



# The Hamilton Unitarian

The First Unitarian Church of  
Hamilton  
Established 1889

January 2012  
Volume 63, No. 1

## Sunday Services 10:30 AM—all are welcome

### Jan 1 Dialogue Service "The New Year" Fire Communion Sunday

Music: Rachel Derry, Beverly Horton

### Jan 8<sup>th</sup> I'm Gonna Let Life Move Me

Rev. Victoria Ingram

Every day, we move around, place to place, sometimes near, sometimes far. This sermon is a consideration of how life moves us, physically, emotionally, mentally, and spiritually. How do you let life move you? It is through your interactions with other people? Your connection to nature? How do we open ourselves to the possibilities?

Service Leader: Roy Dahl

Music: Jude Johnson and Carl Horton

### Jan 15 A Principled Life: Four

Rev. Victoria Ingram

Continuing our series on the Seven Principles of Unitarian Universalism, we'll explore the possible tensions between "free" and "responsible" searches for truth and meaning which the fourth Principle calls us to affirm and promote in our congregations.

Service leader Sandy Lubert

### Jan 22 Sources of Our Faith: Mystery and Wonder

Rev. Victoria Ingram

In addition to our Seven Principles, UUs honor the Six Sources of our faith traditions, the first of which is the wonder and mystery of life around us. This Sunday, we'll talk about how this Source came to join our UU list, and what possibilities it opens up for us in worship and our lives of faith.

Service Leader Pat Dickinson

Music: Choir

### Jan 29 First Unitarian Lay Chaplains

Barb Jepson, Mark Zenchuk

Music: Ministers of the congregation

## Being Involved in Worship –

A Part of our Lay Leadership Commitment

UUs value ministry, and they value the input, involvement, and leadership of lay congregants in worship, as well. If you have imagined yourself assisting with or leading Sunday worship, if you feel a call to participate in making our worship life possible, please plan on joining us on Saturday, February 18<sup>th</sup>, from 8:30 a.m. to Noon. Rev. Victoria and members of the Worship Committee will be sharing information and ideas on how you can be involved in Sunday services as a Service Leader, Reader, Story-teller, or Worship Assistant. For more information, or to reserve your spot for this workshop, please talk to Rev. Victoria or Mary Ellen Scanlon ([mescanlon@sympatico.ca](mailto:mescanlon@sympatico.ca))

Happy New



## Calendar Highlights

See calendar for more events

**Jan 8, 2012** - Budget information meeting (*after service*)  
-Food Donation Sunday

**Jan 15, 2012** - Vote on 2012 budget and some recommended changes to bylaws (*after service*)

-sign up for ARE courses

**Jan 16, 2012** Book Group

**Jan 17, 2012** - Loonie Soup

**Feb 4, 2012**

Laugh your Winter Blues Away

**Feb 5, 2012**

Black History Month-Film

**Feb 19, 2012**

Winter Picnic Garden Planning

**Mar 4, 2012** Annual General Meeting (*after service*)

## February Newsletter Deadline

Wed Jan 18

Please send submissions to  
[newsletter@firstunitarianhamilton.org](mailto:newsletter@firstunitarianhamilton.org)  
The Church calendar is online at  
[www.firstunitarianhamilton.org](http://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

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

### 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

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 Committee ..... Paul 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  
 Library ..... Linda 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 Committee ..... Bill Fulton  
 Social Justice ..... Bill 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. .... 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

### TABLE OF CONTENTS

<b>1</b>	Sunday Services Calendar Highlights Being Involved in Worship	<b>8</b>	Festival Committee
<b>3</b>	Minister's Column, January Prayer	<b>9</b>	Childcare -Shared Ministry Groups The Gardens Winter Picnic from Social Justice
<b>4</b>	Splinters from the Board Unsung Hero	<b>10</b>	Black History Month Outreach Lunch Laugh Away Your Winter Blues Food donations Sunday
<b>5</b>	Library Committee Caring Committee - Passages Adult Religious Exploration Food For Thought Book Group	<b>11</b>	Calendar
<b>6</b>	How Can I Serve	<b>12</b>	News Lifespan Learning 2012 Events for UU Families
<b>7</b>	Growth Means More Policy Church Emails		

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

Production: Melina, Office Manager. Assembled by Pat Keefe, Dawn Ludbrook, Sheila McAllister and Ruth Pollard.

## Minister's Column

*Keep fresh before me the moments of my high resolve.*

*Despite the dullness and barrenness of the days that pass, if I search with due diligence, I can always find a deposit left by some former radiance. But I had forgotten. In the moment of its fullness, I was sure that it would illumine my path for all the rest of my journey. I had forgotten how easy it is to forget.*

*There was no intent to betray what seemed so sure at the time. My response was whole, clean, authentic. But little by little, there crept into my life the dust and grit of the journey. Details, lower-level demands, all kinds of*

*cross currents -- nothing momentous, nothing overwhelming, nothing flagrant -- just wear and tear.*

*In the quietness of this place, my heart whispers: Keep fresh before me the moments of my High Resolve, that in fair weather or in foul, in good times or in tempests, in the days when the darkness and the foe are nameless or familiar, I may not forget that to which my life is committed.*

*Keep fresh before me the moments of my high resolve.*

For The Inward Journey by Howard Thurman  
(adapted)



January is a time of resolutions. As we consider the end of one year's journey and anticipate new beginnings of 2012, it's a time to think about the ways in which we can live our lives more closely in alignment with our best selves, showing ourselves and the world what it is that we are in our brightest moments, our moments of "high resolve," in the words of Howard Thurman.

I think we all yearn to be good people – I know that is a part of our commitment to Unitarian Universalism. We want to be kind and gentle, fair and loving. We would like to always be even-tempered and understanding and patient. And yet, in the face of so many distractions and disappointments, when our time and resources of energy and compassion are dwindling in the face of all we must do and try to accomplish, we don't always show each other our commitment to being our best selves.

It shows up in a harsh word, a careless comment, an impatient sigh, or an email or voice mail dashed off in a moment when we are gripped by the temporary insanity of anger or frustration. Suddenly, we find ourselves doubting that others are doing things with the best intent, and we become deluded into believing that their actions were simply intended to be hostile or inhibiting or unthinking or worse.

As much as we might like to believe that we are NOT like this to each other in our church community, it happens much too often. We sometimes treat our fellow congregants, our staff, our volunteers, our renters, or guests in ways that do not reflect the best of who we are. We allow our critical selves, our impatient impulses, our frustration, and our momentary inconvenience to dictate our actions, instead of remembering to treat others as we, ourselves, would like to be treated.

So, this year, I'm asking that we make a congregational resolution. It's time to take the next step in promoting a positive culture in our congregation. Overall, First Unitarian of Hamilton is a warm, welcoming place. People who visit here are impressed with how they are seen, heard, and included even on their first Sunday with us. I'm always impressed with the way I see us all strive to include each other, honor each other, and love one another in our interactions on Sunday morning.

And, as in a family, we can continue to grow and be even more committed to being our best selves at home with one another as well as with our guests. It's important to remember on a day to day basis to talk to each other respectfully, catching ourselves before we use sharp words, impatient body language, or critical statements. I encourage you to assume positive intent, and ask questions to explore why something happened, if you feel a problem has occurred, instead of reacting with anger or impatience.

I believe our church community is the place to find respite from a tough world. It is here that we should be able to show up and be seen and heard and encouraged with love and gentle guidance to reconnect with our better selves. I want us to continue to work on treating each other as the precious souls we are to one another.

Let us move into this new year of promise, keeping before us the moments of our high resolve, and resolving to be a church community of hope, memory, love, and encouragement.

May your year ahead be blessed and may you be a blessing to the world.

Love and Light, Victoria

## January Prayer



In this new week, let me: mend a quarrel; search out a forgotten friend; dismiss suspicion and replace it with trust. Write a love letter. Share some treasure. Give a soft answer. Encourage youth. Manifest loyalty in every word and deed.

In this new month, let me: keep a promise; find the time; forego a grudge; and forgive an enemy. Listen. Apologize when I'm wrong. Try to understand. Give up envy. Examine my demands on others. Think of someone else first. Appreciate others; be kind and gentle. Laugh a little more.

In this new year, let me: deserve confidence; express my gratitude; and have faith. Seek to end malice and complacency. Gladden the heart of another. Take pleasure in the beauty and wonder of the earth. Speak up. Speak it again. Keep speaking.



## Splinters from the Board, November 26 meeting

CANVASS: All members and adherents are encouraged to submit pledges as soon as is possible to allow planning for the 2012 budget.

All committees are asked to submit expenses in a timely fashion in order to facilitate management/monitoring of the budget. **Note that all expenses for 2011 must be submitted** prior to year end in order to be counted against the 2011 budget – otherwise they will be charged to your 2012 budget.

A By-Law change is being considered to allow for Board Co-chairs. This will allow better succession planning, and to share the workload for the chair. Discussion on this topic is referred to the Executive Committee

~ submitted by Stephanie Ounpuu

### Unsung Hero

From Gail Rappolt, Leadership Volunteer Coordinator

The person being acknowledged this month chooses to remain in the background. She is the epitome of humility, yet for those who know her she is and has been a powerful advocate for social justice over decades - long before she joined this church. Her work in this church is done in quiet ways, usually behind the scenes. She was an advocate for a version of the Caring Committee in this community long before it came in to place; she acted as a co-leader of the former Monday Shared Ministry Group; she has been an active member of the Social Justice Committee for many years and has been a quiet but firm voice for equity and fairness of treatment for all, both inside and outside the church.

At a more visible level, you might have had a call from her a few years ago when she organized the Sunday Morning Coffee volunteers. However you may *not* know that she has been serving as lead for the calling committee when we need to notify people who do not have email about significant events in the church community midweek. You also may *not* know that every Wednesday morning she takes the fresh food basket from Plan B (our church gets a free basket because we are a depot for Plan B) up the mountain to Neighbour to Neighbour Food Bank. She collects wine bottles and cashes them in for one of her co-volunteers on Grandmothers of Steel (Stephen Lewis Foundation) where she is also an active member. She can always be counted on for great food at a potluck – don't miss her cucumber sandwiches if you get a chance.

So if you have not yet figured out that it is Mary Beech, the clue that would have given it away is that she has been the lead for the Casserole Committee since its inception as part of the overall Caring Committee. She has again been the quiet but consistent energy behind its success – gently figuring out where the freezer could go -against all odds- (as the of words of the song say), creating a cooking bee to get it filled a couple of times during the year, and managing the issues that always arise when something new is started with grace and kindness.

Mary is such a private person that I hope she is not upset by our celebrating her work publicly in this way. I think it is important, not only for the church community to be aware of her dedication and contribution, but for her own five children and many grandchildren as well. They are spread across the country and continent and given Mary's humility; I am guessing they have little idea of the wonderful contribution their mom makes not only to this church but in the wider community.

Thank you Mary – we could all take lessons from you!

From the **Library Committee**



**Holiday Budget Overspent?** Always free reading material available to you at your church library!

**Want to beat the January Blues?** Try an inspirational book or an audio copy of a past sermon!



**Looking for something more brain worthy than TV on chilly winter days and nights?**



Check out recent book donations for their thought provoking reading.

**New Year's Resolution:** Please sign out library materials using your full name and your email address or your phone number.



from the Caring Committee  
[caring@firstunitarianhamilton.org](mailto:caring@firstunitarianhamilton.org)

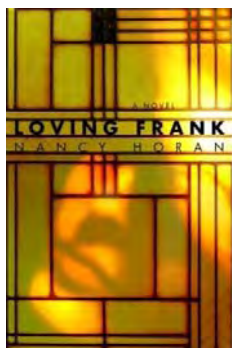
**Passages**

- Kevin Williamson's father died
- Don Bragg's uncle Roland Blackmore died
- Bill & Mary Elizabeth Fulton celebrated their 45<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary
- Victoria Ingram celebrated her birthday
- Catherine Bota celebrated her birthday
- Ginny Megin's brother, Ned, died
- Three close friends of Roy and Pat Dickinson died during one week
- Ann Craig-Howarth won an award for her work with Today's Family Early Learning and Child Care Centre
- Jennifer and Dale Askey sold their house in Kansas after 6 months on the market
- It has been two years since Brian Ablard's twin sister, Liz, died



From the **Adult Religious Exploration Committee**

We have an exciting range of new courses for winter/spring 2012 and also the ongoing oldies but goldies. You might be interested in mandala or bookmaking workshops or you could be interested in the psychology of dreams. We are offering these and more. Come sign up after church Jan 15th. We look forward to helping you select and to provide info.



**Food for Thought book group**

**Monday January 16th 7:30  
 (Room 3 Church Library)**

*Loving Frank* by Nancy Horan

In 1909 Frank Lloyd Wright then an aspiring young architect, created an enormous scandal by leaving his wife and six children and sailing off to Europe with the wife of one of his clients, Mamah Borthwick Cheney. Written from Mamah's perspective and based on the diaries, letters and newspaper articles of the time. *Loving Frank*, charts the course of their affair. From the New York Times "Nancy Horan...succeeds in conveying the emotional centre of her protagonist whom she points as a protofeminist; an educated woman festered by the role of boy pears matriarch".

Please feel free to join our discussion if you have read the book. Dawn Ludbrook 905-627-4896.



## How Can I Serve?

from Gail Rappolt, Leadership Volunteer Coordinator

As Rev. Victoria said in her message to us this month – it is the time we make resolutions. What are your thoughts about how you might serve your congregation in the coming year? A number of people new to the church have asked me what they might get involved in and I have referred them to the coloured chart called **How Can I Serve** that is at the newcomer's desk as a way of getting started. Remember service to your church, to be spiritual practice, meets *your* needs as well as the needs of the congregation. Perhaps you want to test your need to risk, your need to learn a particular skill, or your need to feel comfortable in a new group – but meet your needs it must if you are to sustain your commitment. I am very happy to talk with you about what is available and to give you more information about tasks and committees to help you decide. I always suggest that people attend a group for a time or two before making a commitment.

Here are some places where the church **needs service right now**. Do any of them call you? If so see me or contact the team leaders directly as noted below.

Being a **weekday greeter** - one of two to come in for ½ day per week so that you and your partner can answer phones, answer the door and be available for small tasks – a way to ease into volunteering, to get to know Melina, the Congregational Administrator and the office volunteers, and spend a pleasant afternoon in the church. See Gail about this – it is a new idea.

Upgrading your computer and office skills by becoming an **office volunteer**. Take advantage of the great training you get from Melina, our Congregational Administrator and join the team of three office volunteers already working to manage calendars, prepare materials and keep communication running smoothly. Contact Jennifer Purdie, Joanne Waters or William La Ferla or talk to Melina directly.

Becoming part of the **Caring Committee phone group**. Working with Joanne Dear and Glen Doe to understand the purpose of the phone calls. Having a chance to connect with 12-20 congregants 2–3 times per year just to check in. It is a fine way to make connections and get to know congregants if you are relatively new and are comfortable on the telephone. Contact Joanne Dear or Glen Doe

Offering to serve in the **Sunday Children's Program** for a block of time with an age group of your choice – getting a refresher on working with children as part of the training, getting to know our new Lifespan Learning Professional Tamara, and having a firsthand idea of how our children's program works. An added benefit is that you will get to meet the children's parents, many of whom are new to our congregation. Talk to Tamara or to Jennifer Reid, chair of CYRE.

Join the **Property Committee** – there are three quite separate components that might interest you

The **Property oversight committee** that does both long range planning and delegates small repair and reno tasks to the “just do it folk” (or you could become part of the work team – the just do it folks) – Talk to Doreen Knol, chair.

The **Garden committee** that plans and implements what keeps our outdoor space both beautiful and environmentally friendly – See Susan Davis for more info about that and how and when you might become involved. Watch for a meeting date in February.

The **Aesthetics committee** that has two functions – one to curate and manage the art in the foyer and one to facilitate dialogue and decision making about how our church space is used. This is a great way to learn about all the aspects of church life and how as a congregation we manage diversity and complexity.



## Growth means More Policy

from the Management team, Administration Cluster Representative Barb Wallace

Victoria and the Membership Committee reported to us that we are numbering around 350 adult members (counting members and adherents, regular attendees and visitors) - that's a lot of folks using our space. The systems that we had in place when there were 150 of us won't work now that we have reached this size as we learned at the leadership day on Nov 19. The Management Committee working closely with the office is trying to put policy into place to streamline our use of space and accountability for communications. The following tries to explain the changes that we have found necessary.

### Use of Space

Our budget is supported by a lot of rental revenue, but we have very limited custodial care and can not afford more at the present time. Thus we who use the space need to be responsible for its maintenance.

### Management asks these things:

1. Be sure you book the space correctly by contacting [bookings@firstunitarianhamilton.org](mailto:bookings@firstunitarianhamilton.org) and cancel at this email address if your date changes. If a space is available for rental, we make more money.
2. Anyone using space for meetings, etc., needs to return it to the way it is set up in the photo behind the door (or other prominent place) after use. We will start with Rooms 9 & 7 & Fellowship Hall. In the coming months, photos will be taken of all useable/rentable spaces. We will try to start in January— and modifications will probably happen as we proceed. Keep checking the photos. We will eventually have different

set up photos for Sunday morning. We'll keep you informed as we progress.

3. The space is to be left clean (that includes the kitchen if it was used). Dirty dishes, cups, etc. can be left in the rack on the left of the dishwasher if there are just a few. Management Cluster Reps have agreed to contact any group where it appears, from the calendar, that they were the last group to use the space and it has not been left appropriately.

### Communications in newsletter, Orders of Service, all church emails.

The Communications Committee is up and running and they are going to streamline our system of church communications - especially internal ones. However, until they make recommendations, Management has put the following into place:

Wanting to use our staff and all communication vehicles as judiciously as possible, we ask that all articles be sponsored by an existing committee in the church. In order to ensure this, we ask that the chair of the appropriate committee /or his/her designate submit articles for publication or approve them. If the office receives submissions without approval by a chair, Management has requested the office to ask the person submitting the article to discuss this first with the appropriate committee chair.

We know this adds layers to what some of us long-time members have been used to; however, given that we are a bigger congregation, can we please give this a try and see how it works? Contact me or someone on Management if you have concerns and suggestions about the above new procedures.

### 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)

#### Address/Email/Phone Updates

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



## Tasty ways to ease into the New Year

Come on along to one (or more!) of these themed events if you're looking for a fun and tasty way to build connections with your fellow congregants. Food is donated by the hosts. The Festival Committee sells tickets in the foyer after the service and the proceeds go to the church's operating budget.

**Winemakers' Testing Ground** – Do you make your own wine (at home or at a shop)? If so, come along with a bottle of your pride and joy for an evening of wine tasting. **If you just like to taste wine you are welcome, too.** Catherine Schuler and Bruce MacPherson will supply the cheese, crackers, etc. to complement the wines and we will find out who will wear the crown of First Unitarian's Top Wine-maker of 2012, as judged by our non-expert panel of fellow winemakers and friends. Designated drivers are most welcome, too – we will have something special for you.  
*Friday, January 13<sup>th</sup> from 7 to 10 pm for 12 guests.*

*\$10 for winemakers, \$15 for non-winemakers*

**Seven Sacred Words Dinner** - Join Gail Rappolt and 6 others at her home for a seven course gourmet meal on Saturday evening January 21<sup>st</sup>. A few weeks in advance of the date, you will receive a word – (yours to make sacred) – and during the evening you will share what you have learned about this word and how it might be sacred for you and others.  
*Saturday, January 21<sup>st</sup> from 6 p.m. for 6 guests. \$35*

**Travelogue and Dessert** - Join Don and Margaret McFadyen as they share slides of their travels. Of course there will be nibbles and wine and juices. (No pets.)  
*Saturday February 4<sup>th</sup> at 7 pm for 6 guests. \$15*

**Owl Prowl** - Experienced outdoorswoman, Joanne Tunnicliffe, will lead a walk in the night woods to listen for the owls, followed by goodies indoors back at Joanne and Allan's. Dress for the weather and bring a flashlight.  
*Saturday, February 18<sup>th</sup> at 7 p.m. for 8 guests \*Note date change.\* \$25*

**Oldies Music, Fun and Food** –Join Ginny Megin and Tony Marcogliese for a nostalgic evening.  
*Saturday, February 25<sup>th</sup> at 6 pm for 6 guests. \$25*

**Italian St. Patrick's Celebration!** – Join the Webbers and Wallaces at the Webbers' home for an evening of Italian wine and olive oil tasting. Experience several qualities of

Chianti wine firsthand and taste other - as well as "truly extra virgin" olive oil resulting from Webber/Wallace drudgery - as illustrated pictorially. And if you wish – take a guided tour of Webber's modest contemporary Canadian art collection. Copious quantities of "green snacks" will be provided!

*Saturday, March 17<sup>th</sup> from 7 to 10 pm for 16 guests. \$25*

**Bongos and Berets** – Back by popular demand! Join hosts Anne Bokma and Jeff Mahoney for an evening sharing your favourite party piece – be it song, poem, joke or story. Enjoy lovely appetizers, beer and wine as you are amazed by the talents of your UU friends (and they by yours, of course).

*Friday, April 13<sup>th</sup> from 8 pm for 11 guests. \$25*

**Lunch And Perennials for Five Gardeners** - Come for a spring luncheon and go home with an array of perennials (at least 10) from Gail's garden. The perennials alone would cost close to \$100 at the garden centre! *Saturday May 26<sup>th</sup> at noon for 5 guests. \$45*

**Night of Music and Memories at Mulberry House** - Ed Canning, Julie Bergshoeff, Anne Bokma and Jeff Mahoney will host a night of great music (lots of R&B and rock), dancing, hors d'oeuvres, wine and beer at Julie and Ed's house All you need to bring is yourself, all else will be provided. Jeff's band, RocketShip 7, will be performing along with lead singer Alauna MacLean, who fronts the popular local band Liquid. *Saturday June 4<sup>th</sup> at 7:30 pm for up to 80 guests. \$45*

### A few more tasteful ideas:

*Feeling extra generous?* Review this catalogue with a congregant for whom \$25 or so might be too much of a stretch - buy him/her a ticket to the chosen outing.

*New to the congregation?* Here's a great way to connect with more people in settings that are just as friendly and invigorating as Sunday morning!

*Food or pet allergies?* Please see notes above and/or check when buying your tickets and also be sure to advise your hosts.

**How to pay?** Cash or cheques payable to **Hamilton Unitarian Festival** would be great.

**Contact Catherine Schuler OR Linda Layton if any questions.**

## Child Care

from Shared Ministry Groups



If you have been unable to consider joining a shared ministry group because you require child care in order to do so, please let us know. If there is enough interest, we will try to make this happen.

Shared Ministry is a way to get to know other church members in a small (ten people or less) group setting. Shared Ministry groups (sometimes referred to as “Covenant Groups” or “Small Groups”) meet once every two weeks for one to two hours, usually at the church. Currently at First Hamilton, we have both daytime and evening time meetings. Shared Ministry includes:

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



If you are interested in child care in order to join a Shared Ministry group, please contact Sandy Lubert ([sandylubert@gmail.com](mailto:sandylubert@gmail.com)) or speak to Rev. Victoria.

### The GARDENS at First Unitarian Church of Hamilton



**Join Us  
Feb 19**

at noon in the RE area  
for a **Winter Picnic**,  
review of 2011 and  
planning for 2012 \*

\*  
We Have  
Received a Grant  
from HHRWQ  
Hamilton-Halton  
Watershed Stewardship  
Habitat Improvement Project



**Look for more information in the February Newsletter**  
from Garden Co-ordinator, Susan Davis



from the Social Justice Committee

## Black History Month film

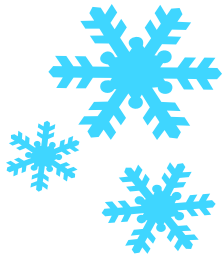
Freedom Riders is the harrowing but ultimately inspirational story of six months in 1961 that helped transform America. From May until November that year, more than 400 black and white Americans risked their lives—and many were savagely beaten and jailed—for simply traveling together on buses and trains as they journeyed through the Deep South. Deliberately violating segregationist laws, the Freedom Riders ran head-on into bitter racism and mob violence, sorely testing their belief in nonviolent activism.

On Sunday February 5, after the service, the Social Justice Committee will show the film Freedom Riders to anyone interested in seeing it. There is no charge for admission.

## Let it snow, let it snow, let it snow

**Tuesday January 17, 2012 11:30a.m. to 1:30p.m.**  
in Fellowship Hall.

Come in out of the cold and enjoy a warm tasty bowl of soup!  
We would like to see you again at our soup and sandwich lunch, mixing and mingling with our visiting neighbours and tossing some coins (or bills) into the donations basket.



## Laugh away your winter blues

**Saturday, Feb 4, 2012, 1-4 p.m. Doors open at 12:30**

with the third annual Giggles and Grins humour happening focused on the joy of laughter.

Here at First Unitarian Church, 170 Dundurn St. S., Hamilton

Adrienne Sloan and Sharron Orovan Johnston are once again joining with Grandmothers of Steel for this event to support grandmothers in Africa raising their grandchildren affected by the HIV/AIDS pandemic.

Funds are directed to the Stephen Lewis Foundation

\$25 (light refreshments served)

For tickets call:

Maureen (905)385-8482 or Adrienne (905)575-5329

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

Or see Mary Beech at First Unitarian.

Co-sponsored by the Social Justice Committee of the First Unitarian Church of Hamilton

## Food donation Sundays

For something like two decades, members of this congregation have been donating non-perishable food items to the food bank at the Neighbour to Neighbour Centre. The food bank is just one of a range of programs run from the centre to help clients become self-sufficient. Donations are welcome any time you want to bring them but as a reminder, the social justice committee designates the second Sunday of each month as Food Donation Sunday. Please put your items in the bin under the main bulletin board in the foyer. The food donation Sunday in January is January 8. A member of the social justice committee takes the food to the centre, along with fresh food that Plan B Organic Farm gives the church as "rent" for use of our building as a depot where its customers pick up food orders each Tuesday evening.

The Neighbour to Neighbour Centre is at 28 Athens Street. Athens street runs south from Mohawk Road between West 5th and Upper James.

FH=Fellowship Hall, Rm 11=Loft, Rm=9=Beatrix, Rm 7=Emerson, Rm 3=Lib, Rm 1=Sanc

**JANUARY 2012**

	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	New Year's Day 10:30 AM - 11:30 PM Dialogue Service	2	3 7:00 PM - 9:00 PM Social Justice Com-Rm7 7:15 PM - 9:00 PM CYRE Meeting - Sanctuary	4	5 7:00 PM - 9:00 PM Choir Practice Sanctuary	6 Epiphany 7:30 PM - 9:00 PM ARE-Drumming Circle FH	7 9:30 AM - 11:00 AM FUUD-Rm 9
8	Food donation Sunday 10:30 AM - 11:30 AM Tr Gonna Let Life Move Me Service 12:00 PM - 2:00 PM Budget Circle Meeting - Sanctuary 5:00 PM - 8:00 PM Young Adult Pot Luck-FH	9 5:00 PM - 9:00 PM Membership Committee Rm & 6:30 PM - 9:30 PM Youth Group - Sanctuary 7:30 PM - 8:30 PM ARE-Tai Chi-FH	10 7:00 PM - 9:00 PM Music Comm Mtg-Music Office Rm 2	11 9:30 AM - 11:30 AM Library Comm. Mtg Library 1:00 PM - 4:00 PM Seniors Coffee & Conversation-FH Kit 7:00 PM - 9:30 PM Management Committee - Rm9 7:30 PM - 9:30 PM Communications Mtg. Rm 7	12 9:00 AM - 12:00 PM Art Show July Rm 3 10:30 AM - 12:30 PM Spiritual Practices Group Rm 7 2:00 PM - 4:00 PM Shared Ministry Gp. Rm 3 6:00 PM - 7:30 PM Shared Ministry-Facilitator Sandy Lubert-Rm 3 7:00 PM - 9:00 PM Choir Practice Sanctuary	13 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM ARE Committee Meeting-Room 7 1:30 PM - 4:30 PM Seniors art class Ft 2.30-4pm 5:00 PM - 6:30 PM United Nations-Rm7 7:30 PM - 9:00 PM ARE-Drumming Circle FH	14 9:30 AM - 11:00 AM FUUD-Rm 9 1:00 PM Ice Skating at Dundas Driving Park 1:30 PM - 4:30 PM PKD Foundation-FH
15	A Principled Life: Four Service 12:00 PM - 2:00 PM Budget Vote - Sanctuary	16 Martin L. King, Jr. Day 8:30 AM - 9:00 PM Outreach Set up Social Justice comm. kitchen 6:30 PM - 9:30 PM Youth Group - Sanctuary 7:00 PM - 9:30 PM RENTAL - The Inqoula Club - Room 9 7:30 PM - 8:30 PM ARE-Tai Chi-FH 7:30 PM - 9:00 PM Book Group Rm 3 Library	17 8:30 AM - 3:30 PM Outreach Luncheons Kitchen, Fellowship Hall	18 Newsletter Deadline 7:00 PM - 10:00 PM Finance Com.-Rm7	19 7:00 PM - 9:00 PM Choir Practice Sanctuary	20 1:30 PM - 4:30 PM Seniors art class Ft 2.30-4pm 7:30 PM - 9:00 PM ARE-Drumming Circle FH	21 9:30 AM - 11:00 AM FUUD-Rm 9 1:30 PM - 5:00 PM RENTAL June Caskey - Sanct
22	Sources of Our Faith Service 2:00 PM - 6:00 PM 5 at the First-Sanc kitch	23 6:30 PM - 9:30 PM Youth Group - Sanctuary 7:30 PM - 8:30 PM ARE-Tai Chi-FH	24	25	26 10:30 AM - 12:00 PM Newsletter Assembly Rm 9 10:30 AM - 12:30 PM Spiritual Practices Group Rm 7 2:00 PM - 4:00 PM Shared Ministry Gp. Rm 3 6:00 PM - 7:30 PM Shared Ministry-Facilitator Sandy Lubert-Rm 3	27 1:30 PM - 4:30 PM Seniors art class Ft 2.30-4pm 7:00 PM - 9:00 PM Music Night - Sanctuary 7:30 PM - 9:00 PM ARE-Drumming Circle FH	28 9:30 AM - 11:00 AM FUUD-Rm 9 6:00 PM - 9:00 PM Kids Palama Party & Parents Robbie Burns Party FH
29	10:30 AM - 11:30 AM First Unitarian Lay Chaplains Service	30 6:30 PM - 9:30 PM Rental HAHN-FH 6:30 PM - 9:30 PM Youth Group - Sanctuary 7:30 PM - 8:30 PM ARE-Tai Chi-Foyer	31	1 1:30 PM - 4:00 PM Seniors Advisory-Rm9	2 Groundhog Day 7:00 PM - 9:00 PM Choir Practice Sanctuary	3 1:30 PM - 4:30 PM Seniors art class Ft 2.30-4pm 7:30 PM - 9:00 PM ARE-Drumming Circle FH	4 9:30 AM - 11:00 AM FUUD-Rm 9 11:00 AM - 5:00 PM Giggles & Grins Event (Grandmothers of Steel)-Foyer & Kitchen

# News From the— Lifespan Learning

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



Long ago and far away, I used to work in a department store. When I told people that sometimes my shifts began at 4:00 in the morning, or other shifts sometimes ended at 12:30 in the morning, they would react with something just barely short of astonishment. What on earth could there possibly be to do in a department store at those hours?

Think about it for a moment. When you walk into a department store, you typically don't wonder how everything got there in such an orderly fashion. How did the merchandise get off the trucks? How did it end up on the shelves and on the racks? How does it keep changing all the time? Who scanned the prices in, and how do they change in the system when things go on sale? Of course it's not your job to think about it, because you have a job of your own to do.

My point is, there is more to what you see than what is on the surface. What we see is usually the tip of the iceberg. When I see Olympic figure skaters on television, I'm always amazed at how their movements appear effortless, because we know the opposite is true.

For those of us who choose to work in church, our Sundays and our programs are the tips of our icebergs. And though our phones may ring from nine to five, our schedules are likely anything but. (Also keep in mind that we could be on another line, or in another part of the building,

so please, leave us a message. We'll call you back!!) There are also night meetings, night programs, shopping trips, conferences... sometimes we might crave a taste of that nine to five life! But our work is truly a labour of love, and one of the things that make it worthwhile (besides when our Sundays and programs go well!) is our appreciation for one another and the hard work we do. What amazes me all the more is how many people I work with, who work so hard, and don't get paid. Many of them show up after their own long workday, and give even more.

There are more of you than I can count right here, right now, but know that your labour of love is what holds us all up. There are two people in particular I want to thank here: Kelly Wolf, for all her hard work she did while chair of the CYRE committee (you will be missed!) and Anna Schafer, for her invaluable contributions of time, talent, and ideas to our December 18<sup>th</sup> service.

Happy New Year, Tamara

## 2012 Events for UU Families

### Ice skating at Dundas Driving

**Park** -January 14, 2012 at 1PM  
Bring your skates and come out to Dundas Driving Park for a fun skate. Snacks and Hot Beverages are available for purchase from the snack bar.

### Kid's Pajama Party and Parents' Robbie Burns Party

Fellowship Hall (Kids Party)  
January 28, 2012  
6-9 PM

### Games Night - Fellowship Hall

February 18, 2012 6-9PM  
Bring your favourite games and a treat to share.

### Family Potluck

Fellowship Hall  
March 24th, 2012  
6PM  
Bring a dish to share.

### Family Hike

April 28th, 2012  
Meet at Maplewood.  
1:30PM

### Unicamp UU Families Weekend

May 25-27, 2012  
Lodging \$22-24/adult 16 and up  
Half price children 5-15  
Children under 5 Free  
More details TBA  
Contact Melanie asap to reserve.  
Optional night May 24

### Family Picnic

June 16th, 2012  
Dundas Driving Park  
11:30

Bring picnic foods to share, plates, silverware and beverages, balls, frisbees and outdoor games, and swimsuits for kids for the splashpad  
Rain or Shine

### Unicamp Family Camp Dates

(For all)  
Aug 12-17  
Aug 19-24 (dogs allowed)

For more information on these events, please email [coachparish@gmail.com](mailto:coachparish@gmail.com) or check for updates on the UU Families Facebook Page or Yahoo Group.

