

# The CUC eNews

Newsletter of the Canadian Unitarian Council – October 2018



October 2018, Issue 68

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## We Are Canadian Unitarians and Universalists



Earlier in September, the CUC announced the release of a video created for the CUC website. You'll see and hear a lot of UU's, some of whom you may know, sharing just what it means to be a Canadian Unitarian Universalist in all its many forms. Find it on the [front page of the CUC website](#) and on:

**Vimeo:** <https://vimeo.com/288227896>

**YouTube:** <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XE-GrFDHCrw>

**Facebook:** <https://www.facebook.com/CanadianUnitarianCouncil/>

Thanks go to Amber Dawn Bellemare, who spent many, many hours conceptualizing, directing and producing the video, and to all who participated in its production.

## Submissions to the CUC eNews:

**Due** by 10<sup>th</sup> of each month

Send to: [communications@cuc.ca](mailto:communications@cuc.ca)

## CUC on Facebook

The CUC is on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/CanadianUnitarianCouncil/>  
If you haven't already visited and liked our Facebook page, please do! If there is a post you particularly like, please share it and help us get the word out about Canadian Unitarian Universalists.



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## CUC Move Completed

We've moved with the Centre for Social Innovation across the street from our previous location. All the boxes and desk are in, electronics are almost set up ... and there's a window (looking out to a brick wall!) to the delight of the office staff. Our new address is:

**Canadian Unitarian Council**  
**@ Centre for Social Innovation**  
**302-192 Spadina Ave**  
**Toronto ON M5T 2C2, 1-800-568-5723**  
[info@cuc.ca](mailto:info@cuc.ca) | <https://cuc.ca/>



## CUC Sponsored Fall Events

The CUC offers and coordinates a variety of exciting events including webinars and roundtables as part of our commitment to helping congregations become more deeply connected, radically inclusive, actively engaged, theologically alive, and spiritually grounded. This eNews issue focuses on upcoming offerings for you and your congregation.

### Webinars or “Web seminars” are:

- Led by an expert or leader in a particular skill or subject area, often by CUC staff or by known experts
- Focus on important issues for our member congregations
- Inform, teach, train, or guide the participants with time for sharing information and experiences

### Roundtables are:

- Informal
- Participants exchange information, ideas and experience related to a particular topic
- Can be led by anyone, whether or not they have expertise in the topic.

Have a topic you'd like to see covered or you would like to discuss? Let us know at [congregationalife@cuc.ca](mailto:congregationalife@cuc.ca). Check back regularly for [updates on the CUC website](#).

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## CUC Roundtables (continued)

### Sustaining Practices for Volunteers: Sharing Our Wisdom, October 20, 12:30-2:30 ET

Engaged volunteers are critical to the success of any congregation. But congregations are often faced with an abundance of tasks and an apparent shortage of people to do them. The solution lies in helping people discover their gifts, matching them with the positions that best use these, and providing them with the equipment and support they need to shine in these roles.

This summer, two workshops “Serving with Spirit: Sustaining Practices for Volunteers” addressed these themes. Participants came away with new strategies to increase their volunteer pool and sustain people in meaningful engagement with their congregation.

Now an upcoming roundtable, Sustaining Practices for Volunteers: Sharing Our Wisdom, will build on the success of the summer workshops. Readings from these participants will be shared before the roundtable. This session will be ideal for those who want to share their ideas and learn from others, and will offer a chance to explore how ideas on volunteerism can be applied in a congregational setting.

## CUC Webinars

### Fostering Congregational Stewardship: November 10, 12:30 - 2:30 ET



Elizabeth Ann Terry, UUA staff person (Congregational Giving Specialist) will offer some ideas on how congregations are able to sustain and support themselves financially. Participants will learn about options for raising and securing funds for their budgets and expenses, within a culture of generosity. Register [here](#); cost is \$10 per participant.



## CUC Bookkeeper to Offer Financial Webinars

Anyone who has participated in the financial administration of a congregation knows that this is hard and often confusing, but necessary, work. Some professional guidance, however, can make it much easier. The CUC is pleased to present a series of financial webinars in the coming months with CUC bookkeeper, Clyde Harris. A partner in Alwyn Enterprises, a bookkeeping firm which specializes in working with churches. Clyde is an expert on church finances and Canada Revenue Agency requirements, as well as being an engaging and humorous presenter.

The three webinars Clyde is presenting will be valuable to everyone involved in a congregation's finances, including treasurers, presidents, administrators and bookkeepers. All webinars are from 7:30 - 8:30 p.m. Eastern and cost \$10 each. Register [here](#).

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## CUC Bookkeeper to Offer Financial Webinars (continued)

### October 24: Receipting for Income Tax Purposes

The ability to issue official donation receipts is an important benefit granted to Canadian charities. All congregations need to be familiar with the proper process for this. During audits, 89 percent of charities were found to be not issuing receipts appropriately, something that can result in charities being penalized. To ensure compliance with CRA rules, it is vital that everyone involved in a congregation's finances know the rules for proper receipting, that adequate receipting records are kept, when it is appropriate to issue tax receipts, and that there is a policy for accepting or declining gifts.

**November 21: Financial Records** The CRA requires that registered charities keep adequate books and records. A charity's books and records must allow the Canada Revenue Agency (CRA) to verify revenues, including all charitable donations received; verify that resources are spent on charitable programs; and verify that the charity's purposes and activities continue to be charitable. Governing documents (bylaws, meeting minutes, etc.) and source documents, invoices, bank deposit slips, etc. must be kept. This webinar will explore what is required by the CRA, record retention, and how other records fit together for a complete picture of the charity.

**January 23: Charitable Property Rentals** Congregations often rent out their buildings for a wide variety of purposes, and this can both make financial sense when the property is underutilized and raise awareness of the church's presence within the community. With these benefits, however, comes a risk of liability, which is why congregations should have a clear rental policy. This discussion will provide tips on this, as well as how charities can gain the most from their property without suffering undue risk.

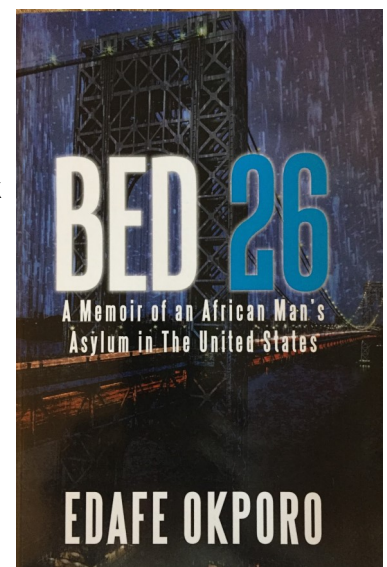
## CUC sponsored book reading with Edefe Okporo, October 26, 2018.

[Read the details here.](#)

### Memoir Chronicles Nigerian Man's Immigration Experience

In many ways, Edefe Okporo's story is an unfortunately common experience with LGBTQ+ people in Africa and some other countries. As a young man in Nigeria, he experienced the persecution suffered by much of the country's LGBTQ community, something that ultimately spurred him to seek asylum in the United States. Unlike most others in his situation, however, it's an experience he's chosen to document with the release of [BED 26: A Memoir of an African Man's Asylum](#).

Okporo's book chronicles the vicious homophobic beatings he suffered in Nigeria, the harrowing months he spent in an immigrant detention centre upon arriving in the US, and the brighter turn his life took when granted asylum. Now director of the RJD Refugee Shelter in New York, Okporo hopes his book will raise awareness about the plight of others like him.





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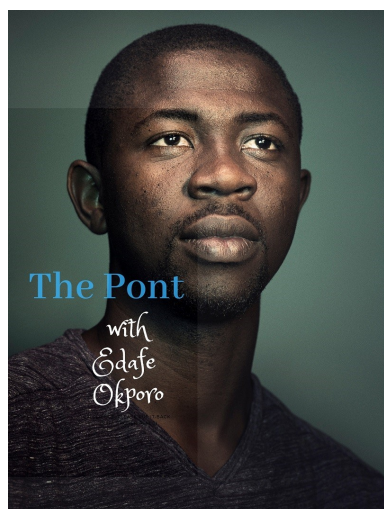


## Memoir Chronicles Nigerian Man's Immigration Experience (continued)

"I realized that growing up in Nigeria there was not a lot of (openly) LGBTQ persons in Nigeria or West Africa", he says. "Nothing was talked about gay men by family, friends, nothing, so I decided to write this book because I was in a free country to be able to document the lives of West African gay men, so that people back home in Nigeria can find something that resonates with who they are".

In many ways, it's a goal Okporo feels he's already achieved. Many readers of BED 26, he says, have reached out to him, and thanked him for telling a story that's largely gone untold.

"A lot of people have written me telling me how important it is to have their narrative out there on media so I believe that this is documenting my experience for years to come", he says. "And people are going to continuously pick a book which talked about a gay man from Nigeria, which is quite unusual, and it's going to help create more awareness, and I hope by the end people are going to see similarities between gay men and other men; they are the same people".



Recognizing people's common humanity in spite of their differences is a constant thread throughout Okporo's work. His next book will draw from the stories he plans to chronicle in a podcast series called *The Pont* ('bridge' in French), which will explore success stories from cross-cultural working environments.

"It is my goal to help refugees, minorities, LGBTQ persons be able to integrate into a new society", he says, "so I want to narrate those messages and I believe that the experiences of people that are going to be involved in the podcast is going to help really educate people about this".

## Regional Fall Gatherings

Regional Gatherings are scheduled through October and November for the Western, Central and Eastern Regions. Come meet your neighbors and participate in workshops, worship and shared time. Community building at its best!

Registration is now open for all Regional Fall Gatherings. For more information,



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## Parliament of World Religions Offers CUC Workshops, Volunteer Opportunities, and More

[The Parliament of the World's Religions \(PoWR\)](#) was created to cultivate harmony among the world's religious and spiritual communities and foster their engagement with the world and its guiding institutions in order to achieve a just, peaceful and sustainable world. To accomplish this, it invites individuals and communities who are equally invested in attaining this goal.

The 2018 Parliament will be held November 1-8, 2018. The theme of “The Promise of Inclusion, The Power of Love” aligns closely with UU principles, which is why the CUC will present three workshops during the week, offerings which were chosen from among more than 1500 submissions. All three workshops aim to share the learnings and experiences of Unitarians and Universalists with the wider interfaith community. The workshops are:

- **Truth, Healing and Reconciliation: Moving Towards Understanding, Trust & Respect**  
[Rev. Samaya Oakley](#) and Stephen Paquette (read Stephen's bio on [Linked in](#))
- **Our Whole Lives:** [Rev. Jessica York](#) and Monica Bennett
- **Welcoming Congregations:** [Vyda Ng](#) and Art Brewer

### Margaret Atwood to speak at PoWR

The Parliament welcomes [17 new luminaries as Voices of PoWR](#), bringing wisdom, advocacy, and progressive change to the world and to the 7th Parliament. One of these luminaries is [Margaret Atwood](#), well-known Canadian author and activist. [Register for the Parliament](#) to hear Ms. Atwood!

### Certificate in Indigenous Cultural Awareness

The Indigenous Peoples' Program of the 2018 Parliament of the World's Religions is offering a Certificate in Indigenous Cultural Awareness. This full-day offering (minimum 8 hours) will provide a wide-ranging and informative primer into Indigenous peoples of the world, including First Nations, Métis and Inuit people in Canada. Find out more and register [here](#).

### Volunteer at the PoWR

Unitarians interested in volunteering for the CUC and UU faith space and activities are encouraged to contact Vyda Ng at [executivedirector@cuc.ca](mailto:executivedirector@cuc.ca), but the volunteer opportunities don't stop there. PoWR needs volunteers for technical, administrative, and program support in a wide variety of areas. Volunteers are needed both before and during the event, so [apply now](#). Volunteers pay \$50 to volunteer and access the Parliament - this is a hugely discounted registration rate.

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## Faith in Action

### The Plight of Yazidi Women and Girls

From the [Women Refugees Advocacy Project](#)



Urgent action is needed on behalf of Yazidi women and girls who are recent refugees to Canada.

Yazidi are an indigenous people of Iraq and a religious minority targeted for genocide by ISIS. In 2014, ISIS captured an estimated 6,800 Yazidi women and girls to enslave, gang and serial rape, and murder. In response to the genocide, the Canadian Minister of Immigration and Refugees, Ahmed Hussen, promised to bring Yazidi survivors to Canada and provide them with comprehensive

trauma care. Prime Minister, Justin Trudeau, tweeted that the Yazidi would receive “the support they need” in Canada.

Recent investigative reports, including in [The New York Times](#) and [Chatelaine](#), tell a different story. Testimony from refugees and community and health care workers in Canadian cities describes how the Yazidi women who came to Canada are suffering severe post-traumatic stress symptoms, including daily re-living of rape trauma, without any therapeutic program of support. It doesn't have to be like this. Culturally-sensitive trauma care programs, such as the one created by psychologist [Dr. Jan Kizilhan](#) for Yazidi women and children refugees in Germany, are proving effective.

### How to help:

- **Learn and share the information:** More information is available [here](#); please share as widely as possible with individuals and organizations.

- **Sign and share the petition:** Sign Women's Refugee Advocacy Project's [petition](#), and share it with other multi-faith, interfaith, and human rights organizations and members. The petition insists that the Canadian government keep its promise and provide safe housing and expert-guided trauma recovery care for Yazidi women and girl refugees in Canada.

- **Become an organizational co-petitioner:** The CUC is a co-petitioner. To become a co-petitioner just email your congregation/ organization's name and location to [wrapforjustice@gmail.com](mailto:wrapforjustice@gmail.com).

Sign the petition [here](#).

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## Looking Forward

### Council Matters

#### 2019 Annual General Meeting

Mark your calendars for the 2019 CUC Annual General Meeting (AGM). This will be held in the Greater Toronto Area on Saturday, May 11th from 1:00 - 4:30 pm ET / 10:00 am - 1:00 pm PT. As with the past two AGMs, there will be full capability for on-line virtual participation, as well as in-person participation. On-line participation and delegate registration information will be forthcoming.



Here are some other things to consider in preparation for the 2019 AGM:

Delegate selection: we recommend that you select your congregation's delegates early. Information about selection and delegates is [here](#)

Schedule time for CUC-related business: make time in your congregational calendar for at least one session in February 2019 (CUC Month) for your congregation and delegates to discuss matters going to the AGM. Information about motions will be distributed in early January 2019 to congregations, and feedback will be received until February 28.

What's in a motion? Each year, motions are proposed for the AGM. Find out how to submit a motion and by when, who can submit motions, why a new motion may not be necessary, and a summary of previously approved motions on the [CUC's Resolutions page](#).

If your congregation or group is considering submitting a motion, consult with the Executive Director BEFORE you submit a resolution. This will save you time! Email [executivedirector@cuc.ca](mailto:executivedirector@cuc.ca). Submit a motion only if: a) there is no [previous resolution](#) AND it addresses a completely new issue; b) is of national importance; and c) is timely.

General information on the AGM can be found on the CUC's website [here](#). Questions about the AGM? Email [executivedirector@cuc.ca](mailto:executivedirector@cuc.ca).

The next National Conference will be in May 2020, hosted by the [Universalist Unitarian Church of Halifax](#).

### Annual Program Contributions and Member Certification

Each year in the fall, the CUC sends requests to congregational presidents and administrators to confirm your membership numbers. This information is needed to calculate your congregation's [Annual Program Contribution](#) (APC) to the CUC and to affirm the number of delegates to the CUC's AGM. The letter will be coming to your congregations; please keep an eye out for it and respond by November 31, 2018.



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## Stories from the Nominees for the 2018 Shining Lights Award

The [Shining Lights award](#) highlights excellent and successful initiatives and programming by Canadian Unitarian Universalist communities.

### [Neighbourhood UU Congregation, Toronto](#)

Guided by the first UU principle of respect for the inherent worth and dignity of each person, Susanne Maziarz, Music Director at Neighbourhood Unitarian Universalist Congregation, began the Comfort Choir in 2011 to sing for patients in palliative care. She had been introduced to the [Threshold Choir](#) movement at a UU Musician's Network conference and subsequently created her own group.

The Comfort Choir is a network of singers who answer the call to care for the sick and dying with the healing power of music. Some Comfort Choir singers are members of the Neighbourhood congregation but participation in the Choir is open to anyone. The Choir envisions the reality of a Comfort Choir in every congregation, and that the UU movement becomes known for this type of caring soul work. The Comfort Choir sings songs in a variety of styles depending on the patient. They have created a songbook of hymns, popular songs, musical theatre, folk, chants and use it on their weekly rounds. The Choir also sings at the homes of members and friends of the congregation when asked. The service is always free - an offering of love by the Choir.



The Comfort Choir has been in residence at Toronto East General/Michael Garron Hospital (TEGH) since 2012, and sings weekly at bedsides. Although the physical and medical needs of patients are the purview of health personnel, emotional and spiritual needs are often neglected. The Comfort Choir believes that the power of music and song can touch the soul and bring a caring human connection that can be glaringly absent in the sterility of a hospital environment.

One Comfort Choir member shares *"When we sang for our very first patient in the hospice at TEGH, we began with Amazing Grace. Within moments, silent tears were falling down this woman's cheeks. The second woman we sang for was clearly uncomfortable and in great pain. As we began to sing, her agitation lessened and her breathing slowed. When we returned the next week, we were told that she had died sometime soon after our visit. Each week there are difficult and joyful and powerful moments for me. This choir is doing humbling and beautiful work, and I'm deeply grateful to be a part of it."*

To form a Comfort Choir, says Suzanne Maziarz, start small. Let love guide the way. There may be folks in your congregation that are called to this type of singing but not to a regular choir.

If you have any questions, please write to Suzanne Maziarz at [music@nuuc.ca](mailto:music@nuuc.ca). Find out more about their Comfort Choir [here](#).

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## Youth Cons - What's It All About?

By Casey Stainsby, Youth & Young Adults Program and Events Coordinator

*"This past weekend has reaffirmed all of the reasons why I am proud to call myself a Unitarian Universalist. Though my UU family is spread near and far, I know that you are all there for me whenever I need to talk."*

- Past participant of CanUUdle, the CUC's annual national youth con



Youth conferences, or cons, as they're generally known, are weekend gatherings of Unitarian Universalist (UU) youth and their adult advisors. These are weekends jam-packed with workshops, worships, group games, community meals, and other activities. They build community, foster spiritual and UU identity, encourage youth and adults to collaborate, and empower youth. Most are youth-led, with youth and adults working in partnership to create a fun, safe, and radically welcoming experience for all.

CUC-sponsored youth events are generally open to teenagers aged 14-20 years old, though some events also welcome Junior Youth, ages 12-14. While youth cons are primarily by and for the youth themselves, advisors play a critical supporting role, holding the safe container in which youth can stretch and test their leadership muscles. Cons also provide a chance for advisors to network with each other, and to deepen their relationships with the youth they serve.

Typically, a youth con lasts from Friday evening to Sunday early afternoon. Churches offer up their space for the weekend. Sometimes the con is planned and led by the local youth group, or, in the case of larger events like the Western Regional Fall Gathering, a team of youth and adults from across the region. The annual CanUUdle, our largest youth con in Canada, draws on leadership from across the country, and even has a part-time CUC contract staff person dedicated to supporting it every year.

Collectively, the planning team comes up with the schedule and content for the entire weekend, and is responsible for facilitating the con itself. Youth gain valuable leadership experience, and not just in terms of planning and leading activities. They also practice paying attention to the community's needs as a whole, and discerning and enacting what's needed to take group bonding to the next level.

By co-creating and upholding a community covenant, youth participants experience the power of a culture that is inclusive, respectful and pro-consent. Many youth find that they can be themselves at con in a way that they don't feel safe to in other parts of their lives, and develop deep and lasting friendships.

It's a worthy endeavour. Congregations that host cons find they provide a wonderful opportunity for the community to put their support for their young people into action, and for volunteers to witness youth culture in full swing. Hosting a con also means greater accessibility for local youth and advisors, and creates the conditions for those who haven't been before to try it out on home turf.

The CUC is here to support you in running your own youth con, training, or OWL weekend! Simply send an email to [youth@cuc.ca](mailto:youth@cuc.ca) to find out more.

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## Youth Cons - What's the Big Deal? Why Should I Go to One?

By [Casey Stainsby](#), Youth & Young Adults Program and Events Coordinator



You're new to youth group. Maybe you just bridged up from junior youth, or maybe you've recently started tagging along with a friend who's been coming for a while. Or maybe you've been coming to youth group for years, but just never understood why you should give up a whole weekend, and maybe even a day of school, to go hang out with a bunch of Unitarians.

Now everyone around you seems so excited about the con coming up, but when you ask why, they get this faraway look in their eyes and all they can come up with is, "it's just... the best thing ever. You just have to be there to understand."

Let's see if I can be a bit more helpful in terms of explaining why it is totally worth it for you to take the leap and register for that con.

The main thing that you'll probably hear con-goers talk about is all the amazing friendships that can bloom at con. Depending on the event, there might be people coming from other churches in the local area, the region, from across the country, or even internationally. There are always activities that help you meet new people, like name games, workshops, and touch groups\*. There's also plenty of free time for hanging out, both during the day and, if you're determined, all night long!

One of the reasons that it's possible to form such close friendships in just a few days is because con communities are covenanted communities. This means that at the beginning of each weekend, the entire community creates an agreement that outlines how they want to be with each other. It's really powerful to be able to co-create a culture together, one that is inclusive and respectful and pro-consent! Many people feel that they can be their true selves at con, take risks, and be loved for all their quirks and vulnerabilities, not in spite of them. It's a pretty magical thing, and it's radically different from the culture that most of us live in the rest of the time.

The other magical element that must be mentioned is worship. Like most of the rest of con, worships are youth-led. They are usually in a circle, and always very ritual-based and participatory. There's lots of singing, but no hymnals. It's different every time. It's a chance to get grounded and connect to something bigger, something deeper, something truer. To check in with yourself about what's important, to share a piece of that with the community, and to show each other that we all matter. Every single one of us.

\*What's a touch group? I'm glad you asked! It's a small group, usually of about 6-10 people, that meets once a day throughout the con to touch base. You play games together, check in with each other about how the weekend is going, and generally get to know at least a few new people on a deeper level.

That's only a few of the many reasons going to a con is worth your while, not to mention the chance to learn more about your UU tradition, take advantage of leadership opportunities of all shapes and sizes, and get in on all the fun and silliness! Trust me, it's well worth the day of missed school. Now go register!



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## Youth Cons - What's the Big Deal? Why Should I Go to One? (continued)

**Late breaking news:** The Unitarian Church of Montreal will be hosting an autumn-themed Youth Con, October 19-21. Details and registration will be available soon.

[See pages 16-17](#) for details of upcoming youth events, including [“MUUgles and Magic” Con](#) at the Western Region Fall Gathering in Winnipeg (Oct 26-28), and a [Peer Chaplain Training at the North Shore Unitarian Church in West Vancouver](#) (Nov 16-18).

## News from our Congregations

Have news from your congregation you'd like to share? Send it our way to: [communications@cuc.ca](mailto:communications@cuc.ca)

### From the [Unitarian Congregation of Niagara \(UCN\)](#):

#### Pubnights: A Valued Addition

Monthly activities offered by the Unitarian Congregation of Niagara include an evening Pub Night at a local bar and restaurant. For the past two years, these have been on the fourth Friday at 6:30 pm. They are announced as open, respectful reflection on the topic of the month.

Initially, we imagined that pub nights might attract new members to UCN. However, we didn't have the finances for advertising so attendees have been existing members and friends. Typically, we have about a dozen participant who regularly

report that the discussion has been vigorous and lightening. Over the months, it has been a terrific community builder with participants getting know one another better. Possibly even getting to know ourselves better.



Topics have included each of the seven principle and the six sources, challenges to our seven principles and a variety of spiritual and/or moral question. Most recently, we have reflected on “A life Connected” (from the UU brochure), “Lies”, “When (and how) should we step forward when we observe harassment, bullying and other forms of racism, sexism, homophobia etc.”.

Recently, thanks to one of our participants, we learned of the “Theme Groups” at the First Unitarian Congregation of Toronto. Materials at their website suggest over fifty possible themes for future months. Our next three months' topics will borrow from them and include “Play”, “Compassion”, and “Wonder”. They also offer readings that participants can use to deepen their reflection on the topic. These are available on their website: <https://www.firstunitariantoronto.org/sermons/theme-based-ministry>. Well worth a visit.

In summary, we have found pub nights to be a valued addition to our programming and anticipate that we will continue them well into the future. I encourage other congregations to give them a try.



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## From Neighborhood Unitarian Universalist Church Congregation

Neighborhood UU Congregation in Toronto invites you to their Mardi Gras Fundraiser & Silent Auction. Held on Saturday, November 17 at [their location](#). This fun event features exciting bid items and hor d'oeuvres.

NEIGHBOURHOOD  
Unitarian Universalist Congregation

presents our

## Mardi Gras FunDraiser & Silent Auction

Saturday, November 17, 2018. Doors Open 7pm  
Featuring the Roberta Hunt Trio with Toby Hughes and Gram Whitty  
& the Spirit Choir

Bid on exciting items like Cottage getaways, spa weekends, gourmet meals, jewelry, gift baskets and more!  
Hor d'oeuvres, beer and wine will be served  
Tickets \$25.00 Contact the Neighbourhood Office 416-686-6809  
79 Hiawatha Road, Toronto, ON M4L 2X7 - 416-686-6809 [www.nuuc.ca](http://www.nuuc.ca)

## From the First Unitarian Fellowship of Nanaimo

The First Unitarian Fellowship of Nanaimo (FUFON) is looking for a half-time consulting minister to lead us into the future. We are located on beautiful Vancouver Island in British Columbia, Canada in a region with a population of 160,942. As an affordable harbour town, Nanaimo offers residents the west coast lifestyle with breathtaking scenery, a mild climate, outdoor recreational activities, a vibrant arts scene, and a burgeoning local food culture. For more information: <http://ufon.ca/first-unitarian-fellowship-of-nanaimo-ministerial-search/>

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## Upcoming Events

### October

**Roundtable: Sustaining Practices for Volunteers: Sharing Our Wisdom**

October 20, 2018, 12:30 - 2 pm ET ([see p 3](#))

[Learn more and register!](#)

**Financial Webinars with Clyde Harris, CUC Bookkeeper ([see p 3-4](#))**

All webinars from 7:30-8:30 pm ET. Cost: \$10 each. [Register online.](#)

### [Sponsored Book Reading with EDAFE OKPORO](#)

Oct 26, 2018, 7 pm ET ([see pp 4-5](#))

Centre for Social Innovation

192 Spadina Ave, Toronto, ON M5T 2C2

**BOOK READING WITH EDAFE OKPORO**  
Award-winning human rights activist shares eye-opening experiences of LGBTQ refugees fleeing West Africa

## BED 26:

### A Memoir of an African Man's Asylum in the United States

**FRIDAY, OCT 26 2018 7:00PM**  
Centre for Social Innovation  
Atrium @192 Spadina Ave, Toronto

Refreshments & book-signing to follow

Sponsored by the Canadian Unitarian Council  
[www.cuc.ca](http://www.cuc.ca) | [info@cuc.ca](mailto:info@cuc.ca) | 416.489.4121  
Facebook Event: <https://www.facebook.com/events/2290547841178550/>

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## 2018 CBC Massey Lectures Tour

The [Massey Lectures](#) are an annual five-part series of lectures on a political, cultural or philosophical topic given in Canada by a noted scholar. The lectures will be recorded at each venue, and will be broadcast on IDEAS the week of November 12.

Prize-winning journalist Tanya Talaga (Seven Fallen Feathers) explores the legacy of cultural genocide against Indigenous peoples, in Canada and elsewhere, in her 2018 CBC Massey Lectures: **All Our Relations: Finding the Path Forward**.

### Lecture 1: Tuesday, October 16, 7:00 pm - Thunder Bay

Venue: Thunder Bay Community Auditorium, 1 Paul Shaffer Drive

Through the generosity of the [Nishnawbe Aski Nation](#) (NAN) this will be a [free event](#), a community celebration with Indigenous and civic leaders for the first of the 2018 CBC Massey Lectures. No tickets are necessary — everyone is invited. Find out more [here](#).

### Lecture 2: Thursday, October, 18 - 7:00 pm - Halifax

Venue: Paul O'Regan Hall - Halifax Central Library, 5440 Spring Garden Rd.

### Lecture 3: Tuesday, October 23 & Wednesday, October 24, 7:00 pm - Vancouver

**\*\*Two nights\*\*** Venue: [York Theatre](#), 639 Commercial Dr.

### Lecture 4: Friday, October 26, 7:00 pm - Saskatoon

Venue: [Broadway Theatre](#), 715 Broadway Ave.

### Lecture 5: Tuesday, October 30, 7:00 pm - Toronto

Venue: [Koerner Hall Telus Centre](#), 273 Bloor St W.



# The CUC eNews

Newsletter of the [Canadian Unitarian Council](#) – October 2018



## Western Region Fall Gathering

### *Building Better Community*

**October 26 - 28, 2018**

### First Unitarian Church of Winnipeg

#### **Weekend highlights include:**

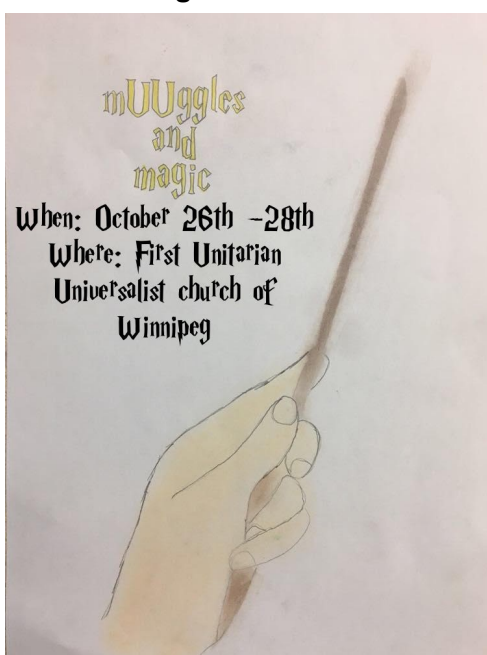
- “Building Communities of Joyful Resilience” with Rev. Jason Shelton
  - “Growing Solidarity Together” with Asha Philar
  - A “Two-Line Exercise” led by Jenna Wirch of Aboriginal Youth Opportunities
- And much more...

[Learn more and register here!](#) - Early Bird

**Registration Deadline: Oct 1**



## Western Region Youth Con



### *mUgles and Magic Con*

**October 26 - 28, 2018**

This year for the western youth con we have gone with a magical theme, Harry Potter! You'll be able to enjoy the wizarding world with other amazing people. The staff have set up fun inclusive workshops, touch groups, and many more activities! Like other cons it will last from Friday to Sunday, October 26-28th, which will be packed full of fun games like quidditch and amazing dinners with gluten free and vegan/vegetarian options. Each night we will have worship which is a loved experience of many where we sit down and connect with others and ourselves in a spiritual sense. We will have time to talk and be with others during the time we have at con as well, some of us will be bringing our Harry Potter regalia and we hope you feel comfortable doing the same but it is not mandatory. I hope you decide to come to con this year! We are all waiting with open arms. [Learn more and register here!](#)

## Central Region Fall Gathering

### *Creating Theology Together*

**Saturday, October 27, 2018 - Guelph, ON**

This 'Creating Theology Together' program provides an opportunity to explore questions that humans have always asked. The program will draw on the work of Dr. Michael Hogue of Meadville Lombard Theological School and will introduce participants to the practice of creating theology together.

[Learn more and register!](#)





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## November

### Parliament of the World's Religions

Nov 1- 8, 2018 ([read the article on p 6](#))

### Peer Chaplain Training – For Youth, Young Adults and Advisors

November 9, 7:00 pm - 11, 12:30 pm ET

Youth, young adults and adult advisors are invited to a Peer Chaplain Training, sponsored by the Canadian Unitarian Council and the Pacific Western Region of the UUA. Chaplain training provides youth and adults with skills to support covenantal youth and young adult communities. These trainings support invaluable life skills, such as deep listening, affirming and emotionally supporting others, helping manage a crisis, ensuring a healthy, respectful, and safe environment, and bringing spiritual resources and support to the various communities in which they participate.

[Learn more and register!](#)

### Webinar: Fostering Congregational Stewardship

November 10, 12:30 - 2 pm ET ([see p 3](#))

[Learn more and register!](#)

### Eastern Region Fall Gathering

#### *Creating Theology Together*

Saturday, November 17, 2018 - Kingston, ON

'Creating Theology Together' program provides an opportunity to explore questions that humans have always asked. The program will draw on the work of Dr. Michael Hogue, of Meadville Lombard Theological School and will introduce participants to the practice of creating theology together.

[Learn more and register!](#)



## December

### Communications Webinar with Peter Bowden - tentatively December 8, 12:30 EST (to be confirmed)

Peter Bowden is a speaker, trainer, and coach recognized for his work with UU congregations. Join his group on Facebook at [UU Planet Community](#).

**More information coming soon!**

# The CUC eNews

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Minister Observer

**Liv Gardiner** | [yob@cuc.ca](mailto:yob@cuc.ca)

Youth Observer



L to R: [Michael Riess](#) (BC region), Rev. [Debra Thorne](#) (Minister Observer), [Carol Speirs](#) (Eastern region), Rev. [Rodrigo Emilio Solano Quesnel](#) (Central region), [Chuck Shields](#) (Eastern region), [Tanya Cothran](#) (Treasurer, Central region), [Kiersten Moore](#) (Secretary, BC region), [Jane Ebbert](#) (President, Western region), [Margaret Wanlin](#) (VP, Western region)  
Not pictured: [Liv Gardiner](#) (Youth Observer.)

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