

HORIZONS



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

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Happy St. Patrick's Day

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Minister: Rev. Shawn Newton: 416-924-9654 x222/ shawn@firstunitariantoronto.org

In the Pulpit Sundays 10:30 am

Sunday 7 March
Women From Toronto First
"Telling Our Stories"
Family Chapel in Shaw Hall, Rev. Shawn Newton

Sunday 14 March
Rev. Shawn Newton "The Art of the Apology"

Sunday 21 March *
Ilene Cummings "Walt Whit-
man, My Brother, and the
Great Beyond"

Sunday 28 March
Rev. Shawn Newton
"Living Beyond the Breaking Point"



*Shawn will be preaching at Neighbourhood Congregation to repay Toronto First's debt through the Southern Ontario "Sabbatical Bank." This exchange was created several years ago to provide participating congregations with a supply of minister-led services whenever our area ministers are on sabbatical.

Upcoming Events

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The Road to Recovery – Shawn Newton

One of the things I've found most curious during my time as your minister is that, to date, only two people have shared with me that they are in active recovery from some sort of addiction. I know that the true number is almost certainly much, much higher, as statistics show that roughly 10% of Canadians are dependent on drugs and alcohol alone. Of course, the number of those who are not personally addicted but whose lives are touched by addiction are even greater. As Unitarians, these figures pertain to us as much as to anyone else. Yet, traditional programmes such as Alcoholics Anonymous don't always meet our needs. The spiritual framework of many Twelve-Step groups can be off-putting to some; the role of prayer and references to a higher power can be alienating, so much so that Unitarians and other religiously liberal-minded people often find the programme, as originally conceived, doesn't work for them.



In recent years, many Unitarian Universalist congregations have launched Addiction Ministries endeavouring to bridge this gap in both language and understanding. In conversation with the folks I know to be in recovery at First Unitarian, I've wondered if there is a need that we, as a congregation, are uniquely qualified to fill. So, I raise this topic to invite dialogue. I welcome your thoughts, and I welcome your stories.

N.B. My deep thanks to the kind but anonymous soul who placed a copy of Wade Davis' Massey Lectures in my mailbox. It's been a delight to read.

Planning for the Front Patio – Richard Kirsh



On 16 February, the Convenors had an extensive and wide-ranging discussion of the Task Force's report on the front patio. They reviewed the Congregation's and City's objectives, input from the five stakeholder groups that were consulted, and members and friends who made written submissions (including two landscape architects). They considered how to create a welcoming, contemporary appearance for the Congregation, a safe environment for pedestrians and drivers, a healthy environment for plants and possible alternative signage strategies. The Convenors also discussed how the changing conditions along St. Clair Avenue West have affected Toronto First, our historic and emerging patterns of use, attendance and participation. The Task Force was given some guidelines and requested to investigate with the architect what changes to the initial plan the City would be likely to approve.

Workshops, Gatherings, Groups Looking For Your Participation

Amnesty and Social Responsibility – Ted Wood

All are welcome to join our Social Responsibility team on Monday 15 March at 7:00 pm as we meet to coordinate our social justice initiatives and to provide opportunities for members to serve the needs of our local and global communities. Contact Ted Wood (416-429-6351 or ted-wood@rogers.com) for further information.

Brown Bag Seminar – Nancy Kasper

12:00 to 1:00 pm, Thursday 18 March, Presentation: Ellen and Doug Campbell celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary in the Gulf of Finland, with stops in St. Petersburg, the Baltic States, and other Hanseatic League cities. They will share their reminiscences and photos.

Cabaret 16 April - Ilene Cummings

There are still a few spots left on our roster of stars for the "Ides of April" Cabaret on 16 April. Please contact Ilene Cummings or Peter Brydon if you would like to participate in this fabulous fundraiser for Toronto First.

CUSJ Film Series

Join us on Sunday 21 March at 12:15 pm in Shaw Hall for a screening of short films from the Global Oneness Project. These stories from around the world will challenge you to re-imagine your relationship to our increasingly complex world. Light refreshments will be available.

Faith In Action – Robbie Bryden

Do you ever feel that your actions fall short of your values? How could you live your values better? In this series we will work on turning our thoughts, beliefs, and ideas into concrete actions that affect the people and the world around us. Each meeting will provide tools for engaging in this process, but also much space to share actions, results, and obstacles, and receive feedback and support. Come if you are stuck. Come if you are starting. Come if you are flying. Every second Tuesday, 22 March-8 June 7:00-8:30 pm.

One Person Can Make a Difference – Jack Dodds/Nominating Committee

At the annual meeting in May, the congregation will elect three members to the Board of Trustees and three members to the Nominating Committee. In addition, two members of the Funds Management Committee will be appointed by the new Board. Participating in the governance of our democratically run congregation is its own reward. This is an opportunity to develop leadership skills, make new friends, and to make a difference. The Nominating Committee has the task of matching members and their unique abilities to the positions that are open. If you would like to submit a member's name (with their permission, please!) or your own, please contact the Committee: Art Brewer, Jack Dodds, Margaret Kohr, Frauke Rubin, or Lynn Torrie in person, email margaretkohr@sympatico.ca, or telephone Jack (905-727-4090). Nominations open formally on Thursday 1 April. The closing date is Monday, 3 May; elections will be held at the congregation's annual meeting Sunday 30 May.

Issues & Ideas - Books that Changed My Life – Gerta Moray

Want to know what new books are saying about religion and the spiritual dimensions of life? And what resources (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:

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)

April 11 (Note: second Sunday) Environment and Global Social Issues

Claude Marchand reviews Lester Brown, *Plan B 4.0: Mobilizing to Save Civilization*

Sacred Circle Dance – Margaret Rao

"Come, come whoever you are...." We use music and movement to create sacred space in which to relax and attune our bodies to the energy of the group and the earth. We dance to music from around the world that doesn't require previous experience. Each dance is taught just before we dance it. Join us on Friday 19 March from 7:30-9:30 pm in Shaw Hall. Suggested donation \$5.00



Unicamp

The 2010 programme brochure is now available on the website at unicampofontario.ca and then click the brochure button, or <http://www.unicampofontario.ca/unicamp/brochure.pdf>. It might take a minute to load, so be patient.

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, on sale during coffee hour on Sundays 7 and 14 March.

UU-UNO – Eryl Court

"A Climate of Change" is the apt title of the exciting UU-UNO Seminar in New York City, Thursday to Saturday 8-10 April. You are needed there. It's the opportunity to forge your links with our Global Village, and join the work for a World in One Peace. We want to encourage our youth (14 to 18) to attend, and you can assist them with a donation. Register now. For further information: Eryl (416-368-3270 or ekort@sympatico.ca) or Martin (416- 452- 8071 or md@balkaz.com).

Wheel of Life—The Caring Committee

Best Wishes for those celebrating Happy Events in March



Thank You to:

All those who attended and worked to make possible the Midwinter Retreat 2010, 5-7 February

Congratulations to:

Olja and Mike Muller on the birth of their third grandson, Wyatt Ray Moskal, to their daughter Kathleen on 22 January

Judy Farrant and Mark Nesbitt on the arrival of their granddaughter Abby who was born on 29 January in London, England

Belatedly, a very Happy Birthday to Margaret Joyce in Minden; her friends at Toronto First miss her greatly

Best Wishes for a Speedy Recovery to:

Elayne Wiegand who had surgery on 12 February; kind thoughts but no calls yet please

Our Condolences to:

Nancy Sowards whose brother died suddenly in December

Gerta Moray whose mother, Olga Glasser, died peacefully on 14 February after three months of illness

News From the Congregation:

We celebrate the victory won by the Rev. Peter Hughes, a member of our congregation, who challenged Elections Canada on the ground that all polling stations in the country should be fully accessible to those who are physically disabled.

On 14 February, 85 parents and children gathered for our annual Winter Family Retreat at the Hockley Valley Ecology Retreat Centre.

Notes from the Board (February)— Judy Clarke *(edited for space)*

Ways we might use money from the Heritage Fund

A new steering committee for the Family Retreat

Discussion of guidelines about entries in the Joys and Concerns book

Budget meeting: decided to run a small deficit, and not reduce line items or Property Reserve

Sanctuary Report: Preparation for shower installation is proceeding with Jack Dodd's budget, to be paid out of the Refugee Fund, and fundraising will follow. A meeting with potential volunteers will be held shortly.

Focus of the upcoming Board Retreat will be making our vision a reality, and how to prioritize use of our resources, including staff time.

We're happy that Karen Dunk-Green has agreed to be the new Board Reporter, to begin in April.

International Women's Day Service: Telling Our Stories – Kate Chung

Sunday 7 March, join us for reflection on feminism as experienced by women of different ages, as we pass the torch to a new generation and look to the international scene. After the service, visit the display of information about Plan Canada's "Because I Am a Girl" programme. Following coffee hour, everyone is invited to join in small group discussions around the topic: "How feminism has affected my life".



Music - Dallas

UU Choirs in Concert - A fundraiser for Regent Park School of Music, Saturday 20 March 7:30pm in Sunderland Hall. Come hear this choral concert featuring six Ontario Unitarian-Universalist choirs. Tickets: \$15 / \$10 / pay-what-you-can, on sale during coffee hour on Sundays 7 and 14 March.



Cabaret Night at First Unitarian – Friday 16 April 8:00pm in Sunderland Hall. Come see the First Unitarian choir and members of the congregation in a different light, showcasing their many talents. For more information contact Ilene Cummings.

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 March at 7:30 pm or Sunday 28 March at 11:30 am. Contact Ted Wood (416-429-6351 or tedwood@rogers.com) for further information.

Mark's Birthday Celebration 14 March – Barb Wentworth

Please join us on 14 March to help celebrate Mark's 37th birthday. It was close to a year ago that Mark Jorgensen joined Toronto First in a ceremony designed specially for him. In that ceremony, the congregation promised "with open hearts to welcome you and to give you our support. We will guard your dignity and worth as we do our own." Powerful words. Over this past year, Mark has been welcomed and supported by you. Many of you take the time to go up to him to talk at coffee hour after the service. Because Mark cannot approach you, your offer of friendship and conversation means the world to Mark. He comes home from church knowing he is accepted and that he has friends at church. Given the restrictions in Mark's life, this is a huge gift you give to him. So now it's time to say thank you back. On 14 March during coffee hour, we'll have a cake and some really special entertainment, a surprise that will delight Mark and the rest of us equally. Stay tuned for more.

CUC Annual Conference and Meeting



Delegate positions are still available to represent Toronto First at the Annual Conference and Meeting of the Canadian Unitarian Council, to be held 21-24 May (Victoria Day weekend) at the University of Victoria, Victoria, B.C. The ACM promises to be especially important because the next one will be hosted in Toronto by our congregation. Note also that travel expenses of delegates designated to represent our congregation may be considered as contributions to the congregation for income tax purposes. If you are interested, please contact the Denominational Affairs Convenor, Carl Baar. He is available via email: baar@yorku.ca, until his return to Toronto 16 March.

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 March for April 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>March</p> 	1 7:00 pm Yoga	2	3	4 7:00 pm A Chosen Faith 7:30 pm Choir	5 1:00 pm Conversational French	6
7 10:30 am "Telling Our Stories" Led by women of First Unitarian 10:30 am Family Chapel with Rev. Shawn Newton 11:45 am Introduction to First Unitarian and UU	8 7:00 pm Yoga 7:30 Cakes for the Queen of Heaven	9 10:00 am Prop-erty Committee 4:00 pm Tea and Conversation with Shawn	10 11:00 am Living in Spirit - Daytime 2 pm Pastoral Care Committee Meeting 7:00 pm Board Meeting	11 7:00 pm A Chosen Faith 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 "The Art of the Apology" Shawn Newton 12:15 pm Afterthoughts	15 7:00 pm Yoga 7:00 pm Social Responsibility Team	16 7:00 pm Our Pagan Grove	17 1:30 pm Booktalk 7:30 pm Amnesty International	18 12:00 pm Brown Bag Event 7:00 pm A Chosen Faith 7:30 pm Choir	19 1:00 pm Conversational French 7:30 pm Sacred Circle Dance	20 7:30 pm UU Choirs in Concert
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