



# The Hamilton Unitarian

The First Unitarian Church of  
Hamilton  
Established 1889

Summer 2011  
Volume 62, No. 7

## Sunday Services

**July 3rd The Pleasures of Writing - Valerie Nielsen and members of The Writers' Circle** will offer their reflections on the pleasures of writing together, the community that develops and share some samples of their creative outlet.

**July 10 How Can I Serve? Listen to Understand! - Gail Rappolt**  
Gail will share her personal experiences as a church volunteer and explain how they have challenged her to be self-reflective and to **listen to understand** more fully. She will share the findings of research about growing churches, their needs and their struggles and relate these to her current experiences as Leadership Volunteer Coordinator. She will also challenge you to reflect on the question in her monthly column "**How Can I Serve**".

**July 17th I Hope You Dance - Rev Victoria Ingram**  
Life is full of choices – do you sit it out, or do you dance? This week, we'll look at what it means to be involved, engaged, and plugged in, no matter what stage of life you're in. This sermon topic is inspired by Lee Ann Womack's song, "I Hope You Dance," written by Sanders and Sillers.

**July 24th Myth Me! Storytelling & Narrative in our Lives - Carl Ingram**  
Our contemporary mythology & cultural storytelling seems to be mostly held in the realm of marketing & advertising. Great if you want to be a commercial culture, but not so inspiring to many of us. We have lost touch with the lessons, wisdom, & teachings of universal myths. In this sermon, Carl Ingram explores how we can recapture the power of storytelling & narrative in our lives.

**July 31st Is Religion Child Abuse? - Anne Bokma**  
Writers such as Christopher Hitchens and Richard Dawkins argue that some forms of religion violate the rights of children by indoctrinating them into a particular religious faith and depriving them of the opportunity to make their own free inquiry later in life. Anne shares her story of growing up in a fundamentalist religion, eventually leaving it and the impact it had on her faith and family ties.

**August 7th The Creative Spirit - Dr. Karen Trollope-Kumar**  
When creativity animates our lives, we feel joyously alive. Creativity in all its forms can become an integral part of our spiritual lives. Today, Karen Trollope-Kumar explores how we might foster creativity in our lives and cultivate more creative ways to live.

**August 14th The Three Rings - Anna Schafer** An 18th century tale of religious tolerance.

.... continued on page 4

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

**Have a Safe and  
Happy Summer  
Vacation !!!**



## Summer Administration Hours

Looking for help in July or August call the church office and one of the office volunteers will be happy to assist you.

Hours:

**Tuesday 10:00 am to 1:00 pm**  
**Wednesday 9:30 am to 12:30 pm**  
**Thursday 12:30 pm to 3:30 pm**

You can reach them by telephone 905-527-8441 x224 or by email  
[volunteer@firstunitarianhamilton.org](mailto:volunteer@firstunitarianhamilton.org)  
....more information pg 11

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

**September Newsletter Deadline:**  
**Wed August 24**

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

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

**Newsletter Distribution**  
**September 4, 2011**

## 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

### LEADERSHIP COMMITTEES:

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

### THE CLUSTERS AND THEIR MANAGEMENT REPS:

#### ADMINISTRATION – BARBARA WALLACE

Communications ..... vacant  
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 ..... Ali Steinbergs, 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

#### PASTORAL – VACANT

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

#### LIFE SPAN LEARNING – JULIE BERGSHEOFF

Adult Rel. Ed. Co-chair .... Nancy McMartin & Don McFadyen  
Children & Youth Rel. Expl .. Kelly Wolf & Mary Anne Forbes  
Our Whole Lives (OWL) ..... 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 ..... Mary Ellen Scanlon

### STAFF

**MINISTER:** Victoria Ingram ..... 905-527-8441 X223  
Email ..... [victoria@firstunitarianhamilton.org](mailto:victoria@firstunitarianhamilton.org)

**OFFICE MANAGER:** Melina ..... 905-527-8441 X221  
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**PROGRAM ASSISTANT:** ..... 905-527-8441 X222  
Email ..... [cyre@firstunitarianhamilton.org](mailto:cyre@firstunitarianhamilton.org)

**MUSIC DIRECTOR:** Rachel ..... 905-527-8441 X402  
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**LAY CHAPLAINS:** Barbara Jepson 905-304-0559  
Mark Zenchuk 905-777-1743

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

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

## Minister's Column




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### Ten months – can you believe it?!

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Ten months since we started this church year and our ministry with one another. Ten months of sermons and conversations, meetings and trainings, community events and challenges and moments of laughter and getting to know one another. I continue to be awed by the wonderful people in this amazing congregation, impressed with your commitment to this faith community and your willingness to step up and step together to live your vision. And, I am so grateful for how you have opened your hearts to Carl and me, welcoming us into this sacred relationship with you.

There are many special moments I recall about this church year as I prepare to take a bit of a break for UU Ministry Days and General Assembly in Charlotte, NC. Thank you! Carl and I will be gone through July 6<sup>th</sup>. When we return, we'll be welcoming our new greyhound into our home and getting used to being "doggie parents." I'll be preaching on July 17<sup>th</sup>; Carl will be your speaker on July 24<sup>th</sup>. We'll be at Unicamp from July 29 through August 1. I'll be back in the office and preparing for our next church year after August 15<sup>th</sup>. While I'm away, if you need to reach me, please feel free to drop me an email at [VIngram@uuma.org](mailto:VIngram@uuma.org), or leave a message on my cell phone: 289.440.0261. I will be checking messages on both periodically during the time I'm away. Please be patient – I will get back to you as soon as I can.

I'm thrilled to let you know that Melina, who has been our Office Manager for a number of years, has accepted the newly revised position of Congregational Administrator. After our staffing taskforce did an amazing job of reviewing the administrative needs of the congregation, we have developed the Congregational Adminis-

trator position to best serve our needs now and into the future. Melina will officially begin her new duties in September. Most notably, she will have office hours from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. on every other Sunday, and will work a year-round, full-time schedule. Melina's professional skills, talents, and creativity are a real asset for us here at First, and I'm delighted that she will continue to serve us as our Congregational Administrator.

Our Sexton, Peter, is another new face around the church. Filling this new role with experience and capability, Peter will be here part-time, mid-week, to help with maintenance, set-up, and cleaning. With the variety of uses to which our building is put, having him on board is a wonderful asset.

In August, another new staff member will be joining us – Tamara McClellan. Tamara will become our Life-span Learning Program Coordinator, working with CYRE, ARE, and our other program components to insure we continue to offer quality programming and provide the support that makes it possible for volunteers to make the best use of their talent, commitment, and energy. Tamara is another Yank – as a matter of fact, she used to work with me in my former California congregation! I'm delighted that the team hiring for this position see Tamara's experience and potential for serving First.

Wherever your summer plans may take you – to a distant destination, to a cottage, out and about, or to your backyard – I hope you enjoy a blessed season. Find ways to relax and renew. Revel in the beauty around you. Come to church and nurture your ties with community. And I'll do the same.

Love and light,  
Victoria



### Prayer for Summer Months

O Spirit of Compassion, enter our hearts, we pray. Be with us in the hard hours. Help us to be kind this day. O Spirit of Unity, help us enter into the pain of our neighbors. Let us walk where they walk, that we might speak a gentle word along the way. O Spirit of Love, enlarge our sympathies toward all troubled folk. Let us be generous of heart, that we might forgive and be forgiven. O Spirit of Thanksgiving, let us be grateful for hands that service, for those who give, and for those who receive. O Spirit of Life, let us walk together in our weakness, that by treading the path together, we may be made strong. O Spirit of the Spheres, help us to face the mystery of being. Secure us in the larger patterns we can trust, and bless us this holy day.  
Amen.

Rev. Richard Gilbert



worship@firstunitarianhamilton.org

## Summer Services . . . . continued from front cover

**August 21st Seven Deadly Sins and Seven Heavenly Virtues -Rev Victoria Ingram** The theology underpinning Unitarianism and Universalism have been around for hundreds of years, but sometimes we forget the rich heritage of our faith. This reader's theatre service will remind us of important dates, names, and movements that have influenced and created the faith we participate in today. Note: If you'd like to participate as a READER, please let Rev. Victoria know at [victoria@firstunitarianhamilton.org](mailto:victoria@firstunitarianhamilton.org) by August 1<sup>st</sup>.

### **August 28th - Brother Sun: The Saint in the Garden-Mary Ellen Scanlon**

He is the patron saint of the environment, animals, Italy, merchants, stowaways & hippies. His statue graces gardens

all over the world and the members of his order have co-existed peacefully with Moslems for nearly a millennium. Considered to be the earliest Italian poet, he has also been described as the first hero of humanism. Mary Ellen will reflect on her spontaneous day trip to Assisi, Italy that sparked an ongoing interest in the life of Francis Bernadone. He is known to the world as St Francis of Assisi, one of the most intriguing figures in western theological thinking.

### **Sept. 4th - Celebrating Words -Paul Hawkins**

Our congregation has been so fortunate to have many writers and poets through the years. We will celebrate, on this special day, the words they have captured in their writings.

## Message from Board President

Tim Versteeg



What a fantastic year! We welcomed our settled minister in August, worshipped together in a host of inspiring services, and experienced a host of wonderful activities--from retreats and workshops to fundraising meals, musical nights, and a garden sale. The committees undertook lots of productive work for our community, and had some fun too. Thanks to everyone for their commitment and dedication to making our community great.

And now...I need a rest! I'll be on holidays from church work from June 27 to August 1. Time to sleep in, spend time with family, and gear up for another successful year.

For all church-related concerns and queries, please contact Vice-President Monica Bennett during this period. I'll be back to work in August, refreshed and ready for the new church year.



## Committee on Ministries

The best piece of good news from our committee is that we now have a full roster! With the recent addition of two new members, Lesley Cordero and Cathy Grise, we feel even more empowered to move forward and are very grateful to have them on board.

Since our last communication with the congregation, we have met with representatives from the Nominating Committee. The meeting was beneficial, but as is sometimes the case, other questions were generated around our committees' roles and relationship that will take further discernment and discussion.

Assessment has been a key word in our agenda and discussions recently. This includes both the long term, structured plan for ongoing evaluation of the church's min-

istries as well as the less formal day to day sense of how congregational life is unfolding. How do we gauge the congregational pulse and make the best use of it to encourage and nurture the strengths and yearnings of this community? What are we trying to measure, and what methods can provide the most accurate and constructive information?

These challenges are going to stretch our imaginations and our skills. We do appreciate the opportunity to work together with the congregation in this process. Jennifer Kaye (chair), Lesley Cordero, Roy Dahl, Cathy Grise, Beverly Horton, Ginny Megin, Rev. Victoria Ingram (ex-officio member)

## Announcements



### From the Adult Religious Exploration Committee

A HUGE THANK YOU TO FACILITATORS AND CO-FACILITATORS OF ADULT RELIGIOUS EXPLORATION COURSES THIS PAST YEAR!

The A R E Committee is most grateful to the following individuals for sharing their time, energy, and expertise to teach courses to their fellow congregants and friends of our church.. These individuals have provided service to others wherever they might be on their own spiritual and learning path. **THANK YOU!!!**

|                      |                 |
|----------------------|-----------------|
| Don McFadyen         | Dawn Ludbrook   |
| Anne Wilson          | Ali Steinbergs  |
| David Zulak          | Mark Fenton     |
| Rev. Victoria Ingram | Valerie Nielsen |
| Carl Ingram          | Kate Hicks      |
| Joanne Dear          | Gary Hicks      |
| Paul Hawkins         | Nancy McMartin  |
| Eduardo Cordero      |                 |

### New and Ongoing Courses For This Fall

#### Ongoing

- Lotus Sutra- a new ongoing course from David Zulak based on the book "Peaceful Action, Open Heart" by Thich Nhat Hanh.
- FUUD- Paul Hawkins
- Writer's Circle- Valerie Nielsen
- Weekly Tai Chi- Mark Fenton
- Young Adult Potluck and Spiritual gathering- Kate Hicks
- Drumming Circle- Eduardo Cordero
- Food for thought Book Discussion Group- Dawn Ludbrook
- Spiritual Practices Support Group- Ali Steinbergs and Paul Hawkins

#### New

- Spirit in Practice: Unitarian Universalist Spiritual Practices- Rev. Victoria Ingram
- Being a Welcoming People: Expanding our Sense of Neighbourhood- Rev. Victoria Ingram
- Modern Developments in Taoism- Bert Wreford
- Astronomy- Roy Dickenson
- A Chosen Faith- Don McFadyen and Pat Webber
- Carl Ingram- End of Life Matters
- Mandalas- Nancy McMartin

WANT TO KNOW MORE? TALK TO US, CHECK OUT THE SIGN-UP SHEETS ON INGATHERING SUNDAY. Our committee welcomes your input and questions.

~Don McFadyen, Nancy McMartin and Anne Wilson



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

### Passages

- Ann Craig-Howarth's friend, Shiela Murray died in May
- Barbara & Tony Wallace's son, James received his degree in church music in May
- Linda Layton became a grandmother to Jasper Findlay Wood in May
- Audrey Johnman's grandmother died in June
- Jack Knight, long time Unitarian and Unicamp activist from the Guelph Congregation, died in May
- Sheila McAllister's brother, Ralph Post, died in June
- Charlie Pond and Paula Bourner announce the marriage of Charlie's daughter Kate, on June 4.
- Catherine Silverglen is on the teaching supply list at 6 Nations Elementary school
- Peter Wickett and Shelly Van Dyke's daughter, Hope, graduated with Honours from Dalhousie University
- Kassim Warner's Brother-in-law, Michael, has been diagnosed with M.S.



### Poverty Initiative: "Feed Your Neighbour"

For the past few months the Social Justice Committee has been asking congregants and friends of our church to plant extra produce to be distributed on Sundays after church amongst ourselves and then taken to the Neighbour to Neighbour Food Bank. Members of the Social Justice Committee will be on hand to take the donations in Aug and Sept. If you, however, have produce to share before then please contact Nancy McMartin for distribution. Nancy can be reached at 905-304-7774 or [nancymcmartin@gmail.com](mailto:nancymcmartin@gmail.com)



Session A: July 4 - July 15  
Session B: July 18 - July 29  
Session C: August 8 - August 19  
Session D: August 22 - September 2

MAD Camp will be using the building every weekday from 8:00 am to 5:00pm. Please keep your visits to a minimum, at this time. If you plan to be on site please inform Jude. Thank you  
Jude Johnson, MAD Camp Director



## UU Families

Draft Mission:

Opportunities for UU Parents and children to come together to create relationships.

Co facilitators: Cathy Grise ([grisec@mcmaster.ca](mailto:grisec@mcmaster.ca))

Melanie Parish ([coachparish@gmail.com](mailto:coachparish@gmail.com))

### Upcoming UU Families Dates for Fall 2011

- **Sept 25th** Lunch meet and greet for all families. Get to know other families. Lunch and Childcare provided. 12-2pm
- **October 22nd** Pumpkin Carving and Family Potluck-- 4-7pm
- **November 12** Parent's Night Out and Kids Movie night at the church 6-9 pm The kids have a movie party while the adults go out for dinner.
- **November 26th** Offsite Flamborough Santa Parade 6:30

**ART**  
in the Foyer



We have an exciting group of art shows coming. Keep your eyes on the walls!

JULY/AUGUST Children's Show

SEPT Bill Johnston show of Leslie Kaye's art

OCTOBER William La Ferla

NOVEMBER/DECEMBER Small Works Group Show

We will meet to jury art for spring shows on October 4th from 9:30 to 11:30 at the church.

We will meet to jury art for the 2012-13 year on January 10th 9:30 to 11:30 at the church.

Contact Sandy Lambert for details



## Writers' Circle

Wed July 6, 2011

Wed Aug 3, 2011

Discovery Centre 10 am to 12 noon

THE WRITERS' CIRCLE will meet during the summer months at The Williams Coffee Pub near the Discovery Centre by the lake.

- Come and join us Wed July 6th, and Wed August 3rd from 10 a.m. to 12.00 noon. Look for us on the patio if the weather is good, otherwise we'll be at a table indoors.
- Enjoy a fancy coffee, catch up our news, do a bit of writing and sharing and maybe stay for a delicious lunch.
- On Wednesday, September 7th we will resume meeting in the church library from 9.30 a.m. until 11.30 a.m.

To learn more about our group, and hear from some of its members, come to our July 3rd service at the church.

For further information, call Valerie Nielsen at 905-643-5425 or e-mail [valerie01@sympatico.ca](mailto:valerie01@sympatico.ca).

All are welcome!!

## TIME TO WRITE



Please join me, Valerie Nielsen, for four glorious days at Unicamp, from August 24th to 28th. I will be facilitating a Writers' Retreat in the beautiful setting near Shelburne, Ontario. As requested last year, we will have more solitary time to write.

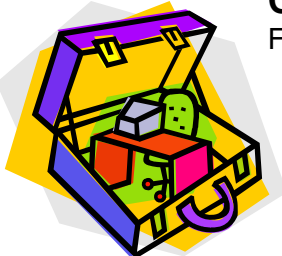
There will also be group sessions for inspiration, sharing and encouragement. Bring a work in progress or be open to suggestions to try something new and exciting. Space is limited, so please register soon. For more details, see the Unimcamp website [www.unicampofontario.ca/](http://www.unicampofontario.ca/) or contact me at [valerie01@sympatico.ca](mailto:valerie01@sympatico.ca) or phone 905-643-5425.

Hope to see you in August!

Thanks to the Community

## Open Suitcase

From Elyssa Canning



Thanks to the community of the First Unitarian Church of Hamilton, for donating so generously to the Open Suitcase to support two community organizations in rural Kenya. \$345 and a full suitcase of supplies were donated (I even had to pack some of the overflow into my own suitcase to keep me under the 50 pound limit). These donations will be greatly appreciated by the women's empowerment center and the school where I am volunteering this summer. By the time you read this I will be half way through my five-week experience.

## Unsung Hero



This month our unsung heroes are a couple well known to long time members of the church, but perhaps not so well known to the many newcomers. Julie Bergshoeff and Ed Canning have served this church in many ways for well over a decade. It's hard to know where to start! Perhaps people might know Ed best for his roles in Fall Festival and for singing the Unitarian Song he composed and Julie best for her work as a teacher in Children's Religious Exploration. Like many in the congregation, there are the few things that are visible and then there are all efforts that no one sees.

Parents who have children who are now 7-10 will remember having their children in Spirit Play as 3-5 year olds. Julie designed and developed that program and taught it most every Sunday certainly in its early stages providing a rich and varied spiritual learning experience for young children. Julie then served on Children's RE Committee and moved into the chair role at a very difficult time. In her thoughtful and gentle way she encouraged new members to join and re-established commitment and energy in that committee. I heard via the grape vine that at this point she was often spending up to 15 hours a week on church work along with her demanding full time teaching job. Along with Marilyn Hunt, Julie co-chaired the task

force that developed the role and structure for the Lifespan Learning Staff member who will begin in August. This process was one of the most comprehensive and best designed that our congregation has seen. Julie moved to Management Committee last June and is now providing leadership for the Religious Exploration cluster as a whole. In addition to all this, Julie was one of the adult leaders of Youth Program this winter and acted as our adult leader at CUC where she supported the six youth who went to CanUUDle. Her dedication to learning and the example she sets taking on new roles and being willing to risk, learn and grow is one we can all take measure of.

If you are familiar with the words of the Unitarian Hymn Ed wrote, then you pretty much know how Ed feels about his church. Most recently Ed served as one of the seven members of Search Committee – and hosted the meetings in his home. Ask anyone about that work and they will talk about the joy, however it also required a tremendous work commitment, time, thought and energy. Prior to that Ed served on Board for 6 years. As chair for part of that time, I can assure you that our feet were held to the fire about many things that could have caused us grief as a Board and as a church had Ed not called us to pay attention. He was quick to see flaws in logic and good at helping put solutions in place when he saw them. Going back a dozen years, Ed was part of the planning

and development of the move from Locke Street to our current site. He served on the building committee and was a constant voice of optimism and the "We Can Do It" attitude. Who could forget Ed's performances at Fall Festival – never one to be shy - how many times has he had us in stitches – mostly making fun of himself. Then there are Ed's sermons over the years – where he showed the sensitive and open side of himself and his commitment both to his faith and to constantly learning. And what of the Ed's unseen role. Over the decade I have been involved in church leadership, Ed has acted as pro bono legal counsel for more contracts, issues, and potential minefields that I care to remember. I cannot imagine what the legal bill might be had we had to pay for his wise, well researched and effective counsel.

And finally there is generosity - the *Ed and Julie, Julie and Ed* – (always a bit of a question how to get that right) who have given give so freely of their home and hospitality for church events and fundraisers over the years. They are marvellous hosts, great chefs, and have provided a venue and warmth and joy for so many positive occasions in our church community. Please have a word with them over the summer and let them know who much they are appreciated for all they do and have done for our church.

Gail Rappolt, Volunteer Coordinator

## How Can I Serve?

Last month I challenged you to think about how you might choose to be involved in the life of the church come Fall 2011. The worksheets from the newsletter are in the library if you wanted to stop in and pick one up and reflect over the summer. As we all think about rest and/or vacation as part of Canadian Summer there are two ways I would like you to think about serving the church over the summer. Before I go further I will acknowledge that I need to take my own advice (because someone will tell me that for sure).

Resting and restoring yourself is the first way you can serve. Taking the time to reflect on all you have done for the congregation over the year and as Rev. Ingram pointed out in one of her recent sermons – there is no "just" – as in I was just a member of the committee or I just made coffee or I just had a small part. In a driven world, the practices of gratitude and mindfulness, taking the time to be kind to yourself and actually acknowledge how hard you have worked are important. It occurs to me that sometimes we take better care of our cars

and computers than we do ourselves. We actually turn them off, give them a rest, get them checked out and get them new batteries when they wear out/down. So this summer I am asking you how you can serve yourself, restore yourself, and give yourself credit. How about writing yourself a thank you card for all the ways you have served the church this year?

...continued page 8

## How Can I Serve?....Continued from page 7

And second, who else would you like to thank? There have been so many people who have stepped into new (and sometimes old) shoes in the past 12 months and done fantastic work. What have you noticed that has touched you in the last few months? Perhaps the art work in the foyer, the new fence, some particular music, how happy your child was at the end of service on Sunday morning, a change in policy that made a difference for you, a great festival activity at someone's home, an adult religious exploration program, the new look in the library, the flowers in church one Sunday, a visit, or a card you received. So, take a look in the front of the newsletter and find someone whose work has touched you and give them a call, send them a note, talk to them after service and thank them.

And finally make sure you find a way to thank our

staff members. Rev. Victoria, Melina and Rachel serve us in countless invisible ways as well as providing the things we see – they too need time to recharge their batteries. We often talk about how the sermon touched us, or how much we loved the music or how wonderful the newsletter looks, but do we tell them? I hope we do and often.

And let's not forget our volunteer staff - Cindy, our choir director, Mary Scott and Ali Steinbergs our Newcomer Coordinators, our Ambassadors, Emma, Sela, Stone, Kevin, and Lana and Shelley Van Dyke who is coordinating children's program til our new staff member arrives.

We are blessed to have this church community and all it provides. Happy Summer.

### CHURCH EMAILS



#### Booking Rooms

bookings@firstunitarianhamilton.org

#### Order of Service Submissions

oos@firstunitarianhamilton.org

Deadline: Wed 9:00 am

#### Committee Minutes:

minutes@firstunitarianhamilton.org

#### Newsletter Submissions

newsletter@firstunitarianhamilton.org

#### Address/Email/Phone Updates

directory@firstunitarianhamilton.org



## DENOMINATIONAL AFFAIRS UPDATE for Summer, 2011

from Nora Prosser, Denominational Affairs Representative

On the Victoria Day weekend in May, several of us attended the 50th Anniversary Meeting of the Canadian Unitarian Council in Toronto. The theme '**Trust the Dawning Future**' was reflected in the general atmosphere of warmth and hope, from the Ingathering Parade, when we all processed in displaying our church banners, to the Closing ceremonies. Over 600 UU's of all ages from across Canada and beyond were there, including 100 youth at their CanUUdle Con.

The Keynote Address was given by the Rev. Jessica Purple Rodela, minister of Waterloo. Her message was a challenge, building on the theme '**We're gonna need a bigger boat**' (from the movie 'Jaws'). We were urged to be proud of our Faith and our Principles and to prepare ourselves to take them out beyond our walls. If we wished to *make a difference* in a troubled world, we must welcome diversity within and engage with our local communities and beyond.. The energy and excitement generated continued throughout the weekend. The principle workshop series was given by the Rev. Robert Latham : '**Mission, Identity, Message**' (the Rays of Our Dawning Future) and numerous other workshops, special lunches, dinners and breakfasts, worship services and a splendid evening Cabaret. Those in the choir program prepared the music for the Sunday Service in Convocation Hall of U of T, attended by 1,309 UU's.

Five of us were proud to be designated **Delegates** for our Hamilton congregation and attended the **Annual Meeting** on

May 20 to vote on your behalf. Decisions made at this Meeting affect all congregations in Canada, so we were active in general discussions before casting our votes. The Agenda included the Financial statements and proposed Budget, a new Resolutions Policy (both of which passed), suggestions for change to the method of assessing Annual Program Contributions (to be considered by all member congregations in the coming months) and **the report from Executive Director, Jennifer Dickson,**

Other news:-

UU/UNO is now part of the UUA and CUC has just signed a partnership agreement with the UUA, to enable a more effective voice for Canadian UU's at the United Nations.

- new funds made possible by 'Friends of CUC' and individual donors: the new Edward Bevan leadership fund helped support 14 delegates to the CUC in need of financial assistance. Ten youth received subsidies the CUC leadership development fund offers support to individuals.
- -new, reorganized CUC website and e letters, instead of the traditional 'monthly mailings'

There will be no ACM next year, 2012. Instead there will be a symposium to discuss and work on ongoing projects. Visit the Canadian Unitarian Council website for many more details of what your fellow UU's and CUC board and staff are engaged with.



## Board Approval of Revised 2011 Budget

Would you believe that the Canvass started in October 2010 to raise funds for 2011 has been ongoing ever since?! The energetic and enthusiastic Canvass team lead by Paul Hawkins undertook to raise a pledge total of \$277,700 to meet increased expenses that include full time ministry, employing a full time Religious Exploration Professional and modest program expansion and capital improvements. Although the pledge total had not been reached by the January 16, 2011 budget approval meeting, the still enthusiastic Canvass team indicated that it likely would be attained and the congregation approved a balanced budget assuming the \$277,700 pledge total.

The congregation also was advised at the January 16 Budget approval meeting, that if the \$277,700 pledge total were not reached, the Board had some areas of manoeuvre such as a small transfer (~\$6,000) from the Reserve Fund, not hiring a part time bookkeeper (~\$9000), minimizing Board discretionary expenses (~\$2500), etc. to maintain a balanced budget.

Although this year's Canvass has been successful, with a pledge total \$11,000 larger than the 2010 pledge receipts, it

is \$22,000 short of the \$277,700 goal. We are now 5-months into the 2011 church year and the Board acting on advice from the Finance Committee needed to finalize the 2011 budget.

The Finance Committee recommended that the financial situation facing the church is not an emergency and does not justify drawing from the emergency reserve. Instead they prepared a revised 2011 budget which the Board has approved, with reduced expenses and a \$4,400 projected deficit. The Finance Committee also recommended that the revised budget can be risk managed until the third quarter review when if necessary, further changes can be made to end the year with no deficit.

The Canvass Committee, Finance Committee and the Board appeal to the congregation's generosity to support our church programming so that further budget reductions may be avoided.

Sincerely, Paul Hawkins, Canvass chair, Bruce MacPherson and Al Sharp, Finance Committee co-chairs, Mel Webber, Treasurer, Tim Versteeg, Board President



## My Music, by Lyle Franklin

Definitions:-

- 1.- The art of combining sounds in a pleasing or expressive way.
- 2.- The sounds so produced, or the notation representing these.

Is that all there is? Not in my life! Not in my ears! Music is and has been an essential part of my life, dare I say, even before I was born? Let me attempt to explain.

Being born on a farm, on the Manitoba prairie, the omni-present sounds of nature, of the wild birds, farm animals, the winds through the trees that surround the farm buildings; all of these and more were my sonic companions; and I too, sang with them. Little tunes that I made up, no words, what you might now call 'scat'. My Mother at times would hear me and ask, "What is that you're singing?" I just answered, "I donnoh, I was just singing to 'cawatnah', you know Mommy, he's my favrit chicken. (This

chicken had some difference with the part of the throat that creates the "cluck-cluck" sounds chickens usually make. Because of this, the other hens would chase her and peck at her and I used to chase these other chickens away, and she would come close to me, I suppose in some befriending recognition.) And I sang to her!

Ahh, the Prairie Wind! Those afternoons walking home from school, part of the distance was along the main No.1 highway, along which many the telephone wires were strung, pole cross T to pole cross T, and the songs that the wind strummed through these wires, Oh, I can still hear them:- Glen Campbell's "Wichita Linesman". That's the song I heard long before the

composer Jimmy Webb was born. Did he borrow from the wind?

Oh, I could go on for many pages, many years, of how music has brought to me solace, peace, happiness and contentment. I believe that here in Canada we are so fortunate to have the eclectic multi-cultural sources of our music, and as Margaret Trudeau observed in her book, 'Changing My Mind', she benefits ever so much just listening to classical music on CBC radio 2. Music, all music, from whichever source, I just cannot take for granted, it is more than in just my thoughts, it is part of me, it is in my soul.



## Annual Waxing of Church Floors

Commencing on **Friday, Sept 9 at 5:00 pm** and **Sat, Sept 10 (all day)** all the tile floors in the church will be stripped, re-waxed and polished. The process takes about eight hours to dry. Be advised that access to the building will be limited on these days.

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



## From Blooms for Africa GOOD NEWS STORIES!!

Members of First Unitarian Church have participated in a number of very successful equity and social justice outreach activities during the past month:

**Garden Treasures Sale, May 28th** – This very successful event was a collaborative effort among a number of groups and many volunteers from First Unitarian Church. As a result of this cooperative effort, approximately \$3,000 was raised for the Stephen Lewis Foundation's Grandmothers Campaign, to help support African grandmothers as they raise their grandchildren orphaned by the AIDS Pandemic in sub-Saharan Africa. In addition to the funds raised, this event reached out to many neighbours in the community who ventured into our parking lot and gardens to see what was going on!

**Stride to Turn the Tide National Walk, June 11th** – Many members of the First Unitarian Church participated in this national fund-raising event, also organized to raise money for the Stephen Lewis Foundation's Grandmothers to Grandmothers Campaign. Members representing Blooms for Africa, Grandmothers of Steel and Mabibi Wa Tama, walked 5 kilometres at various locations in Hamilton and Burlington. As well the Drummers from the First Unitarian Church both

launched and welcomed the walkers at the Burlington location. At last count, this event had raised \$150,000 across Canada, and the National Organizers are hoping to eventually reach their goal of \$300,000.

**Book Sale, June 18th** – Bill Johnston staged a sale of his and other people's books at the First Unitarian Church to raise funds for the Grandmothers' campaign. The newsletter is going to print before the results of this sale are known, but Bill's efforts in all areas of equity and social justice are well known and appreciated by members of the First Unitarian Church.

**Blooms for Africa Garden Tour, July 22, 23** – The 5<sup>th</sup> Annual Garden Tour, another night time event (6-10 p.m.), will be held in Ancaster this year. Passports for the 10 gardens featured in this event will be available for purchase after church at the end of June (\$20 for ten gardens plus discounts at local restaurants). They will also be available at *The Keeping Room* in Dundas, *Bryan Prince Booksellers* in Westdale, *Kari's of Ancaster*, *Buy the Yard Interiors* in Ancaster and a *different drummer books* in Burlington or call Joanne Dear (905-627-2074), Gail Rappolt (905-527-0470) or Ann Craig Howarth (905-637-1850) for tickets Don't miss this wonderful event which has raised more than \$5,000 each summer for the Grandmothers' campaign.



## New deadline for objections to giant quarry near Unicamp

The provincial government has given Ontarians another opportunity to comment on a proposal for a massive quarry 10 kilometres from Unicamp, the Unitarian Universalist camp and retreat centre in the Shelburne area.

People have until July 11 to respond to the proposal through the province's online Environmental Registry. The registry is at [http://www.ebr.gov.on.ca/ERS-WEB-External/displaynoticecontent.do?](http://www.ebr.gov.on.ca/ERS-WEB-External/displaynoticecontent.do?no-ticeId=MTEyNTY2&statusId=MTY4ODI5&language=en)

[no-ticeId=MTEyNTY2&statusId=MTY4ODI5&language=en](http://www.ebr.gov.on.ca/ERS-WEB-External/displaynoticecontent.do?no-ticeId=MTEyNTY2&statusId=MTY4ODI5&language=en) The registry number for this quarry is 011-2864. The huge planned quarry in the Township of Malancthon has attracted a lot of opposition. The Highland Companies propose extracting stone from a site of about 2,300 acres, with the rock extracted from deep into the earth, well below the water table. Opponents fear damage to the aquifer that feeds the headwaters of five rivers including the Grand, massive disruption of community life from 3,600 truck trips in and 3,600 out each day hauling stone, pollution from constant water pumping and from the trucks, noise from blasting every day except statutory holidays and other disruptions to the area, including to the beautiful nearby UU camp.

You can learn more about the proposal at the social

justice table in the foyer, at the website of the North Dufferin Agricultural and Community Task Force, which is opposed, [www.ndact.com/NDACT/Welcome.html](http://www.ndact.com/NDACT/Welcome.html), and of the proponent, [http://www.highlandcompanies.ca/index.php/companies/melancthonquarry/ara\\_process\\_dates/](http://www.highlandcompanies.ca/index.php/companies/melancthonquarry/ara_process_dates/)

The government made clear, in allowing for further comment, that comments on the registry site are not official objections under the *Aggregate Resources Act*. The government says comments now will be considered as part of the decision-making process but won't be directed to the applicant for resolution, as comments during the initial 45-day objection period were. The Highland Companies have two years to address those earlier official objections.

If there are still unresolved objections to the licence application after the two year period, the government said the Ministry of Natural Resources can refer the application to the Ontario Municipal Board (OMB). In the event of an OMB hearing, the ministry says it will ensure that the comments received through the Environmental Registry are provided to the OMB for its consideration.

Your social justice committee

## Summer Schedule and Thank You!

from Melina, Office Manager

Wow ! Can't believe it's suddenly summer. Another successful church year has gone by. Time for some rest and relaxation! I will be taking time this summer to enjoy the great outdoors with family and friends and for some much needed rest and relaxation, after a busy church year. Please Note: Summer holidays mean that I will be away from the administration office: from July 11, 2011 to August 22, 2011 inclusive. I will be back in September refreshed and ready for another exciting church year.

In my absence the office volunteers will be able to provide assistance for your day-to-day needs. Please see the front cover of this newsletter for hours of operation.

We would like to take this opportunity to welcome new office volunteers William LaFerla and Jennifer Purdie and say good -bye to Margaret McFadyen after many years of service. Thank you Margaret and to the many volunteers that support the day-to-day operations of the administration office and with the newsletter production.

Thank you all!!! Have a happy and safe summer and see you in September. ~ Melina, Office Manager

Angela Gaspari  
Pat Keefe  
Dawn Ludbrook  
Sheila McAllister  
Margaret McFayden  
Ruth Pollard

Joanne Waters  
Eleanor Wrigley  
Doris Wells  
William LaFerla  
Jennifer Purdie

Thank You

Grazie

Kiitos

Mahalo

Gracias

Merci



## Food for Thought Book Group

Come join the Food for Thought Book Group for interesting discussions and inspired reading!

### Book Choices for 2011 and 2012

**Sept.** Annabel-Kathleen Winter

**Oct.** The Beauty of Humanity Movement-Camilla Gibb

**Nov.** Room-Emma Donoghue

**Dec.** The Sentimentalists-Johanna Skibsrud

**Jan.** Loving Frank-Nancy Horan

**Feb.** Major Pettigrew's Last Stand- Helen Simonson

**Mar.** The Postmistress- Sarah Blake

**Apr.** The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks- Rebecca Skloot

**May** The Case for God- Karen Armstrong

**June-** Potluck and Choosing of Books



## Spiritual Practices in the Summer

Want to be more spiritual this summer? The Spiritual Practices Support Group meets on a regular basis to explore and experience different kinds of spiritual practices. In the last several months we have explored the spiritual practices of: Attention, Beauty, Being Present, Connections, Compassion, Devotion, and Enthusiasm. We practice these through meditation, music, journaling, laughing, and most of all by sharing from our experiences.

Normally we meet on the second and fourth Thursday of every month, from 10:30 am - 12:30 pm, at the church. However, during the months of July and August we will be meeting at each others' homes. If you are interested in attending, please contact one of the facilitators: Paul Hawkins at [pwhawkins@aol.com](mailto:pwhawkins@aol.com), or Ali Steinbergs at [asteinbergs@cogeco.ca](mailto:asteinbergs@cogeco.ca).



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

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

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## Lifespan Religious Exploration Professional

The board has approved the recommendation made by the hiring committee chaired by Elizabeth Beckett. Pending acceptance by the candidate, our new Lifespan Learning Religious Exploration professional will begin mid August.

In order to complete our task we read and fully endorsed the work done by the committee that authored the Fields of Promise Becoming Reality that was submitted to the Board in July 2009. This document was the blueprint of our work. The Field of Dreams document contained a complete analysis and vision for the position. We adopted the job description found in the document and followed the UUA Financial guidelines for hiring professionals. The job was advertised on the CUC, UUA, Star King, Victoria Theology School and our own church website. We received three applications and interviewed two candidates.

The candidate the hiring committee has made the offer to is an enthusiastic, spiritual Unitarian with experience with both young and senior people. We were impressed with her skills and her manner and feel confident that she will be a good fit and positive addition to our professional church staff.

## Walkathon

Our final numbers are in! \$742.40 was raised by our children and youth to be split between our two charities – L'Hopital Albert Schwietzer and Environment Hamilton. Thank you to all who participated!

## Backyard Exploration



Elizabeth Beckett will be leading a program for all children 3+ which will take advantage of our newly fenced-in garden. The children will explore our principles and sources through their connection with the natural world around us.

Our Nursery program for those children 3 and under will also be running over the summer



grandmothers to  
campaign  
grandmothers

# Blooms for Africa



presents

## BLOOMS IN THE NIGHT GARDEN TOUR

Evening  
Friday July 22 & Saturday July 23

6-10 PM rain or shine | Ancaster | 10 gardens \$20

### Locations where passports can be purchased

|                           |                                 |
|---------------------------|---------------------------------|
| Buy the Yard Interiors    | 65 Wilson Street West, Ancaster |
| Kari's of Ancaster        | 386 Wilson East, Ancaster       |
| The Keeping Room          | 6 Cross Street, Dundas          |
| a different drummer books | 513 Locus Street, Burlington    |
| Bryan Prince bookseller   | 1060 King Street West, Hamilton |



the  
Stephen Lewis  
FOUNDATION

*All proceeds will be donated to the Stephen Lewis Foundation Grandmothers to Grandmothers campaign.*

*Blooms for Africa is one of over 240 grandmothers groups across Canada in the Grandmothers to Grandmothers campaign.*