



June  
2017



LUF NEWSLETTER

## Spring Clean Up

On Sunday, May 21, 2017; a small but dedicated Religious Exploration group braved the cool rain on the Victoria Day weekend, and helped collect litter in the neighbourhood of the Fellowship.

From left to right Mark, Rusty, Drew and Reilly on the steps of Unitarian House.

Photo by Pyteke Blaauw



### UPCOMING SUNDAY SERVICES at 10:30 am Children's Religious Exploration Classes (Child Care Provided)

June 4 Title: **May His Sun Be Your Light**  
Speaker: Hanusia Tkaczyk  
Service Leader: Bettina Siebenmann

June 11 Title: **Pulling the Threads Together**  
Speaker: David Belrose  
Service Leader: Bev Leaman

June 18 10:30 am **Pride Service at St Paul's United**  
1:45 pm **LUF Service and Picnic - See Page 6**

Check the weekly E-Updates for more information on Summer Services!

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## A Minister's Eye View

Poet Mary Oliver writes:

Every day, I see or hear something  
that more or less kills me with delight,  
that leaves me like a needle  
in the haystack of light.  
It was what I was born for –  
to look, to listen,  
to lose myself inside this soft world –  
to instruct myself over and over in joy and  
acclamation.

Of course, parts of the world are broken, places of misery and pain, toil and struggle. But, our job in life is not to simply survive, and sacrifice, confess our brokenness and wait for a time far off that might offer some happiness. Joy need not be reserved for a heaven-hereafter existence.

We Unitarian Universalists see the world not simply, or primarily, as brutish, broken and dangerous. The world to us is also gentle, surprising, and woven through with a Love – a Hope – a Spirit of Life – that will not let us go.

This summer may we experience long, lingering moments in our world that bring us simple delight, a deep feeling of connection or, as an old friend would call it, a Rock Joy! time of restoration and peace.

See you in September.  
Reverend Suzanne

## Call for the Annual General Meeting - Sunday, June 11

The Annual General Meeting shall be held for the purpose of:

- electing Directors, the Nominating Committee and the auditor(s);
- receiving reports of the officers and committees and chaplains;
- receiving the audited report of the previous fiscal year;
- transacting such other business as may be brought before the meeting.

Quorum for Membership Meetings is 20 percent of the membership.

The AGM will be called to order at approx. 12:15 pm on Sunday, June 11, 2017 at 129 South Algoma Street. Childcare will be provided.

The meeting package will be available to the membership on Sunday June 4, 2017

## From the LUF President

### Report on Canadian Unitarian Council Annual General Meeting

On Saturday, May 13, Brenda Diebel and I attended the CUC AGM via Zoom video conferencing. This was a first for the CUC. Despite a number of technical problems, especially early on, the meeting was successful. It was an interesting process to be part of a meeting in Toronto while sitting at a computer at LUF, joined by people from across the country.

There was little controversy during the meeting with an important motion being the approval of CUC Goals and Strategic Priorities for 2017-2018. The other major motion was approval of the Annual Program Contribution for 2018 being set at \$100 per member. A major reason for the increase was to begin to bring compensation for CUC staff up to minimum standards over the next 2 ½ years. There will be continuing exploration of alternatives ways of determining the APC, such as a percentage of operating expenses. The approved resolutions can be found on the CUC website at <http://cuc.ca/wp-content/uploads/2017/05/CUC-2017-Resolutions.2017-05.pdf>

### Strategic Planning and Mission statement

The strategic plan discussed at the May 28 meeting will be presented for approval at the Annual General Meeting on June 11. This will be the opportunity for us to look ahead and consider a vibrant, healthy future for this community. The new mission statement gives us an outline for action. The elements of the strategic plan can guide us with more specifics. I believe a particular focus this year will need to be the search for accessible space.

### Year End Comments

This year has seen a number of challenges. Property costs have been significant, especially in view of the tight budget. Somewhat reduced attendance and a decline in membership were countered recently by the addition of seven new members. However, we are experiencing a shortage of leadership in areas such as major committees. Sunday Services/ Worship, Fellowship Life/Membership and other committees will need chairs in the new season.

I do want to take this opportunity to express my gratitude to all members and friends of this Fellowship, for serving on committees, for helping put on Sunday services, for organizing special events, for being present on Sundays and other times, for simply being a part of this sharing, caring community. Thank you all.

David Belrose

# Canadian Unitarians for Social Justice

On Friday, May 12, 2017, I attended the AGM of the Canadian Unitarians for Social Justice at Don Heights Unitarian Church in Toronto and was elected to the board to represent the Prairie District.

The CUSJ currently has 136 paid up and 74 non-paid up members, and three new Chapters – Quebec, Islands and Thunder Bay - have formed since the previous AGM. The organization is working on a myriad of national and international issues including: human rights, the environment, international trade, the Canadian economy and tax laws, nuclear disarmament, peace, medical assistance in dying and a just and peaceful settlement between Israel and Palestine.

Two new resolutions were passed at the meeting, both involving the CUSJ educating the public and lobbying the Canadian Government to effect change.

The two issues were:

**Psychoactive drugs:** to shift the responsibility for drug policy from the Criminal Justice System to the sphere of Public Health. This would involve decriminalizing drugs, introducing some form of quality control in the manufacture of psychoactive substances, allowing health professionals to distribute and administer drugs to those addicted and the creation of more legalized injection sites. There would also be more focus on prevention, treatment and harm reduction.

**The Prison System:** to reform the Criminal Justice System by discontinuing the use of solitary confinement, and developing strategies to reduce the numbers of indigenous men and women in jail by 50% within the next five years, and furthermore reducing the rate of incarceration for indigenous people to the same rate per 100,000 as non-indigenous by 2030.

The above are two areas where the costs are huge and our policies are not bringing about positive change. The cost of the sale psychoactive substances is said to be several billion dollars annually and the ongoing crisis caused by Fentanyl being added to illegal drugs is straining our public health resources. Our Criminal Justice System does not seem effective in preventing crime or rehabilitating offenders, so they recycle through the system. Moreover, there is a hugely disproportionate amount of first nations inmates and visible minorities in prisons. Thus it seems that we are overdue for a different approach.



Sally Palmer Woods

## Church of the Larger Fellowship

The CLF, A Unitarian Universalist Congregation Without Walls, provides remote services and programs for UUs who are away from home, or who are unable to access services due to health, work, or leisure. Visit: [www.clfuu.org](http://www.clfuu.org) for more information.

## Service Auction Announcement

Once again, our fellow LUF-ers showed their support for the evening of “Fun, Food, and Fund Raising” that characterized this year’s Service Auction, held on May 6, 2017. Approximately 90 members and friends turned out, and when the money is all collected, LUF will be about \$4500 richer!

Some of the highlights of the evening were: the Kids Penny Auction where everyone went home with an enjoyable treasure; The Silent Auction and Services offered will extend comraderie throughout the year; the Door Prizes; 50-50 Draw; and of course the grand finale of fun...Karoake!!!

We musn’t forget the delicious donated BBQ and Salads along with the delectable creations of the Build Your Own Sundaes. It took a lot of careful organizing, but the results were well worth the effort. Our amazing community spirit comes together as volunteers set up, served up and cleaned up.

Up front and behind the scene’s cooperation always make for a huge success aaaand:

- ◆ LUF surely got a budget boost,
- ◆ members got special services and other creations
- ◆ we were able to ‘hang out together sharing each other’s exuberant energy
- ◆ donors are getting tax receipts

Thank you to all our wonderful workers and to all the contributors of talent, service or treasures! Without the dedicated buyers we would not raise the funds needed and for this we are truly grateful.



We remind those who offered services on the Sign-Up Sales sheets to call the people who signed up for your services. You are responsible for collecting the money, and then submitting it to the office, or putting it in the collection basket at a Sunday service. Please indicate on the envelope that this is Service Auction money, not your regular pledged contribution. You will be credited for both contributions on your Charitable Donation Receipt in February.

# It's Picnic Time

LUF's annual picnic will be held at Bruce Hyer's and Margaret Wanlin's camp on Hicks Lake on **Sunday, June 18**. We're looking forward to a fun afternoon filled with:



- Enjoying the great outdoors and especially the lake.
- Swimming for the brave.
- Swimming after a sauna for the courageous.
- Bocce for the winsome.
- Fun games like three-legged races and running with an egg on a spoon for the young at heart.
- A brief church service at 1:45.
- Chillin', hanging out, visiting and spending time with Unitarian friends young and old.

The property is flat and grassy with a sandy swimming area – very child-friendly. There are a few steps up to the deck and camp.

**Car pooling:** Meet at LUF at **1:00** and plan to arrive at Hicks Lake at 1:45.

## What to bring:

- A bathing suit
- Something to BBQ
- Something to share like salad, fruit, veggies and dip, dessert, etc.
- Your own dishes and cutlery
- Your own beverages (coffee and tea will be provided)
- A folding chair if that is easy for you. We have some.



## How to get there:

- Travel east on the Thunder Bay Expressway.
- Turn left and go north on Highway 527 toward Armstrong. You'll pass Kingfisher Lake Outdoor Education Centre.
- After almost half an hour on Hwy 527 you will see Orr's Store on your left. Hick's Lake Road is the first road on the right after Orr's Store.
- Our camp is 2.5 km off the highway. Carry on on the Hicks Lake Road until you see the big white Hicks's Lake Campers Association sign. Ours is the 5th driveway after the sign. Our camp is right after Friday's.
- There is a bright pink pylon at the end of the driveway.

**Weather report:** If you want to call and check on the weather our cellphones work there: Bruce 708-4080, Margaret 627-1404. If the day if "iffy" come anyway. There is quite a bit of indoor space for visiting, church service and eating.



## Serving with Spirit: Nurturing UU Leaders

The Canadian Unitarian Council invites interested UUs to a Summer weekend of spiritual exploration and Leadership.

Two opportunities are available:

**July 21-23** in Waterloo, ON

[cuc.ca/serving-spirit-registration-east](http://cuc.ca/serving-spirit-registration-east) OR

**August 18-20** in Edmonton, AB

[cuc.ca/event/serving-spirit-nurturing-uu-leaders-western](http://cuc.ca/event/serving-spirit-nurturing-uu-leaders-western)



For more information, see poster in LUF foyer Or visit the CUC website Events Calendar

## Thunder Bay and Duluth - Annual Gathering

We are at it again! LUF will be traveling to Duluth in the Fall for our annual gathering

**September 30 - October 1, 2017.** Always a fantastic opportunity to connect with our closest UU neighbours. A great opportunity for strengthening our connections and learning from one another.

Those who require a host-stay, please contact Emily Lauzon, the coordinator on the Thunder Bay side ([em.lauzon@gmail.com](mailto:em.lauzon@gmail.com))



A more formal invitation and details about the weekend will be sent out to our congregation in an e-update.

We hope you will join us!

## Endowment Fund Stationery

Call for submission for design of endowment fund stationery, specifically for two units of such:  
an envelope and letterhead to be used to make a donation,  
an envelope and letterhead for the thank you for the donation.  
An honorarium will be provided for the design chosen (two donors will cover the expenses).

Contact Susan Tiura with submissions, or for more information. 346-4223



# LUF CONTACTS



## OFFICERS OF THE BOARD

President:	David Belrose	623-3347
Secretary:	Sandra McIver	475-3497
Treasurer:	Brenda Diebel	630-6276
Past President:	Pyteke Blaauw	344-4052
At Large:	Fred Upshaw	768-2413
	Meaghan Malashewski	683-7212
	Doug Reid	983-3342
	Lisa Laitinen-Egbuchulam	708-4767

## AFFILIATES AND ASSOCIATES

Canadian Unitarian Council (cuc.ca)  
 Canadian Unitarians for Social Justice (cusj.org)  
 Unitarian Universalist Association (uua.org)

## STAFF AND APPOINTED OFFICERS

Administrator	Angela Bach	344-5980 (Office)	lufship@tbaytel.net
Bookkeeper	Jean Armstrong	344-5980 (Office)	
Lay Chaplains	Jean Armstrong	355-0020	
	Susan Tiura	346-4223	
	Heidi Wahl	622-1699	
Director of Music	Heather Morrison	767-8233	
Endowment Fund Trustees	Trudi Jones (Chair)		
	Susan Tiura		
	Bettina Siebenmann		

## COMMITTEE CHAIRS AND CONTACT PEOPLE

Adult Religious Exploration	
Archives	Del Dickey
Bylaw & Policy	Pyteke Blaauw
Care Coordinator	Heidi Wahl
Children's Religious Exploration	Emily Lauzon & Shelley Aretz
Fellowship Life/Membership	Pyteke Blaauw (acting)
Finance	Brenda Diebel
Green Sanctuary Committee	
Kitchen	Brenda Gillespie
Lay Chaplaincy	Sally Palmer Woods
Library	
Meditation	Trudi Jones
Mindfulness	David Belrose
Newsletter	Angela Bach
Nominating	Pyteke Blaauw
Sanctuary Coordinator	
Social Action	
Sunday Services	Hanusia Tkaczyk

## LAKEHEAD UNITARIAN FELLOWSHIP

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**Website:** [www.luf.ca](http://www.luf.ca)

The newsletter is usually distributed by the first Sunday of each month from September to June inclusive, via LUF website [www.luf.ca](http://www.luf.ca) or surface mail.

**Deadline for submissions: 20th of the month**

*The opinions expressed in this newsletter are those of the authors of the articles.*

We hope that you enjoy receiving/reading the LUF Letter, provided free to all members and friends. Receiving the LUF Letter via the website, saves money and trees. Please notify the office at 344-5980 if you no longer require the newsletter to be sent by post. Thank you for your contributions to LUF that make it possible to produce the LUF Letter.