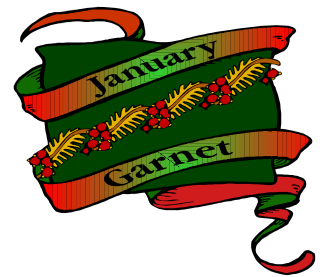




LUF Newsletter

Lakehead Unitarian Fellowship

JANUARY 2011



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



CHRISTMAS JOY

The children’s performance of “The Star Child” once again reinforces that our children continue to blossom as stars and are the hope for our future. They project joy and love in brilliant wonder and remind us to generate care to all.

Thank you to everyone who aided in the performance. Without your eager and thoughtful encouragement the rest of us would not be able to feel their youthful exuberance on these special occasions.

SUNDAY SERVICES

Services at 10:30 am

129 Algoma St. S

Children’s Religious Exploration
Classes

Child Care Provided

- Jan. 2 Rekindling Your Light
Service Leader: Hanusia Tkaczyk
- Jan. 9 Title to be Announced
Speaker: Rev. Suzanne Wasilczuk
- Jan. 16 Title: Moving from Cynicism to Hope
Speaker: Jay Stapleton



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Dear Members and Friends,

The LUF board and I wish you the best health and happiness for the season and the New Year. It has been a Fall filled with activity, and many volunteers have come forward to make exciting new initiatives happen.

We had a successful canvass, permitting us to move forward with “enhanced ministry” in terms of more Sundays with professional ministers in the pulpit. The funds raised will also allow us to re-initiate the “green sanctuary” program, assess our needs and availability of a part-time minister, provide space and programs for adult RE, conduct professional led workshops, plan family outings and potlucks, and build community so we can better understand and support each other.

The committee that started the Circle Dinners and collected suggestions, wants, and needs is still compiling its findings. There will be a call to the general membership to recruit volunteers who would be interested in forming a permanent committee dedicated to the issues of ministry.

The comments collected as part of the canvass have been reviewed, and are reflected in the 2011 budget. Talking about the budget, the 2010 budget was under run by a wide margin, primarily to keep spending in line with income. The 2011 budget has been reviewed by the finance committee, and approved by the board. The projected overrun of some \$11,000 is partly due to a more realistic, and better-supported, estimate of income and to support the wishes expressed in the Circle Dinners and the Canvass Comments. The Futures Fund will cover the overrun. The next step is to publish the budget, and solicit suggestions from the membership.

The 2011 budget will be available either at services for two weeks or at the LUF office. Any suggestions can be submitted in writing and will be reviewed by the board on Monday, January 17th for final adjustments. It will then be presented to the congregation on Jan 23rd for ratification or rejection.

Bert Blaauw

President

ADMINISTRATOR'S CORNER:

A joyous, healthy year is wished for all. In an effort to become more efficient in 2011, we are asking that if copies are required for meetings, please let me know in advance and I will gladly copy what is required and record the information. To all those receiving copies of the Newsletter in the mail, please consider a donation towards postage for the upcoming year. If there are any persons who would be willing to remove their names from the mailing list in an effort to save paper, please let me know. The Newsletter is available on the website. The locks on the office door will be changed. Keys will be signed out to those who need access. If you should happen to sign for supplies that are delivered, please place the invoice in the administrator's mail slot upstairs. Many thanks to all for being speedy in providing information for upcoming services, e-updates and the newsletter. It is greatly appreciated.

Elaine Sombrutski, Administrator

CANVASS CAMPAIGN 2011

The combined Annual Canvass - Campaign 2011 "Enhanced Ministry" is winding down and we're very happy to announce success! At the time of writing we have had 54 pledge cards returned, indicating the "gifts of intent" totaling \$54,000. We should all be very proud of what we have accomplished here ... and more cards are expected. We feel optimistic that your collective gifts will enable us to project a total of around \$70,000 this year.

I'd like to thank the Canvassers this year for their dedicated work on our behalf. Over 100 members and friends were visited by our Canvassers. Many thanks to Bert Blaauw, Pyteke Blaauw, Rosemary Burris, Del Dickey, Trudi Jones, Bev Leaman, Bob Manson, Christine Meronyk, Ed Prinselaar, Bettina Siebenmann, Ellen Taylor, and Margaret Wanlin.

A provisional budget has been prepared and approved by the Board for your Ratification on Jan 23rd, in a meeting after the morning service. You may see this budget and you are welcome to submit comments and suggestions addressed to the Treasurer or the President LUF. Input will be accepted until the Board meeting of Jan 17th. Copies will be available at Sunday Services and at the LUF office.

Merry Christmas, Happy Holidays and see you all in 2011!

Rob Van Wyck
LUF Treasurer

ENHANCED MINISTRY WORKSHOP REPORT/**CALL FOR AD HOC SEARCH COMMITTEE MEMBERS**

During the month of November, there were 10 Circle Dinners held, with 49 participants gathering at various members' homes to discuss questions about ministry - how we minister to ourselves in our lay-led format, how professional ministry might enhance that experience and fill in gaps, and what we could offer a part-time minister. On December 11, Stefan Jonasson, UU minister and consultant, facilitated a workshop at LUF attended by 32 people to examine the comments collected, and to formulate our Next Steps. We agreed that, while these comments could not be understood to represent consensus, it was very gratifying to hear general support for the board's canvass campaign of "Enhanced Ministry". We are so very fortunate that over the years to have had several exceptional experiences with professional ministry, which serve to give us hope and shape the direction we hope to take. We have also been blessed with incredibly generous members who have served to keep the Sunday morning programs a rich variety of challenging and inspirational topics; however, we also know that there is always the prospect of fatigue which can affect the quality of services in lay-led congregations. The board has instructed us to begin the process of searching for part-time professional leadership.

As we move into the New Year, those of us who worked on the initiative of Circle Dinners discussions, and the Enhanced Ministry Workshop will be meeting to digest the ideas from these events, and to report to the board as preparation for the "Next Steps". There are some of us who will not be able to serve on the next phase. Please consider this an invitation to serve on this ad hoc committee that will work to secure contract part-time ministry for LUF by September 2011. As you can imagine, this work is a very exciting part of the process of LUF becoming the voice of liberal religion in Thunder Bay, while continuing to minister to ourselves. Contact me, or the office for more information or to serve on an informal Ministerial Search Committee starting in January 2011.

Respectfully,
Rosemary Burris

USC CORNER

USC Canada's new global five-year program has kicked off with three inspiring international workshops held in Canada, Nepal, and Ethiopia. USC brought together partners to share experience and knowledge as we build on past successes and prepare to spread and deepen our work. After more than a year of research and planning, we're focusing on five key strategies:

- Seed Security and Diversity
- Engaging Young Farmers
- Climate Change Adaptation and Mitigation
- Promoting Gender Equality
- Building Economic Growth in Rural Communities

One major cloud on the horizon of these well researched plans is EARTH GRAB.

Corporations are rushing to grab and convert plant matter – called “biomass” – into fuel, chemicals, power, and other profitable commodities. They are using high-risk genetic engineering technologies to accelerate this grab. The result is an emerging global “biomass economy” that threatens to eat up our crops, forests and other plant life.

Just as the demand for corn ethanol led to higher food prices and hunger, the massive biomass-grab will have devastating consequences for people and our environment, here and in developing countries. What are corporations using “biomass” for? What will earth grab mean?

Kate Green of USC Canada will visit Thunder Bay at the end of February to participate in “Seedy Saturday”. She will be our speaker on Feb. 27. Be prepared to ask her questions about these issues. Submitted by: Dolores Dickey

EVENING CHALICE CIRCLE

Tuesday, January 4, the Evening Chalice Circle will meet at 7 p.m. at the home of Raija Warkentin, 111-145 Fanshaw Street. Call Del Dickey for information.

AFTERNOON CHALICE CIRCLE

Wed. January 12, the afternoon Chalice Circle will meet at 3:00 p.m. at the home of Elaine Sombrutski, 210 Boy Scout Rd. The topic for discussion “ Health Care Issues in an Aging Society.” This may become a two part discussion. Call Elaine for information 344-5980.

LUF BUDGET RATIFICATION

Copies of the LUF Budget can be found at the table at the back of LUF. For those who wish to preview the budget all comments and suggestions will be accepted until Jan. 17, 2011. The Budget Ratification meeting will be held on Jan. 23rd after the service.

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS FOR JANUARY 2011

Every Sunday at 10:30am, Sunday Service at LUF	Sun., Jan. 2, 12:30pm RE Committee Mtg.- LUF Board- room	Mon., Jan. 10, & 24, 7:30pm Men's Group - LUF kitchen	Sat., Jan. 22, 7:30 Dave & Jer Concert
Every Sunday at 7:30pm, Meditation	Tues., Jan 4, 18th, 7-9pm Adult Rel. Exploration - LUF Hall	Tues., Jan. 11, 7-9pm Nuu- Moon Meeting - LUF hall	Sun., Jan 23, After Service - Budget Ratification Meeting
Wednesday at 5:30pm Yoga with Sarah, \$6- LUF Hall	Tues., Jan. 4, 5pm Ad hoc Shared Ministry Mtg.- LUF Kitchen	Tues., Jan. 11, 5pm Sun. Service Mtg - LUF Kit	Thurs., Jan. 27, 7pm Member- ship Mtg.- LUF Boardroom
Every Wednesday at 7:30pm Mindfulness Practice	Tues., Jan 4, 7-pm Evening Chalice Circle - Offsite	Fri. Jan. 14., 5pm: Silver Birch Quartet - LUF Hall	Jan. 29, 6pm Potala Film Night - LUF Hall
Every Thursday at 4:00pm Tai Chi LUF Hall	Sat., Jan. 8 & 22 1 pm Bridge, - LUF hall	Mon., Jan. 17, pm Finance Mtg. -LUF Kitchen	
Every Thursday at 6:30 Yoga with Sarah, \$6 - LUF Hall		Mon., Jan.. 17th, 7pm LUF Board Mtg. - LUF hall	

"LIFE ENRICHING RESOURCES"

Unitarians have the unique opportunity to go to many sources and drink from different wells which can bring meaning and purpose to our lives. Our Fellowship has the advantage of a library which provides a way of access to our history and theological heritage but in an age of sound bytes and a million things asking for our attention, books seem to be less attractive. There is a pressing question how best to keep our religious community not only informed about the issues and concerns of the Canadian Unitarian Council (read the Canadian Unitarian) but to connect with the wider world of Unitarian Universalism. Exploring the roots of our heritage, search for meaning, the relationship to our wider world by means of ecology, cosmology and politics are all part of the religious journey.

With the establishment of the CUC a dream was realized. It was to create an expression of UUism, true to its founding principles yet uniquely Canadian. With the continuing small number of congregations across the country and what appears to be lack of critical mass to fully develop and exploit the opportunities given, we may be hindered in growth and attraction as a religious community by its parochialism. Outreach opportunities and a sense of belonging to a world wide fellowship have become hampered by the absence of information which had come amongst others through UU WORLD. (a UUA quarterly publication)

This magazine may well be the medium which can provide us with a wider look at our UU world. With the assistance of the CUC, we are presently receiving a number of copies for distribution among the members of LUF. A Sign Up sheet was made available and approx. 15 people expressed interest in receiving a copy. What we aim to do is bring a few articles to your attention which will be the material for a future gathering when a evaluation of this initiative will be discussed. The fore last page of the Magazine with the heading : "What in the World" provides a brief synopsis if some of the articles, inviting discussion in smaller groups (Chalice Circle?) Suggested topics are "Superheroes", "Corporate responsibility" and "Losing Religion" May we find more ways to inform ourselves better as what it means to live our Principles and belong to the Lakehead Unitarian Fellowship.

Submitted by: Ed Prinselaar

We Won! Thank You: Extra-Judicial Killing Resolution

Dear Friends and Colleagues,

I promised not to bother you again this year, but I couldn't resist thanking you for your very successful effort. Yesterday, thanks to your efforts, the UN General Assembly voted to include "sexual orientation" in its resolution against extra-judicial killing among its long list of vulnerable populations that deserve particular protection. UN pundits called the victory the result of "top-down pressure from the United States and bottom-up pressure from civil society." In case you don't recognize yourselves, you are the "bottom-up pressure from civil society" that won the day. The final vote in favor of including "sexual orientation" was 93 in favor, 55 opposed, 27 abstaining and 17 absent. Many of you copied me on the messages you sent to the White House. On December 13th, 2010, the UU-UNO, working together with GLAAD, the Metropolitan Community Church, Integrity and Union Theological Seminary formed a coalition of 60 representatives of people of progressive values of faith and our allies. We call ourselves the UN Coalition of Faith. We all went out to our constituencies and called on your to write to the White House. You did and it made a difference. It encouraged the Obama Administration to do the right thing. It also put other nations on notice that civil society was watching and active. Caribbean that want North American tourists and developing nations that want North American investment took notice and switched their votes at the UN in favor of the inclusion of "sexual orientation" or they abstained. Thanks for a job well done. Feel your power and enjoy the holidays.

Bruce Knotts, Executive Director
Unitarian Universalist United Nations Office

NON-VIOLENT COMMUNICATIONS

We will start our on Sunday Mornings at 9:00am beginning the first week in February. BYO Breakfast. All are welcome. We will use LUF's own copy of the workbook, however, if some of you want to purchase your own copy, an order can be made in January. Let Elaine know your preference.

Rosenberg says, "So let's contrast the two systems, the domination system and the life serving system.

How does life work?

We have needs, all living creatures have needs, and we have a wonderful alarm system that alerts us when our needs are not being met. What is this alert? A motivational system called feelings. In his book Emotional Intelligence, Daniel Goleman points out that this is a natural function of emotions. They tell us when we are not getting our needs met. For example, if my need for food is not being met, but I don't have feelings, then I starve. It's like people who have neurological problems don't know if their hand is on fire or not. So feelings are very important. They mobilize us to get our needs met. When our need is met then we have pleasurable feelings to celebrate. This is a natural system. We are in a life serving system. We would want to serve life. We would want to train people to think in this way, to think in terms of feelings, in terms of needs and need-fulfilling actions.

This is basically what Nonviolent Communication is about. If you want to serve life you want to create life-serving systems. We need to really be conscious moment by moment. We need to be as smart as bees and dogs--connected to life. Maybe it's OK to have opinions about the world situation, but if you are starving to death you need to get some food in your system. Let's really focus our consciousness on our human needs, feelings and need-fulfilling actions. Now anger is a feeling, but anger tells us that a cancerous intruder has come in. We have a need that isn't getting met, therefore it is creating some feelings, but we are thinking in a way that serves domination systems, and this is putting a toxic energy into a natural system. Anger and its cousins, depression, guilt and shame, are all a part of domination systems.

Anger tells us we are thinking the bad guy is somebody else. With depression, guilt and shame we are the bad guy, these are the feelings that result from the thinking of domination systems."

Submitted by: Trudi J. Jones

WINTER SOLSTICE CELEBRATION

NUUMOON saw its best turnout yet, on Tuesday December 14th for a Yule ritual held at the Fellowship. Approximately 20 people, including several newcomers joined us for readings, meditations, chanting and sharing our respective lights. Wilma Van Den Boomen led the evening, which included a meditation on discerning our own particular light, our contribution to the world and encouragement to let that light shine. A veritable feast of baking, fruits and other snacks rounded out the evening.

Here is one of the readings : "This is the night of Solstice; the longest night of the year. Now darkness triumphs; and yet, gives way and changes into light. The breath of Nature is suspended: all waits within the Cauldron; the Dark King is transformed into the Infant Light. We watch for the coming of the dawn, when the Great Mother again gives birth to the Divine Child Sun, who is bringer of hope and the promise of summer. This is the stillness behind motion, when time itself stops; the centre which is also the circumference of all. We are awake in the night. We turn the Wheel to bring the light. We call the sun from the womb of night. Blessed be ! " (Author - Starhawk)

Submitted by: Hanusia Tkaczyk

MIDWINTER UNITARIAN RETREAT: SERVICE IS OUR PRAYER

Unitarian Congregations of Greater Toronto are hosting the retreat on February 4th, 5th, and 6th, 2011. If anyone is interested in attending please contact the office for additional information or check the website <http://donheights.ca/mwr>.

INVITATION TO TORONTO:

In 1961, Unitarians and Universalists came together in Toronto to establish a national organization of congregations across Canada. They called it the Canadian Unitarian Council, and its purposes included strengthening the connections between our congregations and representing them to the Canadian government on social justice issues and legal matters. It was an all-volunteer body initially, and its members continued to depend for services on the newly-amalgamated Unitarian Universalist Association in the United States.

In 1991, we celebrated the thirtieth anniversary of that founding at our Annual Meeting in Winnipeg. We took a look back at our history, especially the Icelandic connection. As an “anniversary project,” Bunny Turner, a member of the first CUC Board, put together a complete collection of the Canadian Unitarian, our newsletter, and displayed other historical materials. In 2001, we celebrated our fortieth anniversary by ending our bilateral relationship with the UUA. We affirmed a collegial relationship, parallel to those we have with Unitarian and Universalist associations in the UK, India, Transylvania, and other groups in the International Council of Unitarians and Universalists. In 2011, we will be celebrating the fiftieth anniversary of the establishment of our national body. First Unitarian Congregation of Toronto is honoured to host you on this very significant occasion. We look forward to welcoming you all, as we honour the pioneers of the past and move into the future.

In that momentous meeting forty-nine years ago, the assembled body sang one of the beloved hymns of the day—one we still sing:

As tranquil streams that meet and merge
And flow as one to seek the sea,
Our kindred hearts and minds unite
To build a church that shall be free.
The third verse includes these words:
A freedom that reveres the past
But trusts the dawning future more,
And bids the soul in search of truth
Adventure boldly and explore.

An anniversary is an opportunity to look both ways—back to see where we’ve come from, and—most importantly—forward to the coming years. The theme for the conference is “**Trust the Dawning Future.**”

The conference (accommodations and all events except the Sunday morning service) will take place at the Chestnut Residence, a U of T residence in the heart of downtown Toronto and steps from public transit, restaurants, theatres, shopping, etc. The Sunday worship service will be held at the U of T’s Convocation Hall (1.5km - about a 20 minute walk - from the residence). Bus service will be provided from the residence to and from Convocation Hall for those who want it. We’re expecting upwards of 1,000 people at the service!

Art Brewer

1st Unitarian Congregation of Toronto

Communications Coordinator, 2011 CUC ACM

LUF ATTENDEES:

If there are any of our LUF congregation interested in attending the Annual Conference, please contact the administrator with your name and contact information to enable coordination of travel/car pooling and possible shared accommodation at 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
	Sophia Gubbins	622-8316
	Marsha Reinikka	344-9998

STAFF AND APPOINTED OFFICERS

Administrator	Elaine Sombrutski	344-5980 (Office)
Coordinator of Religious Exploration	Lynne Riel	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
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COMMITTEE CHAIRS AND CONTACT PEOPLE

Archives:	Del Dickey	Membership:	Pyteke Blaauw
Bridge:	Chris Moss	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:	Lynne Riel
Green Sanctuary Committee:		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: 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.