

Greetings to all in this gradually-growing network of Individual UUs, and welcome to you all as you read this newsletter! As is the custom in many meetings of Unitarian Universalists, this one begins with a “*check-in*” in response to the invitation I sent out on August 5<sup>th</sup>. I was amazed that within an hour I’d received two responses (and several others speedily followed): **thank you**, from the editor, for your promptness! Here are the messages, in order of receipt, and the first one is from the member I mentioned I was hoping to introduce to you – MUCH better that he’s introducing himself!

*Hi,*

*I'm new here. I don't know exactly what most would generally say. For events in my life, right now I'm very busy with my first mortgage. Yes I'm young - 19 years old, but I have been on my own since I was 16. They say I have an "old soul" :) for my age, and no one expects that I'm only 19. But I am nearly finished and it's almost finalized. I only hope it all works out - it's very stressful.*

*A good thing is, I have a very good lawyer my grandparents referred me to, and his wife (the secretary) gave me a referral discount and for my age. My grandparents have essentially been my adoptive parents since I was young, and always help me out more than anyone in the family. It's a large event, so that is all that I have been able to focus on recently.*

**A.S. [[andrew\\_j\\_a\\_s@hotmail.com](mailto:andrew_j_a_s@hotmail.com)]**

*Hi!*

*This is LLoyd! Just back from Halifax. Kids and grand kids delightful! We had planned to stay for three weeks, but didn't manage one. My wife was too ill to stay. Her immunity is compromised from all of the chemo that she has received because of the Leukemia, and she was too ill to stay. So, we decided to come back home.*

*I thought that I might attend a service at the Halifax UU (I've been there three times over the past four years!) but it'll have to wait til next time. We roll with the punches!*

*I am working on publishing a small book (about 90 pages) by an elderly gentlemen (93 years old), who spent his life in and about north eastern Newfoundland. They are all stories and memories by him. He tells, for example, of trying to travel from one community to another in the 1930s (primarily by walking through the bush!).*

*My offer of a free upload of one of my folk stories is still good - if, when, and how you would like me to do that.*

*Best wishes to all. Lloyd Ryan Torbay, NL*

**Lloyd Ryan [[execontrol@yahoo.ca](mailto:execontrol@yahoo.ca)]**

Lloyds Folk Tale: <http://cuc.ca/programs/FurtherTalesfromHarbourDivine.pdf>

*Greetings, all . . . I'm the name that shows up as [mmk@spiritquest.ws](mailto:mmk@spiritquest.ws) – Maureen Killoran, and as I may have said before, I'm a UU minister, Canadian by birth and by the first 40+ years of my life, but having lived in US for the past almost 25 years. I am currently serving our congregation in Vero Beach, Florida ([www.uufvb.org](http://www.uufvb.org)), beginning the second year of a two-year interim ministry – because that's what I do. After almost 20 years in the parish ministry, I worked for a while in the community ministry of Life Coaching, then trained as an accredited interim minister (AIM).*

*AIMs travel wherever there is a need, serving congregations that are “between ministers and helping them to become ready to call a new minister. Among the congregations in Canada that have recently experienced the services of interim ministers are Winnipeg, Toronto and Ottawa and a new interim ministry is beginning in Victoria just this month.*

*I'm writing to you from Chicago, where I'm taking a week-long intensive training in conflict transformation, offered by the Mennonites. After that, I'll be back in Vero for another year – and after that – who knows? I could be asked to serve anywhere on the continent, for a period of one to two years. If anyone is planning a trip to the southeast coast of Florida in the coming year, I'd be delighted to meet you.*

*Blessings, Maureen Killoran*

[mmk@spiritquest.ws](mailto:mmk@spiritquest.ws)

*Hi Y'all,*

*Okay, here goes. I (along with 4 other people) recently opened a small K-8 private school in London, Ontario. It is called Sitting Tree School and Nature Programs. As you might guess from the name, we use a nature/environment/arts-based curriculum (part of which I designed originally as a UU RE curriculum). We officially open in September, but as a sort of prelude (and because all the moms on the playground insisted) we are having a couple of summer camps. The first one was last week. It went really well. The best thing about all this is that the methodology is very different from traditional public schools so it allows kids to feel accepted as they are and useful and respected and cared about.*

*The way this looked at camp last week was this: about half the kids (9 or so) came to us with these "diagnoses" (aspergers, organic brain disorder, ADHD, LD, uncontrolled aggression, selective mutism, etc.) and if you had come to watch on Thursday (as the African peace maker Mandaza did) you would not think anyone had ever been diagnosed with anything. They were all extremely respectful, listened well, participated, were eloquent when they spoke and very creative.*

*I am looking forward to the next camp which is next week. The only down side is that we have been gifted with rabbits with baggage and so we have all been having rabbit stress this week. The baggage is the previous owner who is having trouble letting go now that she has given the bunnies away. I am hoping to find a peaceful resolution to the bunny stress this weekend.*

*hope all is well with you; take good care, Kim Stark*

[starttle@gmail.com](mailto:starttle@gmail.com)

*This is Elisabeth Michnick checking in. I live in a retirement home in North York, Toronto. I am a little isolated, but manage to attend services at 1st Congregation in Toronto and participate in some activities there. I am also very active in my Jewish retirement community. I serve on the residents council executive and participate in a drama group, a poetry group and reading club. I take part in several exercise groups including dance fitness. In May I traveled to Israel to visit my daughter who who works for the refugee branch of the U.N. At the present time refugees coming into Israel are from various countries in Africa and enter the country from Egypt. At my U.U. congregation I am a member of the partner church committee having visited Bartok Bela our partner church in Budapest as well as touring Transylvania. I am also part of the Jewish awareness group. I look forward to hearing the reports of other members of this group.*

[bert.michnick@sympatico.ca](mailto:bert.michnick@sympatico.ca)

*This is Janet Vickers delighted to hear from Elizabeth, who introduced me to the Liverpool Lullaby. I remember your guitar playing and your beautiful voice.*

*For my part I'd like to say that I am on the Editorial Committee of the annual poetry chapbook and we are seeking submissions of poetry (a maximum of five poems per submission, each poem should be 45 lines or less including title and blank lines), from Canadian Unitarians or Unitarian residents of Canada, on the theme HOW SHALL WE LIVE to be considered for publication in our fourth professionally published chapbook, to be launched at the next CUC ACM (May, 2010)*

*Please submit unpublished material to: Jo-Anne Elder at [eldergomes@yahoo.com](mailto:eldergomes@yahoo.com), or mail to Jo-Anne Elder, 180 Liverpool Street, Fredericton, NB E3B 4V5. Attention: CUC Chapbook, by November 30, 2009. Please also include a 50 word bio. Include a self-addressed stamped envelope if you are submitting via land mail and wish to receive a reply. All work will receive notification of acceptance by March 21, 2010.*

*The editors also seek submissions of art work for the cover or a complete cover design including text - please send your own created colour images to Janet Vickers at [tojan@smartt.com](mailto:tojan@smartt.com) with name, address and bio.*

*Thank-you for your time and creative contributions.*

*Janet Vickers*

[tojan@smartt.com](mailto:tojan@smartt.com)

I'm pleased that several of you have contributed to the first sharing of this kind, and I'll add my own check-in:

*Life continues to be good in rural seaside Nova Scotia. In July we had good visits from Karen and Steve Lill from the Waterloo Unitarian congregation, and from Barb and Tony*

*Wallace in the Hamilton church. (I mention this because some of you may know them and feel a sense of connection – my favourite thing!) Although the weather's been far from wonderful on the whole, there have been plenty of days when I've been able to spend hours outside enjoying my most-loved occupation, gardening. My understanding of gardening includes plenty of strolling around and copious quantities of looking, admiring and planning for improvements, so it's not all hard physical work, though I do find I'm a lot creakier this year than I remember in previous seasons. I'll include a few photos for the website edition of this newsletter ([http://www.cuc.ca/programs/individual\\_members.htm](http://www.cuc.ca/programs/individual_members.htm))*



John, Barb, Tony, Anne



Karen, Steve

*In September, John and I are going to England for 10 days for my nephew's wedding in Yorkshire. We'll be staying with a cousin in Lancashire, and I'm hoping we'll see a little bit of the Lake District and perhaps visit Haworth (home of the Brontes) where I've never been. Last*

*time I was in England was three years ago for my mother's funeral; this is a happier occasion, though we wish Mum could have been there for her grandson's wedding.*

*A deep sadness in the past month has been the death of a dear friend, June Gilbertson of the Guelph congregation. That congregation held a memorial service for June on August 9<sup>th</sup> which I would have loved to attend – and which Alison Kilpatrick, a member of this list, **did** attend. Alison wrote to me afterwards:*

**Yesterday's service ran the gamut from serious to highly emotional, as you might imagine. I think it did every one of us a great deal of good.**

*I was reminded poignantly of how hugely important a congregation can be for support in times of sorrow as well as in joyful times and the more everyday aspects of our lives. Those of us who don't have such support – let's make whatever connections we can, and although this newsletter is no substitute for face-to-face community, perhaps it can be helpful in some small ways. Letting each other know what's happening in our lives may be one such way.*

Anne Treadwell

[treadwell@ns.sympatico.ca](mailto:treadwell@ns.sympatico.ca)

I'll end this portion of the newsletter with an adaptation of words I've often used at the end of "Joys and Sorrows" in a Sunday service:

**Whether our concerns have been expressed in this newsletter or remain in the quietness of our hearts, may our joys always be heightened, our sorrows lightened, and our lives enriched, by the connections we make here.**

And now a reminder of the "Question Box" idea I mentioned last time. I was helped in this by a query received by email from someone who may later be ready to join this list but is anonymous for the time being. She wrote:

- 1) As a Unitarian, what are your beliefs about Heaven and God?**
- 2) Do you live more in the HERE and the NOW (sort of like a Buddhist)?**
- 3) Are there rituals or things you do as a Unitarian that are different from other religions?**

I'm guessing some of you might have the same questions, **AND** some of you might want to have a try at answering them: **PLEASE DO!** It could lead to some very interesting and helpful discussions.

On that note, I'll end – but with the usual plea for feedback of any kind: keep it coming, folks! (Photos would be especially welcome.) I'll remind you about check-in in early September. Till then, enjoy another month of summer.

Warmest wishes, Anne