

LUF ♥ LETTER

monthly newsletter of the Lakehead Unitarian Fellowship



Chalice from Unitarian Earth Spirit Network website



What the Board is Thinking: Reporting on the Retreat Conversation

On February 3rd, the board (5 of 9) gathered to clarify our understanding of the purpose of Lakehead Unitarian Fellowship and also to confirm that the work of the board continues to be on track.

From our discussion, *the three key words* that define our understanding of both the purpose of the fellowship and what we desire of our involvement here are: **spirituality, pluralism** and **community**. How then does the board support this? On what tasks do we focus to support the actualization of this purpose?

Critical is full time settled ministry. Lakehead Unitarian Fellowship needs the support of an experienced and trained minister to most fully explore and express our unique potential and that of Unitarian Universalism. Professional leadership will provide a focus of visible leadership for the larger community and will support the work of the lay leadership with professional skills and the spiritual support necessary. Leadership in this congregation is demanding and there is simply too much work. *Policy development* for both the *board* and for *operations* is also essential. As leadership in this congregation has become more complex and as we move towards professional ministry, it is essential that we clear up our functions. This will help us work better at all levels and will make it more possible and attractive for a minister to join us in our work. The third step that the board would propose is that the congregation consider is a *name change* for Lakehead Unitarian Fellowship. The board feels that this can lead the congregation into substantive and deep conversation. The words and names we choose are powerful. This conversation can naturally evolve from the personal and revealing work we will each be asked to do so that the search committee is able to make the statements that will most accurately represent our congregation and what we desire of a minister.

The board will also continue (of course!) to support the celebration of our 50th anniversary and the Canadian Unitarian Council Annual Conference and Meeting, both in 2009. Our current building issues continue to be a concern but cannot be a major focus for the board at this time because we believe that the ministerial search is at a critical point and we need to respect the limits of what the board can effectively deal with at one time. Better one or two jobs done well than too many attempted and done poorly.

We will continue to be open to opportunities as they become available and there is ongoing supportive and exploratory work that can be done in preparation for our eventual move.

Decisions about our current building will have to be made. As part of our conversations that afternoon, we shared our understanding of Unitarian Universalism and what it means to identify and live as a UU. The culture of religion, Unitarian Universalism and Lakehead Unitarian Fellowship are undoubtedly changing. How do we manage this? How do we ensure that this community does more than survives, but thrives into its next 50 years?

A Month and a bit of Sundays

- March 2: Chimps & Bonobos, Bruce Hyer
- March 9: Rev. Rick Koyle, Reconciling our Differences (Daylight savings begins)
- March 16: Rev. Rick Koyle. Reading the Tea Leaves
- March 23: Easter / Rev. Rick Koyle, Easter: Christianity and Shame
- March 30: TBA
- April 6: Mary Bennett, CUC

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Finally, because the board in isolation can do none of this work, we proposed that a series of open forum or panel discussions be arranged with the congregation. We have not yet sorted out the details of this process. What is essential to our continued movement forward will be a commitment by each and every congregant to participate in a deep personal investigation of what we desire for ourselves and this congregation. The next step will be to share our discoveries with courage and honesty. Only then, will be able to arrive at our best and shared vision of the future to which we can all commit our energies.



Scheduling Notes: March 2008

- ❖ Sat. Mar. 1: Bridge, Hall, 1:00 pm
- ❖ Sun. Mar. 2, RE mtg, 12:15 pm.
Childcare provided
- ❖ Tues. Mar. 3: Simplicity Circle, Hall. 7:00 pm
- ❖ Wed. Mar 5: Mindfulness Practice, Hall, 7:30 pm
- ❖ Sat. Mar. 8: Daylight Savings begins
- ❖ Sat. Mar. 8: Potala film showing, Hall, 7:00 pm
- ❖ Mon. Mar. 10: Board mtg, Hall, 7:00 pm / Men's Group, Kitchen, 7:30 pm
- ❖ Tues. Mar. 11: Daughters of the Goddess, Hall, 7:00 pm, Theme: Blood Mysteries
- ❖ Wed. Mar. 12: Shower Singers, Hall, 7:00 pm
- ❖ Sat. Mar. 15: Bridge, Hall, 1:00 pm / Kam Valley Fiddlers, Hall, St. Patrick's Day concert, 7:00 pm
- ❖ Sun. Mar. 16: Green Sanctuary cmtee mtg, 12:15, after service
- ❖ Tues. Mar. 18: Deadline for submissions to the April newsletter. Items received after the deadline may not be published.
- ❖ Tues. Mar. 18: Simplicity Circle, Hall, 7:00 pm
- ❖ Wed. Mar. 19: Mindfulness Practice, Hall, 7:30 pm
- ❖ Thurs. Mar. 20: Sunday Services Cmtee, Kitchen, 5:00 pm / Spring Equinox
- ❖ Mon. Mar. 24: Men's Group, Kitchen, 7:30 pm
- ❖ Tues. Mar. 25: Daughters of the Goddess movie night: Energy raising movie, Hall, 7:00 pm
- ❖ Wed. Mar. 26: Shower Singers, Hall, 7:00 pm
- ❖ Sat. Mar. 29: Bridge, Hall

Regularly scheduled events:

The Men's Group: 2nd and 4th Monday evenings, 7:30 pm, meets in the Kitchen.

Meditation Group, Sunday evenings, 7:30 pm, Hall.

Tai Chi, Thursdays, 3:45 pm

Bridge 1st and 3rd Saturdays (+ the odd 5th Saturday)

Mindfulness Practice, alternating Wed. evening, 7:30 pm

Shower Singers alternating Wed. evening, 7:00 pm

See the church calendars posted in the Kitchen, in the vestibule and by the stairs to the Sanctuary, or online at www.luf.ca/calendar.html

Office hours: Tues.: 10:00 - 11:30 / 12:30 - 4:30

Thurs. : 9:00 - 11:30 / 12:30 - 2:30

Fri. : 9:00 - 12:00

Minister's Office hours:

Tues.: 10:30 - 11:30 / 12:30 - 4:30

Thurs. 10:30 - 11:30 / 12:30 - 4:30

Please call ahead to confirm appointments.



DWD UPDATE D. Dickey

Are you following the Winnipeg case of the 84 year old man who is on life support? This story has been in the news for two months, and the situation is now before the courts. The patient's children want him kept on life support, claiming that he is improving and that their religious faith does not allow for any intervention that hastens death.

The medical staff wants to remove the life support claiming that the patient has minimal brain function and cannot recover.

Would you want to be the judge in this case? Does this case represent only the ethical dilemma? How does it reflect on health care in Canada?

There will never be a better time to support Dying With Dignity. It is time to engage government and health care professionals in a careful examination of the laws that regulate citizen choice in end of life care. DWD pamphlets and membership application forms are on the pamphlet rack.



USC CORNER D. Dickey

Kotiné Traoré, a grandmother in her forties, says she was born to gardening in her desert-margin area of Mali, West Africa. She joined the USC Canada's Seeds of Survival project and gained diversity!

Kotiné grows onions like her mother did, but now more varieties. Describing her garden she says, "We have papaya trees standing in the middle of tomatoes, okra, cabbage, eggplant, gourd, hot pepper, sweet pepper and sweet potato, and many varieties of each crop.

She links use of organic fertilizer with crop conservation. Farmers that use chemical fertilizers find their harvests quickly rot, whereas food grown with organic fertilizer will last for weeks.

To get out of poverty, Kotiné says you have to be aware of the entire world around you. Women like Kotiné, inspire others to turn challenges into opportunities.

Learn about USC's work in West Africa. Kate Green at Kgreen@usc-canada.org



The board met on February 11th in the meeting room at Calico Coffee House to make space for the last session of the UU Orientation classes. It's busy times at Lakehead Unitarian.

Much of the meeting was spent in discussion of the 2008 deficit budget passed by the congregation in January. The 2007 budget had been approved with a \$24,085.00 deficit. The board understood this to be a vote of confidence to move forward as recommended by the Way Forward task force. At this time, it appears that the year end deficit will be in the range of \$20 000 and this will be covered as planned by drawing on savings from previous surpluses. Final financial statements for 2007 will not be available until March. The board and finance committee developed the budget for 2008 based on the actual pledge results and a conservative revenue plan.

It is our understanding that our mandate is to continue to lead the congregation towards full time professional ministry. The board is charged with the care and management of the Fellowship and to run continued deficits is obviously unsustainable and would be irresponsible. This budget was planned as a transition to a new way of operating and the board had to make difficult choices when planning for 2008. In hindsight, the board now realizes that it should have made a more clear statement of its concerns regarding the amendments being made to the budget by the congregation. The tone of the budget meeting was certainly not confrontational but the board sees that the amendments to the budget could have been considered a vote of non-confidence. This has serious implications that the board needs to consider and discuss with the congregation. The board is uncomfortable to proceed with the expenditures of the amended budget without a plan in place to address the resulting deficit.

The board plans to recruit a campaign coordinator and to strike a small committee that will coordinate a year round strategy of fundraising and stewardship. The fundraising skills and experience of Reverend Rick Koyle will also be accessed while he is with us. A Dreams and Dollars workshop is planned for the first weekend in May.

The board also discussed a recommendation by the personnel committee to increase the wage of the clerk of the Fellowship. The decision to postpone a raise until after a review was completed and once a plan was in place to address the budget was not taken hastily. It is unfortunate that the subsequent response to this decision by the clerk and congregation came before the board was able to report fully. The board is taking steps to respond to the request of the congregation to reconsider though this process may take a couple of weeks. This budget situation has brought some members of the board to a difficult place and resolution of issues within the board will have to be made before constructive exploration and discussion can be made into best solutions for the congregation as a whole.

A draft of the Covenant of Right Relations is ready to be circulated to the board and it is anticipated that this will be presented to the congregation for further discussion in March. It looks very good. At tentative date of June 8th, 2008 has been set for the Annual General Meeting. Three delegates are being sought to represent the congregation at the CUC Annual Conference and Meeting in Ottawa over the May long weekend. Mary Bennett (Executive Director, CUC) will visit Thunder Bay over the first weekend in April to work on plans relating to the 2009 ACM. The next meeting of the board will March 17th 2008 and as always, the congregation is welcome to come and observe.

Submitted in faith and service and on behalf of the board by
Suzanne Hansen

CALL FOR DELEGATES

Lakehead Unitarian Fellowship
can send 3 delegates to the

CUC ANNUAL CONFERENCE AND MEETING

<http://www.cuc.ca/conference/2008/index.htm>

Lakehead Unitarian Fellowship supports delegates by covering early registration costs. Delegates are asked to determine the position of the congregation regarding resolutions to be decided upon during the meeting and to report back to the congregation following the conference.

Interested members please contact the board by March 15th.

THE MINISTERIAL SEARCH PROCESS

It doesn't have to be scary!

Take a look at these resources from the UUA to understand what work needs to be done and why the process is organized as it is. Hard copies of the Settlement Handbook are available as well. The more of us that have good information and understanding, the more successful our process will be!

www.uua.org/documents/mpl/settlementhandbook.pdf

<http://www.uua.org/leaders/leaderslibrary/transitions/20679.shtml>



By some strange device a new definition of "Unitarian" has made it into recent LUF pamphlets. The current one defines a Unitarian as "one who affirms the unity of all existence". This suggests that we are attempting to produce a definition of Unitarian which expresses in formal doctrine our environmental convictions. Such intent may be noble, but it also creates a number of difficulties.

The first is that this new definition is not for us alone. Thousands of organizations could easily endorse it, and not merely in the environmental field. The new definition just muddles the waters. It seems to suggest that in 1687 when "Unitarian" was first used as a theological statement Unitarians were also proto environmentalists. Since "Environment" in its current usage did not appear for another 140 years this was highly unlikely.

As our membership is surely aware the standard dictionary definition of "Unitarian" revolves around the rejection of the Doctrine of the Trinity. Currently the denomination appears to be going to great lengths to avoid this definition. Perhaps

it is because the Trinity question is not currently an issue of much importance in most Christian churches whose current problems are more to do with atheists, church deserters and gay marriage advocates.

Never the less our avoidance of the anti-Trinity position is most strange since it is the corner stone of our questioning faith and of our share in the non conformity tradition. In the specific case of the rejection the Trinity it influenced over time the appearance of Higher Criticism of the Bible. This produced convictions that the Bible is not the Gospel Truth, or the Word of God, but a document written by humanhands and reflecting times and places of its composition.

As a result of spreading into the secular world nonconformity and questioning efforts have led to the acceptance that most alternative opinions, both religious and secular, should be respected and given due consideration This is a key factor in building modern democratic institutions and a strong reason for not hiding, but rather celebrating, our anti-Trinitarian heritage.

RE News

There were 15 children who enjoyed the mild weather at the Wilson Street Park rink on February 17 for our annual Skating Party. Our thanks go to Mark Blaauw who once again helped clear the ice and supervised the junior group, and to all the adults who helped with tying skates and providing the steady hands for our beginning skaters: Shawn, Mike, Janet, Kim, Elisa, Mark, Madison, Elisa, and Wilma. Afterwards, it seemed as though the huge pile of bagels and cream cheese and hot chocolate magically vanished with the appetites created by this most enjoyable activity.

The children will have practised safe exiting with our annual Fire Drill on February 24. March will see the beginning weeks of the Mystery Pals project. Adults team up with our children and write weekly letters, finally revealing their identity at the Easter Intergenerational service. See Trudi Jones for more information

Submitted by Rosemary Burriss

YRUU has Soup-er Weekend !

The Youth Group (YRUU) planned, shopped, chopped, cooked, served and washed every last dish over the Family day weekend. Thank you to those who helped by lending us bowls, and for the support of the congregation we made a profit of \$130. The Recipe was taken from a Religious Education Curriculum called Timeless Themes, the story of Jacob and Esau.

The YRUU will join the Junior Group for a retreat at Unitarian House(that's the name of our building) Feb. 23-24. The theme of the retreat is Social Justice Issues. Ida

KUDOS and a GREAT BIG THANKYOU to Chris Moss for the buns she made to go with our soup. It made our soup lunch a complete meal and great success. The YRUU.

OPEN HOUSE - EVERYONE INVITED

To celebrate Susan Wood's 70th birthday
Saturday, March 8 from 12.00 - 4p.m.
At 135 Penfold Street (between Agnes & Huron)
Best Wishes Only!

CHALICE CIRCLE

The March Chalice Circle will meet at 7:00 pm at Carol Ann Brumpton's home, 211 West Henry St.

Visitors are always welcome.
For more information call Del Dickey, 345-7212



A brouhaha is a-brouhing.

Here's the background. As many of you know, the congregation's canvass raised \$80,000 last fall. That was \$7,000 more than the previous high, but \$40,000 less than the goal.

The Finance Committee and the whole Board of Directors worked hard after that to create a balanced budget. They considered cutting this and cutting that, and finally, in order to come as close as they could to a balanced budget, they cut professional ministry, at least for next year. That left the Board within \$5,000 of a balanced budget, which they considered acceptable.

At the annual budget meeting, however, several well-intentioned, generous proposals to augment expenditures were made, and they passed. The result was a deficit budget of nearly \$20,000 (CK), which was passed over the objections of David Belrose, who as President-elect (CK) would have the primary responsibility of administering the budget.

The Board later decided that such a budget was not acceptable to them, and voted to overrule some (all? CK) of the budget augmentations that the congregation had passed. One of the overruled augmentations was a two-dollar-an-hour raise for the congregation's clerk. Some members, including the clerk, were upset. The Board was also upset that their judgment was being questioned. Thus the brouhaha.

Well, hooray for a brouhaha! It's the middle of winter, it's cold outside, and we all need something to keep the blood moving. Still, there are healthier ways.

Some of the responsibility for the brouhaha lies with me as your minister. If I had fully understood what the congregation's past budgetary practices were, what the rules of the game were, and even what was actually going on, I could have stood up and pointed out at the budget meeting that all these augmentations were fine, but where was the money coming from to pay for them?

Past practices, as I understand them, have included the congregation's voting a proposed budget up or down, but not tinkering with it – a best practice, in my opinion. The rules of the game appear nowhere in your by-laws, but one provision that makes indirect and ambiguous reference to budget processes appears in your 2000 policy manual. I just discovered that the other day.

Some of the responsibility lies with the Board. They weren't clear in advance on the rules of the game, even though they knew that proposals to augment the budget were likely coming. They could have stood up at the budget meeting and said, these augmentations are creating an impossible situation, and here's why. David Belrose did speak up, but by then the damage had been done.

And some of the responsibility lies with you as the congregation. Anyone who attended the budget meeting, or could have attended, could have stood up and said, tonight the emperor has no clothes. It would have taken guts to say it,

but it could have been said. And the congregation as a whole also bears some responsibility for the canvass shortfall that occasioned this awkward austerity budget.

The Board is now placed in an impossible situation. They were elected to spend the congregation's money wisely, and believe me they did triple back flips to try to do just that in crafting the proposed budget. At the same time, the congregation has – unintentionally, I'm sure – issued what amounts to a vote of no confidence in them and the proposed budget they laboured over, and told them to spend money that they don't have and don't expect to get.

At the same time, if you think about it, the congregation has also issued a vote of no confidence in itself. You after all elected the Board. You're sending them mixed messages and then blaming them for their response.

What can the Board do, and still be responsible? They can resign, a common reaction to a vote of no confidence. That would be a tragedy for the congregation, and also for the larger movement. This is a thoughtful, hard-working board – a crackerjack board. Denominational officials familiar with this congregation told me last summer to expect in Thunder Bay strong, competent lay leaders. And they were right. When you have good leaders, honour them, treat them well, and don't drive them out. Others will not want to serve, and prospective ministers will not want to come here.

So, what to do?

First, acknowledge what is. The congregation wants professional ministry but doesn't want to pay for it. The congregation also wants other fine things like a raise for the clerk, but doesn't want to pay for that either. Champagne tastes, beer budget. Acknowledge that the Board, having seen their budgetary house of cards collapse, is being expected to perform anatomical impossibilities.

Second, learn what you can from this miserable situation. What better procedures would prevent situations like this from occurring again? Here's a hint: when you elect a Board, trust your own judgment in having elected them, and then trust them.

Third, take the personalities out of the equation as much as possible. This brouhaha is not about personalities. Down that road, everybody loses. We're all saints, and we're all sinners, and what else is new? Focus instead on the structures, and the procedures, and how we want to be with one another at our best. (The Board is looking over the draft Covenant of Right Relations that all of you have worked up. You'll see it shortly.)

Finally, find better ways to keep the blood flowing this winter!

With prayers for each and every one of you,

Your minister, Rick



Date of the annual LUF Service Auction: Sat. April 12 '08
This is our Fellowship's largest community builder and "in-house" fundraiser. (\$3,426 in '07) We need many new and fresh ideas and are eagerly looking forward to everyone's participation. **First planning meeting is slated for Monday, March 3rd from 7- 8:30 p.m. at Unitarian House.**

We all have talents which can be auctioned. Members and friends pay the money to the Fellowship for the services they have successfully obtained at the auction. (example:

Mary Bennett, Executive Director of the Canadian Unitarian Council (CUC), to visit Thunder Bay, the first weekend in April.

In preparation of the Annual Conference and Meeting (ACM) of the CUC to be held in Thunder Bay in 2009, Mary Bennett will meet with the members of the host committee (LUF-ers) on Friday, April 4th '08. During the day Mary and many host committee members will visit Lakehead University and meet with the conference staff there. The ACM will take place at the university. Unitarian House will be the home base for the YRUU (youth group) (CanUUdle)

George has a rototiller and Maxine needs her garden tilled. Maxine gains the bid and will soon be able to plant her garden.) The services offered and obtained in April keep LUF-ers connected with each other the entire summer and beyond.

There can be many components to the evening's event. A simple potluck dinner or a catered event. Childrens' games/ penny auction/silent auction items etc. etc.

We invite you to come with ideas, questions and comments to the March 3rd meeting. In the meantime contact Rosemary Burris (343-9241) or Pyteke Blaauw (344-4052)

Some 400 participants from all over Canada are expected. The host committee members so far are: Paulene McGowan (on-site registrar) Gerald Graham and Shawn Allaire, Communications and Publicity Coordinators {in part}; Bob Manson: Banner Parade Marshal: Sally and Susan Palmer Woods: Volunteer Coordinators: Rosemary Burris / Lifespan Learning. Denise Taylor: Exhibits Coordinator; Melody Allaire: Green Coordinator ; Pyteke Blaauw, Host committee Chair. There are a few more positions vacant. Anyone interested in this exciting work is invited to the supper meeting with Mary Bennett on Friday, April 4th at Unitarian House at 5:30 p.m. We all look forward seeing you there,

On behalf of the Host Committee members
Pyteke Blaauw

Survey Results Submitted by Shawn Allaire

The answers to the survey questions in last month's newsletter were very enlightening. I received approximately 13 responses, all via email. The most preferred way of hearing about events and happenings at LUF was the congregational email update, with the newsletter coming in second. Other avenues of information dissemination were also mentioned, but these two topped the list.

Reading of the longer articles varied greatly: from not at all, only when I am interested in the subject, to scanning briefly hoping to read in its entirety later. As a response to the lukewarm reception to longer articles, there will be a hiatus on them. Articles will be limited to approximately 350 - 400 words as a maximum. Longer articles will be returned to the author to be reduced and re-submitted.

People would like to see more about the milestones of our members. That would be nice, but these people have to submit them. The newsletter editor does not go out hunting for these. It is a difficult task to get people with regular columns to get them in on time.

Comment was made that the Scheduling Notes and the calendar tell essentially the same information, so why do we have both? People have responded in the past that they liked the Scheduling Notes. Since they appear in both the newsletter and on the website, they will continue. Both the

printed and pdf calendars are useful as well. The jobs of the newsletter editor, website manager and clerk all deal with getting information out, primarily about scheduling, about events on the calendar. It is the experience of the person doing all of these jobs that people have to be told that type of information in many different ways. If I removed any of them, I believe I would hear about it.

Most respondents read most of the newsletter; others have good intentions but for various reasons cannot get to it all. One respondent was an "unapologetic fan of Ken's -- he almost always makes me think, sometimes against my will" to "I never read Ken's".

People who responded also requested that the newsletter be limited to 8 pages. I am doing that with this newsletter. Consequently, photographs and a couple of articles were not published to accommodate submissions by the Board. Articles, photographs that do not appear in this issue because of space limits may be published in an upcoming edition, space allowing.

I am also transferring compiling and composition of the newsletter to a new software program, Quark Express, so I can compile it on my Mac. It may be a while before I am proficient in all its aspects, consequently, the newsletter may look a tad sparse for a while.





The Green Page

Hello from your Green Sanctuary co-leaders!!! Even with the temperatures hovering around -15 C, the lighter mornings and brighter evenings have both Rowan and myself remarking to each other "Spring is coming soon!" The Green Sanctuary committee is well on the way to hosting a few activities that are open to both the congregation as well as the public (Simplicity Circles and Sustainable Investment Seminar).

At our most recent meeting, we discussed the application process and where we were with that. There has been a new manual put out and we will be working with it to further this process. Words of Thanks go to Peggy Tripp for donating our application fee. The good folks on the committee have offered to fill out required sections on the forms and I will be getting in touch with each one of us soon in this regard.

Our next meeting will be on March 16, 2008

Fear of Plastics; Learning the Numbers Game

Who would have thought that the ubiquitous little number in a triangle at the bottom of plastic containers could tell such a story?

Here are the facts, condensed for easy reference:

BAD: Plastic #1 (PET), those throwaway bottles, filled with filtered tap water use large amounts of energy and resources to produce, then generate toxic emissions when incinerated. Use them only once because this type of plastic harbors bacterial growth.

The good news. You can recycle #1.

GOOD: Plastic #2 (HDPE) is reusable and does not leach chemicals into liquid or food. A good choice for reusable water bottles.

BAD: Plastic #3 or PVC plastic is a toxic plastic, dangerous both to our health and the environment. #3 can leach hormone-disrupting chemicals into liquids and will release dioxin, synthetic carcinogens into the environment when incinerated. Unfortunately it's the second most widely used plastic in the world.

GOOD: Plastic #4 (LDPE) & #5 (PP) do not leach chemicals, although these plastics are hard to find and are generally not recyclable.

BAD: Plastic #6 (Polystyrene) is found in Styrofoam containers and cups, plastic cutlery, clear disposable takeout containers and cups. #6 has been shown to leach styrene, a probable human carcinogen in food and drinks.

BAD: Plastic #7 (Polycarbonate), usually found in baby bottles, sippy cups, large water bottles and the epoxy lining in food cans, can leach BPA into liquids and foods, especially if the liquid is heated, as in baby bottles. BPA has been linked to breast and uterine cancer, risks to brain development and increased risk of miscarriage and decreased testosterone levels.

Sources:

http://environment.about.com/od/healthenvironment/a/plastic_bottles.htm

<http://www.thegreenguide.com/doc/100/plasticsja>

http://www.ecologycenter.org/ptf/report1996/report1996_03.html

<http://www.mindfully.org/Plastic/plastic.htm>

Eccentric Green Corner

The CBC National news recently aired a documentary on the serious impending water shortage in California....sobering indeed. Alberta, with receding glaciers limiting the water flow into their river systems, could be facing similar crisis in the not-too-distant future. Even though we live on the shores of the great Lake Superior, alarm bells have gone off over the past two years with the substantial drop in water level. Potable water is a very precious commodity and in a city it is difficult not to take it for granted. I've been noticing the amount that thoughtlessly runs down my sink each time I

brush my teeth. By reflex, I've been turning on the tap well before it is necessary. By comparison, when camping and carrying limited amounts of drinking water, I self-ration very well. There's something about the ease of that water tap that lulls us into waste...

World Water Day is being observed on March 22nd. I invite you to be especially conscious of your water usage around the house on that day (and ever after!)....and pretend that you're camping!

'Til next time....

Heather Morrison



WHO'S WHO IN THE LAKEHEAD UNITARIAN FELLOWSHIP 2008

OFFICERS OF THE BOARD

President:	Suzanne Hansen	475-0071
Vice President:	David Belrose	623-3347
Secretary:	Jaqueline D'Acre	577-5754
Treasurer:	Christine Meronyk	624-0093
Past President:	Pyteke Blaauw	344-4052
At Large:	Brian Ross	939-2574
	Diane Walker	768-5857

LUF EMAIL: lufship@tbaytel.net

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

Ahti Tolvanen	343-2620
Charles Wortman	768-5056

OTHER CONTRACT STAFF AND APPOINTED OFFICERS

Interim Minister:	Rev. Rick Koyle	344-6542	rickkoyle@tbaytel.net
Clerk of the Fellowship:	Shawn Allaire	344-5980	lufship@tbaytel.net
Bookkeeper:	Jeff Gibson	344-5980 (office)	
Coordinator of Religious Education:	(vacant)		
Lay Chaplains:	Heather Morrison	767-8233	
	Susan Tiura	346-4223	
	David Belrose	623-3347	
Director of Music:	Heather Morrison	767-8233	
Campaign '08 Chair:	(vacant)		
Endowment Fund Directors:	Tony Carfagnini (Chair), Rob van Wyck, Carl Rose		



AFFILIATES AND ASSOCIATIONS
Canadian Unitarian Council (cuc.ca)
Canadian Unitarians for Social Justice

COMMITTEE CHAIRS and CONTACT PEOPLE

Archives:	Del Dickey	Bridge:	Chris Moss and Del Dickey
Care Committee:	Carol Ann Brumpton and Jill Bolt		
Committee on Ministry:	Jane Crossman, Jim Bishop and Margaret Wanlin		
Fellowship Life / PODS:	Bev Leaman		
Finance:	Christine Meronyk		
Green Sanctuary Comm.:	Peggy Tripp and Melody Allaire		
Kitchen Coordinator:	(vacant)	Lay Chaplaincy:	Carol Ann Brumpton
Library:	(vacant)	Lifespan Learning:	(vacant)
Membership:	Rotating	Meditation Group:	Tony Carfagnini
New Space Search Group:	Sophia Gubbins, Sandra McIver, Brian Ross		
Newsletter:	Shawn Allaire	Nominating:	Pyteke Blaauw
Personnel:	Sally Palmer Woods	Property Comm.:	Diane Walker
Religious Education:	Wilma van den Boomen		
Social Action:	Bob Manson	Sunday Services:	Susan Tiura
Tai Chi:	Sita Holland	YRUU / Youth Advisor:	Ida Korhonen



We hope that you enjoy reading the LUF Letter, provided free to 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. Thank you

LAKEHEAD UNITARIAN FELLOWSHIP, 129 S. Algoma St., Thunder Bay, ON P7B 3B7

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