

THE NOR'WESTER

The Newsletter of the Unitarian Fellowship of Northwest Toronto

Issue #6

2011



2012

December 2011



Happy Holidays!



Sunday, December 4th @ 10:30 a.m.

Foley Sound Demonstration

Stephen Muir

This week we have a special treat! Stephen Muir will be giving us a demonstration of the "**Foley Sound System**". Stephen will be explaining exactly what "Foley" is and giving us a guided tour through the process with a hands on demonstration and audience participation.

What an interesting person Stephen is! He has his BA in Film Studies from Carleton University and his Advanced Film & Television certificate from Sheridan College. He was nominated for a Gemini for the children's animated series, *Jane & The Dragon* and more recently he has been working on the Showtime/Bravo series *The Borgias*, not to mention blockbusters like *The Help*, *Bridesmaids* and *Tree of Life*. He has also done demonstrations at Tiff Bell Lightbox for Family Day and Sick Kids Hospital for Diabetes Day.

We will also be taking our special **Christmas Offering** today, with funds going to *Child Haven*, a charity where 100% of your donation goes directly to support women and children in developing countries. *Child Haven* is inspired by the ideals and philosophy of **Mahatma Gandhi**. *Child Haven International* is a registered charity founded in 1985. They assist children and women in developing countries, who are in need of food, education, health care, shelter and clothing, emotional and moral support. Please give generously to this worthwhile cause.

Sunday, December 11th @ 10:30 am

Occupy Toronto

Barry Weisleder

Whether you watch the news on television, listen to it on the radio or read the newspaper, there has been

tons of coverage on the "Occupy Movement". The Occupy Movement is an international protest movement which is primarily directed against economic and social inequality. "Occupy Wall Street" in New York was the first Occupy Movement, which started September 17, 2011. By October 9, Occupy protests had taken place or were ongoing in over 95 cities across 82 countries. As of December 1st, the Meetup page, "Occupy Together", listed 2,686 Occupy communities worldwide.

Today Barry will talk to us about Occupy Toronto and the impact it has had on society.

We welcome Barry back to Northwest. He is co-editor of *Socialist Action* newspaper, a monthly North American publication of political analysis. He is federal secretary of Socialist Action, chairperson of the NDP Socialist Caucus, and coordinator of the Toronto Substitute Teacher's Action Caucus within OSSTF.

Sunday, December 18th @ 6:00 p.m.

Christmas Celebration

All of Us

Come celebrate Christmas with us! We decided this year to break away from tradition and to have a full dinner rather than soup and hors d'oeuvres as on previous occasions. Members are asked to bring salads and desserts. There will be sign up sheets for food and tasks. The Syme choir, whose performance we enjoyed so much last year, will again favour us with their singing. There will be readings and music and food! Come join us and help celebrate the festive season.

Sunday, December 25th - No service

Merry Christmas!

UPDATE FROM OUR CHAIR

- At our Fall Congregational Meeting on November 20, 2011, the minutes of the September and November 2010 Congregational Meetings were approved. Draft copies of our April 30, 2011 Financial Statements and draft revisions to our By-Laws and Guidelines were distributed. Each Board Member gave their respective updates.
- We are looking forward to Richard and Arielle, moving in on December 1st as our new tenants. Electrical, plumbing and carpentry work are underway in preparation for this rental opportunity.
- We will soon have wireless internet available through Bell.
- Geoff is looking into a wireless doorbell and carbon monoxide detectors.
- Geoff, Jane and Ley will work together on a UFNWT flyer to be distributed to our local community.
- Melanie will soon have on-line UFNWT donations available.
- Mel, Stephen and Elly will be updating our sound and hearing loop systems.
- Claire and Dee are working on a new outdoor sign.
- **Yeah UFNWT! We are a devoted, dedicated and dynamic Fellowship!**

2011 CONTRIBUTIONS

It is hard to believe that 2011 is coming to an end. Thank you to those of you who have contributed financially to the Fellowship this year. We would encourage those of you who have not fulfilled your recent pledges to do so by December 31, 2011 in order to benefit from a 2011 Income Tax receipt. Thank you!

SOCIAL ACTION OPPORTUNITY

FOOD BANK COLLECTION

We will be collecting nonperishable food items for our local food bank for the holiday season. Food bank use increases every year, so they need help more than ever. The most needed items are:

- Baby formula & food
- Beans & lentils
- Canned fruits & vegetables
- Canned fish & meat
- Cans of soup or hearty stew
- Dried pasta & tomato sauce
- Macaroni & cheese
- Peanut butter
- Rice
- Tetra Pak, canned or powdered milk

Thanks for your help!

CUC's *Midwinter Retreat*

“CONTEMPLATING OUR
ESSENTIAL NATURE”

February 10, 11, 12, 2012
Cedar Glen YMCA, Bolton

Keynote Speaker - Ken Hooye
“The Ancient Art of Stoic Joy”

Ken is a landscape architect living a joyous and tranquil life in Cambridge, Ontario who recently discovered the benefits of a Stoic philosophy of life.

Many interesting workshops.

Brochures/applications are available in the Welcome Room.

Northwest is a Welcoming Congregation!



The rainbow flags adorned our sanctuary, and we donned our gay apparel, to celebrate the fact that we were at last an accredited Welcoming Congregation at the Unitarian Fellowship of Northwest Toronto on November 6th, 2011.

Of course we've *always* been welcoming, but a few years ago, Melanie Walters, our Social Action Chair, noticed that something was missing. Most other Unitarian Universalist congregations had held workshops that educated their members concerning the LGBTQ community, and had voted to *officially* become Welcoming Congregations. Since then, Melanie has brought us along to the point where we voted unanimously last June to become a capital "W" Welcoming Congregation, and to post a rainbow flag on our sign and door.

Marilyn Harris, Denominational Representative for UFNWT



The Story of Mistletoe

The story goes that Mistletoe was the sacred plant of Frigga, goddess of love and the mother of Balder, the god of the summer sun. Balder had a dream of death, which greatly alarmed his mother, for should he die, all life on earth would end. Balder could not be hurt by anything on earth or under the earth. But Balder had one enemy, Loki, god of evil and he knew of one plant that grew neither on the earth nor under the earth, but on apple and oak trees. It was lowly mistletoe. So Loki made an arrow tip of the mistletoe, gave to the blind god of winter, Hoder, who shot it, striking Balder dead. For three days each element of universe tried to bring Balder back to life. Frigga, the goddess and his mother finally restored him. It is said the tears she shed for her son turned into the pearly white berries on the mistletoe plant and in her joy Frigga kissed everyone who passed beneath the tree on which it grew. The story ends with a decree that who should ever stand under the humble mistletoe, no harm should befall them, only a kiss, a token of love.

From: www.happywink.com

UFNWT New
Year's Day
Levee!
Sunday,
January 1, 2012



On Sunday, January 1st we will be having our UFNWT New Year's Day Levee from 1:00 - 4:00 p.m. Bridge, Euchre, Scrabble, please bring your favourite game! **Prepare to have lots of fun!** Music with DJ Melly. Bring your favourite snack food. Drinks will be provided. Let's start our UFNWT New Year with a bang!!! Tell your family and friends.

Give it a Moment's Thought . .

“Christmas gift suggestions: to your enemy, forgiveness. To an opponent, tolerance. To a friend, your heart. To a customer, service. To all, charity. To a child, a good example. To yourself, respect.