



The Hamilton Unitarian

The First Unitarian Church of
Hamilton
Established 1889

December 2011
Volume 62, No. 11

Sunday Services 10:30 AM—all are welcome

December 4 A Principled Life: Three

Rev. Victoria Ingram

The third in a series of sermons focused on our UU Seven Principles. Our third Principle calls us to acceptance of one another and encouragement to spiritual growth in our congregations. So, I accept you, but then I ask you to change? How do we do both? We'll explore how acceptance of one another opens the door to encouragement and how encouragement helps build acceptance.

December 11 Holidays of Light: Music For Its Own Sake Sunday

Rev. Victoria Ingram, Tim Versteeg

December's dark days are filled with festivals of light from many of the world's religions. As we enjoy a variety of music this Sunday, we'll also explore the role of light in our celebrations of this month's holiday traditions.

December 18 Children's Pageant

Children and Youth will present our annual holiday service "The Good King," based on an original program by Anna Schafer. Join us for music and merriment in a medieval setting as we explore the story of Good King Wenceslas, and share in the miracle of following in his footsteps. This will be a "Share the Plate" day as the children collect for food and energy assistance for our local community.

Bring a potluck dish to share as we celebrate "The King's Feast" afterward in Fellowship Hall.

December 21 A Winter Solstice Celebration

Rev. Victoria Ingram
Tamara McClellan

Halfway through the darkest part of the year, we honor Yule in the Pagan tradition. From this day forward, the days get longer and brighter as we move toward spring—the sun is reborn! Join us for a Pagan-inspired service to welcome the return of the sun and the promise of life in the coming springtime.

December 24 Christmas Eve Services 5:30 p.m. Intergenerational Service

Rev. Victoria Ingram

This is a family-friendly Christmas celebration filled with traditional stories and songs of the season. Children are welcome to worship with their families.

7:00 p.m. Contemplative Service

Rev. Victoria Ingram

As we prepare for the coming of Christmas, join us for a time of song, reflection, and fellowship.

Both services end with our tradition of singing "Silent Night" by candlelight.

NOTE: There will be NO services at the church on Christmas Day—Sunday, December 25th



Food Donation Sunday Sun Dec 11

In addition to collecting donations for our community lunch, this church has traditionally collected donations for the Neighbour to Neighbour food bank on the second Sunday of the month.

Please bring a non-perishable item on Sunday December 11 and put it in the bin under the main bulletin board in the foyer. There is a great need at this time of year. ~Thank you from your Social Justice Committee

Mark Your Calendars

All meetings take place on Sundays
after Church Service

January 08, 2012 -

Budget information meeting

January 15th, 2012 -

Vote on 2012 budget and some recommended changes to bylaws

March 04th Annual General Meeting

January Newsletter Deadline

Wed Dec 7

Please send submissions to
newsletter@firstunitarianhamilton.org
The Church calendar is online at
www.firstunitarianhamilton.org
and on pg 11 the newsletter.

Contact Information

MEMBERS OF THE BOARD

PRESIDENT Tim Versteeg
 VICE-PRESIDENT:Monica Bennett
 CO-TREASURERS:Mel Webber & Mel Rutherford
 MEMBERS: Anne Bokma/Julianna Beckett
 SECRETARY: Stephanie Ounpuu
 PAST PRESIDENT:..... Kath McIntyre

STAFF OFFICE HOURS TUE WED THUR 10 AM TO 4 PM

STAFF

MINISTER: Victoria Ingram.....905-527-8441 X223
 Email..... victoria@firstunitarianhamilton.org
CONGREGATIONAL ADMINISTRATOR: Melina. 905-527-8441
 Email melina@firstunitarianhamilton.org..... X221
LIFESPAN LEARNING: Tamara.....905-527-8441 X222
 Email..... tamara@firstunitarianhamilton.org
MUSIC DIRECTOR: Rachel.....905-527-8441 X402
 Email..... rachel@firstunitarianhamilton.org

LAY CHAPLAINS: Barbara Jepson 905-304-0559
 Mark Zenchuk 905-777-1743

To reach someone in the following spaces at the church please call 905-527-8441 and dial the appropriate extension: **foyer - 226, kitchen - 227, room 7 - 228, room 9 - 229**

LEADERSHIP COMMITTEES:

Management Kath McIntyre
 Committee on Ministry Jennifer Kaye
 Nominating Michele Corbeil, Joan Foster
 Volunteer Coordinator: Gail Rappolt

THE CLUSTERS AND THEIR MANAGEMENT REPS:

ADMINISTRATION – BARBARA WALLACE

Communications. Jen McPherson & Sherrilynne Blake
 Property/Grounds Committee.Doreen Knol (Interim Chair)

FELLOWSHIP – DAPHNE PAYNE

Membership CommitteePaul Hawkins, Kathryn Cowley
 Greeters Co-ordinators.....John Mitchell, Pierrette Cayen
 Newcomers' Co-ordinators Mary Scott
 Seniors' Program Gordon Beckett/William LaFerla
 Book Group Dawn Ludbrook
 Fellowship Hour. Joanne Waters
 LibraryLinda Layton, Lynn Ablard
 UU Families..... Melanie Parish, Cathy Grise
 Young Adult Social & Spiritual Circle Kate Hicks

OUTREACH – MARGARET MCFADYEN

Denominational Affairs Representative Nora Prosser
 Lay Chaplaincy CommitteeBill Fulton
 Social JusticeBill Johnston & Margaret McFadyen
 Fair Trade Task Force.....Jen Dawson
 Grandmothers to Grandmothers Ann Craig Howarth
 UU-UN Office Rep..... Todd Fraleigh

OFFICE VOLUNTEER HOURS TUE WED THUR 12:30-4:30PM

OFFICE VOLUNTEERS 905-527-8441 X224
 Email volunteer@firstunitarianhamilton.org

PASTORAL – VACANT

Benevolent Fund Manager..... Rev Victoria Ingram
 Caring Community Comm..... Glen Doe
 Joys and Sorrows Co-ordinator..... Pat Oertel
 Shared Ministry Groups Sandy Lubert & Joan Foster

LIFE SPAN LEARNING – JULIE BERGSHEOFF

Adult Rel. Ed. Co-chair..... Nancy McMartin & Don McFadyen
 Children & Youth Rel. Expl..... Kelly Wolf & Jennifer Reid
 Our Whole Lives (OWL)..... Elizabeth Beckett
 Youth Group Leaders.....

STEWARDSHIP – ROY DICKINSON

Stewardship Committee Chair Paul Hawkins
 Festival Committee Dave Adeney
 Finance Comm & Capital Funds.....Bruce MacPherson & Al Sharp

WORSHIP – LEE INKSTER

Choir Director Cindy Carey
 Music Committee Cindy Carey
 Sound Team Co-ordinators.....Craig Hanson & Gary Hicks
 Ushers Co-ordinator..... Elinor Berquist
 Worship Assistants Co-ordinator..... Ann Craig Howarth
 Worship Committee.....Mary Ellen Scanlon

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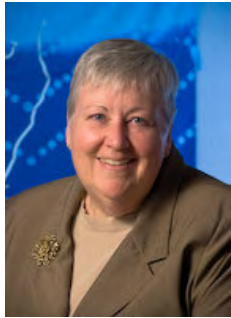
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Personnel do change. Please inform the office of any errors, omissions or changes.

Production: Melina, Office Manager. Assembled by Pat Keefe, Barb Kulcher, Dawn Ludbrook, Sheila McAllister, Ruth Pollard, Doris Wells, and Eleanor Wrigley.

Minister's Column

I will light candles this Christmas:
 Candles of joy, despite all sadness;
 Candles of hope where despair keeps watch;
 Candles of courage for fears ever present;
 Candles of peace for tempest-tossed days;
 Candles of grace to ease heavy burdens;
 Candles that burn all year long.
 Howard Thurman



I've been asked many times, "Why would a Unitarian Universalist celebrate Christmas?" Indeed, how can someone with doubts, with questions, who clearly doesn't buy the whole Christmas story, how can you keep this day in your heart as special, sacred, and meaningful!?

If they wonder how I can – I can! If they wonder if I dare – I do! The holiday season that is fast approaching is as dear and

wonderful to me as it is to so many others. The excitement of the season, the nostalgia for celebrations past, the memories of family and friends – all of these hold a special place in my heart. And, the season can bring reminders of sadness, as well: loved ones no longer with us, opportunities lost, promises never fulfilled. And yet, I choose to focus on the joy of the season and the beauty of the celebration.

Christmas also gives me the chance to practice being grateful, generous, and caring. And it is good for all of us to exercise our generosity muscles to see how far we can stretch them, especially at this time of year. In the words of Lenny Scovel, "the gifts we give each other at this time of year are more than just demonstrations of our generosity, they are symbols of the gifts we are capable of giving on all the other days of our lives. Gifts of love, compassion, industry, advocacy...the gifts of our common humanity."

As Howard Thurman noted, Christmas calls on us to be hopeful

in a world where despair is waiting to catch us up at its earliest opportunity; where courage must be renewed and fortified in the face of our fears and worries. (I think it might be the figgy pudding that helps with the courage part, but I might be wrong about that...)

Unitarian Universalists come from a faith heritage deeply rooted in Christian traditions. While we do not affirm the divinity of Jesus, we have always considered his life a model of love, compassion, and humanity. UUs have seen his life as worthy of praise and his message worthy of appreciation. By showing us how to live – how to save our lives in the present moment – Jesus is for us a kind of savior, as well.

In a faith that draws from so many sources, we can look not only to our own Judeo-Christian roots for inspiration in this season, but to other religious and secular traditions as well - Hanukkah, Kwanzaa, Solstice, Bodhi Day, Saturnalia, Las Posadas, Human Rights Day – all of them hold meaning if we are willing to engage, inquire, and appreciate.

I hope you find joy, hope, courage, peace, and grace in this holiday season. I hope that whatever troubles your heart is lightened by the glow of Christmas candles and that the beauty and blessing of this time of year is with you all of the year long. Blessed be.

Love and Light,
 Victoria

December Prayer

May every one of us know a midnight clear, a midnight and a dawn and a daytime when we know our desert and know the shape of our journey. May we hear the love songs sung by all good angels and learn to sing them wherever our lives take us. May peace be the spirit of our hearts and the work of our hands. And may joy and hope ever accompany our footsteps.
 Amen.

Libbie D. Stoddard





Splinters from the Board, Oct 26 meeting

The First Unitarian Church will undertake a Capital Campaign during 2012. Objectives of the Capital Campaign will be informed by our revised Mission Statement, which is currently under discussion and will be finalized in early 2012.

The Board sincerely appreciates Gail Rappolt's excellent ongoing work for our church as Leadership Development Volunteer Coordinator. Gail's term will end during 2012. Some initial visioning is ongoing to articulate this role as we move forward.

The Board Approved proposals to proceed with plans to build a new flat roof (due to ongoing leaking), and to install a drop ceiling in Fellowship Hall (improve insulation).

A Board Retreat took place on 29 October. The foci for the retreat were a discussion of church governance, and initial visioning for the 2012 Capital Campaign.

~Submitted by Stephanie Ounpuu

Privilege of Membership

from the Membership Committee

One of the privileges of membership is being able to vote at the Annual General Meeting and other congregational meetings. Our next AGM is March 4, 2012. Because there is a 45 day waiting period between submitting applications for membership and approval of membership with voting rights, individuals who are not currently members and want to participate as voting members at the AGM need to submit membership application forms before January 19, 2012.

For more information about all the privileges, requirements and the process for applying for membership, stop by the Visitor Kiosk on Sunday before or after the service and talk with Mary Scott or speak with Membership Committee Co-Chairs Paul Hawkins or Kathryn Cowley or with our Minister, Rev Victoria Ingram.

One of the requirements of membership is a financial contribution of record each year. The amount is not specified, although our congregation is moving towards the use of the CUC/UUA Fair Giving guide as part of our financial commitment process. Anyone placing cash in the collection plate on Sunday and wishing to have it included as part of their contribution of record should place the donation in a sealed envelope and write their name and address on the outside.



A Message from Nominating and Leadership Development Committee

Got an interest in how our Church Community is Governed?

Have you ever wondered how policies in our community are created? Or how programs such as the Casserole Ministry, UU Families, or the Seniors' Group get started? Do you wonder how the big decisions such as the approach to the Financial Commitment/Canvass Campaign or a Capital Campaign are made?

The Board of Directors is composed of dedicated member volunteers (9) who have made a considered decision to serve our community as elected representatives for a fixed term. They are elected to the board by us, all members of our congregation, at the Annual

General Meeting (March 4, 2012 in case you are wondering). The Board makes decisions and create policies with the best interests of our community in mind – for the good of the whole – that is the perspective they must bring to policy decision-making. Did you know that the Board meets monthly and all members are welcome to sit in on board meetings. If you are interested in knowing more about the Board of Directors and/or the Nominating and Leadership Development Committee, feel get in touch with one of the Co-Chairs of the Nominating and Leadership Development (Joan Foster or Michele Corbeil) or a member of the Board of Directors (as listed in the front of the newsletter).

From the
Library Committee



Memory Lane

CAN YOU SOLVE THE MYSTERY?

This picture was found in our archives but we have little information about it. It was once used by the Unitarian Church, but we aren't sure where it is located, if it is still standing, when UU used it and for how long. The only clue we have is that possibly the chimney in the background is part of the old brick works factory that was east of Gage Park.

Please write to me at writingcharlie@gmail.com if you know more about this!



Who am I?



from the Caring Committee
caring@firstunitarianhamilton.org

Passages

- Glen Doe was named the Ruth McCraig Volunteer of the Year at the Art Gallery of Hamilton AGM in June.
- Glen Doe is now a St. John Ambulance certified (Child) Car Seat Technician and is able to make his skills available to others.
- Brad Berquist's Mother, Rhoda died
- Carl and Victoria Ingram celebrated 15 years of marriage
- Stan Collings died after a long stay in a nursing home
- Lyla Miklos made an award available to Mohawk LGBTQ students
- Joanne Waters fell but she is alright now
- John Pegg's birthday this year was 11-11-11
- Daphne Payne had a car accident; luckily she was not hurt
- Linda Tunnicliffe's daughter had a baby boy
- Janet Hillen commissioned Rachel Derry to write a song about Peace. Janet also donated to the UN Hamilton Branch so that many participants in the 10 Year Peace Celebration were given Peace T Shirts. She now plans to sell T Shirts so that the money raised can be given to school choirs who learn the song. This is an incredibly generous and brilliant idea.

 *Caeran Christmas* 

Looking for stocking stuffers or that perfect gift for the eco friendly members on your gift list? Look no further than the Unitarian Church foyer!

On Sunday November 20, and Sunday December 18, the Social Justice Committee will be selling Caeran Products, a line of eco friendly cleaning and beauty products, in the foyer before and after the service. With their selection of festively decorated soaps, bodywash and shampoo, there is something for everyone!

HELLO

HELLO

Name tags

with beaded cords
still available

Aleksandra (Ali) Steinbergs has been selling name tags with beaded cords for the past several weeks as a fund raiser for the church. The name tags are no longer available for purchase in the church foyer. However Ali would be happy to create a "special order" for you if you want one of these name tags. (Cost: your donation, but please note: Ali's materials cost is approximately \$5.00 each)



Announcing the new Communications Committee

We would just like to let you know that this newly formed Committee is now "up and running" and co-chaired by Jennifer McPherson and Sherrilynn Blake. Current members include Roy Dickinson, Gail Rappolt (recorder), Ali Steinbergs. and Melina Alletto (ex-officio), however, the Committee would welcome anyone who wishes to join.

The Committee's Terms of Reference, established by the Communications Task Force, which consisted of Church congregants, focuses on encouraging and ensuring communications within the Church (internal) and the broader community (external), and ensuring that communications encourage effective governance. The results from the survey many of you completed earlier this year will help guide the Committee in some of its priorities, however, they would like to hear from Committee Chairs and congregants on their areas of concern/improvement.

The Committee meets on the first Wednesday of each month, from 7:30 to 9:00p.m. Please speak to any of the committee members if you have any questions or agenda items, or email Jennifer directly at jen.mcperson@cogeco.ca.

Church Emails

Booking Rooms

bookings@firstunitarianhamilton.org

Order of Service Submissions

oos@firstunitarianhamilton.org

Deadline: Wed 9:00 am

Committee Minutes:

minutes@firstunitarianhamilton.org

Newsletter Submissions

newsletter@firstunitarianhamilton.org

Address/Email/Phone Updates

directory@firstunitarianhamilton.org

Many, many thanks from the Festival Committee

Thanks for the wonderful support from the congregation for the "Perspectives" Music Show and Auction* on November 5.

So many people did so much we could fill a newsletter. A few highlights:

Musicians (including our wonderful choir –you did a great job on some challenging and very beautiful new music).

Music Director Rachel Derry and Choir Director Cindy Carey. Bravo for your inspiring leadership. Thanks also for performing your own compositions (as did other musicians).

Auction donors. As in previous years, you displayed marvelous generosity. Many donations are services provided personally by the donors, making them extra appealing for congregants.

Auction bidders. Thanks for your enthusiasm and energetic bidding in the silent and live auctions. And thanks, Ed Canning, for your zesty good humour as auctioneer.

The sound team. Thanks for your work at the performance and also for the amazing effort you put in over many days to install and fine tune our new sound system.

Thanks to Floriana Seccombe and the food setup/ kitchen team.

Ann Craig Howarth would likely prefer we not highlight her but we can't help it Ann, you always do so such an aesthetically-pleasing job on the décor.

Thanks also to the enthusiastic folks who helped with table set-up and put-away...auction cash-out...and many more background-but-absolutely-essential tasks.

Thanks to Gail Rappolt for sourcing and organizing volunteers

Hope to see you all at the next festival concert! That'll be in the spring of 2013, (we're switching from fall to spring).

P.S. Here are our financial results for this year (projected to year-end). Dinner events – \$5500. Auction and music show – \$8000. Total contribution to church – \$13,500

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* For new folks – this is a fundraising event that generates a modest but helpful contribution to the church's operating budget (the main funding source is the annual Financial Commitment)

A guilt-free sweet tooth for the holidays

Chocolate can have a dark side

Close to 14 million people in 30 countries grow cocoa. Around 90 per cent of the crop is grown on small family farms. Unfortunately, cocoa farmers are often forced to negotiate with intermediaries who pay only a fraction of the actual value of the crop—not enough to cover the costs of production. Child labour and even slave labour are hallmarks of the cocoa industry.

When you buy fair trade chocolate and cocoa, you're buying peace of mind that farmers have been paid a fair wage, use sustainable farming practices and don't use forced labour.



Sugar's not always so sweet

The international sugar market is defined by low prices, volatility, vulnerability to natural disasters and plantation and mill owners who want to maximize their profit at the expense of workers. Haitian plantation workers in the Dominican Republic, for example, are little more than slaves.

Fair trade sugar helps create sustainable trade relationships with sugar farmers who belong to cooperatives that mill their own sugar. They get access to better prices and money for social, health and education programs.

Do your part...buy fair trade

For more information, contact First Unitarian's Fair Trade task force. We're the ones selling fair trade sugar, chocolate, coconut and coffee on the 3rd Sunday of every month. Stock up on gift baskets and goodies during our special holiday sale dates: Dec. 4, 11 and 18 (now located in the Fellowship Hall, Children's RE area).

WE DID LUNCH!

The first community lunch, sponsored by the Social Justice Committee and held on Tuesday October 18, was a huge success! We served soup, sandwiches, coffee and cookies to 85 guests and raised more than \$300 towards food for next month. It was good to see people in the community who are not members of the church and it was great to see people coming in who otherwise could not afford a hot lunch. What a valuable outreach effort.



The second lunch was held on November 15, and while the numbers were down, with only 64 adults and two children, it was still a success. We took in more than \$250 which is enough to cover our costs. We had people at the door well before 11:30, anxious to get their lunch.

The next lunch is **December 20** and we hope to add a special touch to the event. You will have to come to the lunch to find out what it is!

The committee sends a huge shout of thanks to all the volunteers who came to help in these very busy and somewhat chaotic first months. We had no idea how many guests to expect or how much food to make and weren't sure of the smoothest way to run the whole operation. All the volunteers were tireless, flexible, good humoured and a complete asset to the team. The soups were excellent and everything was hot and fresh. Each month will be even better as we refine our routines.

Anyone interested in a rewarding volunteer experience is invited to join our lunch team. We still need volunteers, especially now that cold and flu season is upon us and the weather will get more difficult for some to get through. Come out and lend a hand and enjoy a nice, hot meal while you are at it. Please contact Charlie Pond or any other member of the social justice committee if you can help in this amazing project. Or email socialaction@firstunitarianhamilton.org

How Can I Serve?

This month the column is a bit different; I am writing from the leadership development aspect of the role. As Rev. Victoria leads us through the mission building process I realize there are many people in the congregation who have not experienced some of the leadership work the congregation did between 2008 and 2010 before she arrived. Certainly Rev. Victoria is aware – it was part of the work of the Search Committee to present it to the candidates, but perhaps it is time for us to refresh ourselves and go back to those skills and learnings. Two experiences in particular stand out.

Sage Portfolio Group Five Workshops

Between December 2007 and June 2008 members of the congregation could participate in 5 full day retreats where we developed skills that allow us to be more effective in community together. The summary of these *discernment workshops* as they were called will be at the members' kiosk for those new to the congregation and for those who were not able to take part. The summary was a two page report highlighting the skills and activities that we practised. Remember the Four Horsemen of the Apocalypse-(the Community Toxins). When I reread the summary, I was shocked to see just how many skills and how much learning had been packed into those few sessions. Remember the iceberg metaphor, the repair bid process, metaskills, the voice of the system, 2% truth, using *Yes And*, everybody's right - only partially, and finally the skill of giving effective feedback. We thank Melanie Parish and her two colleagues for this learning opportunity provided by Sage Portfolio Group. For those of us who attended the sessions, let's go back to them; think about how we might use these learnings in our meetings, our committees, and our relationships - both in the congregation and beyond.



Leadership in the Framework of Natural Systems Theory

The second experience was a series of Big Team Meetings for committee chairs and leadership groups conducted by our interim minister Rev. Ed Brock. In addition to direct teaching, he preached a series of sermons which supported the learning. I think we all found the skills and behaviours (listed below) pretty daunting but as he said, if only 6-8 congregants could do these behaviours 51% of the time it would have a huge positive effect on the life of the community. These provide another set of skills to practice as we change some of our processes and approaches.

Skills/Behaviours

1. Goal and mission/vision orientation: "This is where we are

going and how we are going to get there."

2. Goal and mission/vision of leaders are defined by greatest good of group, rather than personal goal or agenda.
3. Flexibility, leaders are guided by what will improve goal and vision achievement.
4. Leaders take 100% personal responsibility for his/her life and life course.
5. Complete cessation of blaming any person, event, or thing outside themselves as cause for what they are feeling, doing, planning, etc.
6. Complete cessation of willing others to change or wishing others to be different than they actually are.
7. In the face of any turmoil, conflict, or difficulty leaders ask, "What is my contribution to this situation?" and then change that in themselves and then live the change while staying in emotional contact with the system where the turmoil, conflict occurred.
8. Leaders are not knocked off course by sabotage and don't become emotionally reactive to sabotage.
9. Leaders stay in emotional contact with the loyal opposition with as much emotional neutrality as possible.
10. Leadership shifts from self to empowerment, support, and guidance of others whenever possible.
11. Leaders let go of the need to make decisions and take actions designed to get people to like them.
12. Leaders make empathetic connection with others and try to stay in that connection with others. This involves awareness of the needs - feelings - thinking - request loop.

Assumptions:

1. The organization supports leadership.
2. There is a process for defining vision/mission and goals.
3. The roles and responsibilities of all persons and groups in system and their relationship to one another are well defined.
4. Leaders are receiving coaching and support to be leaders (as defined above) from a trained and objective person or persons outside the system.
5. In a congregation the initial leadership goal would be to get 4-8 people practicing these leadership principles 51% of the time.

By: Rev. Ed Brock

We have worked hard, learned much, and we can continue to use these tools to become a truly `life long learning congregation.

~Gail Rappolt,
Leadership Development Volunteer Coordinator

SHARED MINISTRY GROUPS



If you would like to get to know other church members in a small (ten people or less) group setting, please consider joining one of our Shared Ministry groups (sometimes referred to as “Covenant Groups” or “Small Groups”). Meetings are usually once every two weeks, for two hours. Currently at First Hamilton, we have both daytime and evening time meetings.



The Shared Ministry mandate includes:



- Discussing spiritual topics within a safe, supportive environment
- Providing service to the church community
- Facilitating connection between group members

If you would like to join a group and/or if you have questions, please contact Sandy Lubert (sandylubert@gmail.com)



Why the Occupy protestors are right: inequality matters

Protestors occupying public spaces across North America and beyond have highlighted the growing inequality that our economic decisions is producing. Why inequality matters, to all of us, is the subject of the latest *JUSTnews* discussion paper of Canadian Unitarians for Social Justice. You can find copies on the bookcase outside the library or go online to <http://cusj.org/wp-content/uploads/D-Ppr-22-Equality-in-Society.pdf>

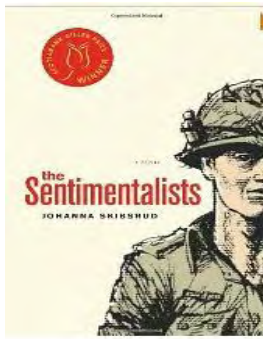
The whole paper is a really well done summary of a brilliant book, *The Spirit Level: Why Equality Is Better for Everyone* by Richard Wilkinson and Kate Pickett. The title says it all. On a whole host of measures, life is better for everyone in more equal societies, worse in less equal societies. Those measures include health, child well-being, women's status, obesity, infant deaths, mental illness, homicide rates, high school drop out rates, innovation, economic stability, democracy and sustainability. It sounds almost too good to be true but the evidence amassed in the book is very convincing. Basically, the authors looked at how different countries and the 50 states of the United States score on these and other measures of quality of life and compared that with measures of income inequality. Consistently, things were better in more equal countries.

Pick up a copy of the discussion paper to understand why creating greater equality is a vital part of any solution to most of our social problems.

You may not know of Canadian Unitarians for Social Justice but you should. It is, sadly, a fairly small group. But its work is important. It promotes peace and security, environmental protection, education and literacy in keeping with the spirit of Unitarian values. It does this mainly through discussion papers and through letters to public officials. If you go online, you can see other papers it has produced in the past.

It's a membership supported group and would welcome more members from this congregation to keep doing its valuable education and advocacy work.

Bill Johnston for the Social Justice Committee



Food for Thought book group

Monday December 12th 7:30
(Room 3 Church Library)

The Sentimentalists by Johanna Skibsrud

Joanna Skibsrud's first novel and 2010 Giller Prize Winner is lyrical and riveting. It is the story of the what lies beneath the surface of everyday life and of the commanding power of the past as the protagonist tries to piece together the story of her father's wartime experiences.

All are welcome, if you have read the book.

Call Dawn Ludbrook 905-627-4896 for more information.



Cello Extravaganza

A Benefit Concert supporting
Blooms for Africa-Stephen Lewis Foundation
and the
Ann Vallentyne SOCM I Fund for Excellence

Saturday December 3rd, 2011

7:30 p.m.

**First Unitarian Church of Hamilton
170 Dundurn Street, Hamilton**

Tickets:

\$10 Students/Unwaged \$15. Seniors \$25. Adults

Available from members many members of the Blooms for Africa Group or by contacting Marilyn Waters (905)627-5425) and at the door on the evening of the concert (if available)

~Thank you from your Social Justice Committee



World AIDS Day Vigil

25th Anniversary of the AIDS Network
At the Annual AIDS Vigil

Date: **December 1, 2011**

Time: 7:30 p.m.

Where: Christ's Church Cathedral
52 James Street North, Hamilton, Ontario
Reception to Follow



Guest Speakers: Scott Bryson, M.P. and Dr. Jay Browne, Co-Founder of the AIDS Network

DECEMBER 2011

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>27 2:00 PM - 5:00 PM June Caskey Sanct 6:30 PM - 9:00 PM Courage to Change-Sanc.</p>	<p>28 1:30 PM - 4:30 PM Senior Art Lessons - FH Event time 2:30 -4pm 6:30 PM - 9:30 PM Rental HAHN-FH, Kitchen 6:30 PM - 9:30 PM Youth Group - Sanctuary 7:30 PM - 9:00 PM ARE- Tai Chi-foyer</p>	<p>29 1:00 PM - 2:30 PM Canvass Committee rm 7 1:30 PM - 3:30 PM A Chosen Faith Rm 9 5:30 PM - 8:30 PM Children's Hero Program- FH, Rm 9, Rm 11, Kit 7:30 PM - 9:00 PM Astronomy. Sanc.</p>	<p>30 6:30 PM - 10:00 PM Soc Justice Fundraiser Sanct, Foyer & Kit 7:00 PM - 9:00 PM ARE Lotus Sutra-FH</p>	<p>1 6:00 PM - 7:30 PM Shared Ministry Rm 3 7:00 PM - 9:00 PM Choir Practice Sanctuary 7:00 PM - 9:30 PM Finance Committee Mtg Rm 7 7:00 PM - 9:00 PM Rental: Mindfulness for Beginners rm9</p>	<p>2 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM ARE Mtg rm 9 6:00 PM - 10:00 PM Sandy Lubert- Rental Foyer 7:30 PM - 9:00 PM Drumming Circle Fellowship hall</p>	<p>3 9:00 AM - 5:00 PM Rental HAHN-FH. 9:30 AM - 11:00 AM FUUD-Rm 9 5:30 PM - 10:30 PM Cello Extravaganza Concert - FH & Room 9 6:00 PM - 10:00 PM 5 at First-Sanc Kit</p>
<p>4 10:30 AM - 11:30 AM Service: A Principled Life:Three-Rm 1 11:30 AM Commitment Celebration Fellowship Hall 6:30 PM - 9:00 PM Courage to Change-Sanc.</p>	<p>5 1:30 PM - 4:30 PM Senior Art Lessons - FH Event time 2:30 -4pm 6:30 PM - 9:30 PM Youth Group - Sanctuary 7:30 PM - 8:30 PM ARE- Tai Chi-FH</p>	<p>6 5:30 PM - 8:30 PM Children's Hero Program- FH, Rm 9, Rm 11, Kit 7:00 PM - 9:00 PM Social Justice Com-Rm7 7:30 PM - 9:00 PM Astronomy. Sanc.</p>	<p>7 12pm NEWSLETTER DEADLINE 9:30 AM - 11:30 AM Writers Circle-Lib 1:30 PM - 4:00 PM Seniors Advisory-Rm9 7:00 PM - 9:00 PM ARE Lotus Sutra-FH 7:30 PM - 9:30 PM Communication Meeting - Room 9</p>	<p>8 10:30 AM - 12:30 PM Spiritual Practices Group Rm 7 2:00 PM - 4:00 PM Shared Ministry Grp. Rm 3 7:00 PM - 9:00 PM Choir Practice Sanctuary</p>	<p>9 5:00 PM - 6:30 PM United Nations-Rm7 7:30 PM - 9:00 PM Drumming Circle Fellowship hall</p>	<p>10 9:00 AM - 11:00 AM Property Committee Rm 7 9:30 AM - 11:00 AM FUUD-Rm 9 6:30 PM - 9:30 PM Amnesty Int FH speaker</p>
<p>11 10:30 AM - 11:30 AM Service: Holidays of Light Rm 1 6:00 PM - 9:00 PM Courage to Change-Sanc.</p>	<p>12 1:30 PM - 4:30 PM Senior Art Lessons - FH Event time 2:30 -4pm 5:00 PM - 7:00 PM Membership-Rm7 6:30 PM - 9:30 PM Youth Group - Sanctuary 7:30 PM - 8:30 PM ARE- Tai Chi-FH 7:30 PM - 9:00 PM Book Group Rm 3 Library</p>	<p>13 9:30 AM - 11:30 AM Library Committee Mtg- Library 7:00 PM - 9:00 PM Music Comm Mtg.-Music Office Rm 2 7:30 PM - 9:00 PM Astronomy. Sanc.</p>	<p>14 9:30 AM - 3:00 PM Seniors' Christmas Luncheon -Foyer, FH, K EVENT TIME 11:30 7:00 PM - 9:00 PM ARE Lotus Sutra-FH 7:00 PM - 9:30 PM Management Committee - Rm9</p>	<p>15 10:30 AM - 12:00 PM Newsletter Assembly-Rm 9 6:00 PM - 7:30 PM Shared Ministry Rm 3 7:00 PM - 9:00 PM Choir Practice Sanctuary</p>	<p>16 7:30 PM - 9:00 PM Drumming Circle Fellowship hall</p>	<p>17 9:30 AM - 11:00 AM FUUD-Rm 9</p>
<p>18 10:30 AM - 11:30 AM Service: Children's Pageant Rm 1 12:00 PM - 4:30 PM Unicamp Bd Mtg rm 9 5:00 PM - 8:00 PM Young Adult Pot Luck-FH 6:30 PM - 9:00 PM Courage to Change-Sanc.</p>	<p>19 8:30 AM - 9:00 PM Outreach Set up Social Justice comm. kitchen 1:30 PM - 4:30 PM Senior Art Lessons - FH Event time 2:30 -4pm 6:30 PM - 9:30 PM Youth Group - Sanctuary 7:00 PM - 9:30 PM The Iroquoia Club - Room 9 7:30 PM - 8:30 PM ARE- Tai Chi-FH</p>	<p>20 8:30 AM - 3:30 PM Outreach Luncheons Kitchen, Fellowship Hall</p>	<p>21 First Day of Winter 7:00 PM - 9:00 PM ARE Lotus Sutra-FH 7:00 PM - 10:00 PM Finance Com.-Rm7</p>	<p>22 First Day of Winter Winter solstice 10:30 AM - 12:30 PM Spiritual Practices Group Rm 7 2:00 PM - 4:00 PM Shared Ministry Grp. Rm 3 7:00 PM - 9:00 PM Choir Practice Sanctuary</p>	<p>23 7:30 PM - 9:00 PM Drumming Circle Fellowship hall</p>	<p>24 Christmas Eve 9:30 AM - 11:00 AM FUUD-Rm 9 5:30 PM - 6:30 PM Service Intergenerational Service Rm 1 7:00 PM - 8:00 PM Service: Contemplative Service Rm 1</p>
<p>25 Christmas Day 6:30 PM - 9:00 PM Courage to Change-Sanc.</p>	<p>26 Boxing Day 6:30 PM - 9:30 PM Youth Group - Sanctuary 7:30 PM - 8:30 PM ARE- Tai Chi-FH</p>	<p>27</p>	<p>28 7:00 PM - 9:00 PM ARE Lotus Sutra-FH</p>	<p>29 6:00 PM - 7:30 PM Shared Ministry Rm 3 7:00 PM - 9:00 PM Choir Practice Sanctuary</p>	<p>30 7:00 PM - 10:00 PM Rental - Sandy Lubert - Sanctuary 7:30 PM - 9:00 PM Drumming Circle Fellowship hall</p>	<p>31 9:30 AM - 11:00 AM FUUD-Rm 9</p>



News From the— Lifespan Learning

tamara@firstunitarianhamilton.org or 905 527-8441 ext 222

*I Ye who now shall bless the poor,
Shall yourselves find blessing*

This is the last line of the old Christmas carol “Good King Wenceslas” and the theme of the service Children and Youth in Religious Exploration will present on Sunday, December 18th. We will be acting out the story, reflecting on its meaning, and engaging in just enough silliness and merriment to remind us it is, after all, the holiday season.

So, please follow the pied piper (otherwise known as Anna Schafer) to our town on the 18th and meet our townsfolk, which include five little pigs, three men in a tub, Little Jack Horner, and some other childhood friends we remember from long ago. The holiday season takes us back to earlier times – times when we were much younger, and times from even longer ago. Our service will evoke that and we hope to wake up your own inner child!

You will also meet the Good King and his faithful

pages as they experience a miracle in which we can all share. Of course we will all do a lot of singing and music making, with the help of lots of minstrels, angels, and shepherds.

The children and youth will be taking a “Share the Plate” collection on this special day, so that we may follow in the footsteps of the Good King, by providing people in our local community assistance with their food and energy bills.

Bring a dish to share afterwards for “The King’s Feast” held in Fellowship Hall. This will be our last Sunday service before Christmas, so spread the cheer!

This is an intergenerational, interactive event for all ages, and everyone is welcome. If you would like to be involved in any of our preparations, please let me know at tamara@firstunitarianhamilton.org

Happy Holidays!



From the Adult Religious Exploration Committee

We have some really interesting workshops and courses that we are presently lining up for winter/spring of 2012.

Are you interested in a Dream Workshop facilitated by Caroline King or would you like to make a mandala with Nancy McMartin?

How about a course given by Ali Steinbergs called Speaking and Tongues or an opportunity with Don McFadyen to Choose To Be your Best Self-No Matter What? (I think we can all choose that one).

All this and More.

Sign-ups Jan 15th after church in the foyer. We will be there to help you. Come and have fun with us.

Nancy McMartin, Don McFadyen, Barb Jepson, and Irene Laurie

Brass plaques on the back of the chairs in the Sanctuary, ever wonder where they came from?

Many years ago the congregation had an opportunity to dedicate a chair in the Sanctuary to a deeply held value or to something of personal meaning through a program initiated by the Abundance Committee. Folks and committees paid for a 'chair to be dedicated' and their dedication was etched in the brass plaque. In February 2006, approximately 13 chairs dedications were 'purchased' at the A-BUN-Dance. Shortly after the dance the committee folded and the final step, getting the brass plaques on the chairs, did not happen. I've been able to determine who/what they wished to have on the plaques for 8 of the potential 13 chairs. Did you purchase a chair to be dedicated at that dance? If you did, and you haven't chatted with me about this in the past 3 months, please contact Michele Corbeil (micheleannecorbeil@hotmail.com) and I'll see to it that the plaque is ordered and affixed to the chair!



Young Adult Holiday Gathering

All young adults and friends of young adults are welcome to join us on December 18th from 6-9pm for a holiday potluck. Bring some food, music, games, friends and the family to enjoy a relaxing fun filled evening of breaking bread and sharing stories. Childcare will not be provided, but the nursery will be open for use.

*Please note there will **not** be a potluck on December 11th

Our website: <http://firstunitarianhamilton.org/> **Check it out!**