



# The Hamilton Unitarian

The First Unitarian Church of Hamilton  
Established 1889

February 2011  
Volume 62, No. 2

## Sunday Services

### February 6: RACIAL HARMONY: REFLECTIONS IN BLACK AND WHITE

**Speaker/Storyteller:** Rev. George Horton

**Service Leaders:** Sue Stewart-Greene and Rev. Barbara Kulcher

**Music:** Rachel Derry

In honour of Black History Month the Minister Emeritus of Stewart Memorial Church will explore one of the sources of our UU living tradition – Jewish and Christian teachings which call us to respond to God's love by loving our neighbours as ourselves. He will share reflections and narratives in Black-White relationships while exploring this concept. *The Festival Committee will host a thank you lunch following the service. All congregants are invited.*

### February 13: LIVE FROM PUTTAPARTHI, IT'S SAI BABA

**Speaker:** Rev. Mark Morrison-Reed

**Service Leader/Storyteller:** Linda Thomson

**Music:** Music ministers from the congregation

A whimsical tale of a visit to Sathya Sai Baba's ashram in Andhra Pradesh and what happens when a Unitarian Universalist minister meets an avatar.

### February 20: HALLELUJAH FOR IT ALL: NAVIGATING LIFE'S UPS AND DOWNS

**Speaker:** Rev. Victoria Ingram **Service Leader/Storyteller:** Gail Rappolt

**Music:** Choir, led by Cindy Carey

It's easy to be grateful when life's going your way. It's a lot harder to count your blessings when it doesn't seem there's much to be grateful for. How do we live with equanimity and walk a path of calmness and composure in the face of life's challenges? How do our struggles, as well as our glories, help us to follow our spiritual quest?

### February 27: THAT WHICH INSPIRES US: THE SIX SOURCES OF UU

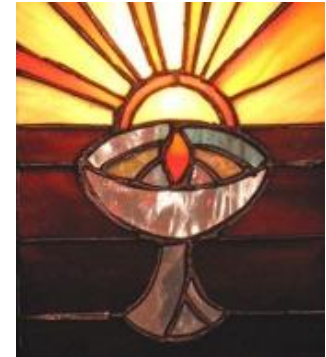
**Speaker/Storyteller:** Rev. Victoria Ingram

**Service Leader:** Rev. Pat Webber

**Music:** Tim Versteeg/Cathy Grise

Our UU theological foundation, and spiritual inspiration, comes from a variety of eclectic sources. They include our denomination's Judeo-Christian roots, but also inspirational men and women, the world's many religious traditions, and earth-centered spiritual traditions. How do we draw from this wealth of input and create a coherent place from which to practice our faith? *A new members induction ceremony will take place during this service.*

Sunday Services 10:30 AM—all are welcome



## Annual General Meeting

March 6th 2011

12 pm - 2 pm Sanctuary

## Church Emails

### Booking Rooms

[bookings@firstunitarianhamilton.org](mailto:bookings@firstunitarianhamilton.org)

### Order of Service Submissions

[os@firstunitarianhamilton.org](mailto:os@firstunitarianhamilton.org)

Deadline: Wed 9:00 am

### Committee Minutes:

[minutes@firstunitarianhamilton.org](mailto:minutes@firstunitarianhamilton.org)

### Newsletter Submissions

[newsletter@firstunitarianhamilton.org](mailto:newsletter@firstunitarianhamilton.org)

The Church calendar is online at  
[www.firstunitarianhamilton.org](http://www.firstunitarianhamilton.org)

Calendar in newsletter - page 11

**March Newsletter Deadline:  
Wed Feb16**

**Please send submissions to**  
[newsletter@firstunitarianhamilton.org](mailto:newsletter@firstunitarianhamilton.org)

Include the words "**March Newsletter**" and a short description of the item in the subject line, e.g.,  
March Newsletter, Membership

## Contact Information

### MEMBERS OF THE BOARD

PRESIDENT ..... Tim Versteeg  
VICE-PRESIDENT: ..... Stephanie Ounpuu  
CO-TREASURERS: ..... Mel Webber & Mel Rutherford (Interim)  
MEMBERS: ..... Cathy McPherson-Doe, Monica Bennett  
SECRETARY: ..... Pat Dickinson  
PAST PRESIDENT: ..... Kath McIntyre

### LEADERSHIP COMMITTEES:

Management ..... Catherine McPherson Doe  
Committee on Ministry ..... Jennifer Kaye  
Nominating ..... Michele Corbeil, Joan Foster  
Volunteer Recruitment: ..... Gail Rappolt

### THE CLUSTERS AND THEIR MANAGEMENT REPS:

#### ADMINISTRATION – VACANT

Communications ..... vacant  
Property/Grounds Committee. .... Doreen Knol (Interim Chair)  
Staff Advisory Committee ..... Lesley Cordero & Marilyn Hunt

#### FELLOWSHIP – BARBARA WALLACE

Membership Committee ..... Daphne Payne  
Greeters Co-ordinators... John Mitchell and Pierrette Cayen  
Newcomers' Co-ordinators ..... Ali Steinbergs & Mary Scott  
Seniors' Program ..... Gordon Beckett  
Book Group ..... Dawn Ludbrook  
Fellowship Hour ..... Joanne Waters  
Library ..... vacant  
Young Adult Social & Spiritual Circle ..... Kate Hicks

#### OUTREACH – MARGARET MCFADYEN

Denominational Affairs Representative ..... Nora Prosser  
Lay Chaplaincy Committee ..... Janet Hillen  
Social Justice ..... Bill Johnston & Margaret McFadyen  
Fair Trade Task Force ..... Jen Dawson  
Grandmothers to Grandmothers ..... Ann Craig Howarth  
UU-UN Office Rep ..... Todd Fraleigh

#### PASTORAL – BILL FULTON

Benevolent Fund Manager ..... Rev Victoria Ingram  
Caring Community Comm ..... Don McFadyen, 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 & Mary Anne Forbes  
Our Whole Lives (OWL) ..... Pip Heritage & Elizabeth Beckett  
Youth Group Leaders ..... Julie Bergsheoff, Michel Corbeil,  
..... Jeff Mahoney, Stephen Park

#### STEWARDSHIP – ROY DICKINSON

Canvass Comm Co-Chairs ..... Paul Hawkins, Marilyn Waters  
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 ..... Ed Canning & Lyla Miklos

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

### STAFF

**MINISTER:** Victoria Ingram ..... 905-527-8441 X223  
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February is Creative Spirituality Month

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

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

# Minister's Column



February is Black History month, our community opportunity to remember and honor the experience, wisdom, and innumerable contributions that our brothers and sisters of African heritage have made to this life we share on Earth. There are no words of my own that could adequately express the deep wisdom included in these quotes that I'd

like to share with you this month from some of my favorite Black authors, scholars, musicians, and activists. I hope you find them as inspiring as I do.

Love and light,  
*Victoria*

"I don't let my mouth say nothing my head can't stand."  
Louis Armstrong, Musician

"Despair and hope are inseparable. One can never understand what hope is really about unless one wrestles with despair. The same is true with faith. There has to be some serious doubt, otherwise faith becomes merely a dogmatic formula, an orthodoxy, a way of evading the complexity of life, rather than a way of engaging honestly with life."  
Cornel West, Scholar

"There is a simple spiritual principle: the meaner you get toward your brother and sister, the meaner it will come back to you."  
Sandra Robertson, Activist

"When you've got so much religion that you can't mingle with people, that you're afraid of certain people, you've got too much religion."  
Rev. Clarence L. Franklin, Minister

"It's really a wonder that I haven't dropped all my ideals, because they seem so absurd and impossible to carry out. Yet I keep them, because in spite of everything I still believe that people are really good at heart. I simply can't build up my hopes on a foundation consisting of confusion, misery, and death."  
Rev. Martin Luther King, Jr. Activist

"In this era of increasing multiculturalism, and the social strains this brings into people's lives, our free faith is evidence to the world that pluralism can work. We know it can work because we live it every day. We are living proof that our difference need not divide us."  
Rev. William Sinkford, Minister

"Self-pity in its early stage is as snug as a feather mattress. Only when it hardens does it become uncomfortable."  
Maya Angelou, Poet

"The Spirit whispers, the ancestors agree. You are starborn and God loved. The universe awaits your gifts."  
Barbara Holmes, Theologian

## PLEASE NOTE:

I will be away from the church from January 31 through February 13, attending a Ministers' conference in California. While I will have my cell phone and computer with me, I will only have limited availability while I'm away on study leave.

## Prayer for February



Spirit of Life, thank you for a new day. This is the day you have made – help me to rejoice and be glad in it. As I look to the day ahead, I see many things to do – tasks to be completed, unfinished projects and the daily work of making a home. As I go about my work this new day, help me to take this day a step at a time – to live each moment. Keep me from becoming overwhelmed with all there is to do. Help me to be patient with others and with myself. Remind me that I am not alone in my work. Keep me open – so that I may see Spirit at work within us, among us and around us. Help me to put people before things and remind me to let love always be my guide.

Jan K. Nielsen

Minister's column continued on page 8.....



## Message from the President Pleading the Fifth: Participatory Democracy and our Annual Meeting

I've been thinking a lot about congregational meetings lately. No surprise, really. As I write this we have just gathered to approve our 2011 Budget and committee chairs and other volunteers are working to get the 2010 Annual

Report ready for our Annual Meeting to be held on March 6<sup>th</sup> following the service. More specifically, I've been thinking about quorum. Currently, our by-laws require 20% of current membership for quorum at our regular congregational meetings. To call our minister, as we did last May, the by-laws require 40%.

Now for a moment, let's consider our Fifth Principle: "The right of conscience and the use of democratic process within our congregations and in society at large." I'm not going to argue the nuances of conscience and democracy here. But I am going to say that I am consistently surprised and a little bit disappointed with the large number of members who don't attend congregational meetings. As Unitarians we have all agreed that we will try to live our lives according to the 7 principles. If the "use of democratic process within our congregations" means anything, it means using your vote and being informed. Now at the meeting yesterday, we had 60 members present. Quorum was 51. If my figures are right, that's about 24%. This in a community that counts democracy as one of its guiding principles!

Compare that figure of 24% with the following figures from the wider world. In Canada, a trend of lower voter turnouts has long been mapped: in 1988, 75.3% of eligible voters cast their ballots in the federal election; by 2006, that number had fallen to 64.7%. Locally, the latest figures buck this trend: the City of Hamilton municipal election of 2006 saw 37% of eligible voters participate; 2010 saw that figure rise to 40%.

The caring of the members of our church is incredible. We are stewards of this place in a multitude of ways. I understand that meetings are tough for some people, they are for me too. To make it easier for all to participate, the Board has learned to feed people and care for their children during the meetings. (I can remember at least a couple of times in the past when I brought squirming toddlers with me to meetings, just so I could participate. My kids have all come with me to polling stations over the years as well.) I sometimes wonder if we're setting the bar too low...maybe we should raise the percentage needed for quorum...maybe all our meetings should require 40% quorum. I like to think we bring our best selves to church; that we work out here in microcosm the skills and principles we take to the wider world. Yet in this case the numbers suggest the wider world has a thing or two to show us about our 5<sup>th</sup> principle.

I invite all our members to participate in our Annual Meeting on March 6<sup>th</sup>. I look forward to seeing you there.

~ Tim Versteeg



### Splinters from the Board

This Report covers the Board Meeting held on Dec. 15<sup>th</sup>. Minutes from recent Board meetings are posted on the Bulletin Board outside the kitchen window. The January Board meetings will be held on Jan. 19<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup> and will be reported in the March newsletter. Jan. 19<sup>th</sup> is a special Board meeting with Rev. Ingram to discuss the potential of adding a second service in response to recent attendance increases. A Big Team Meeting, attended by approximately 35 church leaders, was held on the morning of Sat., Jan. 8<sup>th</sup>, to begin to develop a Vision for the future. A budget meeting, to approve the 2011 budget was held after church on Sun., Jan. 16<sup>th</sup>. As well, the church Annual General Meeting will be held on Sun., March 6<sup>th</sup>, 12-2 p.m.

At the December Board meeting it was decided to strike a Task Force to take a fresh look at the Staffing needs of the congregation. At the request of the Children and Youth Religious Exploration Committee (CYRE) the Board gave approval to establish a Hiring Committee for a Religious Exploration professional. Rev. Ingram will work with the co-chairs of the CYRE committee, Kelly Wolf and Mary Ann Forbes, to form this committee.

The purchase of additional sheet music to accommodate the growing numbers in the choir was approved as an expenditure to be taken from the Board Discretionary Fund.

A Staff Compensation Policy and a Travel and Meals Policy prepared by the Finance Committee were approved. After a lengthy investigation of the possibility of extending the Church's Liability and Indemnification Insurance to cover all church leaders, the Finance Committee along with our Office Man-

ager have discovered there is no insurance that covers anyone other than the Board of Directors.

Management Committee reported that the name of the Religious Exploration Cluster has been change to Life-span Learning Cluster. After hearing about the costing and types of access provided by an electronic pushbutton lock for the main church doors (with all other entrances locked so that they become exit doors only), the Board requested the Property Committee to proceed with this action.

Mary Ann Forbes was approved as Co-Chair of the CYRE Committee

The date for a Board Retreat, which will include new Board members, is set for Sat., March 26<sup>th</sup>.

Members are urged to attend the Church Annual General Meeting, Sunday, March 6<sup>th</sup>, 12-2 p.m. in the Sanctuary.

~ Pat Dickinson, on behalf of the Board.



## Sunday Guest Speakers

worship@firstunitarianhamilton.org

**February 6th** Speaker: Rev. George Horton



Rev. Horton was born and raised in the multicultural village of Zeelandia, Guyana. He migrated to the USA in 1962 to complete his undergraduate and graduate studies. In 1972 he migrated to Canada with his wife Sybil, and daughters Beverly and Julia. He was the Superintendent of Sprucedale School in Hagersville from 1973-1983. After graduating from McMaster's Theological program in 1984 he was ordained a Baptist Minister. He then served as the Pastor of King Street Baptist and Stewart Memorial Church. Rev. Horton is now a Chaplain with the Hamilton Police Services

**February 13th** Speaker: Rev. Mark D. Morrison-Reed



Raised in the Unitarian Universalist faith, Mark D. Morrison-Reed was ordained as a UU Minister in 1979. His graduate thesis, *Black Pioneers in a White Denomination*, was published in 1980. For 26 years, he and his wife, Donna, served as co-ministers – first in Rochester, New York, then in Toronto, Ontario. A former president of the Canadian Unitarian Council, he is an Affiliate Faculty Member at Meadville Lombard Theological School. Now retired from full-time ministry, he divides his time between writing and other interests. His newest book (available April 2011), *Darkening the Doorways: Black Trailblazers and Missed Opportunities in Unitarian Universalism*, is a further exploration of the history of the African American experience within UUism.

## Prayers for Peace Vigil

You are invited to join others in an interfaith prayer vigil for peace on Sunday, February 20 in the First Unitarian Sanctuary, from 3:30 to 4:30 p.m. This vigil focuses on sending prayers and healing energy to the Middle East and other places in the world where peace is needed, and includes singing, readings, and quiet meditation. All are welcome.

## Committee on Ministries

The newly formed Committee on Ministries has met several times and is working to establish its identity and function. One of the first discussion points that arose involved a small but significant aspect of the committee name. It seems more appropriate that we be known as the "Committee on Ministries" rather than the singular "ministry". Even though it is vital that we be united as a congregation in our vision and work, it is important to recognize that we are a church that is involved in numerous efforts, programs, and foci. All of them deserve acknowledgement and appreciation for their value and contribution to the complete picture that is the First Unitarian Church of Hamilton.

The committee is not yet at its full complement of members and is currently seeking to fill its roster within the next

few months. We also want to ensure that our terms of reference are clear and complete as we move forward to serve the congregation. We are committed to our new responsibility and are grateful for the confidence placed in us to fulfill this role in our church life.

Jennifer Kaye (chair)  
 Beverly Horton  
 Ginny Megin  
 Roy Dahl  
 Rev. Victoria Ingram (ex-officio member)



## from the Management Committee Interested in Starting a New Group?

Interested in starting a new group at the church? The Management Committee can help. Drop us a message in the committee mailbox, or email or phone the chairperson. Just send a few sentences describing the activity or purpose of the group and we'll try to help you make it happen.

## First Unitarian Church of Hamilton



Friday  
Feb 11th  
Garden Planning  
Pot-Luck  
& Meeting \*  
6 to 9 pm

\* Expert Panel &  
Inventory Video

*"The Vision I always had of how our lot should look is it should remind you of arriving at a summer cottage, lots of trees, beautiful, peaceful, cool, the breeze riffing through the leaves, an escape from the urban life so very present around us.*

*And the effect would be that some of the stress you carried before arriving melts away, that it's a place that's actually refreshing to be at, even before you enter the building.*

*That's a long way from the industrial looking site we have now but it's doable." Bill Johnston*

**Share Your Vision + Inform Yourself + Explore Possibilities**

for more information contact Susan Davis <[susanajdavis@gmail.com](mailto:susanajdavis@gmail.com)>

## Rachel Derry House Concert and Party on Mar. 5



Don't miss this exceptional offering in the current "Wonderful Meals and Terrific Times with Church Friends" catalogue from the Festival Committee. Hear pianist and chanteuse extraordinaire Rachel Derry (yes, that's "our Rachel") play and sing at Ed Canning & Julie Bergsheoff's new digs in what has to be the most interesting "renaissance" neighbourhood in Hamilton, near the beautifully designed Bayfront Park. \$45 ticket includes wine, hors d'oeuvres, sterling company. Just a few openings left so act now!

Tickets for this and other interesting themed meals and outings available at the Festival Committee desk in the foyer – an ongoing fundraising activity for the church.

Do take advantage of this wonderful way to deepen your connections with fellow congregants.

More info? Contact Dave Adeney

## "Thank you" Pizza Lunch from the Festival Committee Sun., Feb. 6

In the sanctuary from 12:30 - 1:30 pm. Our way of saying "many thanks" to the many auction donors and buyers, dinner hosts and attendees, Sound of Music Singalong attendees and a host of volunteers who made the Festival Committee's excellent fundraising results possible. All are welcome!

-Your Festival Committee



from the Management Committee

### Need to book a space for your meeting or event?

- Prior to requesting a booking please check the calendar on the church website for availability (online calendar is located on our website under the tab calendar)
- Please submit booking requests at least one week in advance (we realize last minute requests and/or cancellations do occur)
- Once you check the date and availability then send your request to [bookings@firstunitarianhamilton.org](mailto:bookings@firstunitarianhamilton.org) please include:
  - a) name of event, b) beginning and end time (include setup and takedown if required), space requested, contact name
- If you need to cancel your booking please email [bookings@firstunitarianhamilton.org](mailto:bookings@firstunitarianhamilton.org)

Following this process will allow the office volunteers and staff to serve you better.

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

## How Can I Serve?

From Gail Rappolt,  
Leadership Volunteer Coordinator

How does my coming to a congregational meeting serve the community and beyond making up a quorum, what difference does it make whether or not I come to the meetings? Our president Tim has called us forth to take our Fifth Principle more seriously in his message this month. I want to follow up with some thoughts from a volunteer development and leadership perspective on what you might gain by attending congregational meetings.

If I am a member, a volunteer, or in a position of formal leadership in an organization that has as one of its principles to affirm and promote "The right of conscience and the use of democratic process within our congregations and in society at large," what are my rights and responsibilities? We often talk about our rights as individual Unitarians but what are our responsibilities as members, particularly as they relate to congregational meetings?

First as a member or volunteer in the congregation, coming to a congregational meeting is a way of honouring the work of the leaders who have done the preparatory work. Second, to understand how our own passions as Unitarians fit with the larger picture in our congregation, the best way to do it is to attend congregational meetings and hear the views of those who think and believe differently. This year as the congregation sets a mission for the next four years, considers hiring a Religious Exploration Professional and begins work on a 5 year capital plan for building improvement you better be there if you want your voice heard.

As a committee chair or a member of a leadership team, be present at congregational meetings to gain perspective about other aspects of congregational life to avoid taking a narrow or silo approach to one committee or area of interest. Be there to have the voice of your committee heard when relevant issues are raised. Be present for budget and financial presentations and votes so you are aware of both present and future directions. As a designated leader you need to be an advocate - you need to support the work of the congregation - to encourage people both to volunteer, and to take on leadership positions. As a leader being present at congregational meetings allows you to speak up and support the work of the Board, and whatever committee's work comes forward.



*Reverence for Life  
Since 1956*

Canadian Friends of Hôpital Albert  
Schweitzer Haiti

## Feb 26th "Haiti Happening" Dinner and Silent Auction

<http://www.canadianhashaiti.ca/>

For over 20 years, the First Unitarian Church of Hamilton has been a friend and strong supporter of Hôpital Albert Schweitzer in Haiti.

Canadian Friends of Hôpital Albert Schweitzer (CFHAS) in Haiti is a Hamilton based charity which raises funds and awareness for the hospital. CFHAS is pleased to invite all members of the church community to join the fun at the 8th Annual "Haiti Happening" dinner and silent auction at Michelangelo Banquet and Convention Centre, 155 Upper Ottawa Street, Hamilton on Saturday, February 26, 2011.

The entertaining evening starts at 6 pm with the opening of the silent auction and the serving of cocktails (cash bar). The auction will include an impressive array of art created by local and Haitian artists. A Haitian Dinner will be served at 7pm followed by a short status report on the Hospital. Tickets are \$70 per person (a \$40 tax receipt will be issued)

Money raised from the evening is to support maternal and child health care, one of the most critical programs provided at Hôpital Albert Schweitzer, Haiti.

Tickets may be obtained by contacting Brad Berquist at [Bradley.Berquist@sympatico.ca](mailto:Bradley.Berquist@sympatico.ca) or 905-639-6228 or Kath McIntyre at [kathmcintyre@sympatico.ca](mailto:kathmcintyre@sympatico.ca) or 905-522-5869 For more information visit the CFHAS website at [canadianhashaiti.ca](http://canadianhashaiti.ca).

from the  
Aesthetics Committee



in the foyer

The artwork on display  
in the church foyer is work by  
Sandy Lambert

.....Ministers' Column continued from page 3

from Rev. Victoria

## Thoughts on Growing as a Congregation

Living systems depend on growth for their vitality and sustained life. We at First have inherited a living system from those who formed and nurtured this church over the years. We have an obligation to continue to ensure our congregation's ongoing life and spirit.

There are many ways to grow as a faith community, not the least of which is in numbers. Often this is the only kind of growth we think of when we consider what it means to grow our congregation. Certainly, adding new members, adherents, and friends to our church is something we enjoy. We are happy when people find Unitarian Universalism and choose to make it their religious home. We are grateful for the talents, insights, and creativity they bring to our collective mission.

We can grow in other ways, as well. As we engage in a respectful, free, and responsible search for truth and meaning, we can challenge, support, and encourage each other to grow in the maturity of our faith. This maturational growth helps us deepen our spiritual roots and broaden our religious imagination.

Growing churches need to build community structures that effectively create stability. Therefore, in the area of organic growth, we can continue to develop and implement practices and processes that increase our ability to communicate, plan, and organize.

We also have the opportunity to grow "incarnationally" – expanding the outputs of our church's ministry into the larger community. Ministry in this case is not

limited to the Minister, but includes each of us in how we carry our mission, our message, and our energy out to those who are in need of our support and our hopeful religious message.

Growth in a living, vibrant system is inevitable. We can either be proactive and prepared to lovingly embrace the opportunities that present themselves to us as a faith community, or we can wait and react to what lands on our doorstep. Unitarians are people who look to the future with anticipation and hope, and it is in our nature to creatively prepare to be proactive in the face of change. Let's keep growing!



### Report on Denominational Affairs

Nora Prosser, Denominational Rep

**February is a big Planning Month** for most of us. Individuals talk about budgets, home improvements and vacation ideas and our church leaders are busy with new projects as well as ensuring stability for existing ones; Beyond our walls, regional and national UU leaders are getting down to detailed preparations for annual events. The first one in our area will be the:

**UU MidWinter Retreat for adults** at the Cedar Glen YMCA Conference Centre in Bolton, an easy drive from here. This is a warm and friendly weekend of worship, fun and workshops in beautiful countryside. Several Hamilton members attend and if you're interested, but haven't yet registered, check the website at <http://doneheights.ca/mwr> Although it is probably full, they do have a waiting list for latecomers. Phone number for the Registrar is 416-368 4014.

On the Victoria Day weekend, May 21 – 23, the

**ANNUAL CONFERENCE AND MEETING** of the CUC (Canadian Unitarian Council) takes place. This is the **CUC's 50th Anniversary year** with the theme of "**Trust the Dawning Future**". It will be hosted by the **First Unitarian church of Toronto** and held at a downtown campus of the University of Toronto. There will be full programs for *all ages*, including a great choir program, many Intergenerational Events, comprehensive child care and a dynamic '**CanUUdle**' con for our Youth . Registration of at least 600 UU's from across Canada is expected, **Plan NOW** to attend with your family and friends.

*For details see <http://cuc.ca/conference/2011> and/or ask Nora Prosser about it.* The Denominational Affairs information table will be up on Sunday February 20th, with **ACM** information, photos and UU books to buy or borrow.

## Unsung Heroes

Gail Rappolt, Leadership Volunteer Coordinator

There have been many occasions when newcomers or visitors from other churches have commented that they cannot believe a congregation without a minister could consistently have had such excellent Sunday Services. The congregation has been the beneficiary of excellent worship services Sunday after Sunday, provided during our 3 years without a settled minister (June 2007- August 2010). The services have provided a range of topics and presentation styles and have been consistently professional. In addition to the spoken parts of the service, we have had wonderful worship in music integrated carefully with the spoken word. This professionalism and integration is what a church counts on a minister to provide. Until this September our Worship and Music committees have provided this for us without the consistent leadership of a settled minister. We owe all members of these committees a big measure of gratitude.

This month, as Lyla Miklos and Ed Caning leave their roles as co-chairs of Worship Committee it is time to thank each of them and all members of the Church Services (now Worship) Committee for their work over the past 3 years. Ed and Lyla agreed to stay on til February, though their term as co-chairs was up in June, to help Rev. Ingram's transition in the first few

months of her ministry. It may occur to you that lots of people have thanked Worship Committee so they are not *unsung* heroes, however the work they have done warrants further mention. Lyla has been the face of the committee and the person who has designed (and implemented) the structures and procedures that have made things run smoothly. Remember that Lyla is a volunteer, not staff, and at a guess she has probably spent 40-50 hours per month supporting processes that have made effective worship happen. Unless you have been a service leader or delivered a sermon, it is unlikely that you realize all that goes into preparing a service - from agreeing to be involved - to the Sunday at noon after your service is over. If you have, you know that there are a host of procedures and structures in place that help and guide you and make the Sunday morning flow gracefully. Aukje Byker, Valerie Nielsen, Mary Ellen Scanlon and Monica Bennett worked with Lyla and Ed as members of the Worship Committee to make all this happen.

Cindy Carey, as well as leading the choir, has acted as chair of the Music Committee over the past year and a half. Cathy Grise chaired the committee for the two years prior to that. The music chair and choir leader, along with Rachel Derry, our Music Direc-

tor, have been responsible for the music component of the Sunday Services. Members of the committee find and support musicians and groups who minister to us with their music on Sunday mornings. Fitting the musicians with the themes of the service, then getting them *signed up*, helping them chose music that fits with theme, and coordinating it all (with Unitarians) is no mean feat. Again the connecting and coordinating that is usually the role of the minister was left to Rachel to work out with the Worship Committee. Without Rachel's interpersonal skills and ability to encourage and support, we could not have had such well-integrated services. Let's acknowledge Rachel and the members of the Music Committee who did this work along with Cindy and Cathy: Lyle Franklin, Susan Gudgeon, Beverly Horton, Joanne Dear, Jeffrey Simmons, and Gary Hicks

We are all so happy to have Rev. Ingram with us to provide the leadership and coordination for our congregation and particularly for our Sunday Services. Let's not forget however the great services we had from July 2007 – August 2010 and let's make February THANK YOU MONTH for our Worship and Music Committees.



### From the Membership Committee Newcomer's Orientation

The next Newcomers Orientation will be held on Tuesday, March 22, 2011 from 7 – 9:30 p.m. at the church. This session will provide an opportunity to learn more about UUs. A signup sheet is available at the Newcomer/Visitor kiosk in the lobby. If you would like more information about the Orientation session, ask Ali Steinbergs or Mary Scott at the kiosk before or after Sunday services, or call Kathryn Cowley at 905-308-8162.

The Membership Committee encourages everyone attending Sunday services to wear a nametag. Visitors can stop by the Visitor kiosk to obtain a temporary nametag. Members, adherents and regular visitors who do not have or have misplaced their name-tags are encouraged to stop by the Visitor Kiosk to request either

a temporary or permanent replacement.

Rainbow stickers are available for the asking at the Visitor kiosk. The Membership Committee invites everyone to consider attaching a rainbow sticker to their nametag, a voluntary gesture to express commitment to equality for gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender and queer (GLBTQ) individuals in our church community and the wider world of which we are a part. Despite many advances in recent years, GLBTQ people continue to face discrimination. In 1998, after an educational program, our congregation voted unanimously to become a Welcoming Congregation affirming our commitment to the equality of GLBT individuals. We invite you to affirm your personal commitment to these goals by adding a rainbow to your nametag.



## From the **Adult Religious Exploration Committee** **BORED THIS WINTER? Come join a course**

The Adult Religious Exploration Committee has a wide variety of courses to offer this winter and spring.

New this season:

- A Free and Responsible Search for Meaning with Anne Wilson
- The Empty Bowl with David Zulak
- Everyday Holiness with Don McFadyen
- Faith Without Certainty with Rev. Victoria
- What Moves Us with Rev. Victoria
- FUUD with Paul Hawkins
- The Four-Fold Way with Carl Ingram
- Adulthood and Eldership with Carl Ingram
- The Experience of Aging with Joanne Dear
- Cat Chat with Charlie Pond and Penny Milton

AND ongoing courses:

- Drumming with Eduardo Cordero
- Book Club with Dawn Ludbrook
- Weekly Tai Chi with Mark Fenton
- Spiritual Practices with Don McFadyen and Ali Steinbergs and Paul Hawkins
- Writers circle with Val Nielsen
- Young Adult Potluck with Kate Hicks
- Seniors Group with Gordon Beckett

WANT TO KNOW MORE? check the sign-ups on the A R E bulletin board beside Victoria's office.



## **Blooms For Africa** **Popular Book Exchange Returns!**

A very successful Book Exchange, sponsored by Blooms for Africa in February 2010, is returning to the First Unitarian Church on Sat., Feb. 19th, 2011, from 10 a.m. - 2 p.m. (Snow Day, Sat. Feb. 26th).

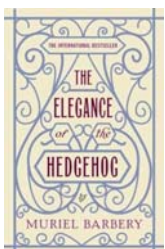
Here's how it works: Select 6 books (give or take a few) that you have read and enjoyed and would now like to share with others. Bring the books to First Unitarian Church and drop them off at the Reception Table. Browse through the hundreds of books donated by others, selecting 6 or 7 books to take home with you. Take as many books as you would like from the Freebies Table. Books will include fiction, non-fiction, coffee table books, cookbooks, and special interest books. Many current best sellers are available!

When you have found the six books you would like, stop at the Blooms Cafe for a free coffee/tea and a sweet treat.

Entrance is by donation. Charitable Tax Receipt will be issued for donations of \$20. or more. This is a wonderful literary event for a very worthy cause. All the proceeds go to the Stephen Lewis Foundation's Grandmothers to Grandmothers Campaign. You can enjoy the morning and also give hope to those grandmothers in Africa who are raising their orphan grandchildren. For more information, check out [www.stephenlewisfoundation.org](http://www.stephenlewisfoundation.org), and/or [www.bloomsforafrica.org](http://www.bloomsforafrica.org).



## **Food for Thought Book Group.** **Mon Feb 21st, 7:30 p.m. (Library)**



Our book for review in February is Muriel Barbery's "The Elegance of the Hedgehog", translated from the French. Our two protagonists live in a "fine hotel particulier" in Paris. One, the 54 year old concierge is a self taught culture vulture; the other a 12 year old girl who has come to terms with life's seeming futility and plans to commit suicide on her 13th birthday. Their alternating stories are interrupted when a deus ex madrina comes on the scene in the form of a wealthy Japanese tenant. The Chicago Sun says "This story, like all great tales, will break your heart but will also make you realize - remember - that sometimes the pain is worth it" Discussion of this book will take place on Monday, February 21st at 7:30 pm in the church Library.

We welcome new participants.

~ Dawn Ludbrook 905-627-4896

## FEBRUARY 2011

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>30</b> 10:30 AM - 12:00 PM OWL-Loft 12:00 PM - 2:00 PM Youth - loft 5:00 PM - 8:00 PM rental FH 6:30 PM - 9:00 PM Courage to Change-Sanc.	<b>31</b> 5:30 AM - 8:00 PM Rental-Sanctuary 7:00 PM - 8:30 PM Tai Chi-FH	<b>1</b> 7:00 PM - 9:00 PM Social Justice-Rm7	<b>2</b> 9:30 AM - 11:30 AM Writers Circle-Lib 10:00 AM - 10:30 AM Giggles & Grins Rm 1 Sanct 1:30 PM - 4:00 PM Seniors Advisory-Rm9 2:00 PM - 4:00 PM Cat Chat-Rm7 7:00 PM - 9:30 PM Property-Rm9	<b>3</b> 7:30 PM - 9:30 PM Choir-Sanc.	<b>4</b> 7:00 PM - 9:00 PM Drumming circle-FH	<b>5</b> 8:30 AM - 4:00 PM Reg.Membership mtg.-FH,kit(tent) 9:00 AM - 11:00 AM FUUD-Rm 9
<b>6</b> 10:30 AM - 12:00 PM OWL-Loft 12:00 PM - 2:00 PM Youth - loft 12:30 PM - 1:30 PM Thank You Lunch for Congregation -Sanct Rm1 6:30 PM - 9:00 PM Courage to Change-Sanc.	<b>7</b> 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM Search for Meaning-Rm9 7:00 PM - 9:00 PM Membership-Rm7 7:00 PM - 8:30 PM Tai Chi-FH	<b>8</b> 7:15 PM - 9:00 PM CYRE RM 7	<b>9</b> 1:00 PM - 4:00 PM Seniors Coffee & Conversation-FH,Kit 7:00 PM - 9:30 PM Management Com.-Rm9	<b>10</b> 10:30 AM - 12:30 PM Spiritual Practices S.G.-Rm.7 2:00 PM - 4:00 PM Shared Ministry - Lib 6:00 PM - 7:30 PM Shared Ministry Rm 3 7:30 PM - 9:30 PM Choir-Sanc.	<b>11</b> 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM ARE -Rm 7 5:00 PM - 6:30 PM United Nations-Rm7 6:00 PM - 9:00 PM Garden Planning Potluck & Mtg.-Sanct. 7:00 PM - 9:00 PM Drumming circle-FH	<b>12</b> 9:00 AM - 11:00 AM FUUD-Rm 9 10:30 AM - 5:00 PM Giggles & Grins - Rm1/foyl/Kit
<b>13</b> 10:30 AM - 12:00 PM OWL-Loft 12:00 PM - 2:00 PM Youth - loft 5:00 PM - 8:00 PM Young Adult Pot Luck-FH 6:00 PM - 9:00 PM Courage to Change-Sanc.	<b>14</b> 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM Search for Meaning-Rm9 7:00 PM - 8:30 PM Tai Chi-FH	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b> Newsletter Deadline 5:00 PM - 8:00 PM SEHC-Sanctuary 7:00 PM - 10:00 PM Finance Com.-Rm7	<b>17</b> 7:30 PM - 9:30 PM Choir-Sanc.	<b>18</b> 6:00 PM - 9:00 PM Blooms Book Exchange stup foyer 7:00 PM - 9:00 PM Drumming circle-FH	<b>19</b> 9:00 AM - 2:00 PM Blooms Book Exchange Foyer, Kit, F Hall 9:00 AM - 11:00 AM FUUD-Rm 9 2:30 PM - 6:00 PM Children's Birthday party-FH
<b>20</b> 10:30 AM - 12:00 PM OWL-Loft 12:00 PM - 2:00 PM Youth - loft 3:30 PM - 4:30 PM Peace Vigil-Sanc 6:30 PM - 9:00 PM Courage to Change-Sanc.	<b>21</b> 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM Search for Meaning-Rm9 7:00 PM - 10:00 PM Bruce Trail Rm 9 7:00 PM - 8:30 PM Tai Chi-FH 7:30 PM - 9:00 PM Food for thought-Lib	<b>22</b> 7:00 PM - 9:00 PM Faith without certainty-Sanc	<b>23</b> 7:00 PM - 9:00 PM Board Mtg.-Rm7	<b>24</b> 10:30 AM - 12:00 PM Newsletter Assembly Rm 9 10:30 AM - 12:30 PM Spiritual Practices S.G.-Rm.7 2:00 PM - 4:00 PM Shared Ministry - Lib 6:00 PM - 7:30 PM Shared Ministry Rm 3 7:30 PM - 9:30 PM Choir-Sanc.	<b>25</b> 6:00 PM - 9:00 PM Blooms Book Exchange setup Snow date foyer, kit 6:30 PM - 9:30 PM Music night-Sanc. 7:00 PM - 9:00 PM Drumming circle-FH	<b>26</b> 9:00 AM - 3:00 PM Blooms book exchange snow date foyer, kit, & FH 9:00 AM - 11:00 AM FUUD-Rm 9
<b>27</b> 10:30 AM - 12:00 PM OWL-Loft 12:00 PM - 2:00 PM Youth - loft 6:30 PM - 9:00 PM Courage to Change-Sanc.	<b>28</b> 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM Search for Meaning-Rm9 7:00 PM - 8:30 PM Tai Chi-FH	<b>1</b> 7:00 PM - 9:00 PM Social Justice-Rm7	<b>2</b> 9:30 AM - 11:30 AM Writers Circle-Lib 1:30 PM - 4:00 PM Seniors Advisory-Rm9 2:00 PM - 4:00 PM Cat Chat-Rm7 7:00 PM - 9:00 PM Empty Bowl-FH 7:00 PM - 9:30 PM Property-Rm9	<b>3</b> 6:30 AM - 9:30 PM Rental-FH 6:30 PM - 8:30 PM Hamilton Celiac Assoc.-Rm9(tent) 7:30 PM - 9:30 PM Choir-Sanc.	<b>4</b> 7:00 PM - 9:00 PM Drumming circle-FH	<b>5</b> 9:00 AM - 11:00 AM FUUD-Rm 9



# News From the— Children's & Youth Religious Exploration Committee

[cyre@firstunitarianhamilton.org](mailto:cyre@firstunitarianhamilton.org) or 905 527-8441 ext 222

## Report from: Lizanne Shields - CYRE Program Assistant

Hello – I spend a good deal of my time in the Fellowship Hall with the children and youth so you may not see me very often. In an effort to bridge that gap a bit, I thought I would let you know what has been happening.

As the children know, I am there to prepare the snack for them, I am also present every Sunday to assist the leaders with the CYRE programming. Here are some of the recent things that I have been doing: Over the course of December and January I have been working with Mary Ann Forbes our CYRE co-chair to update and decorate the CYRE bulletin board to give us more of a presence in the foyer. I am continuing to work with Mary Ann to update and get the Safe Congregation forms filled.

I clean up after programming and have my office hours Tuesdays 10-3 and Sundays 10-1. I work from home as well as in the office to update forms and files, make calls to volunteers, send and answer emails with regards to CYRE programming information and upcoming events. I have recently added a letterhead to our forms and notices and continue to file and organize relevant CYRE files and paperwork. I am also available for the CYRE program leaders, to purchase supplies or help in any way I can. Attending committee meetings is another way I assist the work of the CYRE .

So that I understand the full range of our CYRE programming, I have also attended the Youth group a couple of times. Administering our Youth Ambassadors who work with our children every week is one of my responsibilities. I contact them for their availability and type up their invoices and write their cheque requisitions for their pay. Adult pot-lucks require childcare and I assure that there are youth available to provide for childcare. As well, I also contact volunteers for leaders for upcoming Sunday Services.

I have recently been working on recruiting members for the Mystery Friends Program and promoting for this program. I am also working and encouraging volunteers and members of the congregation to sign up and participate in the Art of Worship Training Workshop. I will continue to send notices of our upcoming events to the Order of Service.

Another one of my ongoing tasks has been trying to clean and organize the rooms to become neutral for rentals or other usage for other days, and will continue to organize and clear these rooms out in the next few weeks.

I will continue to update you in the newsletter. Please feel free to contact me at [cyre@firstunitarianhamilton.org](mailto:cyre@firstunitarianhamilton.org)

### Mystery Friends

Our theme this year is Farm Animals. This Whole Church event is underway. Letters are being sent back and forth between Mystery Friends for four weeks; Feb 6, 13, 20 and 27 culminating in a Mystery Friends Breakfast on Mar 6<sup>th</sup>, 9:30am -10:15am. This event is a great way for members of our church community to get to know each other better.



### February is Creative Spirituality Month

Ona Corcoran and Jennifer Reid have organized a month of activities including special guests that explores spirituality through movement, music and art.