

THE NOR'WESTER

The Newsletter of the Unitarian Fellowship of Northwest Toronto

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May 3rd @ 10:30 a.m.

“Theories of Human Violence & Bullying”

Gregory Malszecki

There are no unifying theories of violence but yet rather distinct perspectives that usually preclude the spectrum of intensity from testing and bullying to murder, war and genocide. Greg will offer an overview of key factors along with a gender analysis and the primacy of personal security rooted in human dignity. He will also examine the unidentified links between bullying in person and online with the personal responsibility for effective solutions.

Greg is an assistant professor in the School of Kinesiology & Health Science in York University's Faculty of Health. He has spent three decades studying violence in sport, wars, schools and society. He has been on the Board of the LaMarsh centre for the Study of Violence & Conflict Resolution for the past eight years. He is presently teaching two 4th year courses called “Body as Weapon” and “Body as Light” which investigates issues of violence and spirituality, respectively.

May 10th @ 10:30 a.m. ~ Mothers Day!

“Retirement Adventures in Ethiopia”

Shirley Lewis

Shirley Lewis took on a project in Ethiopia as a volunteer with VSO (Volunteer Services Overseas) for a two year placement. She was so fascinated with the country, the people and their educational efforts that she ended up staying five years. Shirley will talk about her many adventures and will share pictures with us and is happy to answer our questions. She says what a wonderful retirement project this has been!

Shirley Lewis is a graduate librarian and children's literature specialist. During her non-traditional career she was a public librarian, chief librarian, book wholesaler, publisher and author. She has lectured at several universities. She has two grown children and started a charity CHEER FUND (Children of Ethiopian Relief) to assist girls in their education. She travels whenever and wherever she can.

May 17th @ 10:30 a.m.

Welcoming Congregation Program: How Homophobia Hurts Everyone”

Melanie Walters

The Welcoming Congregation program is designed for congregations that see a need to become more inclusive towards lesbian, gay, bisexual, and/or transgendered people (LGBT). It consists of a series of educational activities to reduce prejudice and increase understanding and acceptance among people of different sexualities. The Unitarian Fellowship Of Northwest Toronto is now among the 95% of UU congregations in Canada which have been or are currently in the process of being certified Welcoming Congregations.

Melanie Walters is a member of this congregation and is chair of the ad-hoc committee for the Welcoming Congregation program. She is a graduate of the University Of Toronto with a BA in Women's Studies. She also focused a lot of her education on LGBT issues. Today she will be illustrating how people don't have to be members of the LGBT community to be adversely affected by homophobia.

May 24th @ 10:30 a.m.

“We Need Peace - Not Pieces”

Raheel Raza

Raheel has spoken to our Fellowship many times about bridging the gap between East and West and promoting cultural and religious diversity. Today she will be reflecting on a journey she has just made to Israel, how her stereotypes were shattered and how validated she feels that “we are all children of the same God.”

Raheel Raza, author of *Their Jihad...Not My Jihad*, is an award winning writer, speaker, diversity consultant and interfaith advocate. She has appeared in print, on television and radio to discuss diversity, harmony and interfaith. She has received many awards, including the City of Toronto's “Constance Hamilton Award” and is the first South Asian woman to narrate a CBC documentary on the “Passionate Eye.” A fervent advocate for human rights, Raza is the first Muslim woman in Canada to lead mixed gender prayers.



CATERED LUNCH—Following the service
All welcome!

Please see page 2 for May 31st service.

May 31st @ 10:30 a.m.

“Grandmothers for Grandmothers

Geraldine Campbell

We are all aware of the pandemic of HIV/AIDS in Africa. As young parents succumb to this disease, thousands of children are orphaned, leaving their over-burdened grandmothers to care for them. Through the Stephen Lewis Foundation, a grassroots organization called the "Grandmothers Campaign" has been set up across Canada, where Canadian women, often grandmothers themselves, are finding creative ways to raise money to donate to the grandmothers of Africa

Gerry Campbell is a member of a Grandmothers for Grandmothers group in Toronto. She will tell us of the extraordinary work that these ordinary Canadian women are doing to help alleviate the burdens of their African counterparts.

Nobel Peace Prize Story
Irena Sendler

Al Gore won the 2009 Nobel Peace Prize for his work on Global Warming, but here is the story of another very deserving individual.

There recently was a death of a 98 year-old lady named Irena. During WWII, Irena, got permission to work in the Warsaw Ghetto, as a Plumber Sewer specialist. She had an ulterior motive...She KNEW what the Nazi's plans were for the Jews, (being German.) Irena smuggled infants out in the bottom of the tool box she carried and she carried in the back of her truck a burlap sack, (for larger kids.) She also had a dog in the back that she trained to bark when the Nazi soldiers let her in and out of the ghetto. The soldiers of course wanted nothing to do with the dog and the barking covered the kids/infants noises. During her time of doing this, she managed to smuggle out and save 2500 kids/infants. She was caught, and the Nazis broke both her legs, arms and beat her severely. Irena kept a record of the names of all the kids she smuggled out and kept them in a glass jar, buried under a tree in her back yard. After the war, she tried to locate any parents that may have survived it and reunited the family. Most of course had been gassed. Those kids she helped got placed into foster family homes or adopted

UNITARIAN PROFILE

P.T. BARNUM

Phineas Taylor Barnum was born in Bethel, Connecticut on July 5, 1810. He married Charity Hallett when he was 19; she would be his companion for the next 44 years.

Barnum was significantly involved in the politics surrounding race, slavery, and sectionalism in the period leading up to the American Civil War. While he claimed "politics were always distasteful to me," Barnum was elected to the Connecticut legislature in 1865 as Republican representative for Fairfield. In the debate over slavery and African-American suffrage, Barnum spoke before the legislature and said, "A human soul is not to be trifled with. It may inhabit the body of a Chinaman, a Turk, an Arab or a Hotentot - it is still an immortal spirit!"

Barnum got into the circus business when he was 61 years old. His circus went through a number of name changes including 'The Greatest Show On Earth,' and 'P.T. Barnum's Travelling World's Fair.' It became the Barnum & Bailey Circus after merging with James Bailey in 1881.

Later in his life, Barnum wrote a pamphlet called "Why I Am A Universalist." In it he wrote: "To the Universalist, heaven in its essential nature is not a locality, but a moral and spiritual status, and salvation is not securing one place and avoiding another, but salvation is finding eternal life. Eternal life has primarily no reference to time or place, but to a quality. Eternal life is right life, here, there, everywhere."

Barnum died in his sleep at home on April 7, 1891.

ACROSS THE DENOMINATION

Upcoming Dates

CUC Annual Conference & Meeting

May 15—18, 2009

Lakehead University

Thunder Bay, Ontario

Give it a Moment's Thought . . .

If I have an apple and you have an apple and I give you my apple and you give me your apple we still have one apple each. But if I have an idea and you have an idea and I give you my idea and you give me your idea, we each have two ideas. ~ George Bernard Shaw



Around the House



BIRTHDAY ANNOUNCEMENT

As well as being the Service Leader on May 31st, Marilyn Harris will be celebrating a milestone "Jack Benny" birthday. She would like to invite everyone to share a birthday cake with her following the service.

HIKE FOR HOSPICE

Let's support the intergenerational team that will be representing our Northwest Unitarian Team. We have lots of team participants who need sponsors or you can sponsor the team as a group.

CALLING ALL BOOKIES!

Our next Book Club meeting will be May 17. The book will be "All God's Children Need Travelling Shoes" by Maya Angelou. The moderator will be Merle Charlton.

MEDIA SENSORSHIP & PERSONAL RESPONSIBILITY

A few weeks ago, Canadian documentary film maker Tina Hahn presented her thoughts on media censorship and personal responsibility. Some members requested information on courses of action open to individuals. The following address of the Documentary Organization of Canada, provides a call to action page with a sample letter to use, when contacting key individuals, with concerns:
<http://www.docorg.ca/en/frontpage>

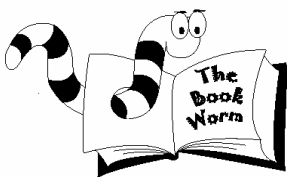
CAMEO
Wednesday May 13th
11:00 a.m.
*(Meet at the Fellowship @ 11:00 a.m.
and we will carpool to Tapestry)*

**Tour of Tapestry Village Retirement Residence
Complimentary Lunch!**

Tapestry Retirement Residence, located at 15 Summerland Terrace, just west of Islington & Dundas, are delighted to host our group for a tour of their facilities and a complimentary lunch. Tapestry prides itself on offering amenities and services exceeding traditional retirement homes. Come and see what they have to offer!

Please sign your name on the clipboard in the kitchen or RSVP to Grace by Sunday, May 10th as Tapestry needs to know how many are coming for lunch.

* **SUMMER PROGRAMS** *
* It has become a tradition at Northwest to enjoy *
* some fun & different programs in the summer, *
* hosted by members & friends of the congrega- *
* tion. Do you have some ideas or would you *
* like to host a program in July or August? *
* Please get in touch with Grace (416-255-3257 *
* ufnwt@bellnet.ca) with your suggestions or *
* the date you would like to host a program. *



"The Last Lecture" by Randy Pausch with Jeffrey Zaslow

A lot of professors give talks titled "The Last Lecture". Professors are asked to consider their demise and to ruminate on what matters most to them. And while they speak, audiences can't help but mull the same question: What wisdom would we impart to the world if we knew it was our last chance? If we had to vanish tomorrow, what would we want as our legacy?

When Randy Pausch, a computer science professor at Carnegie Mellon, was asked to give such a

lecture, he didn't have to imagine it as his last, since he had recently been diagnosed with terminal cancer. But the lecture he gave -- "Really Achieving Your Childhood Dreams" -- wasn't about dying.

It was about the importance of overcoming obstacles, of enabling the dreams of others, of seizing every moment (because "time is all you have..."). It was a summation of everything Randy had come to believe. It was about living.

In this book Randy Pausch has combined the humour, inspiration, and intelligence that made his lecture such a phenomenon and given it an indelible form. It is a book that will be shared for generations to come.

From the book jacket