

THE NOR'WESTER

The Newsletter of the Unitarian Fellowship of Northwest Toronto

Issue #3

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September 2009



September 6th—Labour Day Weekend

NO SERVICE

Enjoy the last unofficial weekend of summer!

September 13th @ 10:30 a.m.

“Water in Our World”

Judy Magney & Grace Jinkinson

As we end our summer journeys and gather in Fellowship, Judy Magney and Grace Jinkinson will help us focus on Water In Our World.

Judy will lead us in a Water Ceremony where everyone can share their water memories from this summer. Grace will widen our view with a presentation about the World's Water



September 20th @ 10:30 a.m.

“Universalism and the Hereafter”

Rev. Dr. Peter Hughes

During the early 19th century Universalists, especially those in New England, debated about what would happen to us in the afterlife. Although none of them believed in eternal punishment, they disagreed about what they called “future punishment”: whether or not a limited period of rehabilitation was required in the afterlife before a person would be saved. This may sound very strange to us today, but, in fact, many ideas, attitudes, and principles that we value today were contained in embryo in the beliefs held by both sides of this debate, as well as in the story of the people involved in this disagreement.

Rev. Hughes served a Universalist church in Woonsocket, Rhode Island for 13 years. He has also written a number of articles on Universalist history, including two on the origins of Universalism and three on the controversy about “future punishment” (the Restorationist controversy). Now retired on disability, and living in Toronto, he is currently doing research on Michael Servetus and other anti-trinitarians.

September 27th at 10:30 a.m.

“How Can I Keep From Singing?”

Jude Johnston

Ever wonder where the songs from our hymnal came from? Music is a powerful tool for the human

spirit to communicate its deepest pains, joys and renewals. Jude will explore that history and will sing some of the most beloved hymns from the Living Tradition.

Jude Johnson has been a member of the First Unitarian Church of Hamilton for over 20 years. She is Hamilton's Music Ambassador, Woman of the Year in the Arts, has recorded eight CD's of jazz/original/gospel music and is the founder/director of the MAD Creative Arts School for the past 24 years. Jude has also recorded 20 hymns from "the Living Tradition" on her CD "How Can I Keep From Singing"?



LIVING GREEN IN THE CITY

**The Second Annual Sustainability
Event of
Toronto Unitarian Congregations**

**Saturday, September 19, 2009
1-5:00 p.m. (doors open at 12:30)**

**First Unitarian Congregation of Toronto
175 St. Clair Ave., W.,
Toronto, Ontario, M4V 1P7**

Speakers:

Jamie Ramesbottom - “Three Steps to Sustainable Energy Conservation”
Garden Party - Community Gardening
Just Earth - Environmental Advocacy
Katie Fullerton - Container Gardening
Jane Farrow - Jane's Walks

Display of Social Justice Quilts ~ by Wendy Ounpuu

Exhibitors: Toronto Community Garden Network, Green Toronto, Not Far From a Tree, Toronto Bicycle Network, Toronto Water Information, UCGT

Activities for Kids:

Kids Art Exhibit/Contest, Eco-Crafts, Storytelling

For more information or if you wish to volunteer:

Judy Magney

jmagney@rogers.com or 416-244-9103

ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM ACROSS THE DENOMINATION

UNITARIAN TV

The schedule for Cable 10 is posted by Rogers TV too late for publication in your newsletter. However, you should be able to find DVDs of all productions in the library. If you want to view, or record, Unitarian TV programs access website: www.rogerstv.com, select your region (dialogue box on top right of screen), then Schedule (top bar) for the current week's displays or next week's, "click on any instance of "Horizon" 8 time slots Sundays and 4 time slots on Saturdays. Then look for Unitarian-Universalist.

This year, each of the two half-hour Unitarian TV productions were aired 9 times. 1) "Unitarian Family Values", Host Tracey Szarka of Durham with Alyson Shafer of First (Alyson has her own TV program and has made guest appearances on TVO's The Agenda as parenting expert). 2) "UU Youth at the UU UNOffice". Host Wendy Shusterman of Mississauga with 2 youth from Mississauga, participants in the Intergenerational Peace Conference, 2008. In addition to the 18 airings so far, we may expect a few more repeats this year, before we produce 2 new programs for 2010.

Yvonne Grieg (416-232-2975)
 Germaine Kovary (416-266-1345)

MAKING A DIFFERENCE: Exploring the Experiences & Needs of Caregivers

If you have been a caregiver for a person living with a life limiting condition, you are invited to attend a focus group to share your caregiving experiences and ideas to create caregiver support models.

Saturday, September 26th
10:00 a.m.—12:30 p.m.
First Unitarian Congregation of Toronto
 416-364-1666, ext. 243
intern@hospicetoronto.ca
 Light refreshments will be served

This program is facilitated by Hospice Toronto, in partnership with First Unitarian Toronto. Summary reports will be made available to the participating caregivers and their respective agencies.

WARM UP YOUR SOUL! Experience the Rainforest & Mayan Culture in Brazil & Guatemala

Want you to know about Neighbourhood UU Congregation's next sponsored trip - **February 6-13, 2010 to Belize and Guatemala?** We'll have an expert guide with us to tell us about the flora and fauna of the rainforest as well as Mayan culture. We'll canoe in a cave and swim by waterfalls! Lots of adventure and sites to experience! And, of course, wonderful places to meditate and contemplate. See <http://www.nuuc.ca/UnitarianJourneys.htm>

OUR AUGUST 9th CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

What an inspiring thing to see - two thirds of our congregation came together to listen, question, and then suggest strategies to tackle our financial future together! We had witnessings about how important the Fellowship is to individuals and our common Unitarian community; clear facts and figures; and astonishing offers of help.

In October we'll meet again and let some decisions flow. This is true Fellowship in Action!



DO YOU KNOW A GOOD ROOFER?

Marilyn Harris is looking into getting a new roof at the Fellowship. She would like to gather a few quotes to see just what is needed and how much it would cost us.

If you could recommend anyone, please contact Marilyn Harris
ufnwt@bellnet.ca



Around the House



DEE'S POOL PARTY

Dee and Deb welcomed us all to their home this past month for a sing-along, potluck lunch and pool party. Only Dee and Barbara took advantage of the pool, but the rest of us had a great time, thanks to their excellent hospitality. Dee especially appreciated the talent of Jim Campbell (Winnie and Bill's son), who accompanied us on his guitar, as well as entertaining us with his jazz renditions on the piano.

CALLING ALL BOOKIES!

Just a reminder to get reading! Our first meeting will be on September 20. Our moderator will be Joanne Makuch. The book will be *The Man Who Loved Children* by Christina Stead.

CAMEO

Join us for lunch on **Wednesday, September 23rd @ 11:30 a.m.** for a chance to chat and discuss a possible change in format to CAMEO. Please RSVP to Grace no later than Sunday, September 20th (ufnwt@bellnet.ca).

ELVISOLOGY!

Sunday August 23, Parker Smith introduced Northwesters to the burgeoning Elvisology religion-cult. It's a fascinating religion based on the principle of "be all you can be", one of Elvis's basic principles.

In order to be a member, all you have to do is sing "Blue Suede Shoes" three times in succession blindfolded and also know the secret motto. I'll mention it if you promise not to tell anyone: It is TCB Taking Care of Business.

If you can do these two things, you immediately become a member of the Elvisolgy cult-religion. We had many converts on Sunday and we hope to keep the Elvisology cult going at Northwest.

The only responsibility of Elvisologists is to attend the annual Collingwood Elvis Festival each year (it lasts 4 days although you don't have to stay the whole time if you get tired). Can you imagine 10 hours a day for 4 straight days of "Blue Suede Shoes", "Hound Dog", and "Don't Be Cruel"? I got exhausted after a day and a half and left.

Hope to see you next year.

QUESTIONNAIRE RESULTS FROM THE SUNDAY SERVICES COMMITTEE

Thanks to everyone for responding to questionnaires throughout 2008/9. As a new Sunday Services Committee we felt we needed the feedback. We have summarized our year from Sept.7/08 to June 21/09. We arranged for 36 speakers. One was no show, one was cancelled, from two we did not receive questionnaire answers. Feedback is based on 36 topics arranged for and 32 speakers' questionnaires feedback.

Topics

Different Religions –6
Unitarian Issues- 4
Social Action – 5
The Political Scene – 5
Conservation - 4
Human Rights - 4
Spirituality – 2
The Arts – 3
Personal Development – 1
Historical Interest – 1
Values – 1

Ratings from Questionnaires (averaging all the numbers marked from 1-10)

Speakers getting 90% plus approval rating – $13/32 = 41\%$
Speakers getting 80% plus approval rating - $18/32 = 56\%$
Speakers getting 70% plus approval rating - $1/32 = 3\%$

General Comments (comments expressed often)

People enjoy participation in services
People enjoy small group exercises
Music is important
Religious topics are appreciated
People enjoy the variety of services
Service ritual is important
Tradition is important
People don't like speakers reading their talks
Some people still have trouble hearing in spite of the new microphones

Popular Speakers

Tim Elliot was most highly rated at 98%
John Mayer
Marianne Mead Ward
Kathleen McKay
Julie Wood (from The Nature Conservancy speaking on conserving nature)

Give it a Moment's Thought . . .

You never get a second chance to
make a first impression.