



The Hamilton Unitarian

The First Unitarian Church of Hamilton
Established 1889

May 2010
Volume 61, No. 5

Sunday Services

May 2: Building Bridges With Student Open Circles

Speakers: Marybeth Leis Druery & Jeff Druery,
Service Leader: Rev Pat Webber

Student Open Circles creates safe spaces where a diversity of students discuss life, spirituality, and social justice. Learn how young adults are growing through this experience and hear the story behind the "Image Meets Spirit" art show our church is currently hosting. Our Children and Youth will partake in our annual Walkathon during the service. This year proceeds raised will be shared equally between L'Hôpital Albert Schweitzer in Haiti and Hamilton's Out of the Cold Program.

May 9: Two Roads Converge: On Taking A Journey Together

Speaker: Rev. Victoria Ingram, **Service Leader:** Beverly Horton

Our spiritual journey in search of truth and meaning is a cornerstone of our Unitarian covenant. There are aspects of this quest we pursue individually, others we support by being in community. When two paths meet, how do we share our stories and find ways to honor and accept one another and encourage our continued spiritual growth?

May 16: With Our Hearts In Holy Places

Speaker: Rev. Victoria Ingram, **Service Leader:** Ed Canning

Relationships begin in hope and anticipation. Over time, as they mature and ripen, we need to use our creativity, flexibility, commitment, and communication to keep them vital, resilient, and fulfilling. But, we don't have to do it alone! Together, with support, love, and patience, we encourage each other to find and be our best. All congregants are invited to a Special Congregational Meeting in the Sanctuary starting at Noon in which will we vote on calling Rev. Ingram to be our settled Minister. Light lunch and childcare will be provided.

May 23: Global Climate Change: Scientific And Spiritual Dimensions

Speaker: Alisa McClurg **Service Leader:** Susan Davis

Perhaps the most controversial topic today, we are constantly being bombarded with conflicting messages about Global Climate Change. This service aims to break through the clutter to determine what is really happening to our planet's climate, what we can do about it, and how Unitarians should respond.

May 30: Flower Communion Sunday: Family Music For It's Own Sake

Service Leaders: The Music Committee

A special family themed, flower communion inspired, fully intergen, music centered service, where the many musicians in our community share their many gifts. If you are interested in participating in this service please contact Rachel Derry, our church's Music Director, at rachel@firstunitarianhamilton.org by no later than May 16, 2010. We are especially looking for children, youth, and family groups. Please remember to bring flowers with you to church, so they can be given to your fellow congregants during the service.

Sunday Services 10:30 AM—all are welcome



It's finally here

Candidating Week, MAY 8-16

The most important date is Sunday, May 16, when the congregation will vote on a motion to call Victoria Ingram to be our settled minister.

Please review information on pages 6, 7 & 8 including schedule for candidating week

The church calendar is online at:
<http://www.firstunitarianhamilton.org/calendar/index.htm>

Calendar, page 11

June Deadline:

Wed morning, May 19th

Please send submissions to
newsletter@firstunitarianhamilton.org

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

Contact Information

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Book Group Dawn Ludbrook
Fellowship Hour. vacant
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Lay Chaplaincy Committee Janet Hillen
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Children & Youth Rel. Ed. Julie Bergshoeff & Kelly Wolf
Our Whole Lives (OWL)Pip Heritage & Elizabeth Beckett
Youth Group Leaders Stephen Park & Nancy Gulliver

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Fall Festival Committee..... Dave Adeney
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Music CommitteeCindy Carey
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Worship Assistants Co-ordinator..... Ann Craig Howarth
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Personnel do change. Please inform the office of any errors, omissions or changes. Facilitator, Designer and Editor Melina, Office Manager. Assembled by Mary Beech, Don Bragg, Angela Conlin, Tricia Ferenbach, Pat Keefe, Barb Kulcher, William LaFerla, Dawn Ludbrook, Sheila McAllister, John Mitchell, Ruth Pollard, Val Ramsay, Doris Wells and Eleanor Wrigley.



Splinters from the Board

Notes From A Dirty Kitchen:

Sometime in the middle of the afternoon today, I realized that tomorrow was the deadline for the May newsletter. This during a day where all three kids and Cathy were at home with colds and sore throats, which left the general tone of the house in a fairly miserable state. Not feeling that great myself, it was a day when getting dinner on the table, cleaning the kitchen and getting a load of laundry done seemed equal to scaling Everest. After the end of last month's message, you may be sensing a theme here...

What, if anything, does this have to do with church? Not much, except that everyone reading this has a similar kind of story (if you're lucky!)...and we are a community largely run on the strength and time of our volunteers. It is no small amazement to me how much time, skill and energy folks provide around here. But no matter how committed each of us is, there are times when life places impediments in the way of our best intentions. As a volunteer commitment, church is something most of us can let go of when life calls, and the rest of the community "gets it".

So in this month when we will be asked to vote as a congregation on calling our new minister, I'd like to comment personally on how happy I am we have this opportunity. We are fortunate to have our current staff providing professional skills and strong commitments to our work as a church. (I can barely imagine what it must be like to work for us all. Talk about a lot of cooks in the kitchen!) Professional ministry will take this level of commitment and professional skills in our church one giant leap further yet. The Search Committee has been asking us some hard reflective questions to get us prepared for this new relationship. But one thing to remember is our new settled minister will also at some point in the day need to cook dinner and get the dishes done. If I'm going

into this with no other realization, it's that we need to avoid either lionizing or demonizing our new minister. Rather let us humanize them in our minds.

Each minister has their own story. We have been fortunate to have Reverend Brock with us, his work with the church and the Board has been an enormous boon in our journey. But let's remember to thank his family too. Here's a guy who has left two young children and his wife behind for 10 days a month to do this work with us. It is a great gift.

I'm looking forward to the continuity of settled ministry in our church. Rev. Brock has been here to do special work with us and has filled in many of the spiritual and organizational gaps with which we have been struggling. But by necessity his work has always been intermittent and the end was always in sight. A settled minister will be different altogether. Provided all goes well in candidating week, in the fall the Board and Church Leadership will ask the CUC to hold a day long retreat with our new minister designed to aid us on the way. There will be expectations and dreams on both sides and these will emerge and change as we get to know each other. It is an exciting time.

And sometime in the fall I hope we're only holding one Board meeting a month (just like in the good old days) and maybe not to be taking notes on scrap pieces of paper in my kitchen and laundry room as I try to keep up. In the meantime, if you e-mail me and I don't get back to you right away I'm probably at the park with the kids.

-Tim Versteeg
Board President

News from Nominating Committee?

There are three denominational events that Nominating Committee encourages you to consider:

- First "How Shall We Live?", the Canadian Unitarian Council Annual Conference in Victoria B.C. May 21 – 24 looks to be a wonderful event this year. All congregants are welcome to attend; members may apply for delegate status so that they may vote at the Annual General Meeting – there are still two delegate positions open. See Gail Rappolt for details.
- Second the Unitarian Universalist Association General Assembly – a huge North American UU conference in Minneapolis June 23-27. Our past president Kathryn McIntyre has been on the UUA Board, attended GA many times, and plans to attend this year – please see her for details.

- Third, Canadian Unitarian Universalist Leadership School – this year at McMaster July 15-18. If you are currently in a church leadership position or are interested in leadership in the future please see Michele Corbeil, Joan Foster or Gail Rappolt to find out how to apply. Nominating committee has budgeted for Seven spaces for Hamilton congregants. This is a wonderful opportunity to learn more about the denomination, church leadership and yourself as a leader. Nominating Committee members will be speaking to church leaders individually to encourage them to attend.

~ Gail Rappolt, Volunteer Recruitment



Notices

Democratic challenges

If you missed the Social Justice Committee's two showings of the film *You Me and the SPP: Trading Democracy for Corporate Rule*, we'd be happy to lend you our copy to watch. This important documentary lays out part of the context for much that is happening today, from shrinking social programs to growing corporate power and infringements on civil rights. Contact Bill Johnston to borrow it.

Do you have a fax machine you don't need?

If someone has a fax machine in working order that they no longer use and would be willing to part with, the social justice committee has a use for it. Contact Bill Johnston or Margaret McFadyen

Help for the hungry

Spring is the time of new growth and planting. But it can be a tough time for food banks.

Donations of food, especially rice and beans, are always welcome. Put them in the food box beneath the main bulletin board in the foyer.

So are donations to Hamilton Food Share, which acquires food for all city food banks. Just come to the social justice table in the foyer after the service.

The most efficient way to help is through automatic monthly withdrawals from your account to go to Food Share. Just fill out a form at the social justice table, include a blank cheque marked VOID and place them in an envelope to leave at the table or in the social justice mailbox. We won't know who donated or how much. But your regular donations help Food Share keep acquiring \$5 worth of food for every dollar you donate.

Spring cleanup May 1

Saturday May 1, join fellow congregants and area neighbours in a litter pickup and graffiti cleanup of the church grounds and the immediate neighbourhood. The city is supplying tools to help. Meet in the church parking lot north of the church 10 a.m. to pitch in for not more than two hours.

Justice for the most vulnerable of those living in poverty

Several members of this congregation, who are among some 160,000 of the most vulnerable people living in poverty in Ontario, were blindsided by the provincial budget that left them with great uncertainty about their income and health.

The government eliminated the Special Diet Allowance, which provided some money to those on social assistance who had certain medical conditions. The payments were to offset the extra costs of special diets to treat or cope with their health problems. A health care professional had to sign a form indicating which of a government list of conditions a patient had. The maximum payment, for those with multiple conditions, was \$250 a month. The government said it will introduce a new program shortly.

The Special Diet Allowance brought a small measure of fairness to those unlucky enough to be both poor and seriously ill, by covering some of the extra food costs needed for their illnesses. The new plan will certainly be narrower. Minister of Community and Social Services Madeleine Meilleur told the legislature on April 1 that "not everyone on the program now will be transferred to the new program." The new program will be for those

with "severe medical needs," as if the medical conditions covered by the Special Diet Allowance somehow were not severe. And the new program will cover a "nutritional supplement," which presumably is not food, not the special diets they need for their conditions.

The change was made without consultation with poverty groups or the Social Assistance Review Advisory Council the government appointed in January. The government said the program was unsustainable and blamed not need or growing awareness that the program existed but the "questionable circumstances" the Auditor General reported in "many" applications. The Auditor General suggested only a review of the program, not its elimination. Obviously, fraud should not be tolerated. But all recipients are being punished for the misdeeds of a few applicants and the medical professionals who are essentially being accused of signing false applications.

Killing the program also allowed the government to duck a February human rights tribunal ruling that there was discrimination in the program's coverage that had to be corrected.

The government also ignored what

the Auditor General cited as the source of the questionable practices, the "perception" that basic social assistance rates are too low to allow an adequate diet. They *are* too low. Social assistance rates were cut 22 per cent by the Harris government in 1995. The cost of living since then has risen 32 per cent. The Liberals have raised rates just 11 per cent over seven years, not even matching inflation since they took power in 2003. No wonder social assistance recipients feel under attack.

Your Social Justice Committee has written to the government urging it to restore the Special Diet Allowance. If it's not prepared to do so, we urge that it consult widely on a new program, which should be at least as comprehensive as the Special Diet Allowance, without the existing discrimination and with more effective checks on questionable practices, while also protecting doctor-patient confidentiality.

We will have copies of the letter at the social justice table after church services, if you would like to add your voice to our call for justice for the least fortunate of those unlucky enough to be poor.
—Bill Johnston, for the Social Justice Committee



May Speakers

worship@firstunitarianhamilton.org

May 2nd Speakers: Marybeth Leis and Jeff Druery



Marybeth and Jeff have provided guidance for university students since 1995. They share an interest in today's student culture, love being with people, are committed to living lightly on the earth, enjoy nature, and

express themselves through music and art. They are devoted to building diverse and welcoming community that meaningfully connects spirituality and action through their work with Student Open Circles. www.StudentOpenCircles.com



May 9th and 16th Speaker: Rev. Victoria Ingram (Ministerial Search Candidate)

Rev. Ingram is currently the Settled Minister for the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Los Gatos. Born and raised in Oregon, she and her husband Carl moved to California in 1996.

Rev. Ingram was granted a Master of Divinity degree from Starr King Ministerial School in May 2007. Prior to being a Minister, her career included over 25 years of experience in organization development, training, consulting, executive coaching, management, and human resources. She completed her undergraduate degree in psychology at the University of Oregon and her Masters of Education degree in Adult Education and Organization Development at Oregon State University. She has co-authored three books: Executive Coaching: Resource Book 2000, Imagine Loving Your Work, and Childhood Dreams Career Answers.



May 23rd Speaker: Alisa McClurg

Alisa McClurg recently achieved a Master's degree in Planning from the University of Waterloo. Passionate about the environment, she has been involved in teaching schoolchildren about environmental issues and encouraging businesses to reduce their carbon footprint. With a longstanding concern about Global Climate Change, she decided to take action by giving talks on the issue.



Notices

worship@firstunitarianhamilton.org



Father's Day Picnic Service

Your Worship Committee wants to create a Worship Team made up entirely of Fathers who will create, craft, and present our annual outdoor worship service, which officially launches the start of summer at

Hamilton First.

This year's Fully Intergen Father's Day Picnic Service will take place on Sunday, June 20, 2010.

If you are a Father and are interested in being a part of this service please contact your Worship Committee at worship@firstunitarianhamilton.org

Now Accepting Submissions For Summer 2010 Services

If you have an inspiring sermon burning inside of you that you need to share with the congregation we want to hear from you. Our summer lay lead services traditionally take place during the months of July and August. Please send a completed worship service proposal form to your Worship Committee at worship@firstunitarianhamilton.org before Friday, May 28, 2010 for review. Downloadable Service Proposal forms in Microsoft Word format can be found online at <http://www.firstunitarianhamilton.org/worship/worshipdocs.htm>

Your Worship Committee Is Recruiting Storytellers!

Do you love working with children? Do you have a gift when it comes to communicating with our youth? Does the idea of crafting and creating a Story For All Ages make you dance and sing and jump with joy? Are you an aspiring Robert Munsch who can tell a riveting tale that will appeal to both young and old? Do you know how to present entertaining and meaningful stories that will enrich the spiritual lives of congregants of every age?

Then we want you!

Your Worship Committee is continuing to recruit congregants to take on the role of Storyteller on Sunday mornings for upcoming services in 2010. If you are interested in becoming a Storyteller or would like to find out more about this new role please contact your Worship Committee at worship@firstunitarianhamilton.org

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

AN INTERVIEW WITH VICTORIA INGRAM, CANDIDATE FOR SETTLED MINISTRY

Written by the Search Committee, and based on questions submitted by the congregation – both adults and children.



QUESTIONS FROM THE ADULTS:

Q: Why are you leaving your current congregation?

A: I'm in my third year of ministry with the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Los Gatos. Making the decision to leave now has been hard, but I do believe that it's the right decision for both me and the congregation. You see, UUFLG took a "leap of faith" when they hired me, hoping they would grow their numbers and/or their generosity to cover their costs. As a congregation of about 100 members, they couldn't afford a full-time minister. Growth has occurred, but so has an economic recession which hit hard in the Silicon Valley region. My salary and expenses have already been cut, and it has been apparent for some time that the congregation just couldn't afford to sustain a full-time ministry.

Q: What do you like about Hamilton?

A: My husband Carl and I are looking forward to living in a larger, more diverse city with four seasons. We are excited to be closer to our daughter and her partner, and our friends, in New York and on the East Coast. We think the Hamilton area is beautiful, with much to offer in terms of culture, history, and outdoor activities.

What we like about the First Unitarian Church of Hamilton is your commitment to Unitarianism and to being a welcoming congregation for the Hamilton area. I'm impressed with your music and worship programs. I like what I've heard about how you govern yourselves and work together as a congregation in right relationship. I'm looking forward to worshipping, working, and ministering with your lively, engaged group of Unitarians.

Q: How do you see the minister's role in congregational decision-making?

A: I see a couple of roles for me as your minister in congregational decisions. One is to work collaboratively with you as you consider the decisions to be made. My role is to ask questions, offer my point of view, experience, or insight, and help you consider all of the options to support you in making the best decision. After the congregation makes a decision, I see my role as helping you communicate and carry out that decision successfully. Again, I would offer my experience, ideas, and resources in making the implementation of a decision as successful as possible. This is a question I'm sure we will explore further during Candidating Week.

Q: What do you feel you can bring to our RE program?

A: Our Principles ask us to search for our own truth and meaning, and to encourage each other in this effort. I believe this is a core function of any Unitarian congregation, and for both children's and adults' RE, you will have my support and engagement in carrying out the goals of your lifespan learning programming. I would like to be actively involved in RE, teaching, participating, and providing guidance in curriculum planning. I bring with me my knowledge of UU curriculum offerings, my experience in teaching and facilitating, and my background in adult education, children's worship, and Unitarian Universalism to share.

Q: How do you understand the role of music in worship?

A: For many of us, experiencing and making music is a path to the sacred, an avenue for touching the soul. I find that music not only touches me in moments of my deepest despair, but lifts me up in joy when my heart is light. A rich program of music, including a variety of kinds, genres, tempos, and instruments, is integral to a rich experience of worship for me. From what I know about your church, it is for you, as well. I'm looking forward to working with your marvelous musicians, dedicated choir, and

Q: How old are you?

A: I'm 54 years old (which to some will seem ancient and to others quite young, I'm sure!)

Q: Do you have children?

A: I don't have children of my own, but I do have two step-children. Jason is 36, a musician and artist, and lives in Portland, Oregon. Sara, along with her partner Erin, lives in Brooklyn, NY. She's 38, a graduate student, and sign-language interpreter.

Q: Do you like to tell stories to children?

A: Yes I do, and I like to participate in the activities you are doing, too (I especially like art projects!)

Q: How will you get to know the children?

A: I'll introduce myself and ask you your name. I'd like to talk with you about what you like to do and what's important to you, too. On the Sundays when I'm not with the adults, I would like to come to your RE classes and chapel, so that I can experience what you're doing and learning. You can help me get to know you, too. Make sure you say "hello" and introduce yourself to me. Tell me about your family, your pets, or your favorite activities. I'm looking forward to meeting you soon!

Q: I haven't seen a minister much. What do they do?

A: Well, ministers are the spiritual leaders of their faith community. That means that they read and study, then prepare messages for Sunday morning worship, including sermons. Ministers also get to know people in their churches, to be their friend and someone to meet with when things are hard, celebrate when things are going well, or just listen when you need someone to talk to. Ministers write newsletter columns, attend committee meetings, work together with others in the church, and help make sure that the church is running smoothly. They help people to mark important events – they dedicate babies, perform weddings, celebrate when young people come of age or graduate into adulthood, and lead memorial services. I like being a minister and doing these kinds of things because I care about people and want to see them be the best people they can possibly be and have the best life they can possibly have.

skilled worship leaders to make sure that music continues to be a full, engaging, and beautiful part of worship. (And, I really like to sing!)

Q: What would you like of me as a member of the congregation?

A: One of my life's teachers is Dr. Angeles Arrien, who talks about living The Four-Fold Way. It's a part of who I strive to be. So, what I would like from each of you is what I would like to be able to offer to you – to show up fully and be present in the moment, to pay attention to what has heart and meaning, to speak the truth without blame or judgment, and to seek to create results without being attached to (specific) outcomes. And when we are human, because we are and will be, and when we don't get it quite right, let's remember to believe we had the best of intentions, then to forgive and love one another enough to try again.

Q: And now, the most important questions of all. Victoria, what is your favourite:

- TV show? Antiques Roadshow, hands-down! (Sorry. If you call while it's on, I'll have to get back to you.) I like to watch public broadcasting and HGTV – the Home and Garden channel, too.
- Movie? I'm quite fond of old movies, including silent films and such. I really can't ever see enough of Frank Capra's **You Can't Take It With You** and the more modern **Young Frankenstein**, directed by Mel Brooks.
- Author? For fun reading, I enjoy authors like Carl Hiaasen, Janet Evanovich, and Diane Mott Davidson. If you know them, you realize I like wacky, light-hearted mysteries as my bedtime reading! For more serious, theological authors, I read Karen Armstrong, Bart Ehrman, and the theologians involved in The Jesus Seminar.
- Musician? Finally, we get to some Canadians! Some of my favorite artists include k.d. lang, Joni Mitchell, Loreena McKennitt, and Sarah McLachlan. I'm a great fan of many genres and kinds of music, so this is a very short list of musicians I enjoy listening to.

Thank you for submitting such interesting and diverse questions. Still have more? Want to know more or clarify a point? That's what Candidating Week is all about. Please check the schedule of activities planned by the Search Committee for our time together May 8-16. Then, make sure you are involved that week as we discern our future together.

Blessed be. I'll see you all soon,
Victoria

Candidating Week, May 8-16

Well, it's finally here – the congregation's chance to meet the person whom the search committee is recommending to be our new settled minister. It will be a busy week for everybody, as you can see from the Candidating Week calendar.

The most important date is Sunday, May 16, when the congregation will vote on a motion to call Victoria Ingram to be our settled minister.

There will be a number of opportunities for all congregants to meet Victoria and prepare for the vote:

Sunday, May 9, Victoria will be the guest speaker for the service. Following the service, there will be a potluck lunch at the church which will provide a great opportunity to meet her and her husband Carl.

Friday, May 14, there will be a potluck dinner at the church, followed by a Q&A session with Victoria.

From 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. on Monday, Tuesday (to 11:00 a.m. only), Thursday and Friday, you can sign up to meet with Victoria one-on-one. Sign up sheets will be posted on the search committee bulletin board.

The rest of the week, there's a full slate of meetings for Victoria with various committees and clusters, and on the 9th, a potluck dinner with young adults and young families. Please be aware that the schedule is subject to change; an up-to-date schedule will be posted on the Search Committee bulletin board.

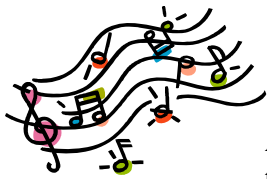
The Search Committee has tried to provide as many opportunities as possible for everyone to get to know Victoria better. If, for some reason, this schedule does not give you an opportunity to meet her before the congregational vote, contact one of the search committee members, and we will try to create that opportunity for you, if we can.

From the Search Committee

CANDIDATING WEEK May 8 - 16

	Sat. 8th	Sun. 9th	Mon. 10th	Tues. 11th	Wed. 12th	Thurs. 13th	Fri. 14th	Sat. 15th	Sun. 16th
AM (9:30 start)		Service See news- letter for details	10-12 Visit- ing hours (by apt.)	10-11 Visiting hours (by apt.) 11:00 Volun- teer Coord. meeting	TIME OFF	10-12 Visit- ing hours (by apt.)	10-12 Visit- ing hours (by apt.)	RE Cluster breakfast*	Service See newslet- ter for de- tails
12-4	Lunch and meeting with search comm. *	All-Church Potluck lunch Finger foods	Outreach Cluster lunch	Staff lunch and meeting 1:00	TIME OFF	Fellowship Cluster lunch Search Comm. 4-6	Pastoral Cluster lunch	Lunch with past presi- dents*	Congreg- ational Vote Lunch pro- vided by search comm.
Dinner & Mtg. 9:30 end	Adminis- tration Cluster dinner	Young Adult/ Families Potluck	Worship Cluster din- ner Meeting with Worship Committee	Board dinner Meeting with Board	Leadership Comm. dinner Meeting with Management Committee	Steward- ship Cluster dinner	All-church Potluck din- ner Q&A with minister Music night	TIME OFF	

* Meetings off-site. Contact a member of the Search Committee for details.



Music Night

Friday, 7 p.m. May 14

As you will see, this is not our normal end of the month music night – we are going to have it on Friday, May 14th instead! We will be having our music night after a potluck and circle discussion with our candidate, the Reverend Victoria Ingram. I encourage everyone to come and enjoy some relaxed music. You are most welcome to come and share either a piece on an instrument or a song from your heart!

Looking forward to seeing you there!

– Rachel

Gathering Music

After the bell rings your music ministers begin the Gathering Music as the congregation takes their seats in the sanctuary. The Gathering invites us into the sacred space of worship, helping us to centre ourselves and gather our thoughts as we prepare for the worship service. It marks the beginning of our weekly meeting together, our gathering as a community to participate in ritual on Sunday mornings: after the Postlude we depart to live our principles in our daily lives, guided and inspired by our time together. Starhawk describes the importance of community as follows: “We are all longing to go home to some place we have never been — a place half-remembered and half-envisioned we can only catch glimpses of from time to time. Community. Somewhere, there are people to whom we can speak with passion without having the words catch in our throats. Somewhere a circle of hands will open to receive us, eyes will light up as we enter, voices will celebrate with us whenever we come into our own power. Community means strength that joins our strength to do the work that needs to be done. Arms to hold us when we falter. A circle of healing. A circle of friends. Someplace where we can be free.”

- Cathy Grise , Music Committee



Report on Denominational Affairs

Nora Prosser, Denominational Rep

The CUC's April Congregational Mailing arrived in Hamilton containing some very significant documents; particularly the **Canadian Unitarian Council 2010-2011 Workplan**. This plan comes in response to what the members (*including us!*) have told CUC they want.

Priorities in this workplan include: 1) Implementing the programs and services our members have told us they need while measuring success and dropping those things that do not support our goals. 2) Providing UU communities greater opportunities to network and work interdependently. 3) Creating a stronger, more co-ordinated UU voice on the national and international stage. 4) Finding additional sources of funding, including inspiring individual UUs to support the level of funding required to continue this mode of operation within a balanced budget. 5) Implementing governance and decision-making structures and processes to enhance transparency and collaboration. At the CUC board meeting in February, after intense discussion, a draw on the Unrestricted Fund was approved to support the developmental budget.

This is ground-breaking stuff and demonstrates both the creative and pragmatic qualities of our elected national Board of Trustees and the Staff. The Workplan is with our church board and is available for all on the website <http://www.cuc.ca/>

Feedback and discussion will be on-going before, at and after the ACM in Victoria, May 21 -24 and those of us attending as your delegates will be actively participating in your behalf and will have news when we return. *There may still be an opportunity to attend as one of our delegates: ask a board member.*

Also significant: Interviews have been completed for the new position of **Youth/Young Adult Programmer** and an announcement is pending at the time of writing. More new positions are approved to serve the needs we have identified. These include: - **Two Congregational Services Programmers, Communications and Networking Manager, Funding Development Coordinator.**

If you are interested in CUC services and programs available to us, take the time to check out the Denominational Affairs notice board (near the library) for the latest communications from Jennifer Dickson, CUC Executive Director and from Linda Thomson, Director of Congregational Services (*and a longtime member of our congregation*); or find these and many more items of interest at http://www.cuc.ca/who_we_are/whowere.htm

For ACM information follow the link on the Home Page.

Blooms for Africa: A Success Story

Blooms for Africa began with a modest garden tour four years ago. We surprised ourselves by raising \$6000 for the Stephen Lewis Foundation's Grandmothers to Grandmothers Campaign. The next year we raised \$8000. Last year, with combined events (Summer Garden Tour and Forest Brooke Estate and Garden Tour), we raised \$24000! This year we have already raised over \$2000 from our February Book Exchange and we have the following events planned for the Summer and Fall:

Annual Garden Tour, with a difference – Fri. and Sat. evenings, July 23-24, 2010.

Blooms for Africa is transforming. The fourth Annual Garden Tour, Blooms in the Night, will feature evening gardens this year. These gardens will be located in the Central and West Burlington area, including Aldershot. Mark your calendars now for this very exciting event: Friday and Saturday evenings, July 23rd and July 24th.

Fine Dining and Original Art – Sunday, October 3rd.

Local potter, Donn Zver, has offered to provide his venue, Café Troy, for a special fund raising event on behalf of the Grandmothers to Grandmothers' Stephen Lewis Foundation. On Sunday, October 3rd, both a luncheon and a dinner are being planned. The dinner event will feature a silent auction of original art by local artists. Stay tuned for more details.



2010 OWL Programs for all age groups



Don't miss this opportunity to sign your children up for this innovative sexuality program

Our Whole Lives (OWL) helps children make informed and responsible decisions about their sexual health and behaviour. It equips participants with accurate, age-appropriate information in the areas of human development, relationships, personal skills, sexual behaviour, sexual health and society and culture. Grounded in a holistic view of sexuality, *OWL* provides not only facts about anatomy and human development, but helps participants to clarify their values, build interpersonal skills, and understand the spiritual, emotional, and social aspects of sexuality.

Parents are a child's most important sexuality educators, and sexuality education begins at home. Parents can be effective sexuality educators especially if they have the support and resources to help them face this challenging and rewarding responsibility. And that's where *OWL* can help.

OWL programs are being offered for all age groups this year. All programs run Sundays during church time:

Grades 1-2: Runs for four consecutive Sundays: May 9, 16, 23 and 30. Sessions engage children with stories, songs and activities.

In order for children to participate, their parents/guardians must attend an orientation session on Monday, April 26 from 6:30-8:30

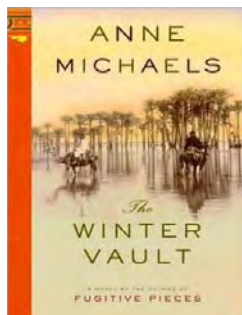
p.m. at the church. Registration required by Wednesday, April 21.

Grades 4-6: Runs for six sessions from Sunday, October 17-Sunday, November 21. Participants learn about and discuss the physical and emotional changes of puberty. They will read *It's Perfectly Normal*, by Robie Harris, and examine topics such as values and sexuality, communication and decision-making. Parent orientation night will be Thursday, September 23 at 7 p.m. Registration required by September 19.

Grades 7-9: Runs for 27 sessions between the months of October 2010 and May 2011. Presents a comprehensive approach to human sexuality, based on the values of respect, responsibility, justice and inclusivity. Helps young people apply these values to their behaviour and provides them with information and skills they can use throughout life.

Note: *OWL* programs are open to all children—whether they be from the First Unitarian church community or the wider community. A minimum of six participants are required. Parents of children in the Grade 1-2 and 4-6 program are required to be on site during program delivery. Parents of children in the Grade 7-9 program are not required to be on site but must be accessible by phone and available if required.

To register for any of the above programs, please contact Philippa Heritage at: (905) 525-1859 or pheritage@cogeco.ca.



Food for Thought Book Group Monday May 17, 7:30 (Room 3 Library)

The Winter Vault
Anne Michaels

A novel on the short list for last year's Giller Prize, Anne Michaels' *The Winter Vault* is our book for discussion in May.

Vivid in its descriptions of both the physical and emotional worlds of its characters, this breathtaking, deeply moving novel reveals the

inescapability of memories, the devastation of loss and the restorative power of love. "A novelist of unusual and compelling power" *The Times* (UK).

If you would like to be part of our discussion, please join us on Monday, May 17th at 7:30 pm in the church library.

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

The Library is now permanently open. Please remember to sign out all books

May

Candidating Week May 8 to 16

Please book your meetings/events through the administration office.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
May Theme:	Our Search. Our Candidate. Our Church					1 12-4:00 pm Sanctuary/ foyer-Holloway Wedding
2 2-5 Sanc-Rental 6:30-9 Courage to Change (Sanctuary)	3 10-noon Social. Justice Rm7 7-9pm Shared Ministry - Lib Rm 3 7-8:30 Tai Chi Foyer	4 4-7 Plan B Depot Vestibule 7-9 Youth Loft Rm 11	5 9.30-11.30 Writers Circle Library Rm 3 7 Property Mtg Rm 9	6 5-7 Nominating Dinner for CYRE -Kit/foyer 7-9pm CYRE Rm 7 6:30-9:30 Choir (sanctuary)	7 7-9 Drumming Circle F.Hall	8
9 MOTHER'S DAY 5:00-8:00 Young Adult Potluck F. Hall 6:00-9 Courage to change (Sanctuary)	10 Noon -4 pm S.Justice Potluck Rm 9 7-8:30 p.m. Tai Chi-foyer 7-8:30 Finance Rm 7	11 4-7 Plan B Depot Vestibule 6-9 Funeral Advisory Society - Sanctuary-Rental 7 Board Rm 7 7-9 Youth Loft Rm 11	12 7-9:30 Management Rm9 7-9 Shared Ministry Rm 3 Library	13 10:30-12:30 Spiri- tual Practices Rm7 6:30-7:30 JOL F.Hall/ Room 10 7:30-9:30 Choir (sanctuary)	14 5-6:30 UN Rm7 7-9 Drumming Circle F.Hall 7-9:30 Music Night Sanc Rm1	15 9:30-12:30 Help A Child Smile -Rental 2-5 Sanctuary- Rental J.Caskey
16 11:45 Search Committee Circle mtg - Sanctuary 6:30-9 Courage to change (Sanctuary)	17 7:00-8:30 Tai Chi Foyer 7-9pm Shared Ministry - Lib Rm 3 7 Bruce Trail Rm 9- 7:30 Book Group- Rm 3	18 4-7 Plan B Depot Vestibule 7:00 Board Meeting (Rm.7) 7-9 Youth Loft Rm 11	19 noon Newsletter Deadline 6:30-9:30 Blooms For Africa- kitchen/foyer	20 7:30-9:30 Choir (sanctuary)	21 6-9 Sanct - Rental J.Caskey	22
23 6:30-9:00 Courage to Change (Sanc)	24 Victoria Day 7:00-8:30 Tai Chi Foyer 7-9 Caring Committee Rm 7	25 4-7 Plan B Depot Vestibule 5-8 Hamilton Suzuki School of Music- Sanctuary 7-9 Youth Loft Rm 11	26 7-9 Shared Ministry Rm 3 Library	27 10:30-12:30 Spiritual Practices Rm 7 10:30 Newsletter Assembly Rm 9 7:30-9:30 Choir (sanctuary)	28	29 6-9 Sanct - Rental J.Caskey
30 Hamilton Unitarian-Newsletter Pickup 5:30 Adult Pot Luck F. Hall 6:30-9:00 Courage to Change (Sanc)	31 7:00-8:30 Tai Chi Foyer					



May Chalice Families— News from the Children’s Religious Exploration Program

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

Every new beginning comes from some other beginning's end - unknown.

Walk For Hamilton! Walk For Haiti!

Our children and youth are gearing up for our 21st annual walk-a-thon, which will take place on May 2nd. This year our aim is to spread our abundance both near and far.

We are delighted to continue our support L’Hôpital Albert Schweitzer in Haiti. The mission of the hospital is to provide inter-grated health care for rural Haitians. However, since the devastating earthquake on January 12 2010 L’Hôpital Albert Schweitzer has the added duty to serve those suffering illness and injury due to the earthquake. Several months later the need is still over-whelming. Financial support is needed now more than ever.

We are also very enthusiastic to support Out of the Cold Hamilton. Out of the Cold originated in 1987 in Toronto after the death of homeless man inspired a small group of people to take action in support of those living in poverty. Today, Out of the Cold is run in several Canadian Cities, including Hamilton. Out of the Cold Hamilton serves our community by providing meals and clothes to members of our community that are in need.

If you are interested in more information about **Hamilton's Out of the Cold Centre** or **L’Hôpital Albert Schweitzer** please check out their websites:

www.hamiltonoutofthecold.freeservers.com
and <http://www.hashaiti.org/>

Even though our walk-a-thon is often lovingly referred to as our “Children’s Walk-a-thon” it truly is a fully inter-generational event, involving children, youth and adult volunteers. This year our Youth Group is playing an important role in supporting the Walk-a-thon. The Youth group is registering participants and even planning providing a short Walk-a-thon service during the event.

This year our walk-a-thon route is changing and will take us into the heart of the Kirkendale Community, down Locke Street and eventually to HAAA Park (off Charlton Street). This will give our church and our walk-a-thon much more visibility.

Double the Fun! Double the Yum!

This year the Children and Youth’s Religious Exploration Committee will be partnering with the Adult Religious Exploration Committee to host our Ice Cream and Strawberry Short Cake Social on June 6 immediately following the service. This is our small way of thanking the many volunteers that share their gifts and time to bring to life our Religious Exploration programming.

Welcoming and New Beginnings

Along with the rest our Church Committee our Church School will be celebrating of theme of new beginnings and welcoming the candidating Minister, Rev. Victoria Ingram, to The First Unitarian Church of Hamilton.

May

Date	Rainbow Room (0–3 years)	Spirit Play (3–5 years)	Chalice Club (6–9 years)	7th Principle group (10 & up)
May 2	Come and Play	Walk-a-thon	Walk-a-thon	Walk-a-thon
May 9	Come and Play	UU World	Welcoming & New Beginnings Exploration	Inner Quest: Making a class Web
May 16	Come and Play	UU World	Welcoming & New Beginnings Exploration	Mystery Quest: Spiritual Connections
May 23	Come and Play	UU World	Welcoming & New Beginnings Exploration	Mystery Quest: Introducing Walkabouts
May 30	Come and Play	Family Music Sunday	Family Music Sunday	Family Music Sunday

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