

THE NOR'WESTER

The Newsletter of the Unitarian Fellowship of Northwest Toronto

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October 4th @ 10:30 a.m. "If Doctors Could Only Prescribe a Fairer Society..."

Steve Watson



One might think that your life expectancy, overall health and chances of remaining healthy are determined by breakthroughs in medical science. You might be surprised to find out that the single most factor in determining you are healthy or not is your income.

Steve, a union educator, will share some research that will show that if only doctors could prescribe a fairer distribution of income they would have more impact on health than any other remedy they could dispense. But are we going in that direction? Come and find out.

Steve is a CAW national education rep and an active Unitarian.

born and raised in the UK and now lives with his family in the Beaches area of Toronto. He is a Certified Management Consultant. In addition to his board work, Calvin has been involved in a number of national initiatives, including the CUC's Visioning Task Force, the Statement of Principles Task Force and the on-going "Go-4-It!" Strategic Planning project. Calvin was formerly President of the Unitarian Congregations of Greater Toronto (UCGT) and a Congregational Networker for the CUC Central Region.

October 25th @ 10:30 a.m. CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

Please see yellow insert!

Coming Up: November 1st @ 10:30 a.m. Welcoming Congregations Program & Catered Lunch



October 11th @ 10:30 a.m. ~ Thanksgiving "Creating Joy in Our Lives" John Mayer

Following our annual Thanksgiving tradition, we are delighted to have John Mayer join us again! This year John will be examining the Buddhist goal of overcoming suffering, a pervasive aspect of human experience.

John is no longer Lay Chaplain in St. Catharines, but remains an active and involved member. As you may know, John is a Professor Emeritus of Philosophy at Brock University. John and his wife will shortly be celebrating their 50th wedding anniversary with their 4 adult children and eight grandchildren.

October 18th @ 10:30 a.m. "It's Up to Us" Kalvin Drake



"It's Up to Us: Power Passion and the Synergy of our Individual, Congregational and National Ministries": How can we better achieve our shared goals for a just and enlightened society by unleashing the "power of possibility" created when our personal, congregational and national ministries are in sync.

Kalvin Drake is Currently President of the Board of Trustees of the Canadian Unitarian Council. He was

OUT OF THE COLD

After the success of last year's collection for the Out Of The Cold homeless shelter, the Social Action committee will again be collecting items to be donated to All Saints Kingsway Anglican Church, which is one of the shelter locations. Marilyn has once again graciously volunteered to deliver the collection on a regular basis. We are looking for items such as gently used clothes, preferably men's clothes in larger sizes, travel-size toiletries, toothbrushes, disposable razors and unused socks and underwear. For a complete list please contact Melanie.

ACROSS THE DENOMINATION

Marnie Morrow, one of the first Service Consultants to join the CUC team in 2002, died on Friday June 12 of a long-standing blood disorder. Marnie was an integral and valuable part of the Central Region Networking Group, bringing her considerable experience as a facilitator and trainer to the team. As we, in 2002, worked to understand the new service delivery model, she provided strong leadership and was able to relate her considerable experience with Amnesty International, in ways that helped us move forward. Marnie was a member of the First Unitarian Congregation of Waterloo, where she has filled many roles, included Lay Chaplain.

In Kingston, at Queens University, from July 16th to the 19th participants gathered to participate in a 4 day leadership training program. Each year Canadian Unitarian Universalist Leadership School (**CUUL School**) brings leaders together to work, learn and play together. In order to register, participants must have endorsement of their congregation and some financial support. This requirement helps ensure that 'graduates' are well positioned in their congregation and able to use the skills and insights they gain.

During the 4 day program participants learn about personality type and preference and then work in groups to understand how their choices and those of others can influence group functioning. Tools to support group communication and self-evaluation are those that we hope our 'grads' will be able to apply in their own congregations. Some theory on congregational systems and dynamics is offered along with an overview of UU history and some basic theology, in the hopes that knowing more about how congregations work, our history and our ways of understanding the world will provide a basic grounding. Of course the opportunity to meet, share and learn about other congregations – meeting people doing the same work you are – is invaluable to congregational leaders. Plans are underway for CUUL School '10, your congregation should be thinking now about who you'll support to attend.

Upcoming Events:

Developing Congregational Leadership

Saturday, October 17

9:00 a.m.—4:30 p.m.

First Unitarian Church of Hamilton

170 Dundurn St. S., Hamilton

\$30.00—includes breakfast, lunch and materials (reduced rates for teams of 3 or more from one congregation)

UUnity and Diversity—Welcoming Congregations

Saturday, October 17

9:00 a.m.—4:00 p.m.

Unitarian Congregation of Niagara

223 Church Street, St. Catharines

\$15.00—includes breakfast, lunch, coffee breaks and materials

2010 Annual Conference & Meeting: How Shall We Live?

CUC Annual Conference & Meeting 2010 will be hosted by the First Unitarian Church of Victoria
<http://victoriaunitarian.ca>
May 21—24, 2010



Around the House

AN UPDATE FROM JOHANNA

Johanna & Graham have sold their house! In a recent email from Johanna she expressed how much Graham and her were enjoying Washago. She further says, "Graham is working on a new bathroom and we hope to have a shower soon—the river is getting cold. Renovations can be stressful but the parade of birds, squirrels and chipmunks to the birdfeeder and their amusing squabbles takes away any tensions. Other animals are raccoons, snakes, turtles, frogs, beavers, and one small bear. Princess Abigail (the cat) has given up on catching anything but lives to sit and watch the action.

THINKING OF KAY COOK

We are all sending Kay our best wishes. Kay has recently been diagnosed with leukemia. In a recent email she tells us that she is responding well to small doses of chemotherapy which does require hospitalization. She tells us that she feels and looks well, but has little energy. It was wonderful to see Kay out at the service on Sunday!

BOOK CLUB

People have been given extra time to read the book, *The Man Who Loved Children* by Christina Stead. Please let Joanne Makuch know when you are ready to discuss it.

CAMEO

Please join us on Wednesday, October 21st @ 11:30 a.m. for lunch at that Fellowship and a chance to chat. Please bring \$5.00 for lunch. Please RSVP to Grace by October 18th (ufnwt@bellnet.ca). We hope to see you there!

UNITARIAN PROFILE MARGARET LAURENCE

Jean Margaret "Peggy" Wemyss was born July 18, 1926 in Neepawa, Manitoba.

In 1944 she attended United College in Winnipeg (now the University of Winnipeg). She received an honours degree in English. She wrote for the student newspaper and became involved with the "Old Left" socialist reform group. She graduated in 1947. Soon afterwards, she was hired as a reporter for The Winnipeg Citizen, where she wrote book reviews, covered labour issues, and hosted a daily radio column.

After graduation in 1947 she married John Fergus Laurence, a hydraulic engineer, and became Margaret Laurence. His work took the young couple to England, and later British colonies in Africa. In 1952 they moved to Accra, Ghana with their two-month-old daughter, Jocelyn. In 1955 they had a second child, David, born in Ghana.

Her first books that brought her recognition were born out of her experiences living in Africa. Her first novel, "This Side Jordan," won the 1961 Beta Sigma Phi Award for the best first novel by a Canadian.

The Laurence family moved to Vancouver, British Columbia in 1957. Here they joined the Unitarian Church. In 1961 Margaret wrote her lifelong friend Adele Wiseman, "this year (don't faint) I'm teaching Sunday School in the Unitarian Church." For her children and other Sunday School students she wrote a retelling of the birth of Jesus, in which Joseph and Mary are not concerned about their baby's gender. Much later, when she published her tale "The Christmas Birthday Story," in 1980, she sent a copy to the Vancouver

Unitarian Church with a cordial letter crediting them for having "first inspired her" to write the story. Some Unitarian Universalist churches continue to use this story as part of their Christmas celebrations.

After separating from her husband in 1962 Laurence took her children and moved to England. She also had a home in Lakefield, Ontario and a cabin near Peterborough. Her activity and membership in the Unitarian Church ceased after she left Vancouver. She much later wrote, "I agreed with many of the concepts of the Unitarian Church and still do."

Some of her most famous books are The Stone Angel, A Jest of God and The Diviners. Laurence's fiction portrays God having the qualities of mercy, grace, suffering, pity, joy, humour, truth, fear, strangeness and disarray. Whenever someone referred to her as a religious writer, however, Laurence felt "a little confused," as if she had been "both complimented and insulted at the same time." In later life she was troubled when a fundamentalist Christian group succeeded in briefly removing The Diviners as course material from Lakefield High School, her local secondary school.

In 1986 Laurence was diagnosed with late-stage lung cancer. The prognosis was not good because the cancer had already spread to other organs. The only available treatment was palliative care. In order to spare her family grief and suffering she committed suicide at her home in Lakefield, Ontario on January 5, 1987. She was buried in her hometown in the Neepawa Cemetery.

~ submitted by Melanie Walters