

HORIZONS



Newsletter of The First Unitarian Congregation of Toronto
A religious community serving each person's spiritual journey

175 St. Clair Avenue West, Toronto, Ontario M4V 1P7
416-924-9654/Fax: 416-924-9655/ www.firstunitariantoronto.org
administrator@firstunitariantoronto.org
Member Canadian Unitarian Council www.cuc.ca

Happy St. Valentine's Day

Pastoral Care Committee: Allan Brand: 416-690-3242/ merrileebrand@hotmail.com
DLRE: Angela Klassen: 416-924-9654 x223/ angela@firstunitariantoronto.org
Minister: Rev. Shawn Newton: 416-924-9654 x222/ shawn@firstunitariantoronto.org

In the Pulpit Sundays 10:30 am

Sunday 7 February
Beth Ann McFadden and the Member Engagement Team "Getting Engaged"

Sunday 14 February
Rev. Shawn Newton "All Kinds of Love: a Celebration of Poetry and Music"



Sunday 21 February
Rev. Shawn Newton "Creative Conflict"

Sunday 28 February
Rev. Shawn Newton
"Making Peace with Jesus"

Upcoming Events

<i>Amnesty International</i>	10
<i>Art Show</i>	10
<i>Brownbag Lunch</i>	6
<i>Cabaret</i>	6
<i>Choir Concert—UU</i>	7
<i>CUSJ—Haiti Action Network</i>	6
<i>Governance Workshop</i>	7
<i>Haiti Relief</i>	4
<i>Issues and Ideas</i>	6
<i>Membership News</i>	4
<i>Nominating Committee</i>	9
<i>Sacred Circle Dance</i>	7
<i>Volunteers Needed</i>	4
<i>Wheel of Life</i>	8

You Can't Take It With You – Shawn Newton

There are many different ways to “do” ministry. The most tempting, though dangerous, is to go it alone. The hardest, but most important, is to give the ministry away.

In one congregation I served in my early twenties, the number one rule on staff was “don’t steal ministry from the members.” As a staff person, there was nothing worse than getting caught doing something that a member of the congregation could do. Our job was to do what only we could do. By doing so, we honoured the gifts and talents of the members and we conserved the congregation’s resources by dedicating our time to those things where we could most make a difference.

When we’re functioning at our best, the work of our congregation is carried out by our members, who take up ministry in the choir and as greeters, as coffee hour hosts and board members, writing letters for Amnesty and making sandwiches for Out of the Cold. In this way, our ministry is blessedly bigger than my work or the work of the staff. Our ministry is what we, together, take up and take on.

In the coming weeks, you’ll be hearing more about the work of our Member Engagement Team. The team will be inviting you to think more deeply about the ways that you personally make true the words of our covenant that “service is our prayer.” Start thinking about your ministry—and of how you can give it away by sharing the work with others.

Planning for the Front Patio – Richard Kirsh

The Task Force (Judy Clark, Fred Lautenschlaeger, Richard Kirsh) has completed the consultation phase of its mandate. There were good exchanges of ideas and information, and preferences were expressed for the various options during the five meetings with the Property Committee, Green Team, Board, Convenors, and Staff. As well, several helpful submissions were received. All of the information will be incorporated into a report for the Convenors to consider at their February meeting where the basic decisions about the design will be made. Following that, the Task Force will meet with the architect to discuss revisions to the plan, prepare a revised application to the City, if necessary, and prepare a detailed implementation and landscaping plan.



A Note from the Board – Judy Clarke

The Board approved Jack Harmer and Paul Carr as members of the congregation. Welcome Jack and Paul! Beth-Ann McFadden and Sue Berlove spoke about the focus around volunteering at First, which is evolving away from “getting people to work” towards “getting people connected”.



A local Jewish congregation, Shir Lebeynu will rent space from Toronto First for their high holidays next year. Shawn is discussing what form our relationship with Shir Lebayny might take, e.g.: our doing a joint service with them, their supplying the art for Sunderland.

Helen Iacovino will continue as Chief Convenor through the period of the 2011 AGM. Watch for the Youth Group, helping out at coffee hour each month. The Youth Group was asked to submit a proposal for fundraising for attendance at CanUUdle, listing the amount they wish to raise and their means of doing it. If their proposal is accepted by the Board, the youth will be able to keep the net proceeds of fundraising.

Treasurer Chris Moore presented the current budget for discussion, noting its successive iterations, based on an initial draft from him and Judy Ramkelewan, our bookkeeper, then on discussions with the convenors, the Board, and a Town Hall meeting. The Congregational Budget Meeting will be held on 24 January. Plans were made for a special collection for Haiti to be taken, directed to the Red Cross.

We Need A Board Reporter



We are still looking for a new Board Reporter. Many previous reporters have said that they “grew old doing this job, because they enjoyed it so much they didn’t want to give it up”. The Board Reporter is the important link between the more formal Board and its reports, and the members of the congregation. Apply early—only evening per month, free parking, and the rewards are too numerous to mention here. Contact the Editor (louiseripley@rogers.com).

Volunteer Opportunities Await – Beth Ann McFadden

Don't let your skills and talents go to waste. These are just some of the many options available:

Caring committee needs help with sending cards and flowers, visiting, and serving refreshments at memorial services

Property Committee needs handy people interested in: gardening, heating, electrical equipment, parking issues; legal advice also would be appreciated

Membership Committee needs people interested in:

- Data Entry
- Buddy system for integrating new members
- Examining "the meaning of membership" at Toronto First

Children's RE and Youth Group are accepting applications from:

- Teens interested in assisting on Sundays in the nursery, in pre-school or junior elementary classes (High school volunteer credit available).

- Adults interested in working with children and youth in fun, flexible, short-term ways, e.g. bulletin board designer, story kit maker, supplies buyer, neighbouring faiths tour guide, youth leader, children's teacher, story teller, coming of age mentor, photography enthusiast for "picturing peace" month, congregational picnic team member, world traveler with pictures and stories....

Ushers: serve on a team of four one Sunday per month

For details & help finding other satisfying ways to connect and contribute, contact Beth Ann McFadden, Member Engagement Chair (beth.ann@sympatico.ca or 416 544-0879).

Haiti Earthquake Relief – Ted Wood

Thank you to all who contributed to the special collection for Haiti Earthquake Relief. As of 21 January we raised \$5,538 for the Canadian Red Cross Haiti Earthquake Fund. The Red Cross continues to accept donations due to the extent of the disaster and the massive relief requirements.



A Chosen Faith – Angela Klassen

A Chosen Faith is the classic introductory text to Unitarian Universalism which we'll be studying later this winter. Co-authored by seasoned UU ministers, Revs. John Beuhrens and the late Forrest Church, *A Chosen Faith* examines each of the six sources of our faith with chapters entitled "Experience", "Deeds Not Creeds", "Dialogue", "Expectations" "Mind and Spirit", and "For the Beauty of the Earth". The book offers a straightforward interpretation of our core principles, a short historical



perspective on Unitarianism and Universalism, testimonies of contemporary members and ministers and a wise and entertaining foreword by Robert Fulghum, (*All I Needed to Know I Learned in Kindergarten*). Fulghum offers a tongue-in-cheek comparison of Unitarian Universalism to public radio: "We want to be exposed to a wide range of information and a broad range of viewpoints. We want each individual to have an influence on programming, and we want each individual to take responsibility for keeping the programmes on the air. It's not the easiest way to go about radio or religious community, but it's the way we choose."

Participants read and reflect upon the six chapters in turn and gather each week to share ideas about the book, this faith and our experience. Whether you are new to our congregation or are deepening your understanding of Unitarian Universalism, I hope that you'll join me for these seven sessions which run Thursday evenings from 7:00 to 9:00 pm 4 March to 22 April.

Pre-order your copy of the book at the bookstore in Workman Hall and register by sending a message with the subject line "Chosen Faith" to registerfirstunitarian@gmail.com or by calling Angela Klassen, DLRE (416-924-9654 ext. 223).

Workshops, Gatherings, Groups Looking For Your Participation

Brown Bag Seminar – Nancy Kasper

12:00 to 1:00 pm Thursday 18 February: Bring your own lunch and coffee and tea will be available.
1 to 2:30 Presentation by Gillian Bramwell on Same Sex Schools. What is the problem? What causes the problem? Will single-sex schools solve it: What does research say? What other effects might result from single-sex schools? What other approaches might be helpful?

Cabaret is Coming – Ilene Cummings

Toronto First's "Ides of April" Cabaret will take place Friday 16 April. We are looking for quality acts (songs, dance, comedy) on the theme of April or incipient spring to be a part of the programme. Speak to Dallas Bergen or Ilene Cummings if you are interested in participating.

CUSJ Social Justice Sunday Series – Margaret Rao

On Sunday 21 February at 12:15 p.m. in Shaw Hall, guest speaker B.C. Holmes of the Toronto Haiti Action Committee will be offering an audio-visual presentation of her recent visit to Haiti as part of a human rights delegation on a fact-finding mission to this impoverished, now devastated nation.

Issues & Ideas – Books that Changed My Life

Want to know what new books are saying about religion and the spiritual dimensions of life and what resources in people and publications you can find in our library at Toronto First? Join us as we gather after coffee on the first Sunday of every month, 12:15 to 1:30 pm in the Library, where two congregation members will present reviews of newly acquired books followed by an open discussion. Suggestions for topics and books, and volunteers to review them, are welcome; contact Gerta (416-488-9939).

Upcoming:

February 7: Towards Wholeness

Liz MacArthur reviews Audrey Mairi, *Trager for Self-Healing: A Practical Guide for Living in the Present*;

Lorraine Wilson reviews Rachel Naomi Remen, *My Grandfather's Blessings: Stories of Strength, Refuge and Belonging*.

March 7: Unitarians and Reformation History

Marvin Anderson reviews Benjamin J. Kaplan, *Divided by Faith: Religious Conflict and the Practice of Toleration in Early Modern Europe*;

Peter Hughes previews his forthcoming book *Declaration: A Revelation of Jesus Christ Son of God by Matteo Gribaldi* (previously attributed to Michael Servetus)

See Also:

Amnesty Int'l. p. 10

Art Show p. 10

Membership Info p. 9

Nominating Committee p. 9

Patio News p. 2

Volunteers Needed p. 4



Sacred Circle Dance 19 February 7:30 pm

"Come, come whoever you are" to our monthly sacred circle dance gathering. No experience necessary; each dance is taught beforehand. We use music and movement (gentle and sometimes lively) to create sacred space. Sacred yes, but not necessarily serious! We dance for hope, for healing and for fun in the spirit of community on the third Friday of every month. Refreshments provided. Suggested donation \$5.00. Margaret Rao (416-658-0998)



Sanctuary Volunteer Recruitment

Thanks again to those who filled out the Sanctuary Volunteer Form (forms are still available in the office) and indicated their willingness to take on specific tasks in the implementation of housing and support to a Convention Refugee under threat of expulsion from Canada. The Property, RE., and Sanctuary Committees are working in tandem towards the installation of a shower. Estimates are still pending.

Unicamp Day is February 7

It's the middle of winter and a good time to think about Unicamp: hiking the trails, swimming in the pond, star gazing, walking the labyrinth. Spring and Unicamp are not far away. Unicamp's 2010 brochure is available at the Welcome Table.

UU Choirs in Concert- Dallas Bergen

A fundraiser for Regent Park School of Music, Saturday 20 March 7:30pm in Sunderland Hall. Come hear this choral concert featuring seven Ontario Unitarian-Universalist choirs. Tickets: \$15 / \$10 / pay-what-you-can

Who Runs This Place, Anyway? – Ellen Campbell

Want to know how this place works? On 21 February President Ellen Campbell will conduct a mini-workshop for members and friends of the congregation on how we are organized, and how our governance model reflects our religious perspective. We will meet at 9:15 am in the Board Room; a light breakfast will be served.

Wheel of Life—The Caring Committee



Best Wishes for those celebrating Happy Events in February

Thank You to:

Lynn Atkin-Phillips who donated the strikingly beautiful floral arrangement for the service on 3 January; it was designed with Fire Communion in mind and dedicated with love to the memory of Bruce Joseph Atkin

All those who after the service on 20 December delivered poinsettias to our friends who aren't able to join us on Sunday mornings

Our Condolences to:

The family of Ruth Mansfield, a member of this congregation for over 50 years, who died on New Year's Eve at the age of 93; her memorial service was held on 16 January

The family and friends of Allan Whiteley who died on 1 January after a long illness; Alan was a lay chaplain at Toronto First for five years in the late 1980s and early 1990s and he later became a full-time pastoral chaplain at St. Joseph's Hospital

Best Wishes for a Speedy Recovery to:

Nancy Swards who had an operation on a severely broken left ankle on 2 January and then broke her left wrist on 6 January; her casts should come off in six weeks

News From the Congregation:

We were excited to find an article by our minister Shawn Newton in the *Toronto Star* of 28 December; based on a recent thought-provoking sermon of his, it was entitled "The cost of minding your own business" and can be found online at www.thestar.com.

Emergency Information Forms: Have You Filed Yours?

Telephone Tree: If you are not connected and wish to be, contact Don Cameron (416-488-0448)

If you have an item for the "Wheel of Life" column, contact Frauke Rubin or Olga McKenzie by telephone

Membership Information – Joan Hongoh

Retreat for Pathways to Membership: This month we will have an “in-house” retreat for Pathways to Membership. This all day session will be held in lieu of the usual 3 evening sessions. In this session you will learn more about us, enable us to learn more about you, and find meaningful ways to connect with Toronto First. Join us Saturday 20 February from 10:00 am to 3:00 pm, lunch included.



UU Information Monthly Meetings: Join us the first Sunday of each month in the Board Room (105) 11:45 to 12:15. These half hour conversations are presented by our membership team of Beth Ann McFadden, Helen Iacovino, Ian French, and myself about Unitarianism Universalism and our Toronto congregation specifically. Our next session will be on Sunday 7 February.

SPRING Pathways sessions: (3 consecutive Wednesday nights 7:00-9:00 pm), 19 and 26 May, 2 June

New Members Services are held after the Pathways sessions and we will have two more such services before summer on Sundays, 28 February and 13 June.

Nominating Committee: Who Runs Your Congregation? – Jack Dodds

Do you know a member who would do a good job helping to run our congregation? To make our spiritual community responsive to members, we need to continually involve new leaders with diverse points of view. Perhaps you've worked with a Small Group, Living in Spirit, or committee leader, or some other volunteer who has a lot to contribute. If so, now is a good time to mention that person's name to one of us. Guided by our fifth principle, U-U congregations are governed by “congregational polity”. Decisions that affect our spiritual community are made by the congregation. At Toronto First, we elect members to the Board of Trustees once a year in May. We also elect members to the Nominating Committee, which finds candidates for the next year's openings, and recommends members for the Funds Management Committee.

Please make your suggestions in person to the Committee: Margaret Kohr, Art Brewer, Jack Dodds, Frauke Rubin, or Lynn Torrie;
email (margaretkohr@sympatico.ca);
or telephone Jack (905-727-4097).

Say it with Flowers – Vicky Sanderson



If you would like to pay tribute to someone special or mark an important event in the life of your family or community, you may wish to consider purchasing flowers to be placed on the table in front of the pulpit. This is one way we can add to the beauty and meaning of each Sunday service. If you are interested, please contact Vicky Sanderson (416-590-1622 or vswriter@sympatico.ca).

Board Reporter Vacancy



We still need a Board Reporter. If interested in assuming this important job, contact

louiseripley@rogers.com, Editor of *Horizons*, to whom the reporter reports.

Amnesty International Group 142 – Ted Wood



Amnesty Group 142 campaigns for women's and aboriginal rights, to end poverty, and to hold corporations accountable for their abuse of human rights. All are welcome to join us for letter writing on Wednesday 17 February 7:30 pm or Sunday 28 February 11:30 am. Contact Ted Wood (416-429-6351 or tedwood@rogers.com) for further information.

Annual Art Show – Iris Ward

This is to remind any interested artists, photographers etc. that Toronto First has a yearly group show in March. People usually put in one or two items because it is popular and space is limited. We hang on hooks and chains so make sure your work can be hung that way. Nothing breakable please. Work can be brought into the church on Sunday 28 February and will be up for a month. We hang the show on Friday 5 March at 9:30 am. Make certain it is marked on the wrapping on the outside whose work it is and also on the back of the actual painting as well. Contact Iris Ward of the Art gallery committee if you wish enter any work (416-429-0475 or irisward@sympatico.ca).



Midwinter Retreat 2010



5-7 February 2010 will be a special weekend for UUs and friends. With the theme "A Life of Integrity", our Keynote Speaker will be Gretta Vosper, best-selling author of *With or Without God: Why the way we live is more important than what we believe*. The book is informed and inspired by her pastoral ministry at West Hill United Church, and reflects her conviction that it is not good enough to talk about an abstract belief that has no consequences for living well in community. Gretta will discuss "Radical Simplicity". In more than a dozen workshops, participants will reflect on and learn about how they live their lives. Do we behave in ways that are in harmony with our personal values? With just the right balance of relaxation and learning, this promises to be a "don't-miss" Midwinter Retreat.

Board of Directors



President: *Ellen Campbell*
 Vice President: *Jane Larimer*
 Secretary: *Judy Clarke*
 Treasurer: *Chris Moore*

Members: *Robbie Brydon, Anne-Lise Diehl, Ian French, Richard Kirsh, Dominic Stones*

Our Lay Chaplains

*Peter Brydon Margaret Kohr
 Margaret Rao*

To enquire about Lay Chaplain services,
 phone Coordinator Beth Windeler
 (416-924-9654 x301 or
chaplains@firstunitariantoronto.org).

Editorial Policy — HORIZONS is published monthly, with the exception of the July and August issues which are combined. Members and friends are invited to submit articles of interest for publication. The next Submission Deadline is 5 pm Friday 19 February for March 2010.

Submit articles electronically in plain formatting (no bold, underline, CAPS, italics, centering)
 at: <http://www.firstunitariantoronto.org/horizons>

Items received after the 5 pm deadline will not be included in the printed newsletter, but will be published in the online edition. Help Toronto First save money and paper by receiving your copy of Horizons online. Sign up on the website immediately above.









Editor: *Louise Ripley*

Production: *John Lewis*

Proofreaders:

*Shirley Grant Margaret Rao
 Jane Tuomi Larry Wulff*

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
February 	1 7:00 pm Yoga	2	3	4 7:30 pm Choir	5 1:00 pm Conversational French Mid Winter Retreat begins	6
7 10:30 am "Getting Engaged" Beth Ann McFadden and Team 10:30 am Family Chapel 11:45 am Introduction to First Unitarian and UU 12:15 pm Issues and Ideas	8 7:00 pm Yoga 7:00 pm Living in Spirit - East York 7:30 pm Cakes for the Queen of Heaven	9 10:00 am Property Com. 7:00 pm Social Responsibility Meeting	10 11:00 am Living in Spirit - Daytime 7:00 pm Board Meeting	11 7:30 pm Choir	12 1:00 pm Conversational French 	13 10:00 am Men's Group 10:00 am Women's Group
14 10:30 am "All Kinds of Love: A Celebration of Poetry and Music" Shawn Newton	15 7:00 pm Yoga 	16 4:00 pm Tea and Conversation with Shawn 7:00 pm Our Pagan Grove 	17 1:30 pm Booktalk 7:30 pm Amnesty International	18 12:00 pm Brown Bag Event 7:30 pm Choir	19 1:00 pm Conversational French 7:30 pm Sacred Circle Dance	20 10:00 am Pathways to Membership Retreat
21 10:30 am "Creative Conflict" Shawn Newton 9:15 Who Runs This Place Anyway? 12:15 pm Afterthoughts 12:15 pm CUSJ Presentation	22 7:00 pm Yoga 7:00 pm Living in Spirit - East York 7:30 Cakes for the Queen of Heaven	23 4:00 pm Tea and Conversation with Shawn	24 11:00 am Living in Spirit - Daytime	25 7:30 pm Choir 	26 1:00 pm Conversational French 7:00 pm Jewish Awareness Group Film Nite	27 10:00 am Women's Group 
28 New Members 10:30 am "Making Peace with Jesus" Shawn Newton 11:30 am Amnesty Letter Writing 12:15 pm Afterthoughts 1:00 pm Introductory Course to CPR and First Aid						