



LUF Letter

Lakehead Unitarian Fellowship 2010



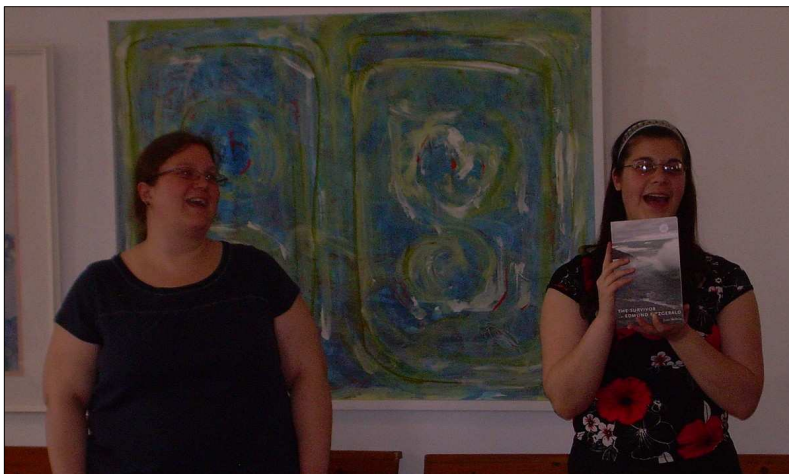
“An inclusive spiritual community promoting a compassionate, just, and sustainable world.”



A chili dinner was served and ice-cream sundaes topped the meal.

SONG OF SPRING - LUF's Service Auction was a Success!

It's estimated that well over \$2000 was raised in the service auction. This will benefit the work of the Lakehead Unitarian Fellowship. More importantly, the auction generates many activities over the summer when vendors and purchasers get together.



Auctioneer assistants: Lindsay and Meaghan with some live auction items.

SUNDAY SERVICES Services at 10:30 am 129 Algoma St. S Religious Exploration Classes Child Care Provided	
May 2	Beltane/ Mayday Presented by: NuuMoon
May 9	“English Unitarianism: Past, Present and Future” With: Tanya Morrison (London, England)
May 16	Non Violent Communication With: Shawn Allaire and Trudi Jones
May 23	TBA
May 30	Sexuality and Spirituality Presented by: Our Whole Lives

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Saturday to Sunday, April 17th to 18th's "Spring Around the Corner" Junior Retreat Sleepover @ LUF with facilitators Shannon Duchesne & Paul Acree (thank you!) saw several children from the LUF attend with a few friends from outside the Fellowship. Movies and discussion about the environment was the focus, as well as musical practice, games and fellowship.

Friday Family Potlucks

The 3rd Friday of every month is "Family Friday" at LUF -- for all family and friends of LUF. Everyone is welcome to share in an evening of a potluck dinner, board games, music, and fellowship. Doors open at about 5:00 pm.

April's Friday Family Potluck is Friday, May 21st @ the LUF.

Upcoming Plans for Religious Exploration

- *Margaret Hartley Nature Hike @ Mission Marsh Conservation Area with Rob Van Wyck; Consent Forms available prior to departure as well as in email previews. **Drivers with Transportation required.***
- Sunday, May 9th - All children to honour Mother's Day with Teacher Kirsten Pavelich;
- Sunday, May 16th - *Creating Home's Session #15: Mohammed; **Teacher Required**: Planning & Information at:
<http://www.uua.org/religiouseducation/curricula/tapestryfaith/creatinghome/session15/index.shtml>*
- Sunday, May 16th - *Toolbox of Faith's Session #12: Humour (Sandpaper) with Teachers Paul Acree & Shannon Duchesne;*
- Sunday, May 16th - Religious Education Committee Meeting: Chairperson: Kirsten Pavelich; Recorder: Paul Acree;
- Friday, May 21st - Friday Family Potluck @ Lakehead Unitarian Fellowship, 4:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. Relax, share a meal and fellowship with other UU families;
- Sunday, May 23rd - Planting Flowers (i.e. nasturtiums, perennials, etc.) with Teacher Rosemary Burris;
- Sunday, May 30th: *Creating Home's Concluding Session #16: Memories of Home; **Teacher Required** - Planning & Information at:
<http://www.uua.org/religiouseducation/curricula/tapestryfaith/creatinghome/session16/index.shtml>*
- Sunday, May 30th: *Toolbox of Faith #13: Love (Gloves) with Teacher Shannon Duchesne.*

Action Plan 2010

We are moving forward with the LUF Action Plan that was outlined in last month's newsletter (and which can be found on our web site). In our discussion of missional objectives, it appears to be clear that we feel that our priority mission to the community is in the area of Worship/Sunday Services. The start of an annual plan for Sunday services has been presented, and plans are underway to develop a service leader's workshop in the fall as well as contacting the CUC around holding a Weaving Our Worship workshop. We will be working to try to have visiting ministers more often next year (hopefully once a month). This will give us a chance to explore the type of part-time ministry that will suit us, as we investigate in more depth the wishes of the congregation in this regard.

Professional Ministry

In last month's newsletter, Jane Crossman expressed her frustration with the lack of progress in moving to full-time professional ministry at LUF. As a member of The Way Forward Task Force, I was in full support of the recommendations we made calling for both full time professional ministry and new accessible space. Since that time, as Board member and president of LUF for the past two years I have been made well aware of the fact that recommendations such as those can only come to fruition if there is strong enough support from the congregation. It became clear over time that there were strongly conflicting ideas about the future of LUF. This has meant that we cannot rely on decisions made in the past. It will only be possible for us to move forward when we have a shared vision for the future. Why do we exist, and what difference can we make to ourselves, to our community, and to our planet?

Canvass Trial

The trial period for the year-round canvass will end at the Annual General Meeting on June 6. My personal thanks go to Trudi Jones for her efforts in providing us with a view of an alternative way of doing canvass. At the AGM, members will be asked whether you want to continue with the year-round canvass or return to an annual fall canvass. Which ever way you want to go, we will need volunteers to take over the work. We will either need a year-round canvass champion, or a chair and canvass team for a fall canvass. We are all stewards of this community. How do we want to move ahead in this vital area of financial stewardship? Once again, we come back to our vision for this community.

I've been encourage by some of the energy I've seen lately. The recent workshop by Rev. Stefan Jonason offered much food for thought as we look ahead. New initiatives in communication such as Facebook and the LUF Discussion Board, while still in their infancy, may have potential for exciting development. Let's keep working to build this "inclusive spiritual community promoting a compassionate, just, and sustainable world".

The Facebook logo, consisting of the word "facebook" in white lowercase letters on a blue rectangular background.

Did you hear? LUF is on facebook. You can become our fan by searching "Lakehead Unitarian Fellowship" once logged into facebook and adding us. In addition to our regular E-Updates and Newsletter we will now list our events on this page. Feel free to tell us what you think.

Chalice Circle, Tuesday May 4, at LUF, 7:00 pm.

Are you curious about the activity of a Chalice Circle? Would you like to join a Circle? Come, men and women, on May 4 to participate in a circle which is one of the forms of shared ministry under the UU umbrella.

The topic will be “Your Contributions: A Gift For Ourselves”. Everyone bring one or two favorite sayings, or a poem, or some item that you find interesting and want to share. Fold your contribution and put it in the sharing basket. We’ll pull one item at a time, discuss it then move on to another. It’s fun, usually information and often hilarious. Come out and share the fun.

For more information phone Del, 345-7212 or Carol Ann 577-1466

Elderhood and Spirituality

We are planning to run an Adult Religious Exploration program this fall based on Zalman Schachter-Shalomi’s “From Age-ing to Sage-ing© A Profound New Vision of Growing Older”. This eight session program has four goals for participants:

- ◆ to awaken to a vision of spiritual eldering
- ◆ to deepen my understanding of aging and elderhood
- ◆ to engage in the homework of spiritual eldering – journaling, spiritual intimacy, meditation
- ◆ to witness my transformation from older to elder

This program can accommodate from eight to twenty participants and there will likely be a cost of some \$25 to cover expenses, including the purchase of “From Age-ing to Sage-ing”. If this program is of interest to you, please contact David Belrose (623-3347 or davidbelrose@shaw.ca) to allow planning to be done.

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS FOR MAY 2010

Every Sunday at 10:30am, Sunday Service	Every Thursday at 4pm, Tai Chi	Tues. May 11th, 7pm Sunday Services Committee mtg	Mon. May 24th. 7:30 pm, Men’s Group kitchen
Every Sunday at 7:30pm, Meditation	Sat. May 1st Bridge at LUF, 12pm Sat. May 1st Potala film, 7pm	Sat. May 15th, Bridge, LUF 12pm	Thurs. May 27th NuMoon 7pm LUF Hall
Every Monday at 6:30-8:00pm Yoga with Sarah, \$6 here at LUF	Tues. May 4th Chalice Circle mtg. 6:30pm at LUF	Mon. May 17th, 7pm LUF Board Mtg.	Sun. May 30th 1pm Tea benefit for Africa Lifesong School for Orphans
Every Wednesday at 7:30pm Mindfulness Practice	Sun. May 9th New Members Cere- mony 10:30am Tues. May 11th, 7pm DotG	Fri. May 21st, 5pm Family Pot- luck	

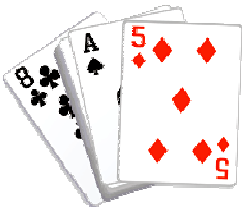
Canvass Corner

Due to poor communication follow-up with the supposed alternate contributor on my part, the write-up extolling the virtue of the blitz style canvass didn't happen. In spite of this, I think that having Canvass Corner present balanced information and opinion is very important, so I am holding June's Canvass Corner open to all those people in favour of the once-a-year style of canvass so that this viewpoint can be brought forward. I invite you to leave me out of the process and submit your contribution directly to Kelly Von Barga our Administrator, by May 21, 2010. You can e-mail it to her at lufship@tbaytel.net

Our Board of Director's have wisely decided not to hold a special vote on our canvass style in September. You can expect to make your choice for the future of our canvass earlier than that, at the A.G.M. in June. Even though this shortens the trial period, I think that we all have done due diligence with the experiment. No one can ever say about us that we lack the courage to try out something new and different. Besides, I don't know what more I, as Canvass Chair, could present about the all year around process that has not already been said!

So, in closing, let me recap some questions about our culture of giving. What is the difference between a person who gives time, talent and treasure to their community as a matter of course and a person who will only give when asked? Who am I as a giver? Is giving as a percentage of income equally as important as giving a fair share? Is a budget too narrow a focus/basis for making a pledge and a vision too wide? Concerning the various changes that are made within my community, do I vote for that which I know is best for me, or do I vote for that which I think is best for the community as a whole? Why couldn't staff co-ordinate the canvass process and the congregants make the canvass visits? (I was justified in my insistence in holding on to the "YEAROUND"-style as a potential staff/volunteer work issue when Stefan reported at our recent workshop with him. Research points out that the current crop of retired folk are not offering their volunteer hours to their churches as did the previous generation. Retired people used to supply the manpower to make a church run!) And lastly, should our Board's Style-of-Canvass ballot have, not two, but three possibilities to choose from: 1. go back to the old way of doing things, 2. keep on with what we are doing now, and 3. move forward to something new and better? Happy Judging! And, thank you all - the learning received has been worth the effort expended.

Trudi J. Jones, Ex-Canvass Champion, Retiring Canvass Chairperson.



The bridge group that meets every 2nd Saturday (May 1st, 15th) is in need of volunteers to help with tea/coffee and clean-up. If you can lend a hand please speak with Bert 344-4052.

NEW MEMBER BIO - "Red" Trepanier

Red Trepanier's family farmed 250 acres in River Valley, West Nipissing, Ontario where Red was born. As a member of the International Union of Operating Engineers, Red worked about 50 years for various pipeline companies across Canada. He started as an operator, soon rising to construction supervising, then handling PR and environmental issues and finally had his own consulting company. Widowed in 2002, Red now has a new partner within our fellowship. He has three children, six grandchildren and two great-grandchildren. Life is good!

SUMMER SERVICES

Summer Sunday services at LUF are informal, varied and are held in the evenings. Previous services held in community locations were well-received.

- ◆ Are you interested in coordinating services in July and August (excluding holiday weekends)? Offerings should appeal to a variety of LUF and other seekers. This is a paid position.
- ◆ Not ready to coordinate but willing to develop a service?

Please contact Susan Tiura, Chair Sunday Services Committee at 346-4223.

Benefits of a UU Congregation by: Ken Morrison

Recently I woke up with my brain asking this question: Aside from the much heralded benefit of friends and their support what is the advantage of being a member of a UU congregation?

My brain's answer to its own question: Guidance toward leading a responsible and productive life and sensitivity toward the great moral issues of the day.

Peggy's Garden -by Rosemary Burris

Last year a small group of LUFers decided to convert the little patch of shrubs and flowers at the front of the Unitarian House to a more sustainable garden in honour of Peggy Tripp, a most remarkable member who had died in the fall of 2008. Peggy inspired us all with her unwavering commitment to our seventh principle: "Respect for the interdependent web of all existence of which we are a part." Anyone who came in contact with her was struck with how she "walked the talk".

Many years ago when I first took on the job of planting the floral borders outside our Unitarian House, I asked for help from Peggy, she suggested plants that would survive in 3 very different locations we have here, and generously gave us perennials to wean us from the wasteful practice of planting annuals each year. Each year, she would supplement our beds with plants from what her husband Wayne refers to as Peggy's "Grow Op". So after Peggy died, it occurred to me that the best way for me to honour her, would be to take the LUF gardens to the next level: plant more shrubs and perennials, continue to move away from annuals therefore reducing mowing, and mulch in order to keep watering to a minimum. I was inspired by some of our neighbours who were beautifying their public "faces" with lovely borders, and I hoped to bring more attention to this beloved old Unitarian House and the activities and beliefs within.

Since I am a rank amateur in this domain, I sought the counsel of the real gardeners in our midst, and in particular, a friend of Peggy's from the Thunder Bay Master Gardeners, Louise Nadeau. With her help, we came up with a design, and then approached the nurseries for help selecting the first stage of planting. I asked the congregation for donations towards the purchase of shrubs and perennials. Wayne removed the straggly cedar that was closest to the stairs, and I dug up and stored the existing plants. That week, Melody Allaire and Mark Nadir very generously gave me a day of hard labour as we dug the front bed down about 18 inches, and with Wayne's help, added in a wonderful loamy mix of Peggy's compost to combine with the original soil. Heidi Wahl brought us manure from her friend's farm to fertilize it.

This spring, I cleared away some of the dead leaves and see that most of the garden has survived and is starting to bud. I contacted Bill Martin's and in a few weeks, will purchase the remaining two shrubs and a clematis. We still need ground cover such as periwinkle or other shade-loving plants, so if you or your friends are thinning out your beds, please let me know. Diane Gordon has procured an antique chair which will support a large planter of flowers in the focal point of the garden where we will place a small plaque identifying this as "Peggy's Garden". If you would like to purchase a plant to donate in Peggy's honour, please leave a message at the LUF office. Your name will be added to the list on the framed dedication to be hung in the hall. Wishing you happy gardening!

LUF's First Chaplain: Member of the Order of Canada.

Can any newsletter readers name the Fellowship's first chaplain? Not likely since this was back in 1971-2 when many of you were not even born!

Her name was Vera Roberts who is widely renowned but not for being a Unitarian chaplain. A nurse from the high arctic, Vera came to Thunder Bay to obtain a nursing degree. On graduation she returned to the arctic to serve in such capacities as Nurse in Charge at many nursing stations and as Director of Nursing of several hospitals. "I have conducted clinics in tents, cabins, odd corners in various buildings, used tables in cafes and local bars and I have examined patients and delivered women on the floor," she wrote. She died of leukemia in 2004.

Vera received many honours including the Order of Canada in 1986 and the Nightingale Medal of the International Red Cross in 1995. The Canadian Association for the History of Nursing has established the Vera Roberts Endowment to fund research into outpost nursing and its Newsletter has published an in-depth article about her. As well, two students at Lakehead's School of Medicine have written a paper about her. The School's Medical Library features the Vera Roberts Archives where many of her Arctic artifacts may be seen including her parka and uniform, beaded boots and gloves and a soapstone seal oil lamp.

After leaving Thunder Bay, Vera attended some CUC conferences and usually wrote at Christmas to Jean Morrison. Jean has donated the few interesting letters that she still had to the Vera Roberts Archives at Lakehead University. Vera's legacy deserves to be honoured and remembered by Canadian Unitarians everywhere.

Jean Morrison

*** Halleluiah for our Strengths***

Whenever good people gather together there will be joy in their hearts. We who congregate at Unitarian House experience joy in abundance--whether it be the snapping of our rainbow flag as we enter or the sublime music that supports our search for truth and meaning.

Rev. Stefan Jonasson at his workshop on Saturday, April 10/10 encouraged us to enact our principles and purposes as we meet the challenges of the next 27 years. On Sundays and at mid-week gatherings I see ample evidence that many of our members and friends are doing just that. So many of our numbers are showing their commitment by serving on more than one committee; by attending group sessions, either mid-week or Sundays; and attending regularly on Sundays where they support one another and show their appreciation for the thoughtful programs planned by our Sunday Services Committee.

In today's digital world, it is therapeutic to connect with like-minded thoughtful people that enrich our Thunder Bay community and beyond. On Sunday, April 11/10 the person who served as greeter and "planted the hook" that kept me coming over 25 years ago was in the congregation. It was wonderful to reconnect with her and thank her for her role.

Co-incidentally, someone else I had lost contact with was singing in the quartette that morning, bringing an added dimension to the service.

Some may be looking for the drama and illumination of an electrical storm in a prairie night sky. Others such as myself will relish the wealth of nourishment our beloved community provides.

With gratitude,
Carol Ann Brumpton

LUF CONTACTS 2009

OFFICERS OF THE BOARD

President:	David Belrose	623-3347
Vice-President:	Bert Blaauw	
Secretary:	Heidi Wahl	
Treasurer:	Rob Van Wyck	
Past President:	Vacant	
At Large:	Paulene McGowan Christine Meronyk Rosemary Burris Margaret Wanlin Sophia Gubbins	



STAFF AND APPOINTED OFFICERS

Administrator	Kelly Von Bargaen	344-5980 (Office)	lufship@tbaytel.net
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Bookkeeper	Jeff Gibson	344-5980 (Office)	
Lay Chaplains:	Rob Van Wyck Susan Tiura David Belrose	346-4223 623-3347	
Director of Music :	Heather Morrison	767-8233	
Canvass Champion:	Trudi J. Jones	625-5355	
Endowment Fund Directors	Tony Carfagnini (Chair) Carl Rose Wayne Hill		

COMMITTEE CHAIRS AND CONTACT PEOPLE

Archives:	Del Dickey	Membership:	Paulene McGowan
Bridge:	Chris Moss and Del Dickey	Newsletter:	Kelly Von Bargaen
Care Committee:	Carol Ann Brumpton	Nominating:	Suzanne Hansen
Fellowship Life / PODS:	Bev Leaman	Property:	Bert Blaauw
Finance:	Rob Van Wyck	Religious Education:	rotating chair
Green Sanctuary Committee:	inactive	Sanctuary Coordinator:	Del Dickey
Kitchen:	Alice Neudorf, Audrey Saxberg	Social Responsibility:	Ahti Tolvanen
Lay Chaplaincy:	Carol Ann Brumpton	Sunday Services:	Susan Tiura
Library:	Jean Morrison	Tai Chi:	Sita Holland
Lifespan Learning:	Suzanne Hansen	YRUU/Youth Advisor:	Paul Acree
Mindfulness/ Website:	David Belrose		
Men's Group	Jim Bishop		

AFFILIATES AND ASSOCIATES

Canadian Unitarian Council Board (cuc.ca)
Canadian Unitarians for Social Justice

The opinions expressed in this newsletter may not necessarily reflect those of the newsletter editor or the Board of LUF.

We hope that you enjoy receiving and reading the LUF Letter, provided free to all LUF members and friends. Receiving the LUF Letter by email, in pdf format, saves both money and trees. Please notify the office at 344-5980 of your email address. And remember that your contributions to LUF make it possible to produce the LUF Letter.

LAKEHEAD UNITARIAN FELLOWSHIP

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Deadline for submissions: 18th of the month

The newsletter is usually distributed by the first Sunday of each month from September to June inclusive via email, surface mail or hand delivered.