. The original two-storey building has been brought up to all standards to accommodate the programs and staff offices. The Great Hall will be used for Sunday services and a variety of activities: weddings, memorials, ceremonies for members and the general community. Several rentals were booked before completion, including a series of concerts.

The building was dedicated on October 28 and South Peel hosted the CUC's Regional Fall Gathering the following weekend.

Board Chair, Geoff Cliffe-Phillips says, "We are honouring the very many members of the congregation who fought for years to advance the project and who have helped in so many ways on its completion, including upgrading the old facilities, landscaping, purchasing equipment and so on."

Photos and story are at: <http://www.ucsp.org/rentals.htm>

**First Unitarian Waterloo** are also moving this fall from Waterloo to Kitchener.



*The new building for First Unitarian Waterloo, is now located in Kitchener, Ontario.*

Margaret Insley, who steered the process over the past two years says, "There will be more space immediately and also the possibility to expand in the future by adding a second storey. The congregation worked together 'through the good times and the bad.' We still face some significant challenges – a period of owning two buildings, renovating, moving into a new neighbourhood away from our traditional location near the universities."

Rev. Felicia Urbanski, Interim Minister, adds, "The best thing about the process has been the quick decisiveness of the Board in deciding to buy the new property in July 2006, as well as the ongoing planning and cooperation that has occurred."

"We have always tried to be inclusive to all our members throughout the Waterloo region," says President, Steve Lill. "The congregation's name once was Waterloo County Unitarian Fellowship. This won't stop people thinking our name will change to swapping Kitchener for Waterloo along with the unfortunate acronym change. We have started to research how to do a name change and it would take some time to complete this process so I expect our name to remain the same for the next few years."

# Adding depth to the canon of spiritual poetry

Janet Vickers has been selected as the new (second) poetry editor of *The Canadian Unitarian*. She's been actively involved with the CUC and has considerable experience as a Unitarian leader in both Ontario and BC including as an office administrator and lay chaplain.

Vickers has demonstrated dedication, responsibility, hard work, tact, patience, and sensitivity, both in editing *Shoreline*, CUC's first poetry anthology and in participating on our CUC poetry chat list.

Over the past twenty years, her poetry has appeared in Canadian journals such as *Grain* and *sub-terrain*, and in anthologies: *Common Sky: Canadian writers against the war*; *Down in the Valley*; *Who Will Wind the Watches*; and *Shoreline: Water poems* – where she also served on the editorial committee. Her first chapbook of poetry *You Were There* was published in 2006.

Vickers says, "I was thrilled when *The Canadian Unitarian* began publishing poetry on the front page. This is the place I go to first when my copy comes through the mail. I believe poetry adds tremendous depth to the newsletter and to the canon of spiritual poetry. I appreciate the opportunity to nurture other poets by reading and selecting poetry for *The Canadian Unitarian*, and work with others involved." Janet is chair of the CUC Poetry Chapbook committee. **U**



## Book of Wings

*From You Were There*

BY JANET VICKERS

There are so many birds  
you would think the air is a wing's  
grandmother  
her white hair  
dusting the leaves.

Their soprano speculations are lacy hymns.

Religions are created out of the silence

that follows.



Mary  
Bennett

CUC Executive Director

## "This is the sound of all of us"

Many times I hear that Unitarians have a strong voice considering our size. And I often hear that we would like our national voice to be stronger still. Reflecting on the "mosaic" of our voice to government and media, *This is the Sound of All of Us*, a song written by Winnipegger, Ruth Moody from the Wailin' Jennys, came to mind to describe the process.

When the CUC sends out a statement, it's signed by our President. In the words of the song, "This is the sound of one voice."

Behind the scenes, our nine social responsibility monitoring groups research issues, suggest actions and draft statements for her to consider.

Recently, there has been on average one statement per month, ranging from support for indigenous rights to concerns about the Canadian government's involvement in Afghanistan and lack of involvement in speaking out on the Burma/Myanmar situation. The Environment group has created statements on Terminator Seeds and recently distributed the statement that we are (still) the first national faith group to formally endorse Buy Nothing Day.

In each case, while the President approves and signs the statement, the chair or a designate is noted as the spokesperson for CUC. Thank you to the representatives of these three monitoring groups: Jo-Anne Elder-Gomes, Colin Read and Rev. Wendy McNiven. "This is the sound of voices three."

As all of our position statements are based on resolutions discussed and voted on at our annual meetings, they represent

"the sound of all of us

Singing with love and the will to trust."

*Take care of yourselves and each other,  
Mary*

The editorial board of the CUC Poetry Chapbook 2008 project are seeking submissions of Unitarian poetry (5 poems maximum, no more than 45 lines including spaces). Canadian Unitarians or Unitarian residents of Canada, who are either CUC congregation members, CUC individual members or self-identified Unitarians, may submit work on the theme of "The Web of Life – In our hands; La toile de la vie – Entre nos mains" to be considered for publication in our

second professionally published chapbook (available by the next CUC ACM). Please submit unpublished material to Jo-Anne Elder at [eldergomes@yahoo.com](mailto:eldergomes@yahoo.com) or 180 Liverpool Street, Fredericton (NB) E3B 4V5, att'n: CUC Chapbook, by November 30, 2007. Please also include a 100 word bio. Include an SASE if you are submitting via land mail and wish to receive a reply. All work will receive notification by March 21, 2008.



### THE CONFLUENCE LECTURE AT CUC ANNUAL CONFERENCE

Rev. Brian Kiely took professional chef training during his sabbatical last year. Since then he's done fundraising dinners for UC Edmonton and co-led a workshop on Cooking and Spirituality at the Western Regional Fall Gathering.

The Confluence Lecture sponsored by UU Ministers of Canada (UUMOC) has quickly become an important tradition. Rev. Meg Roberts and Rev. Brian Kiely will be co-presenters of the 2008 Lecture titled "Can Eco-Spirituality Grow Eco-JUSTICE?" Many registrants look forward to it as well as other concurrent sessions led by professional ministers.

### SOW SEEDS OF CONNECTION

We're planning a seed exchange during the CUC ACM next May. It's time to gather some seeds before the snow flies. If you have some particularly nice flowers or other plants you think others would enjoy that grow

from seeds, please gather and label their seeds and bring them to Ottawa. Include a photo of the plant if possible. Please put into small paper envelopes (no plastic bags).



PHOTO: JANET VICKERS

## ACM 2008 theme selected:

**"The Web of Life – In our Hands" « La toile de la vie – Entre nos mains »** has been selected as the 2008 Annual Conference and Meeting (ACM) theme by the Canadian Unitarian Council (CUC) ACM National Program Planning Committee. Have you ever wondered how the CUC selects a theme for its annual conference? The ACM National Program Planning Committee, comprised of representatives from Unitarian and Universalist congregations from across the country, puts a great deal of thought into this decision. The Committee considers issues that are at the heart of our Unitarian Universalist principles.

ACM 2008 will be held in Ottawa and the Committee wanted to adopt a theme with political impact in the Nation's Capital and strong links to Unitarian and Universalist values. Our seventh principle is that we affirm and promote the interdependent web of all existence of which we are a part. Chair, Kathleen Webster, says, "Our 2008 ACM theme encourages us to think about our

healthy, and our actions in the broader community. The theme will set the tone for the ACM 2008 keynote address as well as the concurrent sessions. It will tie together the entire conference which will be a very thought provoking and inspirational weekend.

UUs have a natural affinity for

**"THE WEB OF LIFE – IN OUR HANDS" SPEAKS TO OUR PLACE IN THE WORLD, OUR RESPONSIBILITY TO KEEP OUR PLANET HEALTHY, AND OUR ACTIONS IN THE BROADER COMMUNITY.**

interdependence and that our planet is in trouble right now. We need to ask ourselves how we can be more responsible in our day-to-day living."

"The Web of Life – In Our Hands" speaks to our place in the world, our responsibility to help keep our planet

debate, exploration and discussion. ACM concurrent sessions will promote interactive discussion between UU youth, young adults, and our more mature members during the May 2008 meeting in Ottawa and well afterward. Some workshops and seminars will be



Meet the Ottawa Host Committee: Back (left to right): David Hudson, Audrey O'Callaghan, Joan Hill, Arthur Palmer, Joe Connor. Middle: Jane Perry, Carol Anne Deneka, Elizabeth Bowen, Lianne Dubreuil. Front: Pat Hill, Susan McEwen. Absent: Margaret Gourlay, Joan Auden, Amy McRobert, Marina Jones, Rebecca Hogue, Alex Campbell, Heidi Anderson.

## “The Web of Life – In Our Hands”

complemented by on-line discussion forums to help prepare participants for the Ottawa ACM as well as facilitate interactive discussion throughout the year. Young adults are represented on both

for effective ways to encourage sharing beyond the weekend itself, so more people can benefit from the conference, even if they're not attending.

All proposals will be reviewed by

**SUBMIT A PROPOSAL TO LEAD A SESSION TO SHARE YOUR KNOWLEDGE AND EXPERTISE WITH OTHER UNIVERSALIST UNITARIANS FROM ACROSS CANADA. YOUR SESSION COULD BE THE START OF A NATIONAL PROJECT.**

the Program Planning Committee and the Host Committee and are expected to be well-represented in all aspects of the conference.

Concurrent sessions last 90 minutes and may take many forms, including sessions that feature a guest speaker, multiple presenters, brainstorming sessions, debates or other forms of interactive discussion. In addition, early morning spiritual practices that last 30 minutes are included. Go to the [www.cuc.ca/conference/2008](http://www.cuc.ca/conference/2008) site for details as they are finalized.

Scheduling of the sessions, meeting room facilities, and registration of participants are all handled by the CUC office. PowerPoint is a favorite with session participants and the ACM “Green Team” is encouraging limiting the amount of paper being copied. This year, we expect to have at least one offering in French at each time period.

Many concurrent sessions will be open to all ages from 6 to 99. Want a break from talking and listening? Join the Junior Youth on a field trip or young fun kids for a “play date.” Presenters sometimes contact those registered via e-mail in advance of the ACM to share information, present discussion topics and incite thoughtful debate.

Most concurrent sessions will attract between 30 to 100 participants. Networking is an important part of any gathering, and the ACM directory allows participants to easily exchange information and then follow-up the May 2008 session with continued dialogue, learning, and sharing. We are looking

our team of volunteers. Not a small feat considering that 50 proposals were received and approved for the 2007 ACM in Vancouver! We expect selections to be made by December.

Keynote speakers will be Allison Brewer and Will Brewer of the Unitarian Fellowship of Fredericton. **Allison Brewer** has been very active on a number of diversity issues, was Egale's delegate to the Women's Conference in Beijing and won the Governor General's Award in Commemoration of the Persons Case for her work in human rights in 2004. Allison Brewer has worked tirelessly for equal rights for all people, particularly those in the lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender communities.

**Will Brewer** is a winner of the 2007 New Brunswick Association for Community Living Champions of Inclusion Achievement Award, a prize usually awarded to the non-disabled community for allies and advocates. The award recognizes the work he has done in organizing the Ups & Downs Run for the Cure team and his volunteer work with the Latino Society of NB, the NB Multiculturalism Association, the Harvest Jazz and Blues Festival, NB Association for Community Living and Big Hearts For the Homeless in support of the Fredericton Homeless Shelters. He also volunteers love advice to couples through his company Lover's Lane & Associates. **U**

The ACM 2008 Host Committee looks forward to welcoming you to Ottawa. UUs of all ages are sure to find something of interest. Canada's capital region offers visitors a variety of family entertainment, including museums, galleries, shopping, music, sports and fine dining. Why not extend your stay a few days to take in the tulip festival that takes place on May 2-19, 2008? This annual world-famous event features three million colorful flowers along the 15-km Tulip Route. Ottawa is home to one of the world's largest networks of cycling pathways. More than 170 kilometres of recreational pathways link superb natural areas, parks, gardens, and other attractions. The paths are great for cycling, walking, jogging and in-line skating. Come and fill up on fresh air!



Ottawa members proudly invited the Eastern regional gathering to come to Ottawa in May using the display created for ACM 2007 in Vancouver.



PHOTO: RICK ERVIN

### COME AND VISIT LOTTA'S PLACE

USC Canada will be hosting an Open House at the main office from Wednesday, May 14 to Wednesday, May 21, 2008 9:30 am to 5:00 pm (excluding the weekend and holiday Monday).

Please come and meet the staff. Explore our programs through films, slides and stories. Light refreshments will be available.

At 3:00 pm on Friday, May 16, there will be a "56 things you never knew about USC Canada" quiz and treasure hunt at the office. USC Canada is located at Suite 705, 56 Sparks St, in downtown Ottawa, a block from Parliament Hill.

There is parking available at World Exchange Plaza (entrances on Queen St, and at Metcalfe/Albert St.)

To find the office by bus, take the No. 95 (\$4 or 2 bus tickets) from Algonquin College, or the Baseline stop on Woodroffe Avenue. Get off at Metcalfe, and walk up (north) on Metcalfe towards Parliament Hill. Turn right onto Sparks Street, and look for the plaque of Dr. Hirschmanova on the frontage of 56 Sparks St.

### SING IN THE OTTAWA ACM CHOIR!

Music director Jane Perry invites all Canadian UU choristers to make a joyful noise together in May 2008. By participating in the choir, you'll have a chance to meet UU music lovers from across the land, sing some great music, and be a vocal part of the biggest UU worship service in the whole country on May 18th! Jane will lead the conference choir through a variety of songs that all choristers will be able to take home to share in their church music programs. To inquire about the choir, send an e-mail to Jane at [choir@cuc.ca](mailto:choir@cuc.ca).

## Bring a bowl

"Empty Bowls" is an evolving fundraising meal and exchange. Here's how it'll work this year: bring a bowl full of money – one cheque for the amount works best. Congregations may either designate part of their Sunday offering, hold a special fundraiser or simply invite donations. The CUC board, in consultation with the host congregation, will name a hunger-related agency to receive the donations.

Bring the bowl from last year's exchange; or, alternatively, bring a bowl made by someone in your congregation



Some of the bowls on display at the 2006 ACM.

or one that represents your region. Bowls will be collected at the registration area and displayed over the weekend, with the total donations marked. At the end of the conference, all bowls will be redistributed so that each congregation goes home with a bowl from another group.

## Heritage identities

During the ACM Shared Ministry Days, a one-day workshop will be offered by the Racial, Religious, First Nations, Métis and Inuit Equity and Justice Monitoring Group.

*Connecting the Canadas Coast to Coast to Coast (5 Cs)* is a workshop to help Unitarians Universalists in Canada explore their individual and collective identities. In particular, it identifies the role played by "heritage identities" in a Canadian UU context. Heritage identities include racial, ethnic, religious, linguistic and other groups that connect an individual to her or his family of origin, past or recent experiences, or current reality.

Participants of all ages are invited to take part in full-group and break-out

group activities designed to help us better understand the way our differences and common elements play out in our lives, interpersonal relationships and congregations. There will be discussion and practice of empathetic, peacemaking communication techniques and facilitation approaches for community-building. All backgrounds, ages, and interests, including our Francophone and young adult members, are welcome to help form working groups that will suggest ways of becoming more aware, inclusive and responsive.

Information about this workshop can be found on the ACM Facebook Event page or at [www.cuc.ca/social\\_responsibility/diversity.htm](http://www.cuc.ca/social_responsibility/diversity.htm). Or, send a note to [diversity@cuc.ca](mailto:diversity@cuc.ca).



Left: Isobel Gibson-Flader, of the Unitarian Church of Vancouver, was the logistics coordinator for CanUUdle (youth conference on ACM weekend) in 2007. She has now joined the national ACM Program Planning committee. Right: Emily Johnson, youth; Cora Babey, young adult, and Christine Michell, bridging from youth to young adult at the CUC ACM 2007, wearing part of the 500' Pride Rainbow banner.

## A pledge to work and develop together

**On the warm evening of June 27 the** temperatures outside were matched by the warmth of the feeling inside as the members of the Kelowna fellowship installed Rev. Dr. Linda Weaver Horton as their called minister.

The celebration drew a large crowd including ministerial colleagues and Rev. Horton's family and friends from the United States.

Rev. Stefan Jonasson, UUA Large Church consultant and minister of the Arborg Unitarian Church in "New Iceland", Manitoba, delivered a Charge to the Minister, eliciting both laughter and tears. Rev. Meg Roberts, of Calgary gave the Charge to the congregation. Rev. Phillip Hewett, Minister Emeritus, of Vancouver gave a sermon on the Unitarian movement in Canada, "Reflections: Memory and Hope."

UFK is benefiting from Rev. Horton's leadership and creativity. The children's program has grown substantially and 29 new adult members have joined the



*Dale Falkenhagen, President of the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Ottawa, and Elaine Hartman, UUFO's first Lay Chaplain, present Rev. Frances Deverell with a stole at her installation service..*

congregation, a number of them under 40. The congregation and the minister have pledged to work and develop together and both look forward to a rewarding relationship. **U**

*submitted by Barbara Bowmar,  
Unitarian Fellowship of Kelowna*

### WELCOME

Rev. Patricia (Trish) Schwartzberg is the newly settled minister at South Fraser Unitarian Congregation. South Fraser have been in search for a half-time minister for several years and are very happy to be settling in with their new minister.

### OPPORTUNITIES ABOUND

Saskatoon requested but has not been able to fill the position of full-time interim minister.

Waterloo is searching for a settled minister for September 2008. (Rev. Felicia Urbanski continues in the second year of interim ministry).

Ottawa First will be looking for a second one-year interim ministry for next year.

Durham is looking for a half-time settled minister.



*South Fraser search committee looked high and low – and for several years – before finding their new settled minister, Rev. Patricia (Trish) Schwartzberg.*

Winnipeg is searching for a full-time settled minister.

Westwood (Edmonton) is in search for a half-time settled minister.

### IN THE INTERIM

Rev. Rick Koyle is the interim minister with Lakehead Unitarian Fellowship, Thunder Bay. His first service was titled, "Our Imaginary Friend: Possibilities for Interim Ministry." Rev. Koyle has served congregations in Texas, Iowa, Washington State, and California.

Rev. Wendy Jerome is the interim minister with First UU Church of Winnipeg. Winnipeg also have an Interim Director of Religious Education, Wendy King. Jerome says, "We find we have been dubbed "Team Wendy", which we agree bodes well, as teamwork is a secret of success."

Rev. Alicia Forsey, who recently served North Shore, is the sabbatical interim minister with First Unitarian Church of Hamilton. She writes, "your church is setting a new trend in Interim Ministry by calling me to work with you while your settled minister attends to her own work during sabbatical. I found your thinking on this unusually creative and logical. The UUA does not recognize my time here as a period of Interim Ministry, but I would bet the farm that it won't be long before they do."

Rev. Lauren (Laurie) Thomas is the interim minister at the Unitarian Fellowship of London. In 2006, she authored *Perspectives on Disability: A UU Curriculum for Adults*. Since the mid 1980s she has been passionately involved in a two-fold vocation – a woman with a disability ministering to others with disabilities, as well as to able-bodied "liberal religious folks."

Rev. Janet Newman who served Toronto First in 2006-07 is now serving Ottawa First 2007-08. It seems fitting somehow, with all of the transition occurring in Canada over the past year, that a congregation served by an interim minister is hosting this year's ACM.

### MORE NEWS

Marian Stewart will be consulting minister for the coming year with Nanaimo and Salt Spring Island in BC.

Antonia Won will be doing an intern ministry in Albuquerque, New Mexico, in the new year.

Their congregational newsletter columns show that Stephen Atkinson, Shawn Newton and Rev. Julie Stoneberg are settling in nicely with their new congregations North Shore, Toronto First and Peterborough respectively.

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## Testimony

Franci Louann

### Don't cry for me – I'm in Argentina!

**Raised as a rural Lutheran** in SW Ontario, I didn't have any interfaith experiences until I made Jewish friends in my dental hygiene classes at the University of Toronto. I was a live-in nanny and my host-Mom suggested that I attend Toronto First Unitarian nearby. As a busy student, I went away with brochures. One was entitled *Truth Can't Be Pickled* – that was my epiphany.

I visited fellowships in Guelph and Summerland over those early years of being a passive Unitarian. I first became “hyperactive” (as a Unitarian) in Victoria, in the mid-70s, and I continued at Vancouver's UCV in 1976. At one time, I was serving on the board of directors, fundraising for USC Canada, and spending Sunday mornings grooming bulletin boards and presenting our first markets.


Spiritually, I morphed from being an omnitheist (my word), to an atheist, to a devout agnostic, and now, a skeptic. Belief-o-matic (at [www.Beliefnet.com](http://www.Beliefnet.com)) says I'm 100% Unitarian-Universalist and 100% secular humanist. As a poet, I reserve the right to sometimes being mystical! June Callwood's religion was “kindness” – I'd like to join!

Recently, my life as a poet has bonded more with my spiritual life. I've been organizing mostly-Unitarian poetry readings for twelve years, and I've been your poetry editor for five years. My publications have included Unitarian chapbooks, newsletters and websites.

It has been a great pleasure and honour to be *The Canadian Unitarian's* first poetry editor, starting with the spring 2002 issue. It has been a thrill to receive our members' poems and difficult to make choices. Many of the poetry columns have expressed our principles and values very well.



*Anyone is the holy of holies* (David Hillen), *Ritual Elements* (Anne Montagnes), *hand-woven (the newcomer poem)* (Liz James), *This community is . . .* (Arny Maizen), *Any Bowl* (Hugh MacPherson) – these poems, I feel, lend themselves especially well to be used as liturgies. Occasionally, I was surprised to learn that I had chosen someone's first poem! They had been inspired by “us” – you UUs!

After Arny Maizen's poem was chosen, he phoned me from Kingston (to Vancouver) and we were both thrilled. I didn't know that he was unwell. He was in hospital at the time of our publication, and passed away the day his poem's issue arrived in his area. On the following weekend, this poem was selected to be read in the Sunday service in Surrey, BC. I was very moved by this. The choice of Arny's poem has felt like one of the most important things I have ever done. 

**Franci Louann's high points in publishing: being included in Dorothy Livesay's last anthology, and winning the “Memorable Moments” contest for the 25th Anniversary of the Vancouver Folk Music Festival – with a poem!** [fouann@telus.net](mailto:fouann@telus.net)

## From the pulpit

by Don Hauka

# Taking a ride on Steven Epperson's magic bus

**Rev. Dr. Steven Epperson** took his audience for a ride on a magic bus during Sunday Worship at the CUC Annual Conference and Meeting in Vancouver.

You could hear a pin drop on May 20 as Epperson took the huge crowd, packed into in the Chan Centre for the Performing Arts, on a journey through the human spirit that honoured the past, but was firmly anchored in the here and now.

"Which way do we look?" Epperson asked his hushed audience. "Hop on the bus with me, and what do you see?"

Epperson used his daily commute aboard three different buses to illustrate "contextual theology," defined as "a way of religious thinking and acting that takes concrete human experience in a particular culture, landscape, and time as essential ingredients for creating authentic worship, spiritual exploration and ethical action; of making religion real and relevant to our lives here and now."

The journey from his home in the suburbs to Vancouver aboard public transit is Epperson's context.

"For the past five years, it's here on these buses that I have seen the face of contemporary Canada, the site of the contextual theology that we're going to do this morning," he said.

From the blue turbaned Sikh bus driver to the Filipino, First Nations, Asian, Anglo and other passengers, Epperson's bus – like Canada itself – is a "community of communities." Young and old, they move together through a heavily-populated urban landscape, seeking the same things: better lives, good work, peace and the chance to live close to their loved ones.

"In sum, ours is an urban and spectacularly diverse nation enriched by immigration, the experience of age

and the vigour, anxiety, and idealism of youth," said Epperson.

"Now look closer with me at our fellow bus riders. How are we behaving toward each other in this cramped, public space?"

Buses bring out the best and the worst in people's behaviours. The best and the worst is also on display outside the windows as the bus traverses the wealthiest and poorest neighbourhoods in Canada.

"This, too, is our context," said Epperson. "Our nation, in the words of Roy Romanow is a 'house half-built.' Our legacy and values, he writes, a country based on fairness, opportunity and respect, our social contract of a shared destiny, the very 'cornerstone of the Canadian idea,' is under assault."

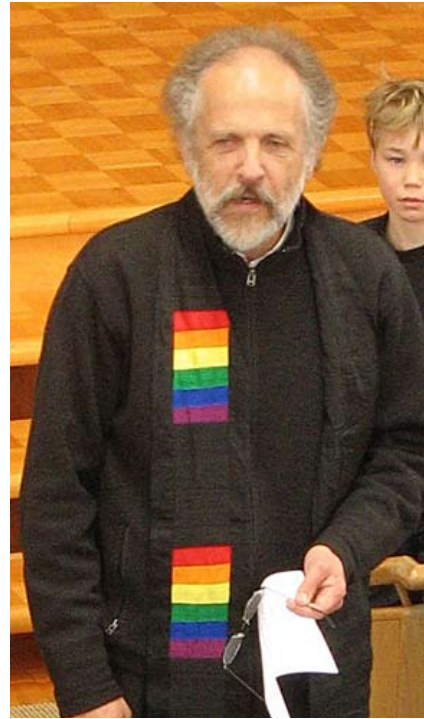
The urban squalor the bus passes through is a daily reminder to us that 1.2 million Canadian children, one in six, live in deep poverty, and of the growing gap between rich and poor.

"Why is it that the city of Vancouver, the size of Portland, Oregon, has more than twice the number of homeless than the city of Paris? It's a scandal," said Epperson.

"One in four jobs in Canada pay less than \$10 an hour. We work, and yet half the people in this country are afraid that real poverty is as close as one or two missed pay cheques away!"

Canadian society can be transformed into a vanguard nation that is well served by public transit, well housed, well fed and well-compensated for its labour with the help of Unitarian Universalists, says Epperson, but it requires action.

"Get out of your cars; out of comfortable pews and places of worship. Take a ride with me on a bus—it's a good context for the religious and ethical thinking, the worship and action that we are called upon and covenant



*Rev. Dr. Steven Epperson greets "his students and scholars" in church every Sunday, often asking them questions about religious holidays and important secular events.*

to live in this nation of ours," said Epperson.

"We in our fellowships and congregations have the potential, given our heritage, our sources, our principles, in spite of the fact that we are few in number, to act as leaven in this whole, crazy, blessed loaf of Canada and thus help to achieve more justice, meaning, hope and compassion for ourselves and for generations to come.

"Let it be said of us in the future that we figured out how and where to look within and beyond ourselves; and that we became a beloved community to this nation and a blessing to its people." **U**

To see the complete sermon, go to: <http://cuc.ca/ministry/index.htm#Ministers>



## Unitaridées

par Jo-Anne Elder-Gomes

# Rencontres annuelles du CUC 2008

**L**es Rencontres annuelles du CUC (en anglais, « Annual Conference and Meeting » ou ACM) auront lieu du 16 au 19 mai 2008, au collège Algonquin à Ottawa. C'est à ce moment que se déroule l'Assemblée générale annuelle, les instances décisionnelles de notre conseil national. Chaque rassemblement choisit un/e ou des délégué/e/s, selon le nombre de ses membres; ces personnes auront droit de vote lors des séances de l'AGA. Des séances plénières sur des questions d'administration, des discussions sur les politiques, des votes sur des résolutions de responsabilité sociale, et les élections font partie de l'AGA du CUC. Pendant la même période, les réunions annuelles et les AGA de divers regroupements affiliés au CUC (par exemple l'association des célébrants et les « Canadian Unitarians for Social Justice ») sont organisés, afin de profiter au maximum de la présence d'un grand nombre d'intéressés d'à travers le Canada.

Se rencontrer entre UUs implique nécessairement une diversité d'activités et d'approches. Nos Rencontres annuelles constituent un moment unique pour rassembler les Unitariennes, les Unitariens et les Universalistes du Canada. Avant, pendant et après la tenue de l'AGA, un programme riche est offert : il y a des séances interactives, des sessions de réseautage, des conférences et des rencontres de groupes de discussion ou de croissance spirituelle, sans oublier la cérémonie d'ouverture où chaque rassemblement prodigue sa bannière dans un défilé impressionnant et émouvant et, bien sûr, des cérémonies religieuses célébrées par des ministres, des célébrants, des jeunes, accompagnées de la musique chorale et instrumentale, du chant et parfois de la danse. Chaque jour, des séances matinales de Pratique Spirituelle

sont offertes : des séances de danse, de t'ai chi, ou de yoga, pour n'en donner que quelques exemples. Il y a aussi de nombreuses occasions sociales et une programmation dépareillée pour les enfants, les ados (les jeunes de 14 à 18 ans) et les jeunes adultes. Le thème choisi pour les Rencontres de 2008 est : « La toile de la vie – Entre nos mains ». Ce thème sera interprété et reflété dans un grand choix d'activités et d'approches.

Le choix du lieu – Ottawa – ainsi que l'évolution organique du mouvement UU au Canada, nous permettra d'élargir notre programmation en français lors des Rencontres 2008. Nous vous invitons à contribuer à cette diversification : vous pourriez organiser une sortie socioculturelle, par exemple, ou répondre à l'invitation du comité organisateur en proposant une séance concurrente, une Pratique Spirituelle ou une autre activité qui se déroulera en français. Nous vous invitons également à assister à une journée d'étude le jeudi 15 mai 2008, « Connecting the Canadas from Coast to Coast to Coast » (Conversations entre les Canadas, côte à côte à côte, ou les 5 Cs). Cet atelier de formation et de discussion sur le mouvement unitarien « aux Canadas » se veut une exploration de nombreuses identités et diversités. Comme animatrice de l'activité et présidente du groupe consultatif pour la diversité, je tiens à faire valoir la diversité linguistique et culturelle au sein du mouvement UU au Canada : francophonie canadienne et mondiale, accueil de nouveaux arrivants, métissage et interculturalité, etc. Une partie de la journée sera consacrée aux groupes de travail, et nous espérons pouvoir constituer un groupe francophone qui pourra discuter des initiatives et des stratégies d'éducation, d'engagement et d'intégration de la diversité linguistique dans nos communautés et nos rassemblements.

De telles activités mettront en valeur la présence des Francophones et des personnes multilingues dans notre mouvement et correspondent précisément aux objectifs des Rencontres, puisqu'elles permettront aux UUs « aux Canadas » de faire des connaissances et des liens, de célébrer, d'échanger, d'apprendre et de grandir. Et de nous apprécier de plus en plus, bien sûr. **U**

*Jo-Anne Elder-Gomes  
Rassemblement de Fredericton, N.-B.  
Unitarian Fellowship of Fredericton*

## INVITATION AUX MEMBRES FRANCOPHONES DU CUC :

**Notre bulletin, « Canadian Unitarian »** se transforme continuellement en fonction des besoins et des aspirations de nos membres. L'équipe de rédaction a décidé récemment de consacrer plus d'espace aux actualités qui touchent plus particulièrement nos membres francophones. Ces articles seront rédigés soit en français soit dans les deux langues officielles. Je vous invite donc à me faire parvenir des articles, des photos, des nouvelles brèves, ainsi que vos suggestions quant aux sujets à explorer dans les pages du bulletin.

Vous pourrez communiquer avec moi en tout temps par courriel : [jelder@nb.sympatico.ca](mailto:jelder@nb.sympatico.ca).

D'ailleurs, nous venons de lancer un appel à contributions pour un recueil de poésie sur le thème des Rencontres 2008 (« La toile de la vie – Entre nos mains »), et nous accueillerons avec beaucoup de plaisir des textes en français. Vous êtes invités à faire parvenir vos textes ou vos questions à l'adresse : [eldergomes@yahoo.com](mailto:eldergomes@yahoo.com), en indiquant « CUC Chapbook » comme référence.

Au plaisir de vous lire!

# More depth, energy, joy – for us and for our world

Over the summer, a cross-section of you completed a survey for a “CUC Five-Year Evaluation.”

In the results, we see that we have arrived in the year 2007 a cohesive group that knows what it is doing, is fiscally sustainable, and sees with growing clarity what else it wants to do. The depth of our commitment to and support for our congregations and our movement in Canada is nothing short of stunning.

We are, as one person noted, “connecting a very diverse membership across a vast nation,” and while the effort is neither perfect nor complete, it surely encourages us to ask for more. We express appreciation for our “strong and effective effort on same sex marriage,” but couple that with a desire to be yet “better known and a stronger voice in the Canadian religious landscape.”

We ask how to achieve still more engagement across our nation, to support coming together in our “beloved communities” for the greater good of us all.


We ask how to be more effective as a faith committed to social justice.

We ask how to support each other in deepening our spiritual lives.

We know the answers, of course. It means more hard work. It means more interactions, both face-to-face and, given the huge expanse of Canada, electronically as well. It means more soul-searching, more sharing, more caring.

It means more resources.

It also means more depth, more energy, more joy—more for us, more for our world.

Our CUC Friends contribute almost 10 per cent of our total revenue. If you are able to contribute to this annual campaign to help us continue to move in these directions, please do so, either with the form below or by going to <http://cuc.ca/friends/> 

*In faith,  
Jean Pfeleiderer, President  
CUC Board of Trustees  
jeanp@cuc.ca*



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## Lifespan Notes

### OTTAWA FIRST HOLD THE 12 KEYS

Ottawa First is in process and on track to become the first CUC Lifespan Learning Community. Starting last fall, and affirmed by its board in January, it hopes to complete all steps before May, 2008.



The Board says, “Our shared vision is to promote learning as a fundamental spiritual practice in our community with intention, willingness and forethought.” Joan Turner is Chair of the Ottawa First 12 Keys Lifespan Learning Task Force.

More information at: <http://cuc.ca/lifespan/LLCommunity.htm>

### GET 50 YEARS EXPERIENCE IN RE

Lynn Sabourin, director of religious education at North Shore Unitarian recently celebrated 25 years in the role. Lynn is the CUC’s Lifespan Learning service consultant in BC.



*Lynn Sabourin, far left, with the BC Regional Network Group.*

She and Pat Ellenwood, another long-serving and dynamic leader will facilitate the Administration of Religious Education Renaissance Module at the Providence Point Retreat Centre May 14-16. Providence Point Retreat Centre on the beautiful Clyde River is just 45 minutes from Ottawa or Kingston. You’ll be treated to home cooked meals (including prize winning desserts and maple syrup from their own sugar bush) while learning and networking with other religious education professionals from across Canada. Contact CUC Director of Lifespan Learning, Sylvia Bass West for more details.

Links:

<http://www.providencepoint.net/>

<http://cuc.ca/lifespan/renaissance.htm>

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**A Call for Submissions:  
The Dana McLean Greeley  
Annual Address**

All Unitarian Universalists are invited to submit a sermon or address on **developing a peaceful and just world.**

Priority will be given to submissions that incorporate the work of the United Nations and the UU-UNO.

As Reverend Greeley believed, strengthening the United Nations is a significant part of this effort.

*The winner will be awarded a cash prize and have the opportunity to speak at GA in 2008.*

Deadline for submissions is  
**February 8, 2008.**

For more information, contact  
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