

# Sunday UCG Programs for May and June

Services start at 10:30am at 122 Harris Street, Guelph [www.guelph-unitarians.com](http://www.guelph-unitarians.com) 519-836-3443  
We have Spiritual Development programs for children 4 and older, and childcare for younger children.

## **May 2 (Pod 1) BELTANE: DANCE THE MAYPOLE**

Join us for this annual intergenerational service to celebrate the arrival of Spring. Release the past and welcome the new! We will be outdoors.

**Service Leaders: Linda Reith and Rebekah Jamieson**

## **May 9 (Pod 2) WALKING AND CYCLING AS GATEWAY DRUGS TO SOCIAL AWARENESS**

Yvette Tendick has been an avid cyclist and walker all of her life. Watch how she connects her passion for these activities with UU principles and with her vision for change in the community at large to help Guelph become less car-centric, more humane, healthy and more equitable.

**Speaker and Service Leader: Yvette Tendick**

## **May 16 (Pod 3) UNITUNZ – “OPTIMISM”**

We are very pleased to have Guelph's own award-winning folk recording artist, Tannis Slimmon, as our special musical guest for this service on the theme of Optimism. We look forward to seeing you at the service ready to raise your voices in song, clap your hands, and stomp your feet.

**Service Leader: Bruce Walton**

## **May 23 (Pod 4) CONCEPTIONS**

Sometimes we have to break down a lot of preconceptions to let our highest calling be born. j knew that he wanted to be a parent, that was clear. but as part of a queer and transgendered partnership, the "how" of conceiving a baby was not so clear. j is now the proud parent of a baby boy and has offered to share with us the journey to conceive, the misconceptions he faced around what a trans-family can and cannot do, and how the choice to parent has been a spiritual act. Even conception is something beyond one's control, requiring a surrender and for j, a trust in God.

**Speaker: j wallace, with special guests**

**Service Leader: TBA**

## **May 30 (Pod 1) NEO-PAGANISM AND THE UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST FAITH**

Learn about the history of the emergence of neo-Paganism and its assimilation into the UU faith culminating in becoming our Sixth Source of Spirituality. A Sacred Circle Service (Earth-Centered) based on the resource materials found in our Hymnal. Rebekah Benner, a member of the Akron, Ohio UU Church for over 25 years, is an independent interfaith minister, hospital chaplain, death midwife and Grief Recovery Specialist, who drums and

sings as much as she is allowed/tolerated. \* *Join us at 9:30am for a drum circle before the service* \*

**Speaker: Rebekah Benner**

**Service Leader: Linda Reith**

## **June 6 (Pod 2) BEING A MODERN ANGLICAN**

Amy Cousineau, an Anglican priest, will share with us her journey in and out and back again to the Christian community of faith.

**Speaker: Amy Cousineau**

**Service Leader: Linda Reith**

## **June 13 (Pod 3) THE SIKH FAITH**

Join Dr. Ravi Rai as he speaks about the history and basic values of Sikhism, as well as providing an introduction to Guelph's local Sikh community. For more background, see [www.worldsikh.ca](http://www.worldsikh.ca)

**Speaker: Dr. Ravi Rai**

**Service Leader: Harold Chapman**

## **June 20 (Pod 4) FLOWER COMMUNION**

This will be an interactive celebration of our community. Each person, child and adult is asked to bring a flower to exchange. No two flowers are alike, just as no two people are alike. Together, our individual differences make a wonderful bouquet, which is our beloved community.

**Service Leader: TBA**

## **No Service on June 29th**

We take a pause for the summer from late June through to the beginning of September, though we do offer one service each month (without children's programs or childcare – see below). Our neighbouring congregations in Waterloo and Hamilton, as well as Unicamp, hold Sunday services through the summer that you are very welcome to attend.

## **UCG SUMMER SCHEDULE:**

**July 18 – Sunday Service**

**August 15 – Sunday Service**

**September 5 – Welcoming Service and Sing-Along**

**September 12 – Water Communion (return to regular weekly services)**

## **MISSION STATEMENT OF THE UNITARIAN CONGREGATION OF GUELPH**

The Unitarian Congregation of Guelph is a spiritual community that is deeply rooted in Unitarian Universalist principles which provide a spiritual basis for ethical living. We celebrate diversity and affirm each individual. We support social and environmental justice through a democratic process. We welcome all seekers of truth and meaning in to our religious community.

(adopted at the Annual General Meeting, September 29, 2002)

### ***The UCG News***

is the newsletter published regularly by the  
Unitarian Congregation of Guelph  
122 Harris Street,  
Guelph Ontario N1E 5T1  
Phone: 519-836-3443

Typed, handwritten or phoned-in submissions are always welcome, as are contributions by e-mail to [admin@guelph-unitarians.com](mailto:admin@guelph-unitarians.com) or telephone 519-836-3443. **Items for our next newsletter are due by August 15, 2010**

In an effort to save trees and money, we are e-mailing as many newsletters as possible. If you prefer it by mail, please let us know.

### **COMING EVENTS**

- May 5 – Chant Club 7:30pm
- May 8 – Coming Back to Life workshop 9am
- May 13 – Stone Soup 12:30pm (*Georgina Noel*)
- May 16 – Mindfulness Group 4:30pm
  - Vibration Medicine workshop 1pm
  - Youth Group meets 6pm
- May 18 – Stone Soup 6:30pm (*Julie Elliotson*)
- May 20 – Board meets 5:30pm
  - Pagan Group 7:30pm
- May 28 – Family Chalice Café 5:30pm
- May 28-30 – Youth Group at Unicamp
- May 30 – Drum Circle 9:30am
  - Annual General Meeting 12:30pm
- June 1 – Stone Soup 6:30pm (*Aspen Heisey*)
- June 6 – Breakfast and Bike Ride to UCG 8:50am
- June 6 – EcoLeadership Workshop 1pm
- June 10 – Stone Soup 12:30pm (*Elinor Knight*)
- June 17 – Board meets 5:30pm
  - Pagan Group 7:30pm
- June 18 – Chalice Café 7:30pm
- June 19 – Council of all Beings 9:30am
- June 20 – Mindfulness Group 4:30pm

**Meditation:** Mondays 8pm

**Yoga:** Mondays 6:45pm & Thursdays 8:30am

### **UNITARIAN CONGREGATION OF GUELPH**

122 Harris Street, Guelph Ontario N1E 5T1

Phone 519-836-3443

[www.guelph-unitarians.com](http://www.guelph-unitarians.com)

#### **Lay Chaplains**

Aspen Heisey	519-822-8666
Melina Bondy	
519-824-9148	

#### **THE BOARD FOR 2009 - 2010**

President	Lorna Wyllsun	519-822-1053
	<a href="mailto:lwojcick@ovc.uoguelph.ca">lwojcick@ovc.uoguelph.ca</a>	
Past President	Deirdre Yates	519-766-0523
Vice President	Helen Prinold	519-763-4585
Treasurer	Steve Chovaz	519-766-1965
Member at Large	Harold Chapman	519-763-2406
Member at Large	Maria Chovaz	519-766-1965
Member at Large	Janet Colley	519-824-0207
Member at Large	Julie Elliotson	519-831-6534

#### **COMMITTEE CHAIRS**

<b>Social Action</b>	Open	
<b>Membership</b>	Cheryl Laird	519- 821-7324
	<a href="mailto:cheryll@rogers.com">cheryll@rogers.com</a>	
<b>Support Network</b>	Sarah McDougall	519-829-1679
<b>Sunday Services</b>	Linda Reith	519-837-9471
	<a href="mailto:lreith@on.aibn.com">lreith@on.aibn.com</a>	
<b>Chaplaincy Committee</b>	Deirdre Yates	519-766-0523
	<a href="mailto:deeyates@gmail.com">deeyates@gmail.com</a>	

#### **STAFF**

#### **Program Coordinator for Spiritual Development**

Melina Bondy	519-836-3443
<a href="mailto:melinabondy@yahoo.ca">melinabondy@yahoo.ca</a>	

#### **Child & Youth Program Coordinator**

Rebekah Jamieson	519-821-4176
<a href="mailto:rebekahjamieson@hotmail.com">rebekahjamieson@hotmail.com</a>	

#### **Office Administrator (Newsletter Editor \* Distribution and Building Rental)**

Rebekah Jamieson	519-821-4176
<a href="mailto:rebekahjamieson@hotmail.com">rebekahjamieson@hotmail.com</a>	

#### **OTHERS WHO HELP**

<b>POD Coordinator</b>	Deirdre Yates	519-766-0523
<b>Interior Co-ordinator &amp; Exterior Co-ordinator</b>	Harold Chapman	519-763-2406
<b>Musicians</b>	Naomi Matsui	519-821-2830
	Pam Dickie	519-823-1891
	Paul Smith	519-767-1033
<b>Unitunz</b>		Bruce Walton

## FROM THE CENTRE OF THE WEB – A Message from Your Vice-President

Spring caught me unawares this year with its early arrival. Yesterday the cherry tree in my backyard was in full blossom, literally buzzing with happy pollinators. What a joy to know that this summer will bring more sun and ripe cherries. Our Board has been in full “buzz” mode too, working diligently to conduct the business of UCG on your behalf – though not without moments that remind us of how new life is interconnected with winter. Rather like the snowfall that froze the colourful mini iris in my garden, this spring also brought tragedy to our Board President, Lorna, with the sudden death of her 22-year-old son. Our hearts go out to her as she mourns, and our community will continue, I’m sure, to offer her support and nurturing through this time.



As we move into the blossoming time of our congregational year with pageants, Unitunz, May Day, Pride and our Flower Communion, we’re also getting ready to move forward with this summer’s ground-breaking ramp installation. I invite you all to join us on Sunday, May 30th to help shape our vision of the coming year. This is the season of new life and new possibilities. Once spring arrives, it is time to get out and prepare the ground. So let’s continue the digging-in that is a vital part of our intentional Unitarian community. The seeds of love and caring we plant may bring us an amazing harvest!

Blessings,  
Helen



### A MESSAGE FROM YOUR SPIRITUAL DEVELOPMENT COORDINATOR

hello ucg!

may almost feels redundant, what with summer having arrived back at the end of march! looking back at photos from last year's beltane service (may 3), i could see that the magnolia was in full bloom, whereas this year, the magnolia's blooms were past their prime mid-april. everything has arrived a few weeks early and i'm finding myself surprised over and over again. and still, i cried back on april 4th when i arrived in the morning and saw that the first magnolia blooms had opened. i do love that tree.

may brings many things in the congregational year - our pledge drive, the annual general meeting, more stone soup nights and the very first family chalice cafe! i look forward to seeing you at one or more of these events. it's also the time for me to gather feedback from last year's programs and to prepare programs for next year. the main questions are: which did you find engaging? which programs would you like to see return? where did you feel a lack? what programs would you like to participate in next year? i'll have print feedback forms on sundays throughout may and i'll send out an electronic form later this month.

in may, the older children will be starting to explore the *sacred spaces project* that will continue into the fall. this project asks important questions for us all. what is a sacred space? where do you connect to place in a special way? come and talk to nancy pearson or myself to find out more about this project that everyone can get involved with! the children will also get to help joan cornfield and others start up a pollinator garden behind our building, creating habitat for bees and butterflies who have become threatened species! the back will be transformed into a pollinator oasis with native flowers and shrubs. you can find more information at [www.pollinator.ca/guelph](http://www.pollinator.ca/guelph).

the other piece of news that i would like to share with everyone has to do with me. over the winter, i had the wonderful opportunity to return to plum village, a zen community in france, home of zen master thich nhat hanh. upon my return, i've realized that it's time for me to fulfill the calling that i've felt for years to become a long-term community member there and to see if i'm ready to take ordination as a buddhist nun. this will eventually require moving to france, and it will mean a transition for all of us. you all have provided me with such a wonderful home and working environment these last few years. i am so grateful for my time here. thank you everyone.

in peace,  
melina

## REBEKAH'S CORNER



**YOUTH GROUP** We are wrapping up our year, having attended the Child Haven Dinner in Waterloo and participating in a homophobia workshop by Out On the Shelf. The group is really looking forward to our weekend at Unicamp, and I am looking for a volunteer to help me with the group that Saturday, May 29 – please talk to me if you'd like to help with a day at Unicamp with some cool teenagers! (P.S. Here's a photo from our youth-led service in February)

**KIDS' STUFF** April has raced by as we prepared for the Grumpy Gecko Pageant – good job to everyone for memorizing all those lines and the great costumes! We'll be spending more of our time outdoors, which is always nice at this time of year. Since we haven't spent any time

beyond Principle #4, we'll be continuing with our study of the UU principles over the next two months.

### UCG SPECIAL EVENT – NOT YOUR AVERAGE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING!

**Sunday, May 30th, 2010 12:30pm – 2pm**

Light lunch will be available, bring a potluck dessert. Come elect our new board, hear about solar, and help us set priorities for fulfilling our vision of the future.

Let's come together on how UCG does business – from a place of spirit. Everyone is encouraged to come to the Annual General Meeting. After talking about our pains and gains from 2009, we'll look ahead to start setting the direction and goals for the upcoming year (including approving the budget, electing a new President) and having a chance to reflect, express and envision. This is the perfect place to gather the thoughts and interests of everyone – long-time members and new friends. Childcare provided upon request. Please call the UCG office to arrange.

### **COMING BACK TO LIFE with THE WORK THAT RECONNECTS**

**Saturday, May 8, 9am-5pm**

This workshop is a chance to take time and reconnect with what moves you and remember how much you love life through a deepened sense of inter-being with everything. We'll sing and dance and laugh and cry, letting our fears open us up to a passion for a new world. Do it to soothe your soul, to heal the world and to have fun. This work is both sacred and profane. It is completely ordinary and absolutely extraordinary. Everyone can do and as long as you participate, you will get a lot out of it. So join us in Coming Back to Life and live it!

Created by Joanna Macy and colleagues, "The Work That Reconnects (TWTR) is a pioneering form of group work that began in the 1970s. It demonstrates our interconnectedness in the web of life and our authority to take action on its behalf. It has helped many thousands around the globe find insight, solidarity, and courage to act, despite rapidly worsening conditions. It is based on systems theory, spiritual teachings including Buddhism and Paganism, and deep ecology."

**Registration:** \$80/\$50 students & seniors - Energy Exchanges Available. Email [coordinator@guelph-unitarians.com](mailto:coordinator@guelph-unitarians.com) or call 519.836.3443 and you will be sent a registration form. Payment must be received by May 5th. Lunch is included - please let us know if you have any food sensitivities.

This is a fun'draiser for the Unitarian Congregation of Guelph. Linda Reith and Melina Bondy are donating their time to share this amazing opportunity with as many people as possible, all the while supporting our fabulous congregation. Please share this invitation with your friends, family and co-workers. You never know whose life will be transformed!

## Free ECOLEADERSHIP™ TRAINING LEVEL 1

Sunday, June 6, 1pm - 5pm

For business leaders, coaches, facilitators and anyone who would like to expand their ability to be present, connect with others, and be ahead of the pack.

You will explore systems, methods and practices for thinking out-of-the-box. This workshop is the large picture of leadership. Using hands-on methods, this workshop will give you tools to design programs, workshops and trainings that create lasting results and new solutions to old problems. There is a special section where you learn to save 10-25% of your gasoline consumption for your car! Guaranteed! NOTE: This is not about environmental issues, recycling, or composting.

About the Facilitator: David A. Berger, M.E.S., has been a professor at York University and on CBC radio and television. He is the founder and a director of the Living Education Institute, and the author of "Living Education: The Power of the Circle." The National Post called him "A modern-day Socrates!" He has facilitated, led and inspired major corporations, schools, universities and colleges throughout North America.

### Council of All Beings

We are human and we are planetary creatures. Gaia, herself, listens. Will you speak?

Leave your species-specific worldview and step into the understanding of a non human being at the **Council of All Beings**. A Council of All Beings is a gathering of any being who lives on or in Gaia, our living Earth. The Council gives us the opportunity to hear with our human ears the messages of other life forms as they are spoken through our fellow council members. Using guided visualization, meditation, journaling, and time spent in nature, we each open to the voice of different life forms. Animals, birds, trees, elementals, mountains - any and all life is welcome at this gathering of souls.

A variety of exercises throughout the day brings us closer to the true voice of the life form who has asked to be heard. We will explore how to move like the chosen \*other\*. We will listen to its message and give it voice. We will create masks and costumes to assist us in bringing life to the message that must be heard. In the evening, we will hold our council meeting. Each creature will have the opportunity to speak and be heard. Each of us will move between being human and being other. Each creature will give voice to its wisdom and offer its gifts to serve the greater good.



The Council of All Beings came out of the Deep Ecology work of Joanna Macy, John Seed, Peggy Fleming and others in the mid 1980's to foster connection between humans, Gaia and the voices of the many beings in Gaia. Please join us as we move forward together. To learn more about the Council of All Beings, go to: [www.rainforestinfo.org.au/deep-eco/council.htm](http://www.rainforestinfo.org.au/deep-eco/council.htm). To learn more about the work of Joanna Macy, go to: [www.joannamacy.net](http://www.joannamacy.net)

**Saturday, June 19, 2010 from 9:30am to 9:30pm (potluck meals) at UCG - \$85 (bursaries available)**  
**For more information or to register, contact SophiaHeath by email at [SophiaHeathWodin@gmail.com](mailto:SophiaHeathWodin@gmail.com)**  
**Facilitated by Linda Reith and SophiaHeath**

## **FROM THE COMMITTEES OF THE UCG**

### **SUNDAY SERVICE - LIVING THE WORLD AS SACRED SPACE**

For our annual retreat, twelve people gathered to spend a thoughtful and inspiring Saturday morning and early afternoon at the end of March reflecting and dreaming about our Sunday services. Together we reached for what would be the most meaningful possible spiritual experience, trying to be clear about the elements that might make a real difference for us. We had a wheel of the services we held last year that highlighted the shape of the service: i.e. panels, external speaker, visiting minister, youth focused/intergenerational, music focused, connected to our theme of inspiring community... That wheel helped us know how successful we had been at achieving our goals the previous year. Then we put all that together to write recommendations for 2010-11. If you would like to comment or to hear more, please contact any of us: Nancy S., Harold, Julie, Dave H., Molly, Elaine, Katie, Dave B., Melina or Linda Reith.

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### **MEMBERSHIP**

Spring is here and with it came the New Members Ceremony! On April 18<sup>th</sup>, we had the honour of welcoming several new members to the Unitarian Congregation of Guelph. It is so nice to see us growing!

The new 2010 Directory is now available at the Welcoming Table so everyone will know how to contact fellow UCG-ers. Pick one up and sign your name so we know you have a copy.

New committee members are always welcome, so feel free to sit in on a meeting. Please contact Cheryl Laird at 519-821-7324 for more details.

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### **UCG SUPPORT NETWORK**

Thank you to everyone who signed the Support Network Update Grid. If you're going through a tough time, there are people in our community who are willing to help with a ride, dog walking, meals, and much more. When everything is falling apart, it may feel impossible to ask for help, but know that we are here for you and all that we need to know is how we can help.

On that note, we know that there are people needing support who aren't able, or don't know how to ask. We gladly accept "referrals" - if you know someone in need of support, let us know. We always ask the recipient before a service is provided. And if you have ideas about how to let more people know how to access Support, please let us know!

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### **LAY CHAPLAINCY – ASPEN’S JOURNEY**

I am grateful that people in this congregation saw something in me that I did not yet see in myself 6 years ago and asked, "Aspen, have you ever thought of being a lay chaplain?" As I come to the end of my 6-year term, I look around the congregation and see quite a few others who would make good candidates. And so I ask you – "Have you ever thought of being a lay chaplain?"

After this summer, I will have married about 40 couples. The first couple I married – two women who had been together for decades – wanted simply to make it legal in the eyes of the government. They were heading into retirement and wanted a legally secure union in case something was to happen to either of them. It was special because they were my first couple. We stood in the empty UCG sanctuary, sunlight pouring around us, a witness/friend for both of them plus 2 or 3 others. It was also special because of the simplicity of two people saying vows, infused with significance, especially because same-sex couples have a somewhat more complicated journey to get to that point. I felt proud to be part of the Unitarian tradition - proud that we have a reputation that makes folks seek us out for what we offer and how we serve.

Since then, I have done weddings at the grand St. George's Anglican Church (my largest wedding to date), plus a wedding on a horse farm where the bride came riding side-saddle "down the aisle" on her horse. Katie and Shawn, recent members to the UCG, introduced me to some unique Ukrainian wedding traditions.

Another couple wanted a hand-fasting last year (a pagan practice where the hands are tied together in a certain way), and the memory is extra sweet because I needed a practice-couple. Since June and Michael Gilbertson were at home, curious and willing, I hand-fasted them together on their back patio in the spring sunshine on May 7, 2009. Then June died on July 25. Melina and I had the task of doing June's Memorial - not an easy thing.

My desire to do a memorial well has been what has moved me the most... it is where I explore my own spiritual edges. To have to wrestle with feeling unequal to, and shaken by, the challenge; to feel I was not qualified to say something of significance to people at a funeral or a memorial. In the narrow religious tradition I came from, the one who stood up front spoke in certainties, affirming religious belief systems and platitudes. I knew I could not do that. Gradually, I have discovered it is actually about speaking a different truth – a more "human truth" that resonates differently.

If you would like to entertain what a next step might be in becoming a chaplain, you could accompany me and/or Melina on a wedding this summer, to see what is involved. Deirdre Yates is the chair of our lay chaplain committee, and she would be pleased to talk with you also. Another resource is the CUC (Canadian Unitarian Council) website [www.cuc.ca/lay\\_chaplaincy/index.htm](http://www.cuc.ca/lay_chaplaincy/index.htm)

## **ACTIVITIES OFFERED BY THE UCG**

### **STONE SOUP - PERSONAL PORTRAITS**

**Tuesdays, May 18 and June 1 at 6:30pm &  
Thursdays, May 13 and June 12 at 12:30pm**

We will continue to host our Stone Soup meals with an added feature in May and June. Each gathering will include a UCG community member sharing with us about a significant piece of their spiritual journey, followed by a bowl of soup and conversation. Don't forget to bring an ingredient to add to the soup pot! Open to all, childcare will not be provided.

Thursday, May 13<sup>th</sup> – Goergina Noel, reflections  
Tuesday, May 18<sup>th</sup> - Julie Elliotson, Camino de Santiago  
Tuesday, June 1<sup>st</sup> - Aspen Heisey, life and death  
Thursday, June 10<sup>th</sup>, Elinor Knight, gong back to China.

### **THE CHALICE CAFÉ – ALL AGES IN MAY!** **May 28 at 5:30pm (all ages) and June 18 at 7:30 pm**

We're having a special Chalice Cafe in May - one week later so that there's no conflict with the Victoria Day Weekend, and an early start with dinner to include a kid-focused sing-along!

5:30pm - Pizza Party and Potluck - A social dinner for all our friends and members. Please order your pizza with Melina at 519-836-3443.

6:30pm - Children's Chalice Cafe - bring lyrics to your family's favourite songs, and get ready to learn some new ones!

7:30pm - Classic Chalice Cafe (still open to all ages!) This informal song circle welcomes everyone, regardless of ability to play an instrument or carry a tune. If you want to sing or strum along, or even just listen, this event is for you. Bring a song to share or choose from our selections. This is a time to jam, have fun and sing out your soul! For further information, contact Jennifer Erickson or Bruce Walton at 519-837-0322.

### **COMMUNITY MEDITATION**

**Mondays at 8pm**

This is a time to gather in silent practice, whether in Buddhist meditation, Christian contemplation, self-healing visualizations and everything in-between. We

sit for 30 minutes and then end with 10 minutes of a guided loving-kindness practice. Everyone is welcome to drop in. This is not a meditation course so there will be no formal instructions, but guidance can be offered as needed. Suggested donation: \$2-5.

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### **MINDFULNESS COMMUNITY OF GUELPH**

***Practicing the teachings of Ven. Thich Nhat Hanh***

**3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of the month – 4:30 to 6:30pm**

**(May 16 and June 20)**

Mindfulness is the energy of being aware and awake to the present moment. It is the continuous practice of touching life deeply in every moment of daily life. To be mindful is to be truly alive, present and at one with those around you and with what you are doing.

We begin with a guided sitting meditation, walking meditation and silent meditation. We will then share a teaching from Nhat Hanh and listen deeply to one another as we share what is on our hearts. This is a community practice that strengthens not only our formal meditation practice but also our ability to live in awareness and joy day by day. For more information, please contact 519-836-3443.



### **EARTH-BASED SPIRITUALITY**

has long been an important part of the spirituality explored at UCG. This year we have initiated regular monthly gatherings to share ritual and deepen our understanding,

as well as committing to marking the eight Hinges of the Pagan Year to the best of our ability. For more information, contact Linda Reith [lrith@on.aibn.com](mailto:lrith@on.aibn.com) or 519-822-4889.

**Thursdays at 7:30pm – May 20 & June 17**

## **AROUND THE CONGREGATION**

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### **JUNE 6 - BREAKFAST AND BIKE RIDE**

Please join us on June 6 at Angel's Diner for a Breakfast and Bike Ride before our morning service. We will meet around 8:50am at Angel's for breakfast, followed by a bike ride over the Wooden Bridge, down the Eramosa trail to the UCG for the 10:30am service. What a great way to enjoy some fellowship: eating and exercise combined! If interested, please call Yvette at 519-780-2462 or e-mail her at [yvelep@hotmail.com](mailto:yvelep@hotmail.com) so that she can tell the restaurant how many of us to expect.

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### **T-SHIRTS**

We are almost ready to unveil our UCG T-shirts! The idea has been floating around for a little while now. "Wouldn't it be great if we could all wear UCG T-shirts when we go to rallies in town? Or just to let others

know about us?" Well, your ideas have been heard and with the design being finalized as this newsletter goes to print, the T-shirts are on their way! You'll be able to order yours, printed on soft and durable bamboo t-shirts in royal blue, for \$22. Watch for the samples at our AGM in May!

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### ECO-CONSCIOUS FUN'DRAISING

Just a reminder that the Wind and Wave cleaning products have been reduced to \$6 per bottle – a great deal because they're concentrated! Thank you to everyone for your continued support! We've almost sold out of our fair-trade and organic coffee, tea and hot chocolate. For more information, contact Janet Colley at 519-824-0207 or janetcolley@hotmail.com.

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### PLEDGE MONTH! DONATE ONLINE...

Just a reminder that your pledged donation can be made online at [www.guelph-unitarians.com](http://www.guelph-unitarians.com) by clicking on the link at the bottom of the homepage. Charitable receipts will be issued for all donations.

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## COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

### UNICAMP 2010

Children's camps are filling, but there are still a few spaces left. This is a great way for your child to experience the wonder of Unicamp with counselors who use all of the 7 principles.



Friday evenings we have a drum circle and storytelling or dancing! Saturday night we have a dance like no other. The 2010 brochures are available at our Welcome Table. We run 3 weeks of camp for children ages 7-13 and one week for youth 13-15, as well as a Counselor in Training and Leader in Training program. There are 3 weeks for families in August and weekend programs that include Sacred Circle Dance and the Magic of Music.

*If you've never been to Unicamp, 2010 is the year to experience the magic yourself. Phone 519-822-6353 or email [admin@unicampofontario.ca](mailto:admin@unicampofontario.ca) to make your reservation. Or visit [www.unicampofontario.ca](http://www.unicampofontario.ca)*

### SOCIAL JUSTICE CORNER – THINGS TO DO

Wilburn Hayden, Professor and Director of the School of Social Work, York University, as well as member of Toronto's Neighbourhood Unitarian Universalist Congregation, spoke to us on April 18 on the subject of

racism and white privilege. He left us with a challenge to continue dismantling racism and white privilege, with a list of things we can all do:

- 1) Don't continue in the artificial Canadian vision that when it comes to race, racism and white privilege, we are all okay.
- 2) Whatever you are currently doing to end racism, prejudice and white privilege, keep doing it.
- 3) Look for ways to increase your contact with black people.
- 4) Educate yourself about how black people see their concerns, opportunities and quality of life.
- 5) Read and really listen to what black people are writing and saying.
- 6) Look around at members of the Guelph congregation and seek out opportunities within the congregation to examine and do the necessary work with each other to address racism, prejudice and white privilege. Just talking with each other is an important step.
- 7) Step forward with your relatives, your close friends, and people with whom you work. Let them know that you disagree when a racist's comment or a clear instance of white privilege has occurred. You need to pick and choose your battles. Understand me; some battles are not worth the fight. My point is that the battle line now is not necessarily the institutions, but on a personal level. White people need to confront each other. It does more good for you to speak to your relatives, friends and co-workers about their behaviour and attitudes.

### Summary of the Mar. 25<sup>th</sup> UCG Board Meeting

*(a full copy can be found on the bulletin board)*

- We need to keep thinking of ways to raise funds so we don't end up three or four thousand dollars short at the end of the year. Please encourage everyone to bring their energy to bear on how we can do this and keep it fun'draising!!
- April is pledge month!
- We are working to find out more on a proposed solar installation. Dave Beaton has agreed to lead a team looking at the issue; we hope to have a package of solid information for our members by AGM.
- We have approved a building use policy and new licence form. Please see Rebekah if you want to book space for an event.
- We are looking for an organizing group for UCG's upcoming 50th anniversary celebration.
- Now that the Safe Steps policy is implemented, we continue to look at expanding the policy to Vulnerable Adults.
- Next meetings: May 20 and June 17 at 5:30pm in the UCG (visitors welcome)