

# HORIZONS



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

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Fire Communion—January 3

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## In the Pulpit Sundays 10:30 am

Sunday 3 January  
Rev. Shawn Newton "Ignite!" –  
Our Annual Fire Communion  
Service



Sunday 10 January  
Rev. Shawn Newton "The G Word"

Sunday 17 January  
Rev. Shawn Newton "The Other G Word"

Sunday 24 January  
Rev. Shawn Newton "An Amid-Life Crisis..."

Sunday 31 January  
A Celebration of the Music of UU Jim Scott

## Upcoming Events

<i>Amnesty International</i>	10
<i>Brownbag Lunch</i>	6
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## Afterthoughts – Shawn Newton

As a deep introvert, more often than not, I “think to talk” rather than “talk to think.” One approach is not better than another; besides, introverts desperately need extroverts to fill the air while we measure our own words. . . . One curse of being an introvert, though, is the frustrating ability to formulate a perfect response long after the moment has passed, or a conversation has ended altogether. For introverts, afterthoughts are a way of life.



This past fall, I began a series of conversations following coffee hour to invite your afterthoughts. As my colleague David Bumbaugh is fond of saying, a Unitarian sermon is never the last word on anything. Indeed, as I often explain, I don't really know the meaning of a sermon I've preached until I hear you reflect back to me what you've heard. And, what I've learned from you in these last many months is that there are at least as many different sermons heard on any given Sunday as there are people in the sanctuary!

Emerson said that the task of the preacher was to deal out his life “passed through the fire of thought.” As much as I endeavour to do just that, I'm mindful that this is something we must do together. We all bring wisdom and experience to the shared “work” of the sermon, passing our lives through the fire of the mind. The result makes for a rich feast, for which I'm ever-grateful. I hope you'll join the conversation when you can.

## Ushers Needed – Jim Mason

Ushers provide crucial and rewarding support for our worship services. If you can commit to one Sunday per month, arriving half an hour before the service starts and finishing about 20 minutes after it ends, please consider volunteering for one of our friendly ushering teams. Currently we have a vacancy on each Sunday's team. So if you act quickly, you can have your choice of Sunday. Please contact Jim Mason, Usher Coordinator ([jmason@yorku.ca](mailto:jmason@yorku.ca) or 416-481-6199).

## A Note from the Board – Ellen Campbell

The December Board meeting was postponed due to a storm, and the *Horizons* deadline fell before the re-scheduled session. Thus, there is no real board report in this issue, but we do have some things we want you to know.



First, it's budget time. Our Treasurer, Chris Moore, has prepared a draft budget for 2010. There will be an open meeting to discuss the draft on 10 January, following the service. The congregational budget meeting is scheduled for 24 January 12:15 pm, and all members are urged to attend. A light lunch will be provided at cost.

The Board wishes to express its appreciation to two people who have made substantial contributions to our work over the past two years. Dorene Jacobs has served as the Board Reporter, faithfully attending our meetings and providing the membership with an informal record of our work through *Horizons*. As a long-time member of the congregation and past president of the Board herself, Dorene has contributed a perspective that has been important to our deliberations. We will miss her.

Bill Glassman formally retired from the Board at the end of the May Annual Meeting, and should have been relieved of his responsibilities as treasurer and signing officer in June. But we did not have a treasurer until September, and administrative problems at our bank meant we had difficulties getting the new signing officers on board. So Bill continued to sign cheques and deal with some other technical matters until December. Thanks, Bill, for going beyond the call of duty.

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We are still looking for a new Board Reporter (contact [louiseripley@rogers.com](mailto:louiseripley@rogers.com)). The Board Reporter reports to the Editor of *Horizons*, not the Board. That voice is the link between the more formal Board and its reports, and the members of the congregation.

## Happy New Year...Whenever – Angela Klassen, D.L.R.E.



The observance of New Year's Day has its roots in religious celebration, in events which may occur at different times of the year and are common to different eras and cultures. For the ancients, the timing of the big day was governed by signs of nature such as the changing seasons, bird migrations, water tides, moons and annual floods. For example, the New Year 4241 BCE was celebrated on 19 July, the day the Nile began its annual flood. Other cultures, like the Hebrew and the Chinese have dedicated the day to the examination and renewal of social relationships, a time for forgiving and asking forgiveness of both friends and family, and thus of starting the new year with a fresh slate. Until Julius Caesar made changes in their calendar, the Romans considered March to be the first month of the year. But it wasn't until 1582, that Pope Gregory XIII made 1 January officially New Year's Day. January is said to have been named after the Roman god Janus, who was the Keeper of Doors and Gates. Janus who is always depicted with two faces, one looking forward, the other backward, symbolized beginnings and endings. He also held a sceptre and a key, symbols of his power to close the door of the old year and open the door of the new.

As UU's we might ask, where is the religious or spiritual significance in New Year's day for us? According to Rev. David Blanchard "there are such things as 'new years' in all of our lives. But rarely do I think they begin and end according to the Roman calendar. They begin and end, at times by choice and at times by chance, at rather arbitrary moments of transformation. Perhaps in a moment of loss. Other times when we feel in control of our lives and make a decision to live differently . . . Or when we begin a new job, have a baby, write a poem, change our mind, get sick, lose a friend, look in a mirror." Whatever day marks a new year for each of you, may it be the occasion for soulful reflection and a fresh outlook. Happy New Year . . . whenever!

## OWL for Adults Coming Soon to Toronto First



Have you thought about your sexuality with respect to your faith?  
 Have you wondered how sexuality plays into your search for truth and meaning?  
 How do sexual attitudes and identities affect the inherent dignity and worth of every person?  
 Our Whole Lives for adults is part of the lifespan OWL programme currently offered at Toronto First for children and youth. Grounded in a holistic view of sexuality, the adult OWL programme aims to create a facilitated, respectful, group-based opportunity in which participants can explore their personal values with respect to the spiritual, emotional, and social aspects of sexuality. This curriculum will be offered within the next year. On 31 January, the facilitation team will be available after the service to answer any questions you may have about the programme, and collect information about your interest and availability. If you have any thoughts in the meantime, please contact us at [owlatfirst@gmail.com](mailto:owlatfirst@gmail.com). We look forward to hearing from you.  
 Your adult OWL team: Deborah Bradford, Greg Robinson, Leslie Hunt

## Planning for the Front Patio – Richard Kirsh

The Executive Committee has established a task force to review the issues and options for the front of our building. The members are Fred Lautenschlaeger, Judy Clarke, and Richard Kirsh (chair). The Task Force has already consulted with the Property Committee and Board and will meet with the Green Team, Convenors, and staff early in the New Year to get their ideas. The Convenors will make the final decision about design and implementation late this winter or early in the spring based on the consultation results. The challenge: finding a balance between our many objectives and the City's requirements. In the meantime, the potted cedars have been moved from the Secret Garden into the planting box at the front to give us some visual separation from the condo next door.



## Chaplains' Chat – Peter Brydon

When the Maple Leafs skate out onto the ice, everyone knows they couldn't possibly perform without the help of coaches, trainers, equipment managers and others. The same is true for Lay Chaplains (although our "win" record is arguably better than the blue and white...). We are greatly assisted by a number of volunteers behind the scenes, including past lay chaplains and the Lay Chaplaincy Committee. Central to our efforts, though, is the Lay Chaplain Coordinator, Beth Windeler, who receives email and telephone requests for our services and then assigns them to us. She is often the first contact with those seeking our services and her warmth and patience has been integral to our success. After serving in this position for a number of years, Beth has announced her retirement. We are greatly appreciative for all Beth's help and dedication.



The Lay Chaplaincy Committee is actively seeking a new Coordinator. If this role of connecting between the larger community and the Lay Chaplains, a position which you do mostly from home, strikes a chord, this could be a perfect fit for you. Contact John Cummings, Chair of the Lay Chaplaincy Committee, or any of the Lay Chaplains (Peter Brydon, Margaret Kohr or Margaret Rao), for more information.

## Workshops, Gatherings, Groups Looking For Your Participation

### Brown Bag Seminar – Nancy Kasper

Thursday 21 January 12:00 noon to 1:00 pm: bring brown bag lunch; coffee and tea will be available. 1:00 to 2:30 pm presentation: Care about the planet? Judy Vellend will speak about her experiences launching an environmental group in this neighbourhood. Come with your stories about how people lived greener in years past.

### Cakes for the Queen of Heaven, part 2 – Kate Chung

“On the Threshold” continues our journey to reclaim the stories of powerful women to be found in ancient Judaism and in early Christianity. We also will look at the global silencing and brutalization of women that accompanied the rise of patriarchal religion and society. Finally we will celebrate the exciting new world-view and theology that has emerged in our time, and explore related personal and social changes. Part 2 (8 sessions) begins Monday 11 January, second & fourth Mondays, 7:30-9:30 p.m. Registration: \$25 (sliding scale). Call: Kate Chung (416-925-0745).



### Canadian Unitarians for Social Justice, Toronto First Chapter - Margaret Rao

Looking to put your UU principles into action by promoting “peace, liberty and justice for all”? Help us to set our goals for 2010 at our first planning meeting on Monday 18 January at 7:00 pm. All are welcome. Contact Margaret Rao (416-658-0998 or [margaretrao@rogers.com](mailto:margaretrao@rogers.com)).

### CUSJ Film Series - Margaret Rao

On Sunday 17 January in Shaw Hall we will be viewing “War Resisters Speak Out”, a documentary of ten US Iraq War resisters interviewed by CBC host Andy Barrie. Contact Margaret Rao (416-658-0998 or [margaretrao@rogers.com](mailto:margaretrao@rogers.com)).

### Dinner Series – Carol Damioli

We're still welcoming guests for several Dinner Series events. On 15 January, enjoy Vegetarian Comfort Food. The Crockpot Crackpot Buffet (ask for details) will be 12 February. Have a Y chromosome? Then sign up for Men's Game Night on 10 April. Our international events continue 1 May with a Hungarian Dinner, and 29 May with a Latin American Spring Dinner (and no, it's not too early to sign up for a May event). Contact Carol Damioli or Brian Deming (647-342-0846 or [dinner@firstunitariantoronto.org](mailto:dinner@firstunitariantoronto.org)).



**See Also:**  
 Amnesty p. 10  
 Membership News p. 9  
 Nut Free Coffee Hour p. 9  
 Patio News p. 5  
 Ushers Needed p. 2



### Enneagram Introduction –Margaret Rao

The Enneagram is a practical and powerful tool for understanding self and others. It incorporates ancient spiritual wisdom with modern psychology. This 10-week, two-part series will take place in the library from 2:00-4:00 pm, Saturdays 2-30 January. Discover your Ennea type online at [www.enneagramnorth.com](http://www.enneagramnorth.com). Recommended Reading *The Wisdom of the Enneagram* (Don Riso & Russ Hudson). Workshop fee: \$5.00 per class, cheques payable to the "First Unitarian Congregation of Toronto". Contact Margaret Rao (416-658-0998 or [margaretrao@rogers.com](mailto:margaretrao@rogers.com)).

### Issues and Ideas: Books that Changed My Life – Gerta Moray

To find what new books are saying about religion and the spiritual dimensions of life, join us on the first Sunday of every month, 12:15 to 1:30 pm in the Library. Two congregation members will review newly acquired books followed by an open discussion. Suggestions for topics and books, and volunteers to review are welcomed. Contact Gerta Moray (416-488-9939).

10 January – Is There Moral Progress?

### Sacred Circle Dance Friday 15 January - Margaret Rao

"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. Third Friday of each month; refreshments provided. Suggested donation \$5.00. Contact Margaret Rao (416-658-0998 or [margaretrao@rogers.com](mailto:margaretrao@rogers.com)).



### Sanctuary Volunteer Recruitment

Thanks again to the many members who filled out the Sanctuary Volunteer Form 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. Regretfully and with apologies, we now need to report that the 'filled out' forms have recently gone astray in the paper shuffle. If you would be so kind as to complete a volunteer form for a second time, our committee will ensure that this doesn't happen again. The checklist is as follows: I am willing to ...

Assist with renovations of a living space within our building, (including shower stall), contribute furnishings (a bed, television and other electronic devices, linens, cooking utensils etc.).

Provide practical assistance in meeting the day-to-day needs of our sanctuary guest (grocery shopping and personal items, doing laundry, running other errands, arranging for services like haircuts, occasional medical visits, etc.).

Participate in fund-raising and financial management of the project.

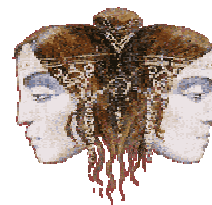
Make continuing donations to the support of the project (over and above my own pledge to the congregation).

Offer my specialized knowledge in the area of immigration and refugee issues, helping with legal advisors to resolve the claim.

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone \_\_\_\_\_ email \_\_\_\_\_

Contact Margaret Rao (416-658-0998 or [margaretrao@rogers.com](mailto:margaretrao@rogers.com)).

## Wheel of Life—The Caring Committee



Sincere Good Wishes to all our readers for the New Year  
Best Wishes for those celebrating Happy Events in January

### **Congratulations to:**

Elayne and Philip Wiegand, who recently celebrated their fiftieth wedding anniversary; may they enjoy many more

The Purple Group, grades five and six from our Church School, who raised \$263.30 for UNICEF from their bake sale - Good Work!

Jack McFadden who has recently changed careers and bought his own business, "Consumers Choice Awards"; this company provides marketing opportunities to small businesses. Success in your new venture, Jack.

### **Welcome to All Our New Members:**

David Coop, Yaneirys Cruz, Martin Dimkovski, Keith Gawronski, Rona Goldensher, Beth Guthrie, Caryl Herbert, Liz MacArthur, Darcy McNinch, and Ian Rose  
We look forward to getting to know you.

### **Our Sincere Condolences to:**

Paul LeVay whose uncle, John LeVay died after a short illness, on November 1

## 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

## Introduction to Toronto First and UUism— Joan Hongoh

If you are new to Toronto First, join us on the first Sunday of each month when we hold information meetings in the Board Room (105), 11:45 am to 12:15 pm. These half-hour conversations are presented by our membership team of Beth Ann McFadden, Helen Iacovino, Ian French and myself about Unitarian-Universalism and our Toronto congregation specifically. We will try to answer any questions you may have. Our next session will be on Sunday 3 January.



Pathways to Membership is a series of evenings or an all day Saturday “retreat” designed for those who have attended for a while and are interested in becoming members. It is an opportunity to get to know our minister, Shawn Newton. It is also about getting to know you and your getting to know us, as well as finding out how to really connect with our community.

### Upcoming Membership Dates

**Winter:** Saturday Retreat 10:00 am-3:00 pm 20 February

**Spring:** Wednesdays 7:00-9:00 pm 19 & 26 May and 2 June

New Members Services are held after the Pathways sessions and we will have two more such services before summer: Sundays, 7 March, and 13 June. If you have any questions or are interested in becoming a member or registering for a Pathways to Membership course, contact Joan Hongoh ([joan@firstunitariantoronto.org](mailto:joan@firstunitariantoronto.org)).



## Nut-Free Coffee Hour—Jane Larimer

Please help us make the coffee hour as welcoming as possible by keeping foods containing nuts at home. If you just can't resist bringing in those special treats, please have the coffee team place a special sign (“Warning! May Contain Nuts!”) by your goodie. Thanks, and Happy New Year!  
Jane Larimer, Coffee Coordinator



## 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](mailto:vswriter@sympatico.ca)).

## Board Reporter Vacancy

We still need a Board Reporter. If interested in assuming this important job, contact [louiseripley@rogers.com](mailto:louiseripley@rogers.com), Editor of *Horizons*, to whom the reporter reports.



## Amnesty International Group 142 – Ted Wood



Our Amnesty Group continues the Demand Dignity campaign which aims to hold national and international leaders accountable for human rights violations that drive and deepen poverty. The campaign's emphasis is on women's and aboriginal rights as well as the holding of corporations accountable for their abuse of human rights. All are welcome to join us for letter writing on Wednesday 20 January 7:30 pm or Sunday 24 January 11:30 am. Contact Ted Wood (416-429-6351 or [tedwood@rogers.com](mailto:tedwood@rogers.com)).

## Reading from A Recent Sunday Service:

*Gratitude unlocks the fullness of life;  
it turns what we have into enough,  
and more.*

*It turns denial into acceptance,  
chaos into order,  
confusion into clarity.....*

*It turns problems into gifts,  
failures into success,  
the unexpected into perfect timing,  
and mistakes into important events.  
Gratitude makes sense of your past,  
brings peace to today  
and creates a vision for tomorrow.*

by Melody Beattie

## Midwinter Retreat 2010—Sue McLeod



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. To register, contact Sue McLeod (416-368-4014).

### 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 at  
 416-924-9654 x301 or  
[chaplains@firstunitariantoronto.org](mailto: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 15 January for February 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.







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| Sun                                                                                                                                                                                                                         | Mon                                                                                                       | Tue                                                                                                                                                          | Wed                                                                   | Thu                                                                                                                                | Fri                                                                  | Sat                                                                                 |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <p>January</p> <p>3 10:30 am<br/>"Ignite" Our annual Fire Communion Service<br/>11:45 am Introduction to First Unitarian and UU<br/>12:15 pm Issues and Ideas<br/>12:15 pm Afterthoughts<br/>Discussion of Draft Budget</p> | <p>4 7:00 pm Yoga</p>  | <p>5 10:00 am Property C.<br/>4:00 pm Tea and Conversation with Shawn</p>  | <p>6</p>                                                              | <p>7 7:00 pm Board Meeting<br/>7:30 pm Choir</p>  | <p>1 New Year's Day</p>                                              | <p>2 2:00 pm Introduction to the Enneagram</p>                                      |
| <p>10 10:30 am<br/>"The G Word"<br/>12:00 pm Art Reception<br/>12:00 pm Parent Child Owl Orientation (grades 5 and 6)</p>                                                                                                   | <p>11 7:00 pm Yoga<br/>7:30 pm Cakes for the Queen of Heaven</p>                                          | <p>12 10:00 am Property Com.<br/>4:00 pm Tea and Conversation with Shawn</p>                                                                                 | <p>13 11:00 am Living In Spirit Daytime<br/>7:00 pm Board Meeting</p> | <p>14 7:30 pm Choir</p>                                                                                                            | <p>15 1:00 pm Conversational French<br/>7:30 Sacred Circle Dance</p> | <p>16 2:00 pm Introduction to the Enneagram</p>                                     |
| <p>17 10:30 am<br/>"The Other G Word"<br/>10:30 am Owl (grades 5 and 6)<br/>12:15 pm After Sermon Discussion<br/>12:15 pm CUSJ Film</p>                                                                                     | <p>18 CUSJ Meeting</p>                                                                                    | <p>19 7:00 pm Our Pagan Grove</p>                                                                                                                            | <p>20 1:30 pm Booktalk<br/>7:30 pm Amnesty International</p>          | <p>21 7:30 pm Choir</p>                                                                                                            | <p>22 1:00 pm Conversational French<br/>7:30 pm Sacred Circle</p>    | <p>23 10:00 am Women's Group<br/>2:00 pm Introduction to the Enneagram</p>          |
| <p>24 10:30 am<br/>"An Amid Life Crisis..."<br/>10:30 am Owl (grades 5 and 6)<br/>11:30 am Amnesty Letter Writing<br/>12:15 pm Congregational Budget</p>                                                                    | <p>25 7:00 pm Yoga<br/>7:30 pm Cakes for the Queen of Heaven</p>                                          | <p>26</p>                                                                                                                                                    | <p>27 11:00 am Living In Spirit Daytime</p>                           | <p>28 7:30 pm Choir</p>                                                                                                            | <p>29 1:00 pm Conversational French</p>                              | <p>30 2:00 pm Introduction to the Enneagram</p>                                     |
| <p>31 10:30 am<br/>A Celebration of the music of UU Jim Scott<br/>10:30 am Owl (grades 5 and 6)</p>                                                                                                                         |                                                                                                           |                                                                                                                                                              |                                                                       |                                                                                                                                    |                                                                      |  |