

CUC goes global

BY BRIAN KIELY



Nearly 100 participants gathered in Germany last November for the biennial conference of the International Council of Unitarians and Universalists. Rev. Brian Kiely was elected President.

Serving the ICUU has opened my eyes to the diversity of our beliefs and practices around the world. We appear to be a lot more than the humanistic mix of intellect and spirit we often encounter in Canada.

I expect more 'enlightenment' from serving on the international faculty for a Leadership School to 60 Unitarians from five African countries. Students come from traditions that blend Christianity with indigenous practice. I expect that the worship services will be unlike any I have ever experienced.

And we will also be shaped by the locale: We are meeting in Nairobi, Kenya, a normally stable place that has been rocked with violence and an increasing humanitarian crisis following the disputed results of recent elections.



Rev. Brian Kiely with daughters Elora and Lily.

We went ahead because, frankly, the Kenyans need us to be there. The uncertainty has shut down the tourist trade in the middle of their high season. The poorest day labourers are the ones suffering the most. In the collapsing social structure, prices for staples and fuel have doubled and tripled as work has dried up.

Leadership School work is valuable in helping emerging African Unitarians learn more about our history, worship and organization. It is the first time the ICUU has held a school in Africa. But it may be that this visit will be just as important to the cooks and cleaners at our venue.

You can learn more about our global connections at www.icuu.net. Read Brian's blog about the 8-Day Leadership School in Kenya at <http://uuwithoutborders.blogspot.com/>.

Brian Kiely is minister of the Unitarian Church of Edmonton, a past CUC board member and president of the International Council of Unitarians and Universalists. briki@aol.com

learning light

BY JO-ANNE ELDER

let resistance fall on its knees
lessons are learned in stillness

a hand clenched tight
must release despair
to take hold of joy

light won't get through
without an opening

speak quietly your truths
let them fall like a rain of roses

those with empty gardens
are waiting to hear
words like prayers or praise
and beauty grown in silence

Jo-Anne Elder-Gomes, a member of the Unitarian Fellowship of Fredericton, was one of the "new pioneers" on the CUC volunteer team. Jo-Anne was short-listed for the Governor General's Literary Award for Translation in 2003, and is also an editor for the multi-lingual journal Ellipse. Most Unitarians know Jo-Anne from her editorial work on Shoreline – Water Poems. She will be editing the upcoming chapbook to be released later this year.

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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International visitors at ACM

La visite de Jean-Claude Barbier – un pas de plus vers la francophonie internationale

J.-C. Barbier, dont les fidèles du forum cuc-en-français et d'autres listes électroniques en français ont déjà fait la connaissance, est rédacteur du bulletin mensuel de la Correspondance unitarienne. Il a rencontré B. Kiely lors des réunions de l'ICUU en novembre dernier. « Nous étions trois venus de France à Oberwesel pour le grand rassemblement bisannuel de l'ICUU », écrit-il à son lectorat en France, « Plus de 100 participants. Réussite à 100%. Nous fûmes fort bien accueillis par une équipe allemande très efficace et amicale. Un lieu splendide. » Voir aussi : <http://afcu.over-blog.org>

Lors de cette rencontre internationale, « une solide amitié s'est nouée entre Canadiens et Français. Pour moi, c'est l'aboutissement des relations établies depuis maintenant plus de deux ans, entre autres au sein de ce groupe de discussion [cuc-en-français]. »


Il va sans dire que nous sommes tout à fait d'accord, et avons très hâte à l'arrivée de notre ami. Sa visite nous offrira l'occasion de mieux connaître l'évolution du mouvement UU en Europe. En France, contrairement à la situation nord-américaine, il existe peu de lieux de culte ou de célébrations de dimanche pour rassembler les UUs, et encore moins pour les Francophones ; même à Paris, la célébration se déroule

en anglais. La communication entre UU se fait donc autrement. Les nouvelles technologies permettent de rejoindre des personnes n'ayant pas accès aux églises et aussi de diffuser des documents produits ou traduits en français au grand public.

Notre invité reconnaît l'importance des Rencontres 2008. Cette ouverture vers la francophonie internationale constitue une étape joyeuse aussi bien qu'importante dans notre évolution.

« Nous avons à œuvrer ensemble et, personnellement, je m'en réjouis », nous écrit J.-C. Barbier, à propos de la consolidation des liens entre les francophones du Québec, du Canada et de la France. « Notre nouveau président de l'ICUU, l'ensemble du nouveau bureau, et tous les participants à cette rencontre sont persuadés de l'intérêt de développer l'unitarisme contemporain dans toutes les aires linguistiques. »

Comment J.-C. Barbier perçoit-il le mouvement international des UUs? Voici comment il le décrit :

« La mouvance unitarienne contemporaine fait preuve de transparence, de démocratie interne et de cohérence... et... développe une spiritualité moderne basée sur l'expression libre et le libéralisme théologique... L'ICUU confirme de plus en plus sa dimension internationale et sa bonne santé. » 

Ici, au bistrot de l'auberge, de gauche à droite, Jantz Wolfgang, l'un des pionniers de l'ICUU, membre de la Deutsche Unitarier Religionsgemeinschaft (DUR), Fulgence Ndagijimana, président de l'Assemblée des chrétiens unitariens du Burundi (ACUB), Jean-Claude Barbier, secrétaire général de l'Assemblée fraternelle des chrétiens unitariens (AFCU) et Volker Bühnemann, le président de la DUR.



Rev. Beth Miller

Rev. Beth Miller started as Director of the UUA's Department of Ministry and Professional Leadership in June, 2006. Miller's leadership experience includes 15 years as a congregational minister. Miller says "many of you asked to write something about what I was looking forward to in Ottawa." She responded, "I'm so glad that Mary Bennett invited me and I really look forward to being with you at the CUC Annual Conference. Many of you won't know this, but I chaired two of them, 1995 and 1996, when I was the minister in Halifax (1991-96) and serving on the CUC Board as Vice President. Both of those years the Presidents became ill and I chaired the meetings. It became a joke that having me as Vice President was dangerous. I have a significant connection and great fondness for Unitarianism in Canada. In my current capacity as Director of Ministry and Professional Leadership for the UUA, I want to be sure that we continue to serve and support all of our ministers and that



the relationship between the CUC and the UUA remains vital and mutually beneficial. Engaging in conversation with panel members and participants about matters relevant to professional ministry will be a pleasure. Getting to see old friends and make new ones is an extra special bonus."

Bruce Knotts

Bruce Knotts is the new Executive Director of the Unitarian Universalist United Nations Office (UU UNO) based in "church house" right across from the UN in New York City. Bruce's Canadian mother was a concert pianist and a graduate of the Toronto Conservatory of Music. Bruce's father was an electrical engineer for Lockheed Aircraft. Bruce earned his B.A. in History from Pepperdine University. He studied for a year in Heidelberg, Germany. Bruce earned his M.A. in Education/TESOL from the Monterey Institute of International Studies. He was a Peace Corps Volunteer in Ethiopia. While working on a World Bank contract in Somalia, the U.S.



In 2004, Bruce met Isaac Humphrie, a native of Dallas, Texas. The couple was married in Vancouver, BC on August 23, 2006.

Embassy informed him that his application to become a U.S. Diplomat had been accepted. Between 1984 and 2007, Bruce served in Greece, Zambia, India, Pakistan, Sudan, Kenya, Cote d'Ivoire, and The Gambia.

As the new Executive Director of the UU United Nations Office, Bruce hopes to expand membership and support for the office's work

to build a just international community. Working with the United Nations to enhance the earth's environment, peace, and health are among the primary goals of the UU UNO. □

Ann Gary

Ann, a dedicated humanist and a UU for 10 years is a member of Hopedale Unitarian Parish and has been involved in partnership for the past six years. Initially interested in reaching out and getting involved with a far away place, Ann has become surprisingly involved "spiritually" in the partner relationship. She has traveled three times to Hopedale's partner village of Csekefalva, a little to the west and north of Szekelyszentmihaly. She also volunteers time as a UUPCC networker, keeping in touch with partnerships around the country.



"One of the wonderful things about UU Partnerships is the different levels of engagement possible: history, politics, language, customs, village life, congregational life, people, and our shared religious roots. And most importantly shared experiences with individuals that can strengthen and transform each others lives."

Rev. Ginger Luke

The Reverend Ginger Luke has been a religious educator since 1978 and was ordained in 2002 as a Minister of Religious Education. Since she came to River Road Unitarian Church in 1994, the RE program almost tripled. She has brought a new connectedness of community to the entire congregation.



Ginger's passion for social justice is demonstrated in the fact that she received the Skinner Sermon Award "to the preacher of the sermon best expressing Unitarian Universalism's social principles for her sermon "Why No Living Wage?" in 2000. Her sensitivity to multicultural issues and justice are connected to her undergraduate degree from American University's School of International Studies.

She has been a mentor to many DREs, is the author of one of the essays in *Essex Conversations: Visions for Lifespan Religious Education*; and is on the board of the Liberal Religious Educators Association continentally.



Jean
Pfleiderer

CUC President

Making sense of what we find

“We laugh, we cry, we live we die, we dance, we sing our song...” As always at the Kingston Fellowship, we sang this most UU of hymns with gusto, our voices emphatic on the words “and then we come together here to make sense of what we find” As the last strains died out, I heard someone behind me whisper to a neighbour, “I always shiver a little when we sing that song.”

Me, too. It thrills me that at KUF, as at congregations all across Canada, we come together to support and comfort and challenge each other. We covenant to care for each other and our community, deciding among ourselves exactly how that is to happen. It seems to me that this idea of a free church, this “congregational polity,” is as much at our core as UUs as our determination to be non-creedal.

But what happens when a single congregation wants to do something that is beyond its local reach? Or what happens when a congregation becomes so troubled that it needs help from outside?

I’ve come to think that “congregational polity” is not just about people covenanting together in free churches, it is also about those same free churches covenanting among themselves to help each other. At its best, that is what the CUC is: our colourful kaleidoscope, our congregation of congregations, responsive and immediate, connecting us each to the other. A great opportunity to explore this side of congregational polity is coming up in May at the annual meeting and conference in Ottawa. I hope I’ll see you there. I look forward to our “making sense” together.

*In faith,
Jean*

Jean Pfleiderer is the CUC president. You may contact her at jeanp@cuc.ca

Governance

Monitoring groups bolster responsibility

Do you you know about Unitarian work in the Social Responsibility field? Do you care about how dying is dealt with in Canada or what is happening to Mother Earth? Just what are we Canadians doing in Afghanistan? What about gender issues or issues concerning how we accept diversity of people? What kind of democracy are we anyway? What does it matter if some people don’t get paid as much as others for their work? What’s happening globally to trade, the environment?

Those and other questions are scanned by CUC monitoring groups across Canada because your congregation’s delegates have resolved at Annual Meetings to make a difference ...by keeping track of these concerns, responding or by working with other like-minded parties. The members of the monitoring groups are energetic, committed folks who discuss the topics by way of e-mail and teleconference. They propose letters and statements to the Prime Minister and other ministers, suggest news releases and encourage congregational education and action.

These initiatives are based on past resolutions and our UU principles.



Jan Greenwood is on the CUC board as Social Responsibility liaison

If you want more information, these undertakings are posted at www.cuc.ca/social_responsibility. There is a Handbook with valuable guidelines for any congregation or individual to use.

This year tremendous energy is evolving from the Environment Monitoring group and others, to make our Annual Conference as environmentally responsible as possible. A World Café invites us to meet and discuss issues as only UUs can.

The Monitoring Groups are always looking for new people to join them in this work. If you think you’d like to be involved send me a note to jan@cuc.ca. I’d love to hear from you.

Jan Greenwood has been a Unitarian since 1972. She initiated and led the first Vancouver Island chapter of Mothers Against Drunk Drivers (MADD) and sat on Victoria City Council where she campaigned for services for marginalized groups. In Kamloops, she worked to retain spiritual care services at the Royal Inland Hospital and is a member of Pesticide-Free Kamloops.

Congregations Celebrating Diversity: The CUC’s Racial, Religious, First Nations, Metis and Inuit Equity and Justice Monitoring Group have created a certification process and support three curricula designed for the Canadian context. Interested? Contact diversity@cuc.ca.

Climate Change, Vegetarianism and Greening Conferences: These are just three of the issues being worked on by the CUC’s Environment Monitoring Group and their sub-committees. A resolution to engage congregations in a study process that would result in new policy coming to the 2009 Annual Meeting has been proposed. More information from environment@cuc.ca

NEW PROGRAMS

Vision & Vitality, a weekend workshop, for congregational teams to learn and plan how to create and maintain a vital and thriving multigenerational congregation is being launched with a cross-country team April 4-6, 2008. It is hosted by the First Unitarian Universalist Church of Winnipeg.

WOW – Weaving Our Worship is on the same weekend at the First Unitarian Church of Hamilton co-led by Nicoline Guerrier, Vivianne LaRiviere, Rev. Carole Martignacco and Dianne Heise-Bennett.

NEW: TELESEMINARS

We now offer one-hour teleseminars on topics ranging from Financial Stewardship, Lay Chaplaincy, Media Relations, Policy Governance, Safe Congregations and Social Responsibility. Your only cost is the long distance charge for calling in. Usually there are about 10-15 people on the line from across Canada. Want to know more? Send an email to teleseminars@cuc.ca or contact CUC office. Find these and other CUC resources for communications at: <http://cuc.ca/programs/communications.htm>

NEW PEOPLE

A team of six new volunteer consultants are attending the triennial Large Church Conference in Kentucky. Leslie Kemp and Bennett Mitten from UC Vancouver; Rev. Shawn Newton and Paul Bognar from Toronto First and Rebecca Hogue and Susan McEwen will be exploring what “large church” means in a Canadian context and how the CUC can support growth in congregations over 300 members.

JOIN TEAM CUC! WE’RE SEARCHING FOR:

Credentials Committee and Delegate Registration: We need five people to register delegates and be at the three parts of the annual meetings (May 17-19) to ensure proper democratic process.

Lifespan Learning Consultants in specialty areas – from adult religious education to youth and young adult ministry and Social Responsibility monitoring groups, including Democracy, Economic Justice and Gender & Sexual Diversity.

Additional volunteer positions are listed at: http://cuc.ca/whos_who/volunteer_opportunities.htm



Mary Bennett

CUC Executive Director

Join me for soup?

I like the story about the hungry soldier who is told by the townsfolk that they have nothing to share with him. He tells them he has a magic stone and if someone would get a fire going and some water, they can all enjoy Stone Soup. It turns out everyone contributes something and the magic is in the community generosity, not the stone, itself.

I like this story partly because I am literally a stone soup maker. I’ll look into the refrigerator and shelves, and find enough to even invite a friend over. If they’re late, I keep adding things and wind up with enough for freezing as well.

In my CUC role, I often invoke the phrase “connect and empower” from our Mission statement, offering, more than anything, my confidence that if we all share our gifts, something special will come of it.

The ingredients are people and their gifts, rather than vegetables, and the fire is often stoked by teleconferences and email groups. I was once told I’m like a mad scientist getting excited about potential combinations of human beings meeting together.

Like our congregations, CUC’s financial resources and paid staff are not as large as we’d like to have available. But, oh! The people and the talents they have stored in their metaphorical cupboards.

Among the many “soups” on the CUC menu this season are: the second poetry chapbook; a new certification process for Congregations Celebrating Diversity and a revised Lay Chaplaincy manual and workshops in every region across Canada.

And that’s not counting the salads and entrees and desserts we can and do create together.

Take care of yourselves and each other,
Mary Bennett
Executive Director
mary@cuc.ca



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Joel
Fox

YAs, get ready for the best ACM ever!

If you are a UU young adult (YA), start packin' your bags for ACM 2008! Okay, it's a bit early – but start thinkin' about it because this is THE year to be at the ACM. It's going to action-packed, with more YA-oriented stuff than ever. Thirty or more YAs are expected, making this the biggest turnout of all time.

I am happy to announce YAs will be recognized during the in-gathering and will proudly carry a YA banner of our own in the parade. These are important advances, as they represent that we do, in fact, exist – which is the first step in getting our needs met (such as seriously-needed ACM travel subsidies).

We have a very nice selection of YA workshops (including some by YAs themselves) from the informal banner-embellishing and e-zine-creating workshops to one on key transitions in YA congregational life. You'll enjoy a fun, new speed-networking event, "U & I: Friendship in the Fast Lane", an open mic, a special YA-only outing, and a highly anticipated YA-youth hang-out. This year, bridging ceremonies await both youth, and YAs entering older adulthood. The youth service is always something to look forward to, and, of course, the Soulful Sundown you will definitely not want to miss. In fact, you may even want to join the SS team!

This year there will be a "Noise and Music Area" where YAs and others can casually network, relax – and make some noise! There will be message boards for YAs and other groups to keep each other in the loop of any spontaneous workshops or activities. And let's not forget all the friendship and networking potential! With so many YAs from all over Canada, you'll be on the cutting edge of YA plans and happenings, and you'll likely connect with others in your region. Got ideas? Bring them and see what happens.

*Joel lives in Comox, BC and is the Soulful Sundown Coordinator for the ACM
soulful-sundown@cuc.ca*

International

Love and Laughter To Russia with Patch Adams, MD

She is a 10 year old girl who is blind and lives in an orphanage for children who are blind, or deaf or mute. She can hear and cannot see nor speak. We tried to put ourselves in the other's world as we played. I let her explore my face, my pigtails, the bells on my clothes, my feathered scarf and big clown shoes. I became her marionette as she moved my arms and legs in her discovery.

We met during my trip to Russia with an international group of forty volunteer Humanitarian Clowns. We went with Dr. Hunter Adams, the real-life clown doctor made famous by Robin Williams in the 1998 movie *Patch Adams*. Patch's annual mission, since 1985, has been to offer friendship and love to those in need, due to loneliness from war, poverty or isolation. He believes we can change the world's value system from one based on money, power and greed to one of compassion and generosity. Why the clown figure? The clown is an ambassador of play and friendship and 'fast-tracks' friendship.


There was no formal training on this trip: the learning was in the "doing". And we "did". We clowned everywhere, including airports and Red Square, practicing 'guerrilla style' or impromptu clowning with our "weapons"-- kazoos, balloons, and red noses. We sang, offered hugs and danced.

While the memories fade, some of the moral and ethical questions re-



Clowns Unite to do Good: Ahna Difelice, a member of the Neighbourhood UU Congregation in the Beaches area of Toronto, is on the left (arm and leg sticking out). They are posing in front of Catherine the Great's Palace.

main: "How is it that I have so much and others, so little?" "What can I do? Do I walk away because the need is so great and larger than I am?" "So why can't I maintain this intense love with my spouse, my children, my co-workers, with all of humanity, now that I am home again?"

The trip may have ended; however, the journey has just begun! 

Ahna DiFelice is a member and lay chaplain with Neighbourhood UU Congregation in the Beaches area of Toronto. anna.difelice@rogers.com

To learn more about Dr. Adams' organization, The Gesundheit Institute, visit www.patchadams.org

Across the country

Honour on the Rock



Elinor Gill Ratcliffe with (left) the Honourable Edward Roberts, former Lieutenant Governor of Newfoundland and Labrador and (right) the Honourable Danny Williams, Premier of Newfoundland and Labrador.

Elinor Gill Ratcliffe was recently honoured by her home province with the Order of Newfoundland and Labrador for her work on various social and cultural projects.

She grew up in St. John's and in 1974, moved to Ontario where she met and married Edward Ratcliffe, founder of Arriscraft International. They shared a passion for many social justice causes and also for supporting the numerous Unitarian congregations they have been involved with.

Ratcliffe has supported the "Send Them Back Smiling Project" of the Single Parent Association for the

purchase of school supplies and the Bowring Park Foundation's reconstruction of the duck pond. She is a benefactor of The Rooms Art Gallery in St. John's.

In the 1990s, Elinor and Ed Ratcliffe provided generous financial support that made it possible for a fledgling group of loosely connected Unitarians in St. John's, Newfoundland to grow into a stable presence on the Rock. Today, that group is the Avalon Unitarian Fellowship, a full member congregation of the CUC, which hosted "Spirit of the Rock", the Eastern Regional Fall Gathering last November. [U](#)

In memoriam: Marion Panabaker

Marion Panabaker, official greeter of the Unitarian Church of Calgary, possessed that rare instrument which can open hearts. "Her spirit was like her beloved Mozart flute music", said a friend.

"She recognized that a moment spent with another was the most important moment of that day," says fellow member, Marie Collins.

Marion began teaching in the Peace River country during the Depression, riding her horse five miles each way to her school. After a BA and then a Masters degree at Columbia University in New York City, she became the province's first Resource Teacher. For 17 years she gave children and their parents valuable support.

She and her husband, Harold

Panabaker (a noted Calgary educator with a school now named after him), adopted an extended family that included many newcomers to the Calgary church. The Nguyen family, with daughters Bick and Hang, arrived in 1979, fleeing from Vietnam. Bick remembers Marion as having "an abundance of energy. She would take us to play croquet in her back garden."

As well as the Unitarian Church of Calgary, she volunteered with a long list of agencies including Meals on Wheels, UNICEF, the Foothills Hospital and Alberta Mental Health. Marion was awarded the Governor-General's Award for Caring Canadians in 2002. [U](#)

Catherine Welburn, UCCalgary

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Environment

by Joel Fox

How green is your sanctuary?

As you are likely aware, we are hurtling full speed towards our extinction. Reducing our impact on the planet has never been more critical and UUs are feeling the pressure to make lifestyle changes, despite our busy lives. Thankfully there is at least one thing that will make it so much easier – the Green Sanctuary Program, developed by the UU Ministry for Earth. In their words “A Green Sanctuary is a congregation that lives its commitment to Earth by creating a sustainable lifestyle for its members as individuals and as a faith community.” The program includes a total of 12 activities in four areas: Worship & Celebration, Religious Education, Environmental Justice, and Sustainable Living. The process usually takes two to three years, and so far four Canadian congregations have been accredited: Sarnia-Port Huron, Hamilton, Calgary and UCMontreal.

The first step is to establish a “Green Team”, which will continue even after accreditation, and whose members represent all aspects of congregational life. Its role is to try to get everyone involved, as well as planning and providing support.

The next step is an environmental audit, which, for one church, had the most lasting impact.

The third step is to decide what activities your congregation would like to do and develop an action plan to complete them. This can be fun! The possibilities are as vast as your imaginations. Here’s what the Unitarian Church of Montreal and the Unitarian Church of Hamilton have done and what you might consider:

- Fair trade, organic coffee and tea on Sundays
- Annual fair trade fair
- Increased recycling and composting
- Film nights, screening *An Inconvenient Truth* or others
- Special guest speakers for Sunday




The Unitarian Church of Montreal's Green Banner, made from felt with a cotton quilted chalice.

- Services
- Series of Eat Local potluck picnics in the summer
 - Empty Bowls dinner, with donations from a grocery store and bowls made by local potters
 - Developed policies to use greener products in church
 - Performed a short play to highlight the need for the green alternatives
 - Collaborative anti-pesticide project
 - Collaborative recycling project with the United Church
 - Kids performed a play on Earth Day
 - Raised a Commitment Tree on which all members could hang paper leaves with green goals written on them

- Set up Collective Kitchens, one of which is vegetarian, and all open to the community
- Set up Green Stores in church on Sundays, educating members and offering wares such as recycled paper and tissue, water bottles, and compact fluorescent light bulbs
- Started a group for socially responsible investing
- Started a green library
- Naturalized public land with little green space
- Created a community garden on church property and donated to the food bank
- Encouraged members to plant trees under the 10 Trees Challenge (Google it)

Your choices are endless – it’s all up to you. The Green Sanctuary Program is not a list of chores but a way to benefit the earth, your community, and yourself. Give it a try. Have fun!

Finally, some Green Sanctuary words of wisdom:

- Make provisions to keep efforts ongoing
- Be patient
- Involve the children and youth
- Photograph your progress 

GREENING THE ACM

If you’re coming to the Annual Conference and Meeting, think green. The host committee with reinforcements from across Canada have formed an ACM Green Team with lots of suggestions at: <http://www.cuc.ca/conference/2008/sr.htm>

Ideas or suggestions? Send them to acm-green@cuc.ca

Religious Education program goes green

In the spring of 2005, the RE team at UCCalgary started collecting scrap paper, turning off taps, recycling juice containers, disposing of garbage in recycling containers and making sure the lights got turned off.

The whole church was working on the Green Sanctuary recognition and in RE, we started using environmental themes more often. The group doing a Harry Potter curriculum did “the care and feeding of magical creatures.” The younger kids did a play about how tree felling affects animal habitat to fundraise for the World Wildlife Federation. The Youth Group promoted the “One Tonne Challenge” to reduce waste in landfills. Several of our volunteer teachers are environmental activists. They provided the knowledge base (solar cooking), the experience (composting), and genuine concern (animal rights). The next year we began reusing items for story props for “Spirit Play” (K-1 class).


Enthusiasm kept on growing. The youth put on an hour long play showing what the planet will look like in 30 and 60 years; the Grade 4-6 class researched what Green charity needed our help the most (Cochrane Humane Society – who have now built a new facility); many more people came out for our annual June park cleanup “party.” The kids began evaluating our building for efficiency, and we started noticing how much fun and important all of this was!

One volunteer noticed how much we had done (over 100 items) and made it possible for us to apply to become a Green School.

The Green Sanctuary and Green School work has given me a new focus for being Unitarian. I now share my enthusiasm and love for the planet in a “religious” way and share this with anyone I talk to. It also gives the children a renewed focus by defining what “spirituality” can mean. We highly recommend taking small steps to



At the back: Stephen, Mahni, Alex, Gaby, Jersey, Polly Knowlton Cockett (parent), Alex, Sandy Cooper (DRE), Karen Braun (parent). At the front: Lindsay, Heart, Truth, Tyler, Avery, Gordie, David, Melissa, Georganne.

green your church and your environment –have fun and a Green school designation will be yours! 

Sandy Cooper, Director–RE
Unitarian Church of Calgary
403-230-4146

A very fine house

Have you ever wanted to live in the perfect village where you could stop and chat with your neighbours or join them for a meal at a moment’s notice? This village would be a comfortable, safe surrounding for your children, and there would be a garden and workshop you and your friends could use.

Cohousing, introduced by Danish architect Jan Gudmand-Hoyer in the 1960s, was brought to North America in 1988 by architects, Kathryn McCamant and Charles Durrett (*Cohousing: A Contemporary Approach to Housing Ourselves*). Members own their own units, pay fees for the common areas and sell the property at market value.

“We were becoming empty-nesters, down-sizing and looking for a community that would fit us, when we found four couples looking for sustainable housing,” says Susan Stratton and Bernie Amell


of Prairie Sky Co-Housing in Calgary, Alberta.

“There is no definitive definition of what a cohousing project must look like,” says David Dalley, founder of Urban Green Cohousing in Surrey, BC. “Unitarian principles affirm the worth and dignity of every person and at the same time compel us to strive for world community and our responsibility to a sustainable world. Cohousing is one such approach and warrants our attention.”

Consensus, not majority rule is the driving force of decision making. “Many potential groups fail because issues surface that they were not prepared to handle,” says Dalley, “hard issues of values, finances, design and location. In consensus, issues are presented, discussion invited and everyone listened to before a vote is taken. Often a facilitator, time-keeper and note taker help.”



“Consensus is inclusive and participatory for the group benefit first, but anyone can veto,” says Stratton. “Good decisions can therefore take time, but, in the end, they are ones that everyone can live with.”

“Spontaneous connection” is what all cohousers mention when asked about the best of their experience. It’s the group experiences of preparing meals together, work parties, weekend trips and long intimate conversations that form ‘community glue’. This concept of ‘the village’ means we aren’t just numbers but are known and valued as part of a green and friendly place. 

Catherine Welburn, UCCalgary

Blessed are those who question

I'll never forget how it felt the first time I ran a Passover Seder one day and served Easter communion the next. I was a student minister in a Unitarian church that observed both traditions. For a brief moment, I found myself imagining a thunderbolt striking me from the heavens. I could just see the headline in the local newspapers: "Nice Unitarian Universalist Jewish girl struck by lightning after mixing matzo balls with communion wafers."

This season can be challenging for many of us. The theological pressure is too great. But I figure I've got to stretch to fully live this faith I've chosen. For me, that means making sense of our Christian roots.

When someone asks me if Unitarians believe in Jesus, I say we honour the teachings of the man who began his Sermon on the Mount with the Beatitudes.

*Blessed are you who are poor.
The realm of God is yours.*

*Blessed are you who hunger and
thirst today. You shall be satisfied.*

*Blessed are you who weep today.
You shall laugh.*

*Blessed are the merciful:
they will find mercy.*

*Blessed are the peacemakers: for they
will be ranked as children of God.*

"Baruch Atah, blessed are you," could have been the beginning of the traditional blessings that any priest or prophet would have said as people gathered. Yet, how seditious for Jesus to say that the poor and the hungry would be the blessed ones. These were the words, among many, that ultimately led to his trial and death.

From my Unitarian perspective, Jesus could have added one more Beatitude:

Blessed are those who question.

It was his willingness to question, to look deeply into his own tradition, to challenge and to doubt that ultimately shaped his faith. When Jesus spoke of the Kingdom of God, he wasn't speaking about some future life. He was speaking of a kingdom of equals on earth, a radical vision that came out of his understanding of the Torah and his willingness to question the injustice he saw.

Last spring, I experienced something that surprisingly resonated with the Easter story. I went to hear author and journalist Ishrad Manji speak. Manji labels herself a feminist, a lesbian and a faithful Muslim. In *The Trouble With Islam Today*, she writes an open letter to fellow Muslims critiquing the current state of her beloved Islam.

"What would you say to a Muslim woman from Vancouver who wants to write a book about Islam that could get her killed?" she asked Salman Rushdie, whose book *The Satanic Verses* had sent him into hiding.

"A book is more important than a life," Rushdie told her.

Once a thought is out there, no matter how you try to suppress it, it can never be erased, Manji told the gathered crowd. Courage is not the absence of fear but the recognition that some things are more important than fear. Having a voice is more important. Asking a single question is more important. Faith is different from religion, she said. Religion is dogma. It stifles. But faith calls you to question.

What does it take to be brave enough to question? What does it take to ask the questions that unravel the order of things? Over the years I have met many Unitarians who have dared to question their own religious upbringings and found themselves ostracized by their families or their communities. I have met Unitarians who kept their questions locked inside, tending them like



Rev. Diane Rollert is the 11th settled minister (and first woman minister) at the Unitarian Church of Montreal.

slow burning flames that were nearly extinguished. How blessed they each felt when they finally found a religious community that welcomed seekers with open arms.

We can joke that our symbol is not the star, or the cross, or even the chalice. We can laugh and say our symbol is the question mark. Yet we come together on Easter Sunday, on any Sunday, with the courage to seek the centre in something that is forever shifting, changing and transforming. Not death or resurrection, but the courage to question what needs to change: That is the Easter message I want to hold onto. **U**

You'll find a selection of Rev. Rollert's sermons at the Unitarian Church of Montreal's website: www.ucmtl.ca/services/sermons.html

EASTER FOR UNITARIANS

Looking for more resources on celebrating Easter in a Unitarian context? Read Rev. Phillip Hewett's monograph, *What Easter Means for Unitarians*. See http://www.cuc.ca/programs/easter_for_unitarians.htm or just Google "Easter Unitarians".

Recognition

My 15 minutes of fame (shared among many others)

When I heard on the morning news that the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) had been the co-winner with Al Gore of this year's Nobel Peace Prize, I was pleased to see this honour go to an organization that I have been working with for the past 17 years. It wasn't until our Public Relations person dropped into my office that I realized that some of my colleagues considered me a co-winner of the prize. The next day our PR person called me again and persuaded me to agree to an interview with a CBC Radio reporter. I soon learned how many friends, colleagues and UU members listen to CBC.

My 15 minutes of fame is shared among many others. Each assessment of the climate system involves the volunteer efforts of about 2000 scientists, engineers and economists over about a two year period. 192 Canadians were authors, contributors and expert reviewers of the fourth assessment.

The IPCC is an intergovernmental body under the UN. Of the three recent reports, the first is on the science of climate change, the second on the impact of climate change on natural and social systems, and the third on how climate change can be mitigated or steps that can be taken to adapt to climate change. Each report is about 1,000 pages, about 20% of which is the bibliography of the original research papers. The lead authors of these volumes worked for nearly a year creating a 25 page summary for policymakers which was approved in mid-November. The final version of each policymaker summary was approved by governmental delegates, often after word by word debate.

The Nobel Peace Prize made a good choice in joining Al Gore and the IPCC in this award. The technical information and most of the technical graphics of "The Inconvenient Truth" were taken from the IPCC work published in 2001. The IPCC reports and their graphics are all available from their web site: <http://www.ipcc.ch/>.



The 192 Canadian authors and reviewers include climate scientists, meteorologists, oceanographers, limnologists, hydrologists, experts in permafrost, glaciers, ice sheets and sea ice, biologists, ecologists, experts in forest fires, disease vectors, energy experts, economists and others. Because it is important to canvas a broad range of scientific views, the Canadian list includes four climate change 'skeptics'.

Finally, I would like to acknowledge that my experience within the UU Church of Halifax taught me to listen to diverse views and interests and to make decisions by consensus. Because of these skills, I was asked to lead the international planning and implementation of the first global ocean climate research program during the late 1980s and early 1990s. As the chair of the World Ocean Circulation Experiment, I was invited to be part of the first IPCC assessment of 1990. I have participated in each subsequent assessment but having now retired I suspect that the fourth assessment is my last. **U**

Allyn Clarke is on the CUC Nominating Committee and the UUA's North Eastern Regional Subcommittee on Candidacy. He served on the CUC board in the 1980s.

DETERMINED TO GROW: MONTREAL'S WEST ISLAND CONGREGATION

Lakeshore Unitarian Universalist Congregation, located on Montreal's West Island, is focusing on growth. Founded in 1953, LUUC enjoys a proud history. However, its numbers had declined in recent years as older members died, and others moved elsewhere. To turn this around, they've placed eye-grabbing ads, based on templates from the Unitarian Universalist Association in local newspapers. They've created a website (www.luuc.org) and delegated a member to write press releases. They're also using free newspaper advertising in religious and community event sections to promote their services, and to advertise a series of evenings devoted to female spirituality. The result? In one year, this small congregation of 32 has already increased its membership by 19% to 38!

GRANDIR ! C'EST CE QUE VISE LA CONGRÉGATION DU « WEST ISLAND »

La Congrégation unitarienne universaliste de Lakeshore, située dans l'Ouest de l'Île de Montréal, se concentre sur sa croissance. Fondée en 1953 et fière de son histoire, la CUUL a toutefois vu le nombre de ses membres diminuer au cours des dernières années, dû au décès des plus âgés ou à des déménagements. Pour remédier à la situation, ils ont décidé d'utiliser des publicités accrocheuses dans les journaux locaux, suivant le modèle de l'Association unitarienne universaliste. Ils ont créé un site Internet (www.luuc.org) et ont délégué la rédaction de communiqués de presse à un membre. Ils ont aussi utilisé les services d'annonces gratuites des journaux, dont les sections de vie communautaire et religieuse, pour promouvoir leurs services et annoncer une série de soirées consacrées à la spiritualité des femmes. Le résultat? En une année seulement, cette petite congrégation de 32 membres a vu augmenter ses adhésions de 19 %, portant ainsi le nombre de ses membres à 38 !

article par Nancy Schmidt

Canadian Unitarians for Social Justice

Help put our principles into practice by building a vibrant network of Social Action

Features: a lively list serve, the Just News and Discussion Papers, and an informative web site

CUSJ Annual Conference
May 16th at the Canadian
Museum of Civilization

For more information or to join:
www.cusj.bravehost.com
or 613 733 6219

COME TO CUUL SCHOOL



July 17-20 – Hamilton Ontario
July 24-27 – Vancouver BC
Canadian Unitarian
Universalist Leadership School

More info: cuel@cuc.ca
cuc.ca/calendar.htm

Learn and grow with us!

Pacific Gardens is a new cohousing development under construction in Nanaimo, BC. The physical design of this environmentally-friendly 25-unit project encourages a strong sense of community and social interaction while ensuring complete privacy in each home.



Call 250-754-3060
www.pacificgardens.ca

Testimony

Steve McCavour

I was surprised to discover I enjoyed working with youth

I've been a member of the Unitarian Universalist Church of Saint John since 1999. I grew up in Lorneville, NB, a fishing village just outside Saint John. I was raised in the United Church of Canada, attending church for one hour every Sunday morning and Sunday school for two hours every Sunday afternoon. We received a solid grounding in the Bible and in the Presbyterian/Methodist Protestant traditions.

As a child I spent a lot of time with my great-grandmother. She used to get me to read the Bible to her as she sewed or embroidered. Over a period of about six years, I think we went through the whole Bible four times. The more I read it, the less I believed anything in it.


Like a lot of young people, I stopped going to church as soon as my parents were no longer able to force me to go, but I always felt the lack of a community centred around spiritual matters. Over the years I explored a lot of different religions and forms of spirituality, but was not very satisfied with any of them until I discovered the Tao Te Ching in the late 1980s.

At the same time I stumbled across some articles about Unitarianism. I was living in Montreal, but was unable to get to church as I worked every Sunday. In the early 1990s I moved back to Saint John with my young family and started attending a liberal United Church, but was still not very satisfied there. Then one Sunday we had a joint service with the Unitarians, who had apparently been renting space from us!



I STOPPED GOING TO CHURCH AS SOON AS MY PARENTS WERE NO LONGER ABLE TO FORCE ME TO GO

I was intrigued by the service and so in 1990 I joined the Unitarian Universalist Church of Saint John and have felt at home there ever since. I love the freedom to explore and discuss ideas, and the diversity of the people that make up our community.

At the 2006 ACM in Saint John, I discovered, to my surprise, that I enjoyed working with youth and working with our young people has brought a whole new dimension and perspective to my spiritual life. I am UUCSJ's Youth Advisor and am also on the Canadian Advisory Youth Adult Committee (CAYAC). I am also on UUCSJ's worship committee. In January, I spent a fulfilling but exhausting weekend at the CAYAC winter retreat with a fantastic group of youth and adults. I am looking forward to the fun and the challenges of the coming year! 

Steve McCavour
samcc@nbnet.nb.ca

In the spirit of connection and community

When one of our 10 year-olds exclaimed “I think we should reserve parking spaces for them. Where are those orange cones?” I knew we were definitely onto a good thing.

This past winter, children, youth and adults from Kingston

Unitarian Fellowship and the First Unitarian Congregation of Ottawa began venturing forth in the spirit of connection and community, creating a new annual tradition: The R.E. Road Trip.

For the traveling congregation, such an adventure offers a chance to encounter the wonders and ways of Religious Exploration in another UU community. For those welcoming the stalwart road trippers, opportunities abound to practice intentional hospitality, finding ways to help guests feel at home while sharing special rituals, activities, spaces, and of course, food!




June 2007 at KUF: Ottawa DRE Susan McEwen, Ottawa Visitor Karen Keskinen, children

The R.E. Road Trip has taken shape as a family event in which all participants are invited into an experience of multi-generational connection. We learn from one another, share our resources, and discover that Unitarian

Universalism grows beyond the borders of our home congregations.

Adventurers from KUF and Ottawa First have hit the road three times in 2007. We have worshipped together, spiral danced, celebrated Spring Equinox, skated, roasted marshmallows, shared a flower communion, splashed in Lake Ontario, created butterflies of freedom, eaten lovingly prepared food; we have touched the joy of expanding our circles of community.

As one happy traveler expressed on the way home, “Mom, they really made us feel special.” 

submitted by Susan McEwen



March 2007 at Ottawa First. Left: Celebrating together with a Spiral Dance! Right: Time for All Ages – Ottawa Music Director Jane Perry, Kingston DRE David Kay, Ottawa Young Adult Storyteller Gwen Harman, children

I bid thee farewell

All good things must come to an end, and so goes my life and times with the Canadian Unitarian Council.

This was my first job out of university, on homegrown soil, and believe me I was thankful. After six long and disheartening months of my vigorous search for employment, serendipity stepped in, in the form of a chalice-lighting, soul-searching, question-asking, hug-friendly bunch. This was my introduction to Unitarianism.

I could go on and on about the many technical skills I learned while working for the CUC, but every job has a learning curve. Instead, the following lessons I have learned working for this wonderful organization are the ones I will carry with me along this path:

Teamwork – we are a staff of seven that supports forty-six congregations nationwide. In the hectic, long-hour life that is the not-for-profit world, we need to work as a team – and we do!

Support – we all need it at some point. And we’ve all given it. Mary Bennett – a former consultant for resolving problem work environments – is queen bee of encouragement.

Challenges – I’m not talking about when the paper jams in the photocopier. I’m talking about things that happen that are simply out of our control. So what do you do? Adapt, improvise. And as we are the face of an organization we have to take responsibility for it – whether good or bad – even if it’s out of our hands.

Fun! – you have no choice but to make it all fun. Things like our e-list of CUC jokes or doing arts and crafts when we get together help to keep the work fun.

My time at the CUC has been educational and memorable. I have enjoyed corresponding with Unitarians across the country and around the world. I’m continuously inspired by our good-hearted volunteers. And I am sad to leave behind hard-working and supportive coworkers.

A new chapter in my life begins as I have decided to focus more on my writing and music. I bid thee farewell. All the best!

Janice Lincoln served the CUC as Administrative Coordinator – East and then as the first Administrative Coordinator – West



the web of life la toile de la vie
IN OUR HANDS ENTRE NOS MAINS

Top ten reasons to come to the ACM

10. Amazing Ingathering Celebration and Banner Parade!

Enjoy the company of Unitarians and Universalists for worship, song, and reflection. This is a joyous occasion to share with Congregations and Fellowships, not only from Canada but the United States, Great Britain and France as well.

9. Incredible variety of workshops!

With over 70 in English and five in French, you'll have difficulty choosing. Topics include everything from social responsibility, music, use of technology, the environment, congregational leadership, and our UU faith and spirituality, to international and interfaith relations.

8. Music will fill the air!

Come for the love of music and song. Learn the ACM theme song, *Circle of Song* (composed by Tony Turner and published on the 2008 ACM website). Enjoy Ottawa First's BLUUES Band and delight in the combined choirs of Ottawa's Congregation and Fellowship and the ACM Choir directed by Jane Perry.

7. More than workshops and speeches!

Let loose and be fancy free at our fun-filled social events. To start, on Friday night Tony Turner will host a cabaret night with an open microphone. If you have a great singing voice, an amazing talent or just love to perform, contact ACMspecialevents@gmail.com.

6. Gotta dance?

Bring your toe shoes and kick up your heels on Saturday evening for an Ottawa Valley Ceilidh with a live band and caller. Friday evening, get into the rhythm through Sacred Circle Dancing with Margaret Rao.

5. Love to shop?

Bring your comfy shoes and cold hard cash to our ACM exhibit hall. You'll find a wide selection of UU exhibitors offering reading material, clothes, jewelry, and gifts.

4. Look no further for family fare...

Bring the entire family to the multi-generational lunch on Sunday, and catch

Just Food, a play featuring giant puppets and original music.


3. Become inspired!

Open your mind and your heart as Rev. Dr. Janet Newman delivers the Sunday sermon "As Canadian as Possible...Under the Circumstances", and take in the Soulful Sundown Service on Sunday evening.

2. Two keynote speakers!

Both passionate fighters for social justice and members of the UU community, Allison and Will Brewer will bring a wealth of experience in overcoming challenges to bring about positive change in the world.

1. Good company and great food!

A variety of snacks and meals will be available on-site, including vegetarian selections. Remember to reserve tickets for the International Dinner on Saturday and the Knight Award presentation dinner Sunday evening. Visit www.cuc.ca/conference/2008 for all the details. 

Toute une série de sessions francophones lors des Rencontres


Le Conseil unitarien du Canada

prévoit offrir toute une série d'atelier en français en mai 2008! Voici les descriptions de deux activités organisées déjà :


Maurice Cabana-Proulx, un des responsables des publications du Regroupement francophone unitarien universaliste, Léo Poncelet, rédacteur-en-chef de *Tribune Libre Unitarienne*, un journal UU en ligne, et Jean-Claude Barbier, rédacteur de Correspondance unitarienne seront co-animateurs d'un atelier qui s'adresse aux personnes désireuses d'obtenir des ressources imprimées et audio-visuelles UUs en langue française. Des publications disponibles en librairie seront présentées et commentées, des textes en français utilisés à Montréal seront disponibles, et de nombreux sites web qui ont parus depuis quelques années seront énumérés. Les personnes inscrites à cet atelier seront également invitées à identifier les ressources qu'ils et elles croient devraient être mises en chantier.

Lucie-Marie Castonguay-Bower, animatrice d'un Groupe de croissance spirituelle (Chalice Group ou Small Ministry Group) de langue française, et Elaine Hartman, co-animatrice, ont organisé un atelier pratique pour tous ceux et celles qui désirent en connaître davantage. Ce groupe est une expérience unique qui diffère des groupes d'éducation religieuse pour adultes, des groupes d'étude, des réseaux amicaux, des groupes de soutien ou de toute autre chose que nous faisons dans la congrégation ou dans la communauté. Les réunions de ce groupe, par leur contenu et leur déroulement, encouragent l'intimité, un engagement sérieux par rapport aux sujets religieux et spirituels et mènent à l'expression de nos principes et valeurs dans nos actions. Le cœur du contenu est l'histoire de vie partagée

des membres du groupe en réponse à des thèmes d'orientation UU qui portent réflexion, et les enseignements que nous en tirons. Lors de l'atelier, les participantes et participants exploreront la dynamique de groupe, le rôle des animateurs (trices) ainsi que celui des participants (es), le déroulement ou format de la réunion et la préparation des thèmes avant de faire l'expérience d'un Groupe de croissance spirituelle sur place.

D'autres activités se dérouleront également en français, dont un atelier de démonstration d'un programme d'éducation religieuse UU pour enfants francophones (anim. Hannilore Poncelet, Elizabeth McKinney Charbonneau) et un atelier intitulé « De la critique des religions à partir de l'expérience des unitariens au Canada et en France » (anim. J.-C. Barbier). Il y aura aussi des activités bilingues. 

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SCHEDULE AT A GLANCE

ANNUAL CONFERENCE AND MEETING 2008

AROUND TOWN: You are invited to the USC (Unitarian Service Committee) Canada Open House from Wed, May 14 –to Wed. May 21 (closed Saturday and Sunday)

SHARED MINISTRY DAYS: PRE-CONFERENCE PROGRAMS

see registration form on page 17

CONFERENCE PROGRAMS

Registration: Thurs 2 - 6 pm; Fri 12 - 8 pm;
Sat 8 - 6 pm; Sun 8 - 6 pm

Youth Registration: Fri 2 - 7 pm

Exhibits: Fri 4 - 7:30pm; Sat 9 - 5 pm; Sun
10-7 pm; Mon 8 - 12 noon

Meeting Place – Rendezvous 2008 Sat 10
- 7 pm; Sun 10 - 7 pm; Mon 8:30 - 2 pm

FRIDAY

Orientation Session 7 - 7:45 pm

Worship 7 - 7:30 pm, Rev. Meg Roberts

Banner Carriers Gather 7:30 pm

Banner Parade + Opening Celebration 8 pm

Sacred Circle Dancing 9 pm

Circle of Song – “open mic” 9 pm

SATURDAY MORNING

Worship 8:15 - 8:45 am Joyce Ashworth
– President, British GA of Unitarians and
Free Christian Churches

Keynote 9 - 10:15 am
Allison Brewer and Will Brewer

Sessions A 10:30 - 12:00 noon

A1. Annual Meeting Jean Pfeleiderer, President

A2. Choir Jane Perry

A3. Groupe de Croissance Spirituelle
Lucie-Marie Castonguay-Bower

**A4. The Sacred Journey – How to Create and
Understand Ceremonies and Rites of Passage**
Shoshonna Wiley Solest and David Embry
Solest

**A5. Coming Home –Community Supported
Housing and Mental Illness** Eleanor Beattie
and Richard Haughain

**A6. Living Our Principles through Voluntary
Simplicity** Fiona Heath

A7. Music of the Moment Maura Volante

**A8. How Anyone Can Build a Low-Cost,
Low-Tech Website** Penney Kome

A9. Greening Our Sacred Spaces
Debra Mair and Pauline Heinonen

A10. On Growth – Choosing the Right Focus
Liz James

**A11. Volunteer Lay Spiritual Care Visitors
Program** Ellen Bell and others

**A12. Fighting Crime Sustainably – Invest in
Youth and Women, Not Police and Prisons**
Irvin Waller

**A13. Need to Address North American
Aboriginal Concerns Within the Context of
UUism** Rev. Raj Hathiramani

SATURDAY AFTERNOON

**Mini-Plenary on CUC Annual Resolutions
(ticketed event - \$20)** 12 noon - 1:45 pm

**Lay Chaplaincy Recognition Lunch
(ticketed event - \$20)** 12:30 - 1:30 pm

Sessions B 2 - 3:30 pm

**B1. De la critique des religions à partir de
l'expérience des unitariens au Canada et
en France** Jean-Claude Barbier

**B2. International Association for Religious
Freedom** Christine Johnston, Ellen
Campbell and Fredelle Brief

B3. The Mindless Pursuit of Growth in Canada
Madeline Weld, Jon Legg, Tony Cassils

**B4. Making the Most of Your Committee
on Ministry** Linda Thomson

**B5. Professional Ministry in Canada, United
Kingdom and United States** Rev. Beth
Miller, Joyce Ashworth, Rev. Ray Drennan
and Rev. Brian Kiely

**B6. Film Screening and Discussion: Hijacked
Future: How Our Food System is Under
Threat** USC Canada

B7. The Well-Tempered Computer
Bert Christensen

B8. Cracking the Code to God
Doug Henderson

B9. The Available Energy Web For Our Hands
Werner Daechsel and panel

B10. The Earth Charter and U and U
Julia Anne Varga

B11. Generosity as a Spiritual Practice
Rev. Dr. Janet Newman

**B12. The Refugee Sandwich – a dramatic
performance and lecture** Peter Showler

**B13. Developing a Multigenerational Social
Responsibility Program** Philip Nagy,
Katherine Gunn and Joan Turner

**B14. Field Trip to Museum of Civilization
with children's program** 11:45 - 5 pm

Regional Showcase 3:45 - 5 pm
Meet with others from your region

SATURDAY EVENING

**Book and CD/DVD Signing + Sales (authors
and producers showcase)** 5 - 6:30 pm

Reception 5:15 - 5:45 pm
hosted by UU United Nations Office

**Beyond Our Borders – International Meal
& Presentations (ticketed event)**

5:45 - 7:15 pm Rev. Brian Kiely, President,
International Council of Unitarians and
Universalists

Sessions C 7:30 - 9 pm

**C1. Confluence Lecture: “Can Eco-Spirituality
Grow Eco-JUSTICE?”** Rev. Brian Kiely and
Rev. Meg Roberts

C2. A Practical Approach to Covenanting
Rebecca Hogue

**C3. Easing the pain of HIV/AIDS in Africa:
The Grandmothers' Campaign Needs You**
Jane Lindsay and Beth Elliott

**C4. Experiencing Spirit Play, a Multigenera-
tional Religious Exploration Experience**
Joy Silver, Kay Dyer and Sandy Cooper

**C5. New Directions in International
Congregational Partnerships**
Ann Gary, UU Partner Church Council

C6. Sacred Circle Dance Ellen Newman

C7. Art and Poetry Workshop Diane Schmolka

C8. Improving your Laff Life Susan Tanner

**C9. Intersecting Circles: The Integration
of Modern Paganism** Fritz Muntean and
Mary Murray

C10. Sanctuary – A Transforming Experience
Joan Auden

**C11. Embracing the Hidden Leadership
Potential in Everyone** Curtis Murphy and
Joel Fox

Youth-Led Worship 9:45 - 10:45 pm

Ottawa Valley Ceilidh 9 pm
bring your dancing shoes!

SUNDAY MORNING

**Morning Stretch, Chant, Sing and
Meditation Practice** 8:15 - 8:45 am
David Embry Solest

CUC Friends Breakfast 7:30 - 8:45 am
By invitation. If you donated to our Friends campaign this year, RSVP to friends@cuc.ca

Sessions D 9 - 10:30 am

D1. Choir Jane Perry

D2. Atelier de démonstration d'un programme d'éducation religieuse UU pour enfants francophones Hannelore Poncelet, Elizabeth McKinney Charbonneau

D3. Canadian UU Historical Society Annual Meeting and Mark Mosher de Wolfe Lecture – An Unexpected Rescuer Rev. Ginger Luke

D4. Support for Religious Educators from LREDA – Mini Good Offices Training Joy Silver, Kay Dyer, Sandy Cooper

D5. Creating a UU Global Village: Global Literacy, UU Women's Activism, and the Meaning of Convocation Mary Overton

D6. Natural, Healthy Cancer Treatments That Are Effective Bill Van Iterson

D7. Hot Topics at the Unitarian Universalist United Nations Office Janet Hillen, Sumon Vangchuay-Berse, Marilyn Mehr

D8. Labyrinths, A Personal Spiritual Path Helen Iacovino

D9. Meaning, Morality, Reverence and Science: Spiritual Atheism and the Sacred Andrew Ochalski

D10. A Social Justice Connect the Dots Polaris Institute

D11. Help is at Hand: Congregational Board support Joyce Ashworth, President, British Unitarians

SUNDAY AFTERNOON

Multigenerational Day Begins: Lunch (ticketed event - \$20/\$10) USC Canada; Kingston Unitarian Fellowship; Empty Bowls exchange 12:15 - 1:45 pm

Sessions E 2:45 - 4:15 pm

E1. World Café CUC Social Responsibility Monitoring Groups

E2. Lifespan Learning Community, Balancing Optimism and Reality Joan Turner and Lynn Sabourin

E3. U Sing Me, a Choral Workshop Gordon Ritchie

E4. What's JOY got to do with it? Debra Isabel Huron

E5. Storytelling ABCs: Art Building Community Anne Nagy

E6. Age in a Fishbowl Canadian Advisory Youth Adult Committee

E7. Guns or Butter (Part 1) Members of UU-UNO, Peace Watch and Youth Group

E8. Sustaining Wonder: Deepening Commitment to our Natural World Karen Stevenson and Rev. Wendy McNiven

E9. Engaged Diversity Rev. Debra Faulk and Phyllis Eleazar

Sessions F 4:30 - 6 pm

F1. Annual Meeting Part II Social Responsibility

F2. Le cercle des générations / Life Circles: Bringing Together Families, Generations and Groups (bilingual session) Jo-Anne Elder Gomes

F3. Banking on the Poor in the World Betty Morrow and Rev. Felicia Urbanski

F4. Vancouver Faithful Fools Ministry Rev. Laura Friedman and Karen Fraser-Gitlitz

F5. Michael Servetus, the Quran, and the Quest for a Universal Religion Peter Hughes

F6. Moving In, Moving On, Moving Out Kirstin McKeown, Gwendolen Harman and friends

F7. Counter-Oppression and Our Faith Asha Philar, Robbie Brydon, Saille Bishop-Legowski and friends

F8. Modern Day Slavery? Emilie Poitiven, Tamara Brown, Eric Hill Keast

F9. Passing the Torch to the Global Leaders of Tomorrow: The Role of the UU-UNO Sumon Vangchuay-Berse

F10. Music Workshop Rev. Fred Cappuccino and Jane Perry

F11. Guns or Butter (Part 2)

SUNDAY EVENING

Transitions Ceremonies 6:15 - 6:45 pm
Coming of Age and Bridging

Young Adult Potluck Dinner TBA
Contact: acm-young-adults@cuc.ca

Banquet and Knight Award Presentation (ticketed event) 7:30 pm

Soulful Sundown Worship Service 10 - 11 pm
Young Adult Network

MONDAY MORNING

Partner Church Council Breakfast (by invitation) 7:30 - 8:45 am

Worship service 8:15 - 8:45 am
Rev. Fred Cappuccino

Sessions G 9:00 - 10:30 am

G1. Annual Meeting Part III Budget/Financial Statements

G2. Ressources imprimées et audio-visuelles UUs en français Maurice Cabana-Proulx

G3. So you are thinking of becoming a minister, eh? Rev. Ray Drennan, Rev. Diane Rollert and Rev. Charles Eddis

G4. Sharing Space Rev. Julie Stoneberg, Rev. Anne Orfald and others

G5. Passenger Screening and Border Patrols – Impacts on Human Rights & Civil Liberties Roch Tassé, Maureen Webb

G6. Faith Community Action on Affordable Housing Gay Richardson and other members of Multifaith Housing Initiative

G7. Creating a Meditation Garden Renée De Vry

G8. Click here – Using New Media Technologies to Minister to Each Other Christopher Wulff

G9. Good Volunteering Practices Alison Hall

G10. Where our Treasure Is Ahti Tolvanen

Closing Ceremony and Worship 11 - 12 noon

Board installation and soil-passing ceremony

MONDAY AFTERNOON

Sessions H 1:30 - 3 pm

H1. What Next? Environment Monitoring Group

H2. ACM Evaluation Rebecca Hogue, ACM Evaluation Coordinator

POST-CONFERENCE TOURS

(see registration form on page 17)



At the Walking the Labyrinth workshop at the 2007 ACM, Helen Iacovino brought participants to the labyrinth behind the Vancouver School of Theology.

Worship: "As Canadian as Possible...Under the Circumstances" 11 am - 12:00 noon
Rev. Janet Newman



the web of life la toile de la vie
IN OUR HANDS ENTRE NOS MAINS

REGISTRATION FORM

CUC ANNUAL CONFERENCE AND MEETING 2008 MAY 16 - 19, ALGONQUIN COLLEGE, OTTAWA ON

Registration forms are available online:
<http://cuc.ca/conference/2008/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/2008/registration.htm>

If you have questions about children/youth registrations, contact acm-lifespan@cuc.ca

More info:

www.cuc.ca/conference/2008 or info@cuc.ca
Toronto: 416-489-4121 Vancouver: 604-264-0088
Toll-free: 1-888-568-5723

Location: Algonquin College
Residence 2-bedroom suites at \$79/night

SHARED MINISTRY DAYS (PRE-CONFERENCE)

- Administration of Religious Education Renaissance Program**
Wed-Fri, May 14-16: \$220 – register by April 1
(*\$200 early bird fee if received by March 1*)
Held at Providence Point Retreat Centre, Lanark, ON (www.providencepoint.net). Child care is not available for this program – if children attend they are their parent’s responsibility. Please make children’s accommodation, meal and payment arrangements directly with Retreat Centre. Space permitting, late registrations will be taken until May 1 at a fee of \$245.
- Connecting the Canadas from Coast to Coast to Coast**
Thursday, May 15: \$50/\$75*
Facilitated by Jo-Anne Elder-Gomes. Sponsored by the CUC Racial, Religious, First Nations, Metis and Inuit Equity and Justice Monitoring Group
- CUC Lay Chaplaincy Enrichment**
Friday, May 16: no charge. Pre-registration required.
Open to current lay chaplains, retired lay chaplains, lay chaplains in training, and lay chaplaincy committee members.
_____ chicken _____ vegetarian
- Musicians Professional Development**
Friday, May 16: \$50/\$75*
Directed by Jane Perry.
_____ chicken _____ vegetarian

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

Register with the sponsoring organizations for:
CUSJ – information: www.cusj.bravehost.com
Invisible Influence: Claiming Canadian Unitarian Universalist Women’s History – information: www.canuwomenhistory.ca or contact kufmin@kingston.net

NAME* _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ PROV _____ CODE _____

EMAIL _____ PHONE _____

CONGREGATION _____

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

- Contact me regarding accessibility/special needs.
- I do not want to be listed in the conference directory.
- Please contact me before publishing photographs.

ACM FOR YOUNG PEOPLE PROGRAMS

Enter name and age here and complete and mail in additional registration form at <http://www.cuc.ca/conference/2008/registration.htm>. You must pre-register for child care, young fun, junior youth and CanUdle VIII youth programs. No guarantees of space after April 1. No registrations accepted after May 1st.

PROGRAM	NAME	AGE*	MARCH FEE	APRIL FEE
CanUdle VIII (ages 14–20)			\$95	\$120
CanUdle VIII (Advisor: 25+)			\$55	\$80
Junior Youth^ (ages 12–14)			\$75	\$100
Young Fun^ (ages 6–11)			\$75	\$100
Childcare (age 5 and under)			\$50	\$75

* Age as of May 16, 2007

^ includes Saturday lunch and field trip

Those not in the whole children’s and junior youth program will be confirmed after April 1. Mark the choice on your concurrent sessions choices. No additional fee if registered for full ACM.

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-H in the blanks. (Some changes are usually possible at the conference.) If you are registering for the Choir, you must choose both choir rehearsals and plan to be in the choir for the Sunday worship service.

A _____ B _____ C _____ D _____

E _____ F _____ G _____ H _____

- I plan to attend the ACM Orientation
 I may be a delegate for my congregation

Registration Fees

- \$150 by Mar. 31 \$175 Apr. 1 and after
 \$200 May 1 and after

Day rates: \$95 Saturday \$95 Sunday

Full-time students:† \$100 by Mar. 31

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

† Young adults 18-35 may apply for subsidy – forms available at <http://cuc.ca/lifespan/>

After May 10, registrations will not be confirmed by mail. Bring a copy of your completed registration form to the conference with payment or proof of payment.

MEAL CHOICES

Saturday

- Lunch and Mini-Plenary for Resolutions Discussion – \$20
 Lay Chaplains Welcome & Retirement Recognition Luncheon
No charge for lay chaplains who, in past year, retired or are new lay chaplains tickets – \$20
 Beyond Our Borders International Dinner:
tickets – \$40 (\$50 if not registered for full conference)

Sunday

- Multigenerational Lunch:*
 adults/youth – \$20 (\$30 if not registered for full conference)
 children under 12 – \$10

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

- Dinner, Presentations
 adults/youth – \$40 (\$50 if not registered for full conference)
 children under 12 – \$20

Food Preferences: Vegetarian Vegan Poultry/Meat

Allergies or sensitivities: _____

For buffet meals we use information for overall menu choice. For plated meals we will have a choice of poultry and vegan entrees marked on your ticket.

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)

Monday

- Breakfast (hosted by UU Partner Church Council)
Invitations sent to all participating CUC congregations. For information e-mail ak.gary@verizon.net

POST-CONFERENCE TOURS – FEES TBA

- Tour of Rideau Hall – \$15
 Tour Ottawa First campus – \$10
 Gatineau Park, including the Mackenzie King Estate – \$20

PAYMENT DETAILS

- 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
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

Early Bird discounts

To receive the Early Bird Discounts, we must receive payment by April 1 to qualify for the discount. Visa, Paypal and cheque are all available.

Cancellations and substitutions

Registration can be transferred to another person 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

Mail to

CANADIAN UNITARIAN COUNCIL
018 – 1179A King Street West, Toronto ON M6K 3C5

Toll-free: 1-888-568-5723

Toronto: 416-489-9010 Vancouver: 604-264-0088

Fax: 416-489-9010

Online form is at: <http://cuc.ca/conference/2008/registration.htm>

New at the ACM: The Meeting Place – Rendezvous 2008

Be sure to visit The Meeting Place– Rendezvous 2008 soon after you arrive at the 2008 ACM. Located at Algonquin College, beside the Registration desk in Building A, the Meeting Place is where you'll find the answers to your questions as well as information about the Conference, Ottawa and its attractions.

You'll find:

1. Lost and Found area
2. Tourist information, maps
3. Lists of nearby restaurants
4. Information on pre- and post-conference tours
5. Location of Bank machines and shops
6. Information about billets for those who have requested and received home hospitality
7. Message Board – look for personal messages and leave notes for those you wish to contact
8. Team Up for Travel bulletin board
9. Today's Happenings bulletin board

You will also find a small conversation area with comfortable chairs – plan to meet friends or just bump into others who are resting here.

The Meeting Place – Rendezvous 2008 is in an open area; some informa-

tion will always be available and you'll find a friendly person there to help you during the following times:

Thursday, May 15, 2 to 6 pm

Friday, May 16, 8 am to 8 pm

Saturday, May 17, 10 am to 7 pm


Sunday, May 18, 10 am to 7 pm

Monday, May 19, 8:30 am to 2 pm

Team Up for Travel – Looking for someone to join you on a self guided tour, a visit to a particular museum, etc.? Need a ride to catch a bus, train or plane or do some shopping? Do you have a car and could offer a ride or would like company? Leave a note on the Team up for Travel Board in The Meeting Place – Rendezvous 2008.

Do you want to travel on a city bus?

Get a map of city bus routes and buy your tickets at The Meeting Place – Rendezvous 2008. Avoid having to have exact change on the bus and save over a loonie if you use tickets rather than cash.

Today's Happenings – Head to The Meeting Place – Rendezvous 2008 to consult the Today's Happenings Board where each day's major activities will be posted. Notices of changes of location or times will also be highlighted. 

ACM 2008 ingathering celebration

Join Unitarians and Universalists from across Canada and around the world for the ACM 2008 Opening Celebration.

When: Friday, May 16th at 8:00 pm

Where: Algonquin's Gym in Building "A"

Who: All ages welcome


Come a few minutes early and enjoy the music of Ottawa First's own BLUes Band. Then grab a chair and experience the pride and the joy of the colorful Banner Parade. Like the opening ceremony at the Olympics – cheer as your Congregational banner is paraded into the Hall!

Be inspired. Meditate. Share the energy. Get into the mood – and join Tony Turner in singing the "Circle of Song" our ACM 2008 theme song.

Delight in the inspirational music of the combined choirs of Ottawa's Congregation and Fellowship directed by Jane Perry

Meet and enjoy the company of Unitarians and Universalists of all ages. This is a joyous occasion to share with Congregations and Fellowships from across the country and around the world.

The Ingathering Ceremony will last for about an hour – then everyone is invited for an evening of fun. Come to our 'Open Mic' event or bring your dancing shoes and enjoy Sacred Circle Dancing with Margaret Rao.

Don't even think of going to bed early! Join us – sing, dance, and meet new friends. 

Flower power at the May 2008 ACM

Are you a gardener with seeds to spare? If you have some gorgeous or unique flowers or other plants that grow from seeds you think others would enjoy, bring them to the opening ceremony of Canadian Unitarian Council (CUC) Annual Conference and Meeting (ACM) in Ottawa on May 16 – 19, 2007.

Gardeners everywhere know that planting and nurturing seeds slows us down and forces patience. Tending little seedlings draws us into the slow circles of nature and enriches us, bringing into focus the web of life in which we work, play and learn. The Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Ottawa suggested the seed exchange as an ideal way to launch the "Web of Life – It's in our Hands" ACM and we invite all to share our "gardeners grace" with Unitarians and Universalists from across Canada. You may even find some new and interesting seeds to bring home with you!

Keep seeds well stored in small envelopes (no plastic please). Write name of plant and your city on the envelope; include a photo of the plant if possible. Bring your seeds to the Ingathering; they will be redistributed during the Closing Ceremonies on Monday.



How can one not smile? Maybe strange hats were a theme at the 2007 ACM.

Do you sometimes ask such questions as:

- *Is there a God?*
- *What is the ultimate reality?*
- *Does the universe have a purpose?*
- *Why am I here?*
- *Is this all there is?*
- *What can I hope for?*
- *How should I live?*
- *How do I know what's true?*

This book is for you if you would like to make up your own mind about some of these, or other basic questions on life, and want an impartial guide to many of the diverse answers from philosophy, science, Eastern and Western religions.

WHAT'S IT ALL ABOUT?



A GUIDE TO LIFE'S
BASIC QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

Richard de la Chaumière, Ph.D.

"A masterful and moving account of the different ways humans seek and find answers to the ultimate questions of life, told by an author with a wide ranging intellect, equally at home in science, philosophy, psychology, and the spiritual traditions of both the East and West. Combines flowing, eloquent prose with lucid, pithy summaries of great truths, all in a book dedicated to individuals who want to find their own truth."

Christopher F.J. Ross, Ph.D.

Wilfrid Laurier University, Waterloo, Ontario

"Among humanity's greatest traditions is our search for ultimate truth. Dr. de la Chaumière explores this rich history and the world views that thrive today in an unbiased manner that is both passionate and compassionate. Avoiding one-size-fits-all answers to life's questions, this book empowers readers from all walks of life to discover their own paths to truth that are personally meaningful."

Samuel B. Larson, Ph.D.

Astronomer, Caltech, Jet Propulsion Lab

"This is a book for anyone who has ever been captured by life's big questions, the classic 'religious' questions: How did it all begin? When will it end? Who am I? Who are we humans? How do we know what we think we know about ultimate matters? In short, what's it all about? Here, set against the development of Western philosophy, science, and psychology, are also traditional religious answers to these questions - all in a lucid and lively style. Highly recommended."

Glenn Yocum, Ph.D.

Editor-in-Chief, Journal of the American Academy of Religion

"Richard de la Chaumière's investigation into life's basic questions and answers is an insightful interdisciplinary masterpiece."

Anne Bossé

The Journal of Philosophical Practice

"I found much of the book fascinating!"

John Carriero, Ph.D.

Professor and Chair, Department of Philosophy, UCLA

"Certainly what de la Chaumière seems to celebrate above all else is the quest for truth itself. There abounds in this book exhilaration for humanity's greatest and longest search - the search for truth."

Angus Crane

Bridges Magazine

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