

# THE NOR'WESTER

*The Newsletter of the Unitarian Fellowship of Northwest Toronto*

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**November 1st @ 10:30 a.m.**  
**"Gay Rights Around the World"**  
**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 98% 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 talking about the state of gay rights in several different countries.

**CATERED LUNCH** - Please join us for lunch following the service. All welcome!

**November 8th @ 10:30 a.m.**  
**"Medical Ethics - Public Trust and Research"**  
**Jackie Smith**

Jackie will talk about principles of medical ethics in health care; give an overview of unethical research that occurred in the 20th century, and discuss recent events in clinical trials. She will include her own decision-making process when deciding whether to enter a clinical trial for breast cancer.

Jackie Smith is a former registered nurse and journalist who now teaches ethics in health care at Ryerson University. She has a Masters in Journalism from the University of Western Ontario and a Masters of Health Science in Bioethics from the University of Toronto. She has a deep interest in ethics, health care and human rights.



**November 15th @ 10:30 a.m.**  
**How Religion Influences the Choice of Abortion**  
**Bonnie Bean**

Bonnie Bean works for the Morgentaler Clinic. She will be discussing how religion influences the choice of abortion.

Bonnie was just recently confirmed as a speaker. Therefore, we did not have her information in time to publish in the newsletter. Please watch the website as we will post all of the details of her talk and herself once we have received them.

**November 22nd @ 10:30 a.m.**  
**"The History of Canadian Unitarianism"**  
**Marilyn Harris**

Marilyn Harris has been a member at Northwest for just two years. However, she first became a Unitarian in her teens and joined the First Unitarian Congregation of Toronto in 1959.

Using Phillip Hewitt's book, *Unitarians in Canada*, Marilyn will explain who the first Unitarians in Canada were, where they settled, and how they grew. Why, in a country that already had so many established churches, did they insist on being Unitarians? What challenges did they face? What were their beliefs and how have these beliefs changed over the years?

**November 29th @ 10:30 a.m.**  
**"Freedom Writers"**

*Xochitl Lugo*

Xochitl Lugo is a grade 8 Language Arts teacher that currently works for the Peel District School Board. She is one of seven teachers in Ontario that uses the Freedom Writer Method in her classroom. The method was first created and implemented by Erin Gruwell, founder of the Freedom Writer Foundation located in Long Beach, CA, USA.


Erin Gruwell first began her teaching career in Long Beach where she was assigned a group of students deemed "unteachable". By "fostering an educational

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philosophy that valued and promoted diversity, she transformed her students lives". She encouraged them to rethink rigid beliefs about themselves and others, to reconsider daily decisions, and to rechart their futures. With Erin's steadfast support, her students shattered stereotypes to become critical thinkers, aspiring college students, and citizens for change. They even dubbed themselves the "Freedom Writers", in homage to civil rights activists, "The Freedom Riders", and published a book.

Xochitl uses the FW method in her classroom and has had much success in motivating and encouraging her students to be more accepting of each other, to pursue academic goals and to become involved in the community.

**Christmas Collection**  
World Vision

A Christmas Collection will be taken for World Vision on December 14th, or if you can't be present that date put your contribution in an envelope marked World Vision and your name on any Sunday previous to December 14th. Receipts will be provided for any contribution of \$10 or more. Last year our Fellowship was able to buy 2 hens and 1 rooster, 1 fish farm, antibiotics for 10 children, and ten fruit trees for needy third world families. The catalogue will be on the table by the hymnal shelf.

***Give it a Moment's Thought . . .***

*The real art of conversation is not only to say the right thing in the right place, but to leave unsaid the wrong thing at the tempting moment.*

## NOTICES FROM OTHER UNITARIAN CONGREGATIONS

### *Festive Holiday Sale*

**Saturday, November 21st**

**10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.**

**Unitarian Congregation in Mississauga**

Delicious home-made baked goods, jams, preserves and pickles. Fair trade coffee. Artwork and prints, quilts, hand-woven items, soaps and bath products, jewellery, and much more.

84 South Service Road (QEW & Huron) Ontario  
905-278-5622 [www.uucm.ca](http://www.uucm.ca)

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### *Dream Auction*

**Saturday, November 28th**

**7:00 - 10:00 p.m.**

**First Unitarian Congregation of Waterloo  
299 Sidney Street, South, Kitchener**

First Unitarian Congregation of Waterloo will be presenting a short play entitled, "Unitarian Worship Restaurant".

In a general mood of hilarity and self-deprecating humour, this skit sends up the eternal issues of how to create the perfect Unitarian Service. At the "Unitarian Worship Restaurant" the customers are a widely divergent sampling of humanists and traditionalists with various strongly held positions on what constitutes the perfect service. These "come-outers" have a peculiar set of religious wounds and sensitivities. The "waitress" has a distinct streak of sadism and a sick sense of humour. This leads to the uproar and mayhem, especially for the hapless newcomer who stumbles into this UU restaurant unprepared for the responsibility of self-directed choice.

There will also be a live auction, raffles, dessert and coffee. Please come out for an evening of sharing, great entertainment and a little competitive fun.

All income from the Auction helps support our congregation. Admittance to the play is free although donations are appreciated.

[uudreamauction2009@gmail.com](mailto:uudreamauction2009@gmail.com)

## UNITARIAN PROFILE

### LINUS PAULING

Linus Carl Pauling was born in Portland, Oregon on February 28, 1901. Pauling's father was an immigrant from Germany. The family had a Lutheran background but weren't particularly active in the church. His father died when he was 9, and he started working to help support his mother and 2 sisters when he was 12. Despite this he was still able to get good grades in school and acquire an interest in the sciences.

Pauling dropped out of high school one class short of graduating so that he could attend the Oregon Agricultural College (now Oregon State University). He was considered a genius by both his teachers and classmates. While teaching a class in chemistry, for people majoring in home economics, he met his future wife, Ava Helen Miller, who was one of his students. He graduated in 1922 with a degree in chemical engineering. After graduating he attended California Institute of Technology (Caltech) where he got his PhD in physical chemistry and mathematical physics in 1925.

Pauling credits his wife for his interest in social activism. In 1942 she volunteered for the American Civil Liberties Union to fight the internment of the Japanese-Americans. When she hired a Japanese-American person in 1945 their house was defaced with racist graffiti and they received many suspicious phone calls.

Pauling became a pacifist when he realized that the atomic bomb could end the civilized world. He joined Albert Einstein and Bertrand Russell in protesting the atmospheric testing of nuclear weapons and opposing the development of the hydrogen bomb. Because of this activity the FBI started to keep files on him, and the State Department refused to issue him a passport so he

could attend a science conference in England because they thought that he would be promoting his peace agenda there. He was also brought before a congressional hearing to confirm his loyalty to the United States.

Pauling got a lot of support for his anti-war campaign with the Unitarian community in Los Angeles. Both he and his wife gave talks at Unitarian churches in Los Angeles and Pasadena. He later wrote "My wife and I joined the Los Angeles Unitarian Church because it accepts as members people who believe in trying to make the world a better place."

In 1954 Pauling won the Nobel Prize in chemistry for work with chemical bonds and molecular structure. He used his new public profile to speak out against issues such as racial segregation. His fellow faculty members and Caltech administration were uncomfortable with his activism so they said he either had to lower his profile or resign. He resigned.

In 1963 Pauling was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize for his campaign against above ground nuclear testing. He was awarded on October 10, the same day the first nuclear test-ban treaty went into effect.

Pauling spent the later years of his life trying to convince the medical world that vitamin C could cure colds and prevent certain cancers. His wife Ava passed away from stomach cancer in 1981. Pauling himself died from prostate cancer on August 19, 1994 at the age of 93.

Pauling is the only person to ever win two unshared Nobel Prizes. He was on the list of New Scientists magazine's 20 greatest scientists of all time. He is known as the father of molecular biology. In 2008 a US postage stamp was made to honour him, and Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger announced that Pauling would be inducted into the California Hall Of Fame.

~ submitted by Melanie Walters