

Celebrating life

Our communion traditions

BY BRUCE SCHWARTZENTRUBER

Communion anyone?

Step right up and get it. 'Holy' communion is strongly identified as a traditional Christian ritual, where congregants receive the sacraments of 'wine' and bread. Rev. Peter Boullata notes that "the Christian Unitarian understanding of communion is that it celebrates and reenacts Jesus' table fellowship with his students and followers, that it is a memorial meal in his honour." Beth Ann McFadden, Toronto First's worship convener, sees a trend in her congregation. "Many of our members won't come to communion services because they don't like the word communion; while there are still others who don't come because they don't like intergenerational services."

Our broader UU context uses the idea and practice of communion as a bonding ritual of transition and reflection. What does it mean to have communion? Engaging the roots of commune and union, the word, by Toronto First's definition, "...stems from the Latin for mutual participation, and for us it is about the communal celebration of life." Mutual participation and communal celebration of life, both positive elements which revolve around an event, a transition or a time of year. It is



PHOTO: DAVID ROLLERT

Unitarian Church of Montreal's Rev. Diane Rollert, left, and Alison Hall, Board President with communion silver.

HOPE SPRINGS FROM THE ROOT OF OUR BEING, EVEN AS THE SAP OF THE MAPLE TREE STIRS IN ITS UNDERGROUND ROOT SYSTEM AND SURGES UP THROUGH ITS TRUNK AND BRANCHES. PLEASE DIP YOUR BREAD OR RICE CRACKER INTO THE MAPLE SYRUP AND TASTE THE SWEETNESS OF SPRING AS YOU ARE SERVED.

– UU Congregation of Durham

tells the congregation of his/her reflections. Rev. Katie Stein Sather notes, "I particularly like the image of transformation: those words representing what I want to leave behind are being transformed into the smoke and hot air I see rising."

Spring is another seasonal transition, a time of the great renewal of nature – "the resurrec-

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during these moments that we are called by the exercise of communion to reflect on the meaning of life's change of seasons, of rebirth, or the dawn of a new year. We are called to reflect on the meaning of ourselves in the context of those transitions.

When we engage in communion, we participate, we are asked to stand as we are able and take action, perhaps ingesting the 'meal' of Christ's last supper or igniting a piece of flash paper or bringing a flower to share. The Beacon (Coquitlam, B.C.) Unitarian Church's New Year's Fire Communion invites congregants to: "On one sheet of paper, write things from this past year that you would like to get rid of," and on another, "something you hope to accomplish this next year." Each piece of paper is set aflame in turn as the congregant

From *The Medicine Wheel: North*

Driving home through snow

BY HELEN IACOVINO

you turn
 toward the inward light
 of winter
 where the landscape becomes
 patterns of peaks & valleys
 under an unrelenting
 layer of white.
 the world is reduced
 to its lowest terms:
 sky, snow
 & in between, the falling snow.
 you turn like a bear,
 listening & knowing,
 settling into his den,
 turning towards the cave fire,
 towards the music
 of the eternal river
 deep in the cave, the river
 that never freezes,
 & suddenly you know
 what everything means:
 you, the music
 & the snow.

Helen Iacovino studied English Literature at McGill. Her poetry, which has always dealt with spiritual exploration, is well-published. As a UU mystic with pagan influences, Helen is an active member of First Unitarian Congregation of Toronto.

New poetry editor required

We are looking for a new poetry editor for *The Canadian Unitarian*. With the next issue, Franci Louann will be retiring after five years in this illustrious position. Applications are invited at poetry@cuc.ca.

Our communion traditions

• continued from front page

tion of new life – to the rising of deadened spirits and to the hope that lies in the reality of our personal immortality,” as stated in the UU Congregation of Durham’s Maple Syrup Communion service.

This time of year also features Easter services as our Christian UUs hold more traditional communion services. The Unitarian Church of Montreal’s by-laws stipulate some form of communion is to be celebrated on the Sunday closest to All Souls and at Easter. The congregation has shared communion in a variety of ways over the years, last year marking the occasion with interim minister Rev. Boullata’s *All Will Be Well Again* sermon: “Our lives are filled with moments of loss and renewed life. It seems impossible sometimes to enter a revival of the spirit without the pain of defeat. That one might blossom into the other is the hope of this Easter holiday.”

And in June, First Unitarian Congregation of Toronto members “bring flowers which are commingled and then redistributed, in celebration of the extravagant variety and beauty of life.” While Toronto First’s Water (after Labour Day), Bread (Thanksgiving), Fire (end of December) and Flower (June) communion quartet is typical of those used in many communities, there are abundant examples of communions, like Durham’s, that reflect a congre-

SOME MEMBERS OF OUR CONGREGATION SEEM TO BE PARTICULARLY LEERY OF SPIRITUAL PRACTICE THAT SEEMS TOO CHRISTIAN, OR PERHAPS TOO SYMBOLIC OF RELIGIOUS RITUAL. HOWEVER, WHILE SOME PEOPLE RESIST THE IDEA, OTHERS EMBRACE IT FULLY – AS A WAY OF RECLAIMING SPIRITUAL LANGUAGE AND RITUALS THAT SATISFY US. OUR CONGREGATION WILL NEED TO EXPLORE THIS INTELLECTUALLY BEFORE WE CAN EMBRACE THE IDEA OF COMMUNION SPIRITUALLY, I THINK.

– Susan Stephen, Chair of Worship Committee, Universalist Unitarian Church of Halifax

gation’s geography or personality.

Some examples of unique communions:

- YouTube is the internet website where anyone can send their own video to be available to the world. The Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Ottawa is on the cutting edge here, posting a flower communion video (among others) with accompanying text that traces the origins of flower communions to Czech Unitarian, Norbert Capek. He chose flowers as a symbol that would “bind together former Jews, Catholics and Protestants.” <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IzAYwRrhNOA>
- “Outside, snow had been falling all day in big fluffy white flakes. Our group went out with two large chilled bowls which we filled with fresh (pristine!) snow – and offered a Snow Communion – participants could take some snow to touch, taste or contemplate as it melted.” (Rev. Anne Treadwell, retired UU minister)
- “I’ve also led a ‘cookie communion’ in which we focused on the ingredients from all over the world, the many kinds of work and involvement that went into the finished product, etc.” (Rev. Anne Treadwell)
- “Annually, I have a sort-of communion that involves sharing of the fruits of trees (always attached to a sermon about trees – their usefulness, their metaphor, their imagery, etc.), usually held close to the time of the Jewish Festival of the New Year’s for Trees... called Tu B’shvat.” (Rev. Jane Bramadat, minister of First Unitarian Church of Victoria)
- “At a lay-led service for Earth Day, about 20 or so of the congregation gathered on a hilltop in a park. It was evening, we sat in the grass in a circle, and shared a loaf of freshly-baked bannock while the sun set over the



from *Coffee, Coffee, Coffee*
by Rev. Chris Raible
(sung to Holy, Holy, Holy)

COFFEE THE COMMUNION
OF OUR UNI-UNION,
SYMBOL OF OUR SACRED
GROUND, OUR ONE NECESSITY.
FEEL THE HOLY POWER
AT OUR COFFEE HOUR,
BREWED BLACK BY PERK OR DRIP
OR INSTANTLY.

– First Unitarian Congregation of Toronto

mountains. It felt very ‘right’ for an Earth Day communion.” (Duff Bond, Unitarian Church of Calgary.)

Which brings us back to the eternal question: Do you get communion, or do you have communion? Or are you one of us who don’t ‘get it’ and therefore won’t have it? [U](#)

DEADLINE EXTENSION

Writing contest

The deadline for the Lotta Hirschmanova writing contest has been extended. Entries for the contest must be received by noon on **April 16, 2007**. Age 12-15 (max. 750 wds) / Age 16-20 (max. 1,500 wds). Rules at www.usc-canada.org. For details, email writingcontest@usc-canada.org.

Testimony

by Bruce Schwartzentruber

An opportunity to serve and grow

I was born and raised in Kitchener, Ontario, the heart of Mennonite country. I still have strong childhood memories of the strange mixture of vehicles used to get to the Schwartzentruber Reunions, ranging from horses and buggies to cars with black-painted bumpers to shiny, modern ones.



My five brothers and I grew up in the Evangelical United Brethren Church which eventually merged with the United Church. When I left the church for *Playboy* magazine at the age of 18, it was for good reasons. Like most other men, I bought *Playboy* for the articles, (do I sense gasps out there?) and can still say that the dry Sunday School blather taught me less about life than did Hefner's "Playboy philosophy." I would come to outgrow the land of Bunnies and all things anathema to my Mennonite roots.


At social work school, I once confessed to a fellow student to an emptiness of soul. "Oh," she proclaimed, "you should check out the Unitarian church." I'm sure that she said many wonderful things about UUs during that conversation, but the solitary fact I managed to retain was that somewhere in the Ontario countryside, there was a camp for Unitarians where you could go skinny-dipping! How liberal those Unitarians must be, I thought, and promptly put my spiritual quest on the back burner for another decade or so. I'm not usually one to rush into things you see, even when it involves nudity.

I wish that my story of coming to Unitarian Universalism was entirely pleasant. During the early years of our

marriage, my late wife Christine Lowry and I talked about finding a spiritual home. I remembered UU-ism and went so far as to check into the First Unitarian Congregation of Toronto website. It looked good. But making that first step is hard and it took a tragic series of medical tests to force us onto the doorstep of 175 St.

Clair Avenue in Toronto one Sunday morning.

Christine's cancer was back for the second time, and we now had Aron, our little blond tornado. It surely was time to embark on our spiritual paths. Little did we know how wonderful and terrible the next 19 months would be: dying, a child's innocence, unstoppable pain, love from all directions, death and spiritual awe all mixed up in a dizzying blur of the truly divine.

Aron and I made it through, not without our scars, but grateful to a religious community that nurtured us from the moment we arrived. Now 14, Aron is in Toronto First's Coming of Age program deciding his religious future. I recently accepted Mary Bennett's offer for the position of Communications Director with the CUC. I hope that my years of working with volunteer organizations and my romance with Unitarian Universalism will make for a happy marriage. It's an opportunity for me to renew a commitment to the greater good, to social action and to serving Canadian UUs in the growth of our wonderful movement. 

Bruce is the new editor of The Canadian Unitarian and can be reached at bruce@cuc.ca



Mary
Bennett

CUC Executive Director

Our part in the world wide web

Many people believe that more than 80% of those visiting our congregations, first checked out the website. Some have even shown up because they took the quiz at www.beliefnet.com and found out they were a Unitarian Universalist.

Through our "newcomers" page at unitarian.ca we get a range of inquiries. Almost half ask about a Unitarian wedding. I forward it to the congregation and lay chaplains in their area. Recently, I received a note saying, "My son and I were out walking around our new neighbourhood on Sunday and saw the Unitarian church sign. We went and liked it. Now I'd like to know more." Within hours, she'd received a personal note from the minister and the president of the congregation.

Lisa Greenly of Victoria and Liz James of Saskatoon met after receiving my two-sentence introduction and now are co-leading a workshop on Membership at the ACM. Liz says, "For me, email is a way to get past the barriers placed by our busy lives and our geography, and to get straight to the connections between us."

Because I'm adventurous in using electronic communications, people can think I know more about technology than I do. I'm with Tim Berners-Lee, inventor of the web and now a UU, who says, "The web is more a social creation than a technical one."

Are you ready to affirm and promote the interdependent world wide web of which we are a part?

Add your comment to my "blog" at <http://x.cuc.ca/wordpress/> and when we meet in person someday at an ACM or in your congregation, we will already be old friends.

Are you curious about what the Executive Director does? My biography, job description and monthly messages can be found at: www.cuc.ca/whos_who/ed/mary_bio.htm

Eliot Institute Presents

Telling Stories



Will Hornyak

June 30 - July 7, 2007
Naramata Centre
Lake Okanagan, BC

A week-long Unitarian family camp of play, worship and learning in a loving, multi-generational community.

This year as we hear, tell and discuss stories, we will experience the power of storytelling to cultivate the ground of the imagination.

Children and youth enjoy special programming. The rest of the day there are a variety of multigenerational activities - swimming, games, workshops, art, musical and performance events.

Other Eliot camps
at Seabeck Conference Centre
in Washington State:

July 14-21

"The Architecture of The Soul"
with Dr. Albert LaChance

August 4-11

"God and Politics"
with Rev. Tom Goldsmith

December 28 - Jan 1

"The Pursuit of Joy"
with Rev. Amanda Aikman

www.EliotInstitute.org
registrar@eliotinstitute.org
206-374-2497

Unitaridées

par Gilles Marchildon

Les transitions saisonnières

"Nous avons beaucoup de chance. Nous habitons un coin du globe dans lequel les saisons font une transition plutôt remarquée, malgré les effets du réchauffement de la planète."

Bien sûr, on n'apprécie pas toujours notre « chance » alors qu'en janvier, le mercure plonge et le vent nordique nous fait une bise glaciale.

Toutefois, qui d'entre nous ne se réjouit pas au moment où la nature fait son éclosion au printemps?

Certes, les gens du nord doivent patienter plus que d'autres alors que les résidents de l'île de Vancouver remarquent à peine que le soleil se fait plus chaud. N'empêche que nous vivons presque tous, au Canada, la transition des saisons.

De la même façon, les Unitariens Universalistes vivent presque tous et toutes, à un moment donné, une transition toute aussi remarquable – celle qui signale le départ d'un-e ministre et l'arrivée d'un-e autre pour




prendre sa place dans notre congrégation.

Il est peut-être dange reux de dresser le parallèle entre un changement de ministre et puis une saison. Qui voudrait être comparé à l'hiver, caractérisé par le froid, ou même

l'été, saison un peu paresseuse?

Pourtant, chaque saison joue son rôle. L'un dépend de sa précédente.

Le printemps ne pourrait être aussi vigoureux sans le repos assuré par l'hiver. L'été pourrait saper toute vie si le printemps n'avait pas fait de bonnes réserves d'eau. L'automne ne produirait pas de couleurs si vives si l'été n'avait pas été période de croissance.

Chaque saison offre ses qualités. Il s'agit d'être disposé à bien les apprécier. Sinon, on n'a qu'à patienter jusqu'à la saison suivante! 

Gilles Marchildon is a member of the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Ottawa and can be reached at gilles.marchildon@gmail.com

Social Responsibility

Green graves

A quest for space on everyone's final frontier


The Memorial Society of B.C. is on a mission for those who believe you can't take it with you, nor should you leave it behind when you go. The society's Green Burial committee is canvassing cemeteries around the province to find spaces for "green burials."

Committee chair Margo Elfert says their goal is to identify final resting places that allow biodegradable coffins, no embalming and no grave liners.

"There's a lot of interest in this area now," says Elfert whose family of four are all involved at the Unitarian

Church of Vancouver. "I believe this is a really important step we must take. We've been so disassociated from the process of dying that big corporations could soon be our only choice."

The Memorial Society of B.C. marks its 50th anniversary this fall. Among its founders is Rev. Phillip Hewett, Minister Emeritus of the Unitarian Church of Vancouver.

For further information, check out the society's website at www.memorialsocietybc.org or contact elfert@telus.net. 

Our Welcoming Tradition

by Don Hauka

Don't fiddle around Go to a UU camp this summer

IN MY QUEST TO DISCOVER THE COMMON thread between UU summer camps, I have become an extra in a Unitarian production of *Fiddler on the Roof*.

It's no secret that there are as many different types of UU camps as there are Unitarians. In B.C. alone, the camping experience ranges from the comfortable cottages and well-catered meals of the Eliot Institute at Naramata Centre in the Okanagan to the wonderfully-basic, remote roughing it of Wilderness Camp in the Kootenays, accessible only by boat and where water comes from a glacier-fed stream.

From the Atlantic to the Pacific, you'll find everything in-between. Unicamp, a 50-acre property in southern Ontario's Niagara Escarpment, is the largest Unitarian camp in Canada – a community that runs non-stop for five months. On a smaller scale but no less vibrant is Hnaua Unitarian Camp in Manitoba. Four acres fronting on Lake Winnipeg north of Gimli have given generations of campers summer memories for nearly 70 years.

So with such a range of size, amenities, programming and sheer geography, how could anyone possibly hope to find the one strand that holds these incredibly diverse entities together? Remember *Fiddler on the Roof*? This is where you have to channel your inner Tevye and shout: "Tradition!"

Every camp has its own tradition – in fact, two kinds of traditions. There are those that are unique to that camp and those that are common features of every UU camp. At Naramata, for instance, each year ends with the parade of lanterns, where campers hold aloft their softly shimmering, handmade creations as light against the dark. At the Sorrento Unitarian Retreat in the B.C. Interior, a pagan equinox ceremony is held on the shores of Shuswap Lake.

While UU camps each have their unique traditions, they almost all have some common features. Every camp has its welcoming ceremony, its own special way of marking sunrise and sunset. Outdoor activities are geared towards an appreciation of the interdependent web of life. And what would a camp be without its talent show (or in the case of Camp Sasamat in B.C., the "no-talent show")?

Which leads us to the single defining tradition of all UU summer camps – the tradition of welcoming. Not just the "welcome to our camp" ritual – it's like Yente the Matchmaker has been hard at work. Because no matter how long a camp has been running, no matter how many years some people have been coming and no matter how idiosyncratic its traditions are, you can count on being accepted, made to feel part of the community – one of the gang.

Now, if I were a rich man, I'd visit each and every one of these marvelous camps – as many as I could in a single year. While I don't have the resources to do that, I can visit an affordable camp (or two) in my region every summer.


To wrap up, let me share a small gem I found while reading up on *Fiddler on the Roof* in order to write this article. According to Wikipedia, the Fiddler of this wonderful work of art is "a metaphor of survival, through tradition and joyfulness." That about sums UU summer camps up for me. I hope it does for you, too. 



PHOTO: GREG OLYNYK

NO MATTER HOW LONG A CAMP HAS BEEN RUNNING, NO MATTER HOW MANY YEARS SOME PEOPLE HAVE BEEN COMING AND NO MATTER HOW IDIOSYNCRATIC ITS TRADITIONS ARE, YOU CAN COUNT ON BEING ACCEPTED, MADE TO FEEL PART OF THE COMMUNITY



PHOTO: BOB NIVEN

Top: Naramata 2005

Bottom: Together at Unicamp



**Vyda
Ng**
CUC President

Relationships at the Centre

Being a Unitarian is a unique experience – I’m certain that if I travel from St. John’s to Nanaimo, I will find a Unitarian willing to chat over coffee with me. There aren’t that many of us; when we find one another, we celebrate.

We each came to a Unitarian community by birth, by intention, or by sheer good luck. Some don’t stay (we invite you to return), but many of us do. What binds us? Our UU communities, guided by our Principles and Sources, provide a context within which we find meaningful ways of relating – to ourselves, to each other, and to the world. In the language of our Go-4-It strategy, we GO ON about our lives in more mindful ways; we stretch ourselves to GO DEEP within relationships and spiritual lives; we challenge ourselves to GO OUT and GO BIG through social action, or sharing elevator speeches about being Unitarian.

We take pride in the flexibility of our belief system, but it’s the relationships we build with each other that provide the glue that holds us. We nurture and are nurtured, find common ground for social action, disagree with each other, and return to work on despite our differences. And we gather to worship, laugh, cry, eat and talk. The trust engendered within these bonds connect us locally, regionally and nationally, like a huge interdependent web of relationships that transcend social, political, economic and lifestyle differences.

I hope to see you in Vancouver. And should you have the opportunity to visit St. John’s, call me – we’ll go for coffee and share our experiences of love within the UU community.

*In faith, Vyda
vyda@cuc.ca*

Board

by Vyda Ng

Take a bow, everyone!

In 2006, all Canadian UU congregations honoured their pledged **Annual Program Contributions**. Although a few congregations had challenges meeting their full fair share, everybody paid their pledged amounts on time! The CUC Board would like to thank and congratulate everyone for honouring our mutual obligation – this requires planning and commitment, and the Board salutes the dedication that this requires.

Your congregation’s pledges are the backbone of our budget, providing about 70% of our operating expenses. Here is some of what you help make happen:

- Program Staff and Service Consultants delivered well over **50 workshops**, congregational consultations and intensive training sessions across the country last year. Topics ranged from Congregational Wellness, Ministerial Transitions and Coming of Age, to Mission and Vision, Conflict Management and Financial Stewardship
- A **new expanded staffing model** to meet demands for service that will take us forward into the next five years. In addition to the current staff,

the CUC now has an Administrative Coordinator–West based in Vancouver, and a part-time Communications Director.

- The **Canadian UU Leadership Program**, a further expansion of leadership initiatives begun with **CUUL School**.
- **Lay Chaplaincy** training, services and support for rites of passage
- **Lifespan Learning** curricula, development and training
- **Youth and Young Adult** programs, conferences and training opportunities
- A **national voice on Social Responsibility** issues to media and government
- **Annual Conference & Meetings** and **Regional Fall Gatherings**
- **Communication** among Unitarians via *The Canadian Unitarian*, the CUC’s website, numerous email groups, and print materials
- **International and Interfaith** connections
- And the list goes on...

Your dollars and commitment power the structure of the CUC. Without you, there would be no “UUs!” **U**

SAY WHAT YOU WANT *by Calvin Drake*

The future belongs to you!

The future of the Unitarianism and Universalism in Canada will be heavily influenced by two CUC initiatives currently under way:

1. The Statement of Principles Task Force; and
2. The Go-4-It! Strategic Planning Framework.

HAS YOUR CONGREGATION HELD A WORKSHOP? IF NOT, THERE’S STILL TIME!

Hold your workshop and send in your results by March 31, 2007 to have your voice included.

NO WORKSHOP?

Respond individually – either electronically or on paper.

A Summary of Responses and Next Steps will be presented at the upcoming CUC Annual Conference in Vancouver in May.

For full details, visit www.cuc.ca/statement and www.cuc.ca/strategy.

SHARED MINISTRY DAYS AND PRE-CONFERENCE EVENTS

Details at: <http://cuc.ca/conference/2007/sharedMinistry.htm>

TUESDAY - THURSDAY

Tuesday, May 15 – 6:30 - 9:30 pm
Wed, May 16 and Thursday, May 17 –
9:30 - 4:30 pm

**Ecstatic Naturalism: Nature, God,
and the New Cosmology**
Dr. Robert Corrington
Vancouver School of Theology, UBC

WEDNESDAY - FRIDAY

**Renaissance Multicultural Religious
Education Module**
(Camp Alexandra)
Wednesday evening - Friday 1:00 pm

THURSDAY

**Welcoming and Celebrating
Congregational Diversity** 9:30 - 4:30 pm
Rev. Keith Kron
Unitarian Church of Vancouver
CUC Board meets (UBC) 6:00 - 9:00 pm

FRIDAY

Leadership Workshop:
Human Resources 9:00 - 5:00 pm
Monica Bennett UCV 9:30 - 4:30 pm
CUC Board meets (UBC) 9:00 - 5:00 pm
CUC Lay Chaplaincy Training
9:00 - 5:00 pm
*registration required; no charge to those
involved in Lay Chaplaincy program (UCV)*
**Lift Up Your Voice! Brian Tate Singing
Workshop (UCV)** 9:00 - 4:30 pm
Canadian Unitarians for Social Justice
9:00 - 5:00 pm (UBC SUB 207)
Registration opens 2:00 pm
(Some) **Exhibits open** 2:00 pm
ACM Orientation 7:00 - 7:45 pm
*especially for first-timers – a “walk through”
the weekend by experienced conference
participants*
Banner Carriers Gather 7:45 - 8:00 pm
Ingathering and Banner Parade
8:00 - 9:00 pm
*includes recognition of new member
congregations*
Sacred Circle Dancing 9:00 - 10:00 pm
Reception 9:00 pm
hosted by UU UNO – Cash Bar
Labyrinth Walk (outdoors) 10:00 - 11:00 pm

SATURDAY

VIP Breakfast 7:30 - 8:45 am
*Session leaders and ACM Program Planning
Committee Breakfast (By invitation and
RSVP)*
Morning Spiritual Practice Session
8:15 - 8:45 am
Community Singing (led by Joyce Poley)
8:45 - 9:00 am
Welcome and Keynote Speaker 9:00 am
Break 10:15 - 10:30 am
Concurrent Sessions A 10:30 - 12:00 noon
*workshops, worship, lectures, networking
sessions including Annual Meeting – Part I
(Introductions; Rules of Procedure;
Announcements; Annual Reports, By-law
revisions regarding Rules of procedure)*
MULTIGENERATIONAL DAY BEGINS –
12:00 noon
*Youth from CanUUdle will join us on site
from noon till 10:00 pm*
Lunch break 12:00 - 2:00 pm
A. Multi-generational Picnic –
McInnes Field (ticketed) 12:00 - 1:45 pm
*Coordinated by North Shore Unitarian
Church*
**B. Mini-plenary for Social Responsibility
Resolutions** (ticketed); or:
C. Lunch on your own – *use this time to
network.*
Vancouver Street Retreat 1:30 - 9:00 pm
Community Singing (led by Joyce Poley)
1:45 - 2:00 pm
Go 4 It – Whole community gathering
2:00 - 3:00 pm
*led by CUC board and friends – youth are
invited.*
Concurrent Sessions B 3:15 - 4:45 pm
Simple Souper Saturday Supper
5:00 - 7:00 pm
*Multi-generational (tickets extra – included
in youth and children's programs \$20).
There will be two sittings, one 5:00 - 5:45 pm
and the other 6:15 - 7:00 pm.*
Concurrent Sessions C 7:15 - 8:45 pm
*including Confluence Lecture sponsored by
the UU Ministers of Canada*
**Youth-led Multigenerational Worship Service:
The Symphony of Modern Humanity**
9:00 - 10:00 pm
Coffee house 10:00 pm
Beacon Unitarian Church

SUNDAY

Spiritual Practice Session 8:15 - 8:45 am
VIP Breakfast: CUC Friends Breakfast
7:45 - 8:45 am *(By invitation and RSVP)
This is a “thank you” to our supporters. CUC
Board Executive host.*
Concurrent Sessions D 9:00 - 10:30 am
*including Mark Mosher de Wolfe Lecture spon-
sored by the Canadian UU Historical Society*
Break 10:30 - 10:45 am
Prelude 10:45 am
Chan Centre
Sunday Worship Service 11:00 - 12:00 pm
Which Way Do We Look? Rev. Dr. Steven
Epperson. Music Ministry: Canadian
Unitarian Council's Massed Choir
**Beyond our Borders International Lunch
and panel presentation** (ticketed)
12:15 - 1:45 pm
Concurrent Sessions E 2:00 - 3:30 pm
*including Annual Meeting Part 2 –
Welcoming Congregation presentations;
Social Responsibility Resolutions*
Congregational Showcase!
Come Show And Tell! 4:00 - 5:15 pm
Regional Networking
Museum of Anthropology opens 5:00 pm
for conference registrants
Book signing and sales 5:30 - 6:45 pm
Poetry Reading 5:30 - 6:30 pm
launch of Shorelines Poetry Anthology
Dinner and Knight Award Presentation
7:00 - 9:00 pm
Entertainment 9:00 pm
**Soulful Sundown Worship Service –
Young Adults Network** 9:30 pm

MONDAY

Spiritual Practice Session 8:15 - 8:45 am
Concurrent Sessions F 9:00 - 10:30 am
*including “Singing Your Way Home”
workshop; Annual Meeting Part 3 (Financial
Matters)*
Break 10:30 - 10:45 am
Transitions Ceremonies 10:45 - 11:15 am
*from youth to young adult; from junior youth
to youth*
Closing Ceremony and Worship
11:15 - 12:00 noon
*CUC Board – installation of CUC Board;
passing of the Soil from Vancouver to
Ottawa, hosts for ACM 2008*
Post-Conference Tours 2:00 pm
Concurrent Sessions G 2:00 - 5:00 pm
*including Social Responsibility Resolution:
What's Next?*

HOSTED BY THE UNITARIAN CHURCH OF VANCOUVER

Make the rainbow connection

The place where you belong isn't somewhere way up high or far away, but right here inside our rainbow in Vancouver. Make the rainbow connection at ACM 2007 and celebrate Diversity in Community. You'll experience:

- Diverse speakers, from the compassionate and controversial Rev. Bill Phipps to the ecstatic naturalism of Prof. Robert Corrington.
- Diverse workshops, from the "Cakes for the Queen of Heaven Celebration," to the "World Cafe: Imagining Sustainability."
- Diverse delegates of all ages and backgrounds

- Diverse surroundings in Vancouver: a multi-cultural, multi-faith metropolis set on the water and framed by mountains.

ACM 2007 gives participants of all ages a chance to connect with fellow UUs from across the country to exchange ideas, re-energize and have fun. This year's gathering promises to be the biggest ever: a springboard to a period of growth and optimism for Unitarian Universalism across the country. So go ahead, make the rainbow connection. See you in Vancouver.

Stay for special Unitarian tour

Heart of the City Tour

Monday, 2:00 - 4:30 pm

Despite the one dimensional media publicity about Vancouver's Downtown Eastside as a "war zone" this walkabout will illustrate the strengths and triumphs of local residents against considerable odds in renewing their community through community arts and community activism. Michael Clague, former Director of Carnegie Community Centre in the Downtown Eastside (and UCV member) will lead this tour. *Cost \$10*

Unitarian Church of Vancouver Buildings and Landscape Tour

Monday, 2:00 - 3:00 pm

The Unitarian Church of Vancouver has been designated on the City's Heritage Register as an example of modern architecture. Erika and Kate Gerson, daughters of the architect, will lead the tour.

Young adults, unite!

by Joel Fox

I'm excited about the ACM. It's going to be special and fresh. We're riding a wave of monumental potential and are reaching mass awareness about the young adult gap. With the support of CUC and UUA, this ACM and the next will bring young adults together – and into the community – more than ever before.

Young adults have a golden opportunity to take our game to the next level. What do you want? How would you be involved?

There will be a vast selection of fun and engaging activities. Join me in hatching a really shakin' Soulful Sundown! Got a funky idea for a theme? Got some mad

skills
you're
itchin' to
let loose?
Let's get
together!

Email me at feeltheharmony@yahoo.ca and I'll sign you up to our yahoogroup.

Also, ask about the cross-Canada Diversity Survey. It's an easy way to tell a bit about you and share your vision of the future. See who others are and what they think. Come on – everybody's doin' it!

*Joel Fox is the Soulful Sundown
Coordinator at the ACM.*



KEYNOTE SPEAKER

Rev. Bill Phipps

A fearless social justice advocate and outspoken theologian, passionate about peace and a candidate who has gone toe-to-toe with Stephen Harper on the hustings.

Phipps is International President of the World Conference on Religion and Peace and a former Moderator of the United Church of Canada.

Sunday Worship at the Chan Centre

With Rev. Dr. Steven Epperson and the CUC ACM Choir under direction of Donna Brown.

Which way do we look?

What values and aspirations do Unitarians in Canada share that can enable us to act effectively for the well-being and common good of our nation? Which way do we look? Provocative and sustaining inspiration as we dream and work to promote and embody our values/aspirations? Provocative and sustaining inspiration may well come from arts, literature, our UU heritage, our domestic life, from a progressive Canadian political and moral narrative, or from the abiding, authoritative voice within us.

ACM FOR YOUNG PEOPLE

There are programs for people of all ages:

Child care (for children up to age 5 or kindergarten age)

Young Fun (age 6 - 11)

Junior Youth Rally (age 12 - 14)

CanUUdle VII Youth Conference

Youth (age 14 - 20) will have a home base at the Unitarian Church of Vancouver (UCV).

For full descriptions, check the website www.cuc.ca/conference/2007. Register for your preferred concurrent sessions on the registration form.

SATURDAY

SPIRITUAL PRACTICE

SP1. Stretching, Chanting and Reflective Writing

David Embry Solest is the Director of I AM Choir

CONCURRENT SESSIONS "A"

A1. ANNUAL MEETING, Part I

Introductions, Reports, General Business

A2. Fighting for Privacy in a Surveillance Culture

Micheal Vonn, Policy Director, BC Civil Liberties Association

A3. Exploring the Inconvenient Truth

Learn how Al Gore increased awareness of Global Warming.

Jim Stephenson, PhD, has studied environmental economics

A4. Membership: the Art of Information and Invitation

Lisa Greenly and Liz James chair their congregations' membership committees and are known as the energizer bunnies of membership

A5. Religion on the Internet

Penney Kome is Editor of the online newsmagazine Straightgoods.com and former church webweaver

A6. Practicing Empathy in Everyday Living

Learn Compassionate Communication and "deep listening."

Wayne Ulian has led Compassionate Communication workshops for five years

A7. OWL at a UU Camp Setting

Neal denHollander, an OWL facilitator and trainer, is actively involved with Youth Ministry in Canada

A8. Creating a Unitarian Buddhist Sangha

Gillian Burton is a Lay Chaplain and member of two Buddhist sanghas

A9. Inter-spiritual Chanting as a Meditative Practice

An exploration of singing and meditating together; will we reach a conscious state of love and peace?

David Embry Solest

SATURDAY, MULTIGENERATIONAL DAY

SR. Vancouver Street Retreat 1:30 pm to 9:00 pm

We will walk in non-judgment, bearing witness to the joy, and absurdity of life on the streets of Vancouver's Eastside.

Laura Friedman is a Ministerial Candidate and a member of the Faithful Fools of Vancouver, an interfaith street ministry in the Downtown Eastside

Choose this instead of B and C concurrent sessions.

CONCURRENT SESSIONS "B"

B1. Choir Practice 1

(Must also attend D2)

Join our ACM choir this weekend to sing with UUs from across Canada at Sunday's worship service.

Donna Brown has conducted the UCV Chalice Choir for eight years

B2. Welcoming the May – a Beltane ritual

Dance with modern Pagans around the Maypole as they welcome Spring and the reawakening of the Earth.

Louise Bunn, a practicing Pagan for 25 years, wrote the Unitarian curriculum "Paganism 101" and Fritz Muntean, a member of the UCV Board and a practicing Pagan for over 40 years

B3. From Youth Programming to Youth Ministry

How congregations can better serve the spiritual needs of youth.

Jesse Jaeger is the UUA Youth Programs Director

B4. UU Perspectives on Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity/ Expression

Art Brewer, Chair, Gender and Sexual Diversity Monitoring Group is a long time champion of the Welcoming Congregation program

B5. Deep Ecology and 'The Work that Reconnects'

We will introduce the work of deep ecologist, Joanna Macy, and explore its resonance for UUs. *Nicoline Guerrier is a Ministerial Student and Social Worker who has studied with Joanna Macy*

B6. How Shall We "Go-4-It"?

It's time to start creating the future for Unitarianism and Universalism in Canada!

CUC Board Members

B7. Balance and Self Care

Caroline Farley is Director of Lifespan Religious Exploration at UCV and 'president' of Replenish All Natural Bath Products.

B8. Restless Unitarians

How our congregations can reach out to Canadians already sympathetic to Unitarianism.

Rev. Peter Boullata is the interim Minister at Unitarian Fellowship of Peterborough.

B9. Small Group Ministry – Building Bridges Between our Divisions

This multigenerational workshop will reflect on a diversity issue then share experiences within the larger group.

Sylvia Bass West, CUC Director of Lifespan Learning and Rev Jane Bramadat, Minister, First Unitarian Church of Victoria

B10. Volunteering in the Developing World

Three young Canadians will inspire you with their stories drawn from experiences as volunteers on three continents.

Richard Kirsh has been organizing volunteer construction trips to Central America since 1994

CONCURRENT SESSIONS "C"

C1. Confluence Lecture 2007:

The "H" Word.

Where does our religious tradition come from? Who are we now? And where are we going? *Rev. Christine Hillman is Minister of the UU Church of Olinda*

C2. Cakes for the Queen of Heaven Celebration

A participatory evening ritual to celebrate the 21st anniversary of this popular feminist theology curriculum.

Rev. Shirley Ranck is the author of this curriculum and interim minister at North Shore

C3. The Consultation on Youth Ministry

Learn how CUC and UUA cooperation results in continued support for Canadian UU Youth.

Jesse Jaeger, UUA Youth Programs Director, and Canadian Youth Leaders

C4. Back in School?

A look at the triumphs and difficulties facing religious tolerance in today's post secondary institutions.

Timothy McCormick was a student at the University of Guelph

C5. Make it Local, Take it Global – Citizen Advocacy

Our cumulative actions to improve the world can make a difference. Let's ensure our voice is being heard.

Susan Walsh, Executive Director, USC Canada

C6. "Think Peace," Documentary Film

This 50 minute film, a message of peace and hope, was filmed during the 2006 World Peace Forum, in Vancouver.

David Maidman

C7. By Bits & Bytes: Congregations Join the Information Age

Bert Christensen, CUC webweaver and John Michell, a computer network consultant and CUC Board member

C8. Diversity: How to Practice What We Preach

A roadmap for living with people who see the world differently than we do.

Philip Bone Campbell is a clinical counsellor

C9. Intersecting Circles – the Integration of Modern Paganism

The successful integration of Pagans into the life and practice of UCV may be a model for all.

Fritz Muntean and Louise Bunn

C10. Youth Community Games

Ice breakers, energizers, group building and group stretching games and activities.

SUNDAY

SPIRITUAL PRACTICE

SP2. Building Support for UU Fellowship in Havana, Cuba.

Early morning spiritual practice.

Wilson Munoz, chair of UCV Social Justice Committee

CONCURRENT SESSIONS "D"**D1. Canadian UU Historical Society AGM and Mark Mosher DeWolfe Lecture**

Women in leadership roles at UCVancouver during the inter-war period of the 1920s and 1930s: the work of Rev. Ada Tonkin and Rev. Wilna Constable, the first female Unitarian ministers settled in Canada.

Diana Ellis is chair of the UCV Archives Committee

D2. Choir Practice 2 (Must also attend B1)**D3. Building Support for Unitarian Universalist Fellowship in Havana, Cuba**

Examine ways to help the UU Fellowship of Havana gain admission to Council of Churches of Cuba.

Wilson Munoz

D4. Hook, Line and Zinger: Writing for the Media, Part 1

A practical guide to writing effective press releases, feature articles, news stories and other materials.

Don Hauka is an experienced journalist, teacher and communicator. Tom Poiker is a recently retired Professor of geography with expertise in online learning.

D5. Programming for Young Adults

Michael Tino, UUA Director of Young Adult and Campus Ministry

D6. Attending UU Meetings via the Internet

Could "distance-learning" technologies allow you to "attend" the next ACM in one of your church's meeting rooms?

John Michell is a seasoned computer network consultant

D7. Would You Like Better Meetings?

Discover how to make meetings more productive and democratic, rather than a bore and an aggravation.

Bruce Partridge is a practicing parliamentarian, lawyer and former university administrator who has sat through many meetings

D8. Communion Service

Rev. Felicia Urbanski is the interim Minister at the First Unitarian Congregation of Waterloo.

D9. Environmental Action as Personal Practice

This workshop will focus on eco-spiritual practice, Environment Committee joys and sorrows and networking.

Karl Perrin, chair, UCV Environment Committee and charter member of CUC Environment Monitoring Group

D10. UU-UNO: Initiatives to Bridge UUs to the UN

Cultivating organizational partnerships among youth, young adults and adults is vital to peace building and celebrating diversity in our local and global community.

Jim Nelson, ED, UU-UNO Janet Hillen and Ramon, Envoy and Youth Envoy, Hamilton, Marilyn Mehr, UU-UNO Board President, Eryl Court, Envoy Coordinator (Canada)

CONCURRENT SESSIONS "E"**E1. ANNUAL MEETING, Part II**

Social Justice Resolution and General Business

E2. Bridging the Gaps: Helping Our Young People Stay in Our Faith

Where have all our young people gone? We'll discuss why they leave and the changes to make.

Michael Tino, UUA Director of Young Adult and Campus Ministry and Jesse Jaeger, UUA Youth Programs Director

E3. Sacred Circle Dance for All Ages

Have fun and create community through simple, spirited dances suitable for all ages, singles and families.

Margaret Rao is a founding member of the Dance Choir at Toronto First

E4. World Cafe: Imagine Sustainability

Small groups will explore: is Sustainability a journey and/or destination?

Diana and Forrest Smith of EcoSol Consulting Inc. are social and environmental activists

E5. Hook, Line and Zinger: Writing for the Media, Part 2

How to get your article out to different media (for free) and harnessing the power of the Internet.

Don Hauka

E6. Healing Towards Wholeness: Healing Pathway

Rev. Heather Fraser Fawcett is a Community Minister with a long interest in healing ministry and complementary healing practices

E7. The Art of Spiritual Direction for UUs

Come and discover this ancient form of spiritual renewal which will lead you to explore and deepen your experience of the sacred.

Debra Thorne is a lay chaplaincy trainer and spiritual director

E8. The Internet and Religious Education

Bring the Internet's wealth of knowledge and resources into the RE classroom.

Caroline Farley, Director, Lifespan Religious Exploration at UCV

E9. Paganism 101: 10 years of teaching to UUs

Join us for a discussion of what we Unitarian Pagans have learned about curriculum and institutional development.

Louise Bunn

E10. Re-invigorating Your Planned Giving Committee

How to encourage UUs to think about leaving a legacy through estate planning.

Rainer Borkenhagen is a former treasurer, chair of canvas campaign and planned giving committee at UCV.

MONDAY**SPIRITUAL PRACTICE****SP3. Lectio Divina with a twist! (Sufi)**

An ancient form of contemplative practice using the Sufi mystic poetry of Hafiz.

Debra Thorne

CONCURRENT SESSIONS "F"**F1. ANNUAL MEETING, Part III**

Financial stewardship

F2. Invisible Influence: UU Women in Canada

How to recover the lost, neglected, overlooked, and undocumented contributions of UU women.

Rev. Heather Fraser Fawcett, a Community Minister has researched and written about UU women. Jean Pfeleiderer is a CUC Board member.

F3. Singing Our Way Home

All voices are welcome to join in an inspirational session of group singing using our hymn book and newer resources.

Joyce Poley is a well-known UU singer/songwriter and member of Beacon Unitarian Church.

F4. Walking the Labyrinth: Approaches to Symbolism

The meditative aspects of walking a labyrinth, the history of labyrinths and their symbolism.

Helen Iacovino is a poet and has been an active UU at Toronto First for 25 years.

F5. Campus Ministry in Canada

Organizing tips and best practices to serve the special needs of Canadian students.

Michael Tino and Joseph Santos-Lyons, UUA Campus Ministry

F6. Nukes in Your Endowment Fund

An interim review of the CUC Action Study on Socially Responsible Investing: Getting to the Starting Line.

Ahti Tolvanen, chair

F7. Christian Voices in Unitarianism

Discussion and sharing based on the book *Christian Voices in Unitarian Universalism*.

Rev. Felicia Urbanski

F8. Sondage sur les attitudes spirituelles

Douglas Campbell a élaboré une grille de dialogue sur les attitudes spirituelles et nous allons nous en servir pour explorer notre religion unitarienne en français.

Nancy Labonté, poete et webmaster au RFUU et au MUUQ

F9. IARF AGM: Diversity In Dialogue

For all interested in Inter-faith dialogue at the national and international levels. The latest IARF Human Rights DVD will be shown.

Christine Johnston, president of the Canadian IARF Chapter.

CONCURRENT SESSIONS "G"**G1. The CUC Board and You**

Share your thoughts, dreams and concerns regarding CUC direction, policy and services with CUC Board members.

G2. What's Next?

CUC Racial and First Nations Equity

Following plenary discussions, it's time to consider and plan future actions.

CUC Monitoring Group

CUC ANNUAL CONFERENCE AND MEETING 2007 MAY 18 - 21, UNIVERSITY OF BRITISH COLUMBIA CAMPUS

Registration forms are available online:
<http://cuc.ca/conference/2007/registration.htm>

Please complete one registration form for each adult registration. For children/youth, list names on this form, and complete separate registration forms found at: <http://cuc.ca/conference/2007/registration.htm>

If you have questions about children/youth registrations, contact kirstie@cuc.ca

NAME* _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ PROV _____ CODE _____

EMAIL _____ PHONE _____

CONGREGATION _____

* please indicate the name you wish to appear on your name/id tag.

- I plan to attend the Sunday Worship Service at the Chan Centre. (This is a ticketed event. There will be no charge for members of Unitarian congregations but pre-registration is a must.)
- Contact me regarding accessibility/special needs.
- I do not want to be listed in the conference directory.
- Please contact me before publishing photographs.

Location: University of British Columbia – Student Union Building and Gage Towers
A range of accommodation is available from \$22/night
Reservations: 1-888-822-1030
Email: reservations@housing.ubc.ca
Book online: <http://www.cuc.ca/conference/2007/accommodation.htm>



SHARED MINISTRY DAYS (PRE-CONFERENCE)

- Ecstatic Naturalism: Nature, God, and the New Cosmology with Robert Corrington**
Tues - Thurs May 15 - 17
Audit – \$200 (\$180 early bird rate for full-conference registrants)
For Credit, contact Vancouver School of Theology
1-866-822-9031, www.vst.edu
- Multicultural Religious Education Renaissance Program[≠]**
Wed - Fri, May 16 - 18: \$200
- Welcoming & Celebrating Congregational Diversity**
Thursday, May 17: \$50/\$75*
- CUC Lay Chaplaincy Enrichment**
Friday, May 18: no charge for current lay chaplains, retired lay chaplains, lay chaplains in training, and lay chaplaincy committee members. Pre-registration required.
- Lift Up Your Voice: Brian Tate Singing workshop**
Friday, May 18: \$50/\$75*
- Leadership Workshop: Human Resources for Congregations**
Friday, May 18: \$50/\$75*

* \$50 for those attending the full CUC conference, \$75 for others

[≠] Held at Camp Alexandra in Surrey, BC. Registration deadline is April 1. If space permits, registrations will be taken until May 1 at a late registration fee of \$225. Child care is not available for this program.

FULL CONFERENCE PROGRAMS

Registration helps us provide proper space; early registration ensures your first choice.

Morning Spiritual Practice Sessions

- Saturday (SP1) Sunday (SP2) Monday (SP3)

Concurrent Sessions

Write event number for A-G in the blanks. (Some changes are usually possible at the conference.) If you are attending the Street Retreat, put "SR" in B&C. If you are registering for the Choir, you must choose both B1 and D2 and plan to be in the choir for the Sunday worship service.

A _____ B _____ C _____ D _____

E _____ F _____ G _____

- I plan to attend the ACM Orientation on Friday evening.
- I expect to be a delegate for my congregation

Registration Fees

- \$150 before Apr. 1 \$175 after Apr. 1
- \$200 after May 1*

Day rates: \$95 Saturday \$95 Sunday

Full-time students:[†] \$100 before Apr. 1

\$125 after Apr. 1 \$150 after May 1*

* After May 10, registrations will not be confirmed by mail. Bring a copy of this completed registration form to the conference.

[†] Young adults 18 - 35 may apply for subsidy (forms can be found at: <http://cuc.ca/conference/2007/registration.htm>)

ACM FOR YOUNG PEOPLE PROGRAMS

As applicable, enter name and age below, complete and mail in with the appropriate detailed child/youth registration form (available at <http://www.cuc.ca/conference/2007/registration.htm>). You must pre-register for child care, young fun, junior youth and CanUUdle VII youth conference by April 1. If space permits, registration up to May 1 will be assessed an additional \$25 fee. Registrations for these programs will not be accepted after May 1.

PROGRAM	NAME	AGE*	MARCH FEE	APRIL FEE
CanUUdle VII (ages 14–20)			\$85	\$110
CanUUdle VII (Advisor: 25+)			\$45	\$70
Junior Youth (ages 12–14)			\$75	\$100
Young Fun (ages 6–11)			\$65	\$90
Childcare (age 5 and under)			\$50	\$75

* Age as of May 18, 2007

MEAL CHOICES

Saturday

- Lunch and Mini-Plenary for Resolutions Discussion – \$20
- Multigenerational Picnic*
 - adults – \$15
 - children under 12 – \$10

* Included with Young Fun, Junior Youth and Youth program registration

- Simple Souper Supper†
 - adults – \$20
 - children under 12 – \$15
 - 5:00 - 5:45 pm seating
 - 6:15 - 7:00 pm seating

- Beacon Coffee House – no cover/cash bar

† Included with Junior Youth and Youth program registration

Sunday

- Beyond Our Borders International Lunch – \$20 (\$30 if not registered for full conference)
- Dinner, Presentations and Museum access
 - adults/youth – \$35 (\$50 if not registered for full conference)
 - children under 12 – \$20

Food Preferences: Vegetarian Vegan Meat

Allergies: _____

VIP Breakfasts – by invitation only

- ACM Session Presenters, Saturday (or RSVP to sessions@cuc.ca)
- CUC Friends, Sunday: Free to those who gave to the Friends program in past year. (or RSVP to friends@cuc.ca)

POST-CONFERENCE TOURS

- Heart of the City – \$10
- Unitarian Church of Vancouver – no charge.

PAYMENT SUMMARY

- My registration fees will be paid by someone else:

Total Fees for this registration \$ _____

Total Fees for registrations listed below \$ _____

Donation \$ _____ to: CUC Friends

or (specify) _____

Total Payment: \$ _____ by _____

Cheque Visa PayPal – Reference# _____

Visa Card # _____

Expiry: Month: _____ Year: _____

Name _____

Signature: _____

Registration fees for others included in the above payment:

NAME	FEE
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

Registration Deadlines

Registration deadlines for the conference is as shown in the Registration Fees section. To manage the complexity of planning for the lifespan programs, including bus rentals and field trip bookings, all Children's, Junior Youth and CanUUdle Youth registrations are due by April 1. Late Registration may be possible before May 1 with additional fee. No registrations will be accepted for Lifespan Learning programs after May 1.

For more information, contact the Director of Lifespan Learning at sylvia@cuc.ca

Cancellations and substitutions

Registration can be transferred at no charge. An administrative charge of \$25 applies to cancellations before May 1 and \$50 after May 1. No refunds will normally be given after May 10.

Contact Phil Strapp, Financial Administrator, for any inquiry regarding fees or payments—phil@cuc.ca

FOR MORE INFO

visit: www.cuc.ca/conference/2007

or write: info@cuc.ca

TORONTO:	VANCOUVER:	TOLL FREE:
(416) 489-4121	(604) 264-0088	1-888-568-5723

Across the Country

The Invisible Influence Project

by Jean Pfleiderer

Did you know that the

Rev. Mrs. Fidelia Gillette, minister at the Universalist Church in Bloomfield, Ontario, 1888-89, was very likely the first ordained woman to serve a congregation in Canada? Fidelia is just one of the many unsung women whose efforts contributed to the establishment of our movement across the country. The “Invisible Influence” project wants to learn more about all of them. [U](#)

Jean Pfleiderer (jeanp@cuc.ca) is a member of the Kingston Unitarian Fellowship



A vignette from the life of Rev. Fidelia Gillette, presented in the Huntingville Universalist Church at the launch of “Invisible Influence.” Left to right: Margo Rivera, Jean Pfleiderer, and Rev. Kathy Sage, greeting Heather Fraser Fawcett, back to camera. Rev. Kathy Sage can be contacted at kufmin@kingston.net.

The “Invisible Influence” project is being supported by a CUC Sharing Our Faith grant, and grants from the West Fund and the Unitarian Universalist Funding Panel.

Celebrating the T in LGBTQ

PHOTO: LIAM QUIN

With one simple sentence – “Mom, I have something to tell you” – Joan Wiley and her family began a sacred journey.

For 18 years, Joan and her husband loved their oldest child as a daughter, and for the last five years they have cherished this same child as their son. He is transgender.

Early in the journey, Joan discovered that when trans persons emerge from the closet, their parents often enter into it. As a result, she founded TransParent Canada (www.transparentcanada.ca), which offers encouragement and resources to parents so that they, too, may celebrate their children’s authenticity and reduce their own sense of isolation.

Joan is convinced that education is the key to overcoming transphobia, and she tries to take advantage of as many speaking opportunities as she is able. Her message is that trans persons are the same gift to the world they have always been, just wrapped up in a different ribbon. A presentation she delivered to First Unitarian Congrega-



tion of Toronto in 2007 – “Celebrating the T in LGBTQ: One Family’s Sacred Journey” – can be found at <http://www.firstunitariantoronto.org/sermons/wiley.htm>. [U](#)

Joan Wiley is a member of the Unitarian Congregation of Niagara.

VOLUNTEER ABROAD



Projects Abroad is the leading organizer of volunteer placements across five continents. We offer a diverse range of teaching, care, conservation, medicine, sports, journalism and work experience projects.

Ages 16 and Up - Programs for high school graduates, plus “2-week Specials” in the summer for high school students.



**Contact Unitarians -
John Plumpton or
Beverly Carr
905-883-0047 x355
canadiangappers@yrlc.on.ca**

**INTERNATIONAL EDUCATION
AND VOLUNTEER PROGRAMS
www.ievp.org**

From the Pulpit

by Rev. Brian Kiely

Islam

the faith, the fanatics, the future

There are 10 million Muslims on this continent, yet most North Americans see Islam as foreign. Some time ago, I visited a mosque. At first it felt strange, but as with *Little Mosque on the Prairie* I soon found more that was familiar. We were welcomed by a typical 'church mom' who from time to time shushed the noisy kids in the adjoining room. One Muslim man tried to take over her question and answer session. Our

These offensives can be simple political activism, non-violent civil disobedience or public preaching. In parts of the Islamic world conservatives lead welfare campaigns and do radical acts of charity. Mother Teresa exemplified loving militancy. Sadly, some turn to violence. Whether it is the bombing of abortion clinics, or suicide attacks in Baghdad cafes, a minute proportion of fanatics kill.

How are they created? Extremists begin with some grounding within

WHAT UNITES ALL FORMS OF EXTREMISM IS A CONVICTION THAT PEOPLE HAVE LOST THEIR WAY AND THAT A RETURN TO STRICT RELIGIOUS OBSERVANCE IS THE ONLY SOLUTION.

church mom politely shut him down. It felt like home!

She explained the service and then took us over to the prayer room. We sat through too many announcements. Then, a 10 minute prayer service was followed by a four minute homily. Then lunch. Maybe we can learn some things!

Religious extremism does exist in parts of Islam, but also in Christianity, Judaism and every other major religion. What unites all forms of extremism is a conviction that people have lost their way and that a return to strict religious observance is the only solution.

According to Karen Armstrong, respected author of *A History of God* and *The Battle for God*, such groups share behaviours that transcend religion. "First, they withdraw... to form sacred enclaves of pure faith. These are fortresses where the 'faithful' can live what they regard as a true religious life. They create a counter-culture... From these bastions, fundamentalists can plan a political, military or social offensive."

their religious traditions. St. Ignatius trained Soldiers of Christ. The Salvation Army sings, "Onward Christian soldiers!" But some twist the militant message into violence.

When Islam was born, the Arabian peninsula was in crisis. Massively violent vendettas were common. Muhammed went to war even as he was receiving the Qu'ran. As the tide turned, he started building peaceful coalitions and tried an unheard of policy of non-violence. The Arabian peninsula united, peacefully.

Armstrong writes, "Because the Qu'ran was revealed in the context of all out war, several passages deal with the conduct of armed conflict..."

Muslims are ordered by God to 'slay (the enemy) wherever you find them'. Muslim extremists like Bin Laden like to quote these verses, but they do so selectively, never quoting the exhortations to peace ... in the verses immediately following. Thus (the very next verse) 'If they leave you alone and offer to make peace with you, God does not allow you to harm them.'



Armstrong also notes that peaceful fundamentalism usually only becomes violent in a society in conflict, for Islam only allows war in self-defence. Muslim extremists believe that they are in a war of survival caused by western economic and cultural 'attacks'. Some believe this attack gives them a right to retaliate violently. And that in broad strokes is why people are blowing themselves up.

Yes, there are other elements, promises of Islamic heaven and gardens full of virgins, promises of sacred memory here on earth. But mostly these 'martyrs' exist because extremist leaders take young people in a conflicted culture and teach them a corrupted version of Islam, one that offers a glorious way to live – and die their faith. **U**

Rev. Brian Kiely is the minister at the Unitarian Church of Edmonton and is Past President of the CUC.

This is a summary of two of a series of three sermons about Islam, all of which richly deserve a full reading at http://www.cuc.ca/ministry/sermon_series/sermon_series.htm

Friends Profile

Neil May

by Bruce Schwartzentruber

A poet and artist, a GE employee for 45 years, a steam train aficionado, a Napoleon Bonaparte expert, a devoted father and Unitarian Universalist, Neil May came to Peterborough from Kirkland Lake at the age of three after his mother died. Peterborough, General Electric and the Peterborough Unitarian Fellowship (PUF) have been the beneficiaries of a move that began with tragedy.

Like many UUs, Neil turned to the local, still-fledgling Unitarian group of 26 people, in 1974, for support after reading its newspaper notice. Newly single again, Neil found people who cared, a community of liked-minded folks, and he was hooked.

Now 100 strong, the PUF has relied on Neil as a mainstay of their congregation, bringing him to the board's Chair on four occasions and relying on



him for many committees and work groups.

He's also a person of action, recently spotting a confused, poorly dressed man wandering the cold streets outside his apartment building. While some residents wanted to turn the man away, Neil took

him in and arranged to have him taken to a safe place, earning him a 'Good Samaritan' plaque from the building superintendent.

Neil notes that "I give what I can each year," his support of the Canadian Unitarian Council grounded in that same interest in social justice, in the common good: "The CUC supports causes that benefit everybody; they are willing to put up a fight with governments no matter who is in power. The CUC fights for a lot of things in Canada that we shouldn't have to." □

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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 *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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Aussie singer visits Lethbridge UU

by Rodger York

PHOTO: ANNE REMINGTON



When Iain Campbell

Smith, an Australian folk-singer, emailed us to tell us that he was coming to Lethbridge to sing at the Lethbridge Folk Club, we thought "Why not?" As Iain said, "When I do a gig in a community, I usually seek out a UU


congregation to visit to sing and tell my story on the Sunday. They are different; people are free to express themselves."

Iain brought us on board skillfully, sharing humorous songs about being a Washington househusband and the human predicament, before getting to the main story of his experience working as a peacekeeper on Bougainville Island, the easternmost island of New Guinea. There he found himself in the middle of an exploding dispute between landowners, dispossessed by

a copper mine – "... a bloody great hole in the middle of the island you can see from the moon" – and Papua New Guinea government troops.

With story and song, Iain skillfully told of the lessons learned, the horrors of

the fighting, the reactions of the indigenous people, and the final leave-taking of the Australian peacekeeping troops. Iain commented, "The people had to meet and talk about what it all meant, and so we had some 20,000 meetings – endless – but it was the only way that a lasting peace could be accomplished."

In Iain's presentation there were many opportunities for humour and tears as well as deep learnings. Now living in Washington D.C., Iain has a message the White House should hear. 

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