

THE NOR'WESTER

The Newsletter of the Unitarian Fellowship of Northwest Toronto

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June 7th @ 10:30 a.m.

“Russian Guest for Peace & Democracy”

Metta Spencer

Metta Spencer has frequently traveled to the Soviet Union/Russia since 1982. Initially she was a guest of the Soviet Peace Committee, participating in East-West dialogues about nuclear disarmament. She was astonished to discover a community of officials within the party that wanted democracy and disarmament. Since then, she has followed the movements for liberalization, conducting hundreds of interviews over the years. The most significant cleavage is between reformists who believe that change must come from below and those who expect it only from above. This dispute turned out to be fateful. Nowadays there is pressure to limit civil society in Russia, so as to prevent a “colour revolution” by pro-democracy activists. Also, not all Westerners believe anymore in promoting democracy.

Metta Spencer is an emeritus professor of sociology, University of Toronto, where she coordinated a program in peace and conflict studies until her retirement 12 years ago. She edits Peace Magazine, is active in various peace organizations, especially Science for Peace and Pugwash, and is writing a book about the quest for peace and democracy in Russia.

June 14th @ 10:30 a.m.

“Community Engagement or Disengagement?”

Marianne Meed Ward

We hear a lot about how cities are trying to involve their residents more in decision-making. But too often, residents feel disengaged - they come to consultations not to be “consulted” but to be told what's happening. We'll talk about how residents can suggest another consultation model, and the important role churches can play.

Marianne is a favourite speaker of ours who we have been fortunate to have join us many times. Marianne is a columnist for the Toronto Sun, specializing in municipal issues, religion, ethics, and politics. She is a frequent guest on news programs throughout the GTA, including Live@5:30 (E!Ontario) and the Michael

Coren Show (CTS). She ran in the 2006 Burlington Municipal Election and the 2007 Provincial Election. Marianne resides in Burlington with her husband and three children.

June 21st @ 10:30 a.m.

“Roots & Shoots and Youth Engagement”

Abner Lico

Abner will introduce us to Jane Goodall and the Jane Goodall Institute and how she came to start “Roots & Shoots”, the youth education program of the Jane Goodall Institute. Abner will then focus his talk on youth engagement and strategies that the Institute employs to engage youth that Northwest might be able to use to assist with the engagement of younger participants.

Abner is the National Program Manger and is responsible for developing national partnerships and programs, supporting local partnerships and facilitating the delivery of their workshops in the field for Roots & Shoots. Abner has worked extensively with youth and youth serving agencies in various capacities. He has extensive experience in outdoor travel and loves canoeing and kayaking. Abner is a devoted father to two young daughters. He holds a degree in Business Management, a diploma in Outdoor Recreation Leadership and a Master's in Education.

June 28th @ 10:30 a.m.

Annual Meeting & Fellowship Sunday

We encourage all members to come out and participate in our 2009 Annual Meeting & Fellowship Sunday. This a chance for your voice to be heard and to be a part of some important decisions. Please bring the Annual Meeting package with you that you will soon receive in the mail. Your vote is important to approve the 2009-10 Board of Directors slate and the budget. We are excited and hope you can also join us in welcoming Northwest's newest member(s).

After we have done our work we will enjoy a delicious Dim Sum lunch at our favourite spot. We hope to see you all out!

ACROSS THE DENOMINATION

CUC president Jean Pfleiderer recently wrote letters to 4 political party leaders (Stephen Harper, Michael Ignatieff, Jack Layton and Gilles Duceppe) with concerns over using attack ads to bring each other down. These attack ads not only go against the Golden Rule: "As you wish that men would do to you, do so to them." [The Bible, Revised Standard Version, Luke 6:31] , but they go against the first Unitarian principle "The inherent worth and dignity of every person," and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights introductory statement and Article 1: "All human beings are born free and equal in dignity and rights. They are endowed with reason and conscience and should act towards one another in a spirit of brotherhood."

The CUC president also wrote to PM Stephen Harper to urge the Government of Canada to use the 60th anniversary NATO summit in April to encourage Non-Proliferation of nuclear weapons based on our 6th and 7th Principles.

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The Board of Trustees of the Canadian Unitarian Council is pleased to announce the appointment of Jennifer Dickson as its Executive Director, effective May 12, 2009.

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Art Brewer Wins the Victor & Nancy Knight Award. In grateful recognition of his many years of service to the CUC...leading countless workshops, member of the Transition Team, serving as facilitator for the Leadership School. As chair of the Gender and Sexual Diversity Monitoring Group, he has travelled across Canada encouraging commitment to the Welcoming Congregation program. With patience, grace, and good humour, he has called us to live out our faith with ever-greater integrity.

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First Unitarian Church of Victoria – Members are mourning the recent unexpected death of congregational president Julia Varga. Julia had been a member at Ottawa First for many years before moving to Victoria. Her death is also a loss to the social justice activists in our midst because Julia was a champion for justice. Memorial Services will be held in Victoria, Toronto and Ottawa.

* * * * *

Since 1992, 36 Canadian congregations have become 'Welcoming Congregations'. At this time

there are another six congregations 'in process'. This year we celebrate South Fraser as our newest addition, and hope, by the time of the Annual Conference and Meeting, to include Huronia in the count of those who've completed the program and held a vote that affirms the full participation of bi-sexual, gay, lesbian, transgender and queer members in congregational and community life. At this time a whopping 98% of our members belong to one of the certified Welcoming Congregations!

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Upcoming Events:

Toronto's 29th Annual Gay Pride Week

"Can't Stop Won't Stop"

June 19 - 28, 2009



CU*UL

Canadian Unitarian*Universalist Leadership

The Leadership Development Program of the Canadian Unitarian Council

CUUL School East

Kingston, ON (Queens University)

July 16 -19, 2009

Are you interested in becoming a member of Northwest too?

On June 28th, we hope to welcome at least one new member to our congregation.

For this reason, the Membership Committee will be holding an orientation session after the Sunday service on June 14th. If you are interested in becoming a member as well, please phone Marilyn Harris for more information

Give it a Moment's Thought . . .

Many men go fishing all their lives without knowing that it's not fish they are after.

~ Henry David Thoreau

At the highest level pain and beauty meet.

~ CBC radio program



Around the House



THANKS FROM GRACE

Wow! I am so lucky to have such wonderful friends! Thank you to all of you for your wonderful emails, cards, phone calls and best wishes and for the much appreciated Swiss Chalet gift card (my kids are quite worried knowing Andrew is the cook for the next few weeks!). As many of you know, I am not good at sitting around being dependent on others, but I am trying to take care so I do not complicate my recovery. The surgery went well and I am now sporting plates and screws in both my right tibia and fibula. The stitches are being removed June 11th, at which time I will receive a nice new fashion accessory of a solid cast (Victoria, my fashion advisor, has suggested I go for pink!). I hope everyone gets a chance to sign it. I will be in that and on crutches for another 4 weeks, followed by 2-3 months of physio. Everyone is being so supportive, which is helping to make the whole ordeal a little more pleasant. As my mother says, "Now you'll have to slow down"!

THANKS JIM!

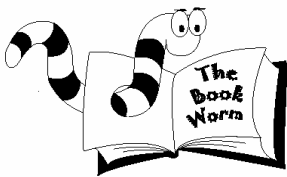
Thank you to Jim for donating a vacuum to the Fellowship.

CAMEO

Wednesday June 10th ~ 11:30 a.m.

Join us for lunch and a time to chat! Please RSVP to Grace by June 9th.

 * **SUMMER PROGRAMS** *
 * Below is the summer service schedule. As *
 * you can see we still have many blanks. Please *
 * consider being a host for one of the Sundays. *
 * The services are very casual and we have *
 * enjoyed some fun and different programs in *
 * the past, such as trip logs, breakfasts lunches, *
 * sharing a favourite poem or story, sharing *
 * music, showing a movie, giving a short talk on *
 * a subject of interest, etc., So if you have an *
 * idea or talent you would like to share, please *
 * contact Grace before she contacts you! *
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 * July 5th - Jim Lawry (Toronto signs) *
 * July 12th *
 * July 19th - Lunch in the Campbell's garden *
 * July 26th - *
 * August 9th - Parker Smith (Elvis) *
 * August 16th *
 * August 23rd *
 * August 30th *
 * *



"Don Cherry's Hockey Stories & Stuff"

You either love him or hate him. Either way, Don Cherry knows his hockey.

"Don Cherry has been named a National Hockey League Coach of the Year and also received Coach of the Year honours in the American Hockey League. His comments on Hockey Night in Canada's "Coach's Corner" routinely make headlines as they entertain, educate, and often upset

some fans throughout North America. He may be controversial, but no one can deny the popularity he enjoys; popularity that was reflected in his top 10 ranking in the competition to determine "The Greatest Canadian."

Now from Grapes himself comes the book that hockey fans have been waiting for. Written with veteran sports journalist Al Strachan, here are Don Cherry's favourite stories from his career in hockey. And you can imagine the stories he has to tell!"

I loved this book!
 from The bookworm

UNITARIAN PROFILE DOROTHEA DIX

Dorothea Lynde Dix was born in Hampden, Maine on April 4, 1802. By the early 1820's Dix had found her religious home among Unitarians. She appreciated the Unitarian emphasis on the goodness of God, purity of heart, openness to new knowledge and responsibility for the good of all society. She was a close friend of William Ellery Channing, a famous Unitarian preacher.

She suffered from a recurring and severe upper respiratory ailment and found the need to take an extended break from working. She traveled to England in 1836 to look for a cure. There she befriended William Rathbone, a Unitarian philanthropist. The Rathbones were a family of social reformers who felt that the government should play an active role in social welfare.

After she returned to America in 1804, she started to study how Massachusetts cared for mentally ill poor people who could not care for themselves. She found the system to be unregulated and underfunded and rampant with abuse. She lobbied the government and managed to get them to expand the state mental hospital in Worcester. She also lobbied the governments of New Hampshire, Louisiana, North Carolina and Pennsylvania to improve the treatment of mentally ill patients.

During the Civil War, Dix was appointed Superintendent of Union Army Nurses, where she caused a controversy by caring for Union and Confederate soldiers equally. She died on July 17, 1887.

A Powerful Photo!

“This was a touching Kodak moment outside 10 Downing Street that won’t be forgotten by this London cop.”



“Remember the cops on duty are not supposed to shake hands, but the two brothers couldn’t resist the historic moment. The black cop never imagined in his wildest dream that he would usher a black American President into the British corridors of power. Nice!”

Taken from: www.thedailystar.net

~ Submitted by Doris Cassan