



LUF Newsletter

Lakehead Unitarian Fellowship

APRIL 2011



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

QUILTING BEE ENTHUSIASTS



The hall in Unitarian House was awash with colour and texture at the Quilting Bee on Saturday, March 26th. Fifteen women, cut, sewed and enjoyed each other’s company while adding to the supply of quilted place-mats for the twelfth Empty Bowls/Caring Hearts dinner which will take place on October 16, 2011. This awareness and fund raising event is sponsored by The Thunder Bay Potters Guild, the Quilting Community and the Lakehead Unitarian Fellowship. For the admission price of \$30.00 dinner guests can select a handmade pottery bowl or a quilted place-mat and enjoy a hearty meal provided by a number of local restaurants. Proceeds are shared between Shelter House and the Thunder Bay Food Bank. Contact chair Nelly Reedhead (473-5646) for more information or talk to Pyteke Blaauw (344-4052)

SUNDAY SERVICE at 10:30 am at 129 S. Algoma St. Children’s Religious Exploration Classes (Child Care Provided)

Apr. 3 -	Title: “Mind and Soul” Speaker: Beryl Payne, Lay Leader, Chatham Unitarian Church, England	Apr. 17 -	Title: “Working in Northern Communities” Speaker: Dr. Anne Robinson
Apr. 10 -	Title: “What I Know For Sure About God” Speakers: Liz James, President of Saskatoon UCS and Gary Groot, Western Region CUC Representative	Apr. 24 -	Title: TBA Speaker: Rev. Anne Barker

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2011 PROPOSED BYLAW NO. 1 REVISIONS

Members are invited to make themselves familiar with the draft changes and additions to our constitution, which, along with changes made by general agreement well ahead of the annual meeting, will be voted on by the Fellowship at the Annual General Meeting on June 5, 2011.

After the regular Sunday Service on **April 17th** there will be a Power Point Presentation indicating the proposed changes and additions to our Bylaw No. 1. Anyone who disputes any changes being recommended may make it known at that meeting, or, when and however you receive the draft proposed revisions.

Once we have apparent consensus among the general membership, the final proposed revisions will be among the materials sent out with the notice of the AGM.

We will attempt to reach members via the newsletter and/or email/email updates and announcements at services. Once the revisions are ready for print, copies will be placed on the greeters table for review. If you do not receive a draft revision please call Ellen Taylor at 345-3888 or email to ellen.taylor@gmail.com.

THANK YOU BELUGA PODS MEMBERS

This is a special thank you to all the Beluga Pod members who helped give a special touch to March services, especially those who did double duty or more, like the Brumptions and Sally. I was simply too sick for much of March to do my usual tasks. Hopefully, we will all rise to the tasks in June. Sue Woods

AGM NOTICE

Please be reminded that all reports for the Annual General meeting which is to be held on June 5, can be sent to Siobhan Malashewski at siobhanmal@gmail.com.

EMPTY BOWLS/CARING HEARTS

If you are interested in this social action project, sponsored by LUF, you are invited to the organizational meeting over lunch (pizza) at Shelter House. Bring your ideas and energy and help continue making this 12th annual Fundraising event the success it has been over the past years. The meeting is Wednesday, April 27th Noon- 1:00 P.M. in the Board Room of Shelter House on George street. Contact Nelly Reedhead (473-5646) and or Pyteke Blaauw (344-4052) for information.

POTLUCK SUPPER & WORKSHOP

LUF will be hosting a *potluck supper* on Saturday, **April 9th** at LUF from 5:00- 9:00 p.m. Supper starts at 5:30 P.M. Special guests: Liz James and Gary Groot (CUC's Board representative for Western Canada) Liz and Gary live in Saskatoon.

There will be a workshop from 3:00-5:00 p.m. which will be continued informally after supper. Watch for further details on this special workshop with our esteemed CUC Board representatives.

SHELTER HOUSE SUNDAY

Our time to lend a hand is once again upon us. It is our turn to offer assistance on Easter Sunday. Shelter house requires the help of (8) people on Apr. 24th. Four are required for the preparation shift in the morning and four for the early afternoon serving shift. The sign-up sheet is posted on the south wall of the back entrance.

DYING WITH DIGNITY CANADA (DWD)

In the March 3, 2011 e-newsletter I asked you to google the United Church Observer web site to read Sheila Noyes' article "My View" and to vote on the questions of physician assisted suicide in Canada. Oregon, Washington and Montana have legislation that supports personal choice at the end of life. If we want that choice in Canada we need organizations like DWD Canada working to change the Criminal Code.

Any organization that is trying to change the status quo needs the help of members and friends. Thirty years ago, most members of this Fellowship were members of and financially supported the Memorial Society. Their interest was the backup for the small group whose work was responsible for breaking the monopoly of the Ontario funeral industry. The few who shouldered the most responsibility could not have been successful without the support of many.

Please read "The Voice". I'm sure you will see the reason to support DWD with membership and/or a donation.

The newest issue of The Voice, the DWD electronic newsletter is complete and posted online. Inside you will find:

- 'No Need to Go to Switzerland', an article that explains how our own Client Support Program can offer you dignity at the end-of-life while working within the current Canadian Laws. (Page 1)
- 'Youth: A Fountain of Hope', a beautifully written story by a DWD Canada member on the experiences by her entire family around her mother's death. (Page 3)
- 'Financial Feature', is a two-page spread that explains where the organization is sitting financially and the various ways we can all help – you'll be amazed at how easy some of them are. (Pages 4 and 5)
- 'The Political Bullies in America Have Won' and 'Victory in Montana' Two articles on what is happening just to the South of us. (Page 6 and 7)

To access the most recent issue of The Voice, please [click here](#).

Or copy and paste the following link to your address bar: www.dyingwithdignity.ca/new_and_noteworthy/February_2011

Submitted by: Del Dickey

2011 CUC ACM UPDATE

On March 31st, the registration fee for the CUC annual conference and meeting (ACM) increases by \$25. To take advantage of the early bird fee, register before that date by going to www.cuc.ca. The ACM, taking place in Toronto May 20-23, will be an event to stimulate your mind, cradle your soul and tickle your funny bone. Saturday morning, David Foot, author of Boom, Bust and Echo, will deliver the keynote address. Among other attractions, the weekend will feature 55 concurrent sessions on a wide range of topics, a display area with unusual products to purchase, a cabaret featuring some of southern Ontario's most talented UU entertainers, and opportunities to schmooze with UUs from across Canada and around the world. Sunday morning, one thousand UUs will gather at the University of Toronto's Convocation Hall for a Service of Celebration. Register today!

Art Brewer, Communications Coordinator, 2011 CUC ACM.

USC CANADA Del Dickey

YES! According to a new United Nations report, organic agriculture can feed the world. Based on a review of recent scientific literature, the report concludes that small-scale farmers can double food production within 10 years in critical regions by using ecological agricultural methods. If sufficiently supported, these methods can mitigate climate change and alleviate rural poverty.

According to Olivier De Schutter, the UN's Special Rapporteur on the right to food: "To feed 9 billion people in 2050, we urgently need to adopt the most efficient farming techniques available. Today's scientific evidence demonstrates that agro-ecological methods outperform the use of chemical fertilizers in boosting food production where the hungry live - especially in unfavorable environments."

"Agro-ecology not only raises productivity at the farm level, concludes the report; it also helps farmers both adapt to and mitigate climate change (no small feat!) and conserves biodiversity and soil health. Furthermore, it creates jobs, increases income, diversifies diet and improves nutrition, and brings farmers and communities together."

NO??? The Bill Gates Foundation, partnered with the United Kingdom's Department for International Development (DFID) is on a different track. These two groups "will work to identify and fund research and projects that help small farmers increase their yields and incomes..... we can drive new ways to make direct improvements in people's lives, whether by making disease-resistant crops more widely available so that small-scale farmers can grow and sell more, or by developing crops with added nutritional benefits that will give their families a better diet."

This sounds like genetically manipulated crops.

Who is right? Are both approaches needed? The food on your table will reflect the answer. USC has spent 30 years supporting indigenous peoples and their knowledge of agro-ecology

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS FOR April 2011

Every Sunday at 10:30am, Sunday Service at LUF	Sun., Apr. 3, 9am, UU Orientation - LUF Boardroom	Tues., Apr. 5, 19, 7pm, Wayfinders - LUF Hall	Sat., Apr. 9, 9:30 - OWL Workshop - LUF Hall
Every Sunday at 7:30pm, Meditation	Sun., Apr. 3, 9:15 RE Mtg. - LUF Boardroom.	Tues., Apr. 19, 7pm, Green Sanctuary Mtg. - LUF Kit.	Sat., Apr. 9, 3:00 LUF Workshop with CUC Representatives - LUF Hall
Every Sunday at 9:00am Non-Violent Communication	Mon., Apr. 4, 12pm, OWL Mtg. - LUF Kitchen	Tues., Apr. 12, 7pm Nu-Moon Meeting - LUF hall	Sat., Apr. 9, 5:30pm Potluck Supper - LUF Hall
Every Wed. at 5:30pm Yoga with Sarah, \$6- LUF Hall	Tues., Apr. 5, 7-pm Evening Chalice Circle - Offsite	Tues., Apr. 12, 5pm Sun. Service Mtg - LUF Kit	Sat., Apr. 2, 16, 30th, 1:00 - LUF Hall
Every Wednesday at 7:30pm Mindfulness Practice	Mon., Apr. 11, 25, 7:30pm Men's Group - LUF Kit.	Thurs., Apr. 7,, 7:00pm Service Auction Mtg. - LUF Kit Back Door	
Every Thursday at 4:00pm Tai Chi LUF Hall	Mon., Apr.18, 1 pm Finance Mtg. -LUF Kitchen	Thurs., Apr. 28, 6:30pm Membership/Fellowship Life Mtg.- LUF Boardroom	
Every Thursday at 6:30 Yoga with Sarah, \$6 - LUF Hall	Mon., Apr. 18, 7pm LUF Board Mtg. - LUF hall		

Hello LUF!

My name is Katie Hughdie and I just wanted to introduce myself to you all! I am acting as the CRE until the end of June and am so excited about it! I would like to give you a little bit of background information about myself!

I worked as a co-CRE and Primary teacher here a LUF in 2004. It was a job I really enjoyed! I am formally trained as a teacher with Specialists in Special Education and Guidance. I am also from Thunder Bay and a Lakehead graduate, but moved away to Sioux Lookout to find work in my field. I worked at the high school there as a resource teacher for the students who came from Northern Reserves to attend school. It was a job I found very challenging and rewarding! I lived in Sioux Lookout with my partner Dan, where we had our first baby (Kieran) in 2008. When Kieran was young I opened a small home day care, which was a very busy vocation! Dan and I were then married in 2009 and had our second baby (Emily) in 2010. We moved back to Thunder Bay before Emily was born and have not looked back since! We are both glad to be here, and I am so happy to be attending LUF again. I really missed the church when I was away and am so happy to be part of your community again!

I am absolutely thrilled to be working in RE again! We have such a dedicated group of people working in our RE Team and they are so supportive of me! I have lots of ideas that I hope will benefit our RE Program! I am bursting at the seams with enthusiasm! I hope to meet as many of you as possible, and can't wait to continue my work with the RE Team!

I am looking for volunteer teachers to work in our Primary and Junior classes until the end of the year – so if you are interested please let me know! We also have got a lot of great activities planned for the rest of the year, and will be looking for volunteers to help run some of them! Don't be shy!!!

Some of the things we will be doing include: Music and song sessions with Dianne P, the Margaret Hartley Conservation Walk at Mission Marsh, Eco Superior's Spring Up to Clean Up event and planting with Rosemary B.

I'm really looking forward to working with you and all the wonderful children we have at LUF!

Cheers, Katie



UPCOMING EVENTS IN LUF CHILDREN'S RELIGIOUS EXPLORATION

April 10th – Primary and Junior classes will meet in the basement for a musical session with Dianne P! They will be revisiting a special Earth Day song written last year, and learn some new songs as well. Thank you so much to Dianne for sharing her musical talents with us! *Please be advised that we ask you not to wear any scents this day (perfume, scented hand cream etc) Thank you!*

April 17 – Kirsten P. will be running a Children's Chapel with both classes in the basement. She will be focusing on Creative Movement! Thanks Kirsten – this will be wonderful!

May 8 – The Junior Class will remain upstairs to listen to Meaghan Malashewski's talk about her experiences while on a construction expedition through World Accord to build a community Centre in Honduras.

May 15 – We are encouraging parents to bring their children to church for 10 am today and for the next two Sundays (May 22 and May 29), in order to rehearse a song with Dianne P. before the church service. The LUF children are scheduled to perform a special musical number at the beginning of the church service on Sunday May 29! Our rehearsal dates will prepare us for our debut and we stress that strength is in numbers! The more children we can have attend the better! Again we respectfully ask that no scents be worn on these three days. Thank you.

May 15 – The Margaret Hartley Walk at will take place at Mission Marsh. We gratefully acknowledge Rob Van Wyck for offering to help lead us on this walk. We will be departing from LUF at 10:30am, and ask any parents or adults who are able to help with driving and supervising to talk to Katie Hughdie. We plan to have a potluck picnic snack directly after our walk. Please bring binoculars (if you have them) and weather appropriate gear!

May 22 – LUF will be partaking in Eco Superior's "Spring Up to Clean Up" Event. Come help us clean up our community! Gloves and garbage bags will be provided!

THE WAYFINDERS - *Why Ancient Wisdom Matters in the Modern World* - by Wade Davis

Recently, many of us have been alarmed to learn of accelerating rates of extinction among plants and animals on our planet. But how many of us know that human cultures are going extinct at an even more shocking rate? Anthropologists predict that fully 50% of the 7,000 languages spoken around the world today will disappear within our lifetimes. And languages are merely the canaries in the coalmine: what of the knowledge, stories, songs, and ways of seeing encoded in these disappearing voices?

In *The Wayfinders*, Wade Davis offers a gripping and enlightening account of this urgent crisis. He leads us on a fascinating tour through a handful of indigenous cultures, describing the worldviews they represent and reminding us of the encroaching danger to humankind's survival should they vanish.

The Wayfinders was the subject of the 2009 CBC Massey Lectures. Wade Davis tells his story in a compelling and accessible way. Please invite other people outside LUF who you think might be interested.

Given that the Massey Lectures contain some of the best contemporary thinking in the country, we hope to make this type of programming an annual event. Advance registration is not required – but it would be good to know if you plan to attend. Call or email Margaret Wanlin – mwanlin@tbaytel.net, 767-1939.

Listen to the Audio Participate in Discussion
Tuesday April 5th and 19th, May 3rd, 17th and 31st
Lakehead Unitarian Fellowship
7:00 pm – 9:00 pm

MOVING AHEAD TOWARD PART-TIME MINISTRY

As you may know the congregation has endorsed the search for a part-time minister. The Ministerial Search Committee and the Board want to be careful with this process so that “we get what we want, and want what we get.” Here is a draft statement that, once completed will be included in our posting. The statement attempts to define our interests and where we hope that a minister can help us to get to as a congregation. What do you think? Please review this draft and send your comments, by email or on paper to the Ministerial Search Committee care of the LUF office. Please send your thoughts in by **April 30**. You can also feel free to talk with committee members on this subject: Rosemary Burriss, Ed Prinselaar, Christine Meronyk and Margaret Wanlin.

Draft statement for why we want a part-time minister:

Lakehead Unitarian Fellowship wishes to engage a part-time minister to:

- Assist us in our spiritual and/or personal growth as individuals and as a congregation;
- Assist us to strengthen the presence and influence of liberal religion in Thunder Bay;
- Increase our understanding of and appreciation for Unitarian Universalism;
- Assist us to grow our congregation in numbers of members, friends and dollars;
- Assist us to prepare for the move to a more suitable building;
- Work with us to strengthen our contribution to our community and the wider world.

We have chosen to pursue part-time ministry because:

We feel it is affordable for a congregation of our size and financial resources;

It allows us to combine the best features of being lay-led which we have been for most of our 52 years while at the same time to benefit from the expertise, knowledge, skills and inspiration of a minister.

By: Margaret Wanlin



REV. MILLIE ROCHESTER SHARES EXPERTISE

Rev. Millie Rochester, minister at the First Unitarian Church in Winnipeg seen here with Christine Moss (l-r) enjoying a delicious soup luncheon after facilitating a Shared Ministry Workshop on Saturday, March 26th. The following day she delivered a thought provoking sermon encouraging LUF members and friends to continue sharing their 'minestrone talents' and keep our LUF community alive and well. Thank you Millie.

MINISTRY SEARCH TEAM UPDATE

The Ministry Search Team (R. Burris, C. Meronyk, Ed Prinselaar, and M. Wanlin) have contacted Antonia Wong, our district representative at the CUC, regarding the process of searching for part-time ministry for LUF. During our upcoming Skype meeting with her, we will ask her for feedback on the materials we have prepared to attract the attention of prospective candidates. Rosemary will attend the AGM this May long weekend in Toronto, hoping to network informally with other congregational leaders, and to publicize our search. We will also send our material to Julie Stoneberg and others who have been helpful in steering us through these channels in the past. We also met with Rev. Millie Rochester and will meet with Liz James and Gary Groot in April to learn from their experience. We are very conscious that we need the input of the younger members, and appeal to this group to contact us and/or attend our meetings on an ad hoc basis. Watch for meeting times in the e-updates or contact the office. By Rosemary Burris

2011 SERVICE AUCTION

The date: Saturday, May 7th. Doors open at 5:00 P.M. Dinner is served at 5:30 P.M. This is one of the Fellowship's major events. Both in community building and fundraising. During the evening people can sign up for a host of events which will give many hours of fun and fellowship over the year. We all have talents to be shared. Be that Tarot card reading, making marmalade or mucking out a barn. Offer your services, write them on the SIGN UP SHEET or call 344-5980 (Fellowship's office) with your proposal.

There will be food and games for the children, a penny auction, dinners, activities to sign up for and the live auction with auctioneer Gerry Brady. There is a small admission fee of \$5.00. Children 12 and under are free. For this charge you receive a tasty dinner, an evening of enjoyment and if you are lucky many hours of great services. Remember this is a service auction. We'd rather not gather and re-distribute materials This is not a yard sale. A cake to be delivered at a birthday party : yes!! Grandpa's spittoon :no!!!
By: Pyteke Blaauw

SERVICE AUCTION MEETING - COME SHARE IDEAS



Thursday, April 7th at 7:00 P.M. Service Auction organizing committee meets. Location: LUF's Kitchen in Unitarian House at 129 S. Algoma street, Thunder Bay. Use the back door. If you have wondered what the service auction is all about. If you have ideas to share and some time to spare, consider yourself invited. Contact the office for more information: 344-5980

LUF CONTACTS 2010



OFFICERS OF THE BOARD

President:	Bert Blaauw	344-4052
Vice-President:	vacant	
Secretary:	Siobhan Malashewski	683-7212
Treasurer:	Rob Van Wyck	344-7845
Past President:	Ellen Taylor	345-3888
At Large:	Brenda Gillespie	983-2758
	Rosemary Burris	343-9241
	Margaret Wanlin	767-1939
	Elaine Foster-Seargeant	933-4845
	Marsha Reinikka	344-9998

STAFF AND APPOINTED OFFICERS

Administrator	Elaine Sombrutski	344-5980 (Office)
Coordinator of Religious Exploration	Katie Hughdie	344-5980 (Office)
Bookkeeper	Nadia LaRussa	344-5980 (Office)
Lay Chaplains:	Rob Van Wyck	344-7845
	Susan Tiura	346-4223
	David Belrose	623-3347
Director of Music :	Heather Morrison	767-8233
Endowment Fund Directors	Tony Carfagnini (Chair)	
	Carl Rose	
	Wayne Hill	

lufship@tbaytel.net

creluf@gmail.com

COMMITTEE CHAIRS AND CONTACT PEOPLE

Archives:	Del Dickey	Membership:	Pyteke Blaauw
Bridge:	Del Dickey	Newsletter:	Elaine Sombrutski
Care Committee:	Carol Ann Brumpton	Nominating:	Ellen Taylor
Fellowship Life / PODS:	Bev Leaman	Property:	Bert Blaauw
Finance:	Rob Van Wyck	Religious Exploration:	
Green Sanctuary Committee:	Erin Beagle	Sanctuary Coordinator:	Del Dickey
Kitchen:	Alice Neudorf, Audrey Saxberg	Social Responsibility:	Ahti Tolvanen
Lay Chaplaincy:	Carol Ann Brumpton	Sunday Services:	Susan Tiura
Library:		Tai Chi:	Sita Holland
Lifespan Learning:	Suzanne Hansen	YRUU/Youth Advisor:	
Mindfulness:	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/reading the LUF Letter, provided free to all members and friends. Receiving the LUF Letter by email, in pdf format, saves 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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Newsletter and web site submissions:

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Deadline for submissions: 20th 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.