



Sunday Programs for May and June

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

May 1 (Pod 1) BELTANE: DANCE THE MAY POLE

Once again the community will gather round the May Pole set up outside the congregation to dance our way into summer. This year we add a labyrinth to help us clarify the intentions we want to set in our May Pole binding.

Service Leaders: Linda Reith, Rebekah Jamieson

May 8 (Pod 2) UNITUNZ MUSICAL MORNING

Join the Unitunz Band for a morning of celebration and song as we explore and value friendship. Today we honour the many friends that come and go in our lives, throughout the various stages of life. Through songs and stories, we will take time to honour the possibilities that exist in the different friendships that come into our lives. Let's celebrate that beauty and connection that friendship brings!

Service Leaders: Unitunz Band

May 15 (Pod 3) PRIDE SERVICE

In 2001, the UCG deliberately and courageously chose to create safe space for queer people, their families and friends by naming ourselves a "Welcoming Congregation." At the height of the Civil Rights movement, Malcolm X spoke to an audience of well-dressed African-Americans and asked, "Who taught you to hate yourself?" Our society often sends queer children "othering" messages, leaving them depressed, isolated, prone to suicide and shamed into silence. Pride is the opposite of that shame. Pride is not the cure to societal oppression, but it's a useful tonic. Pride is not just for queer people. It's for the society in which we live, both those who embrace and those who oppose.

Service Leader: Cheryl Laird

May 22 (Pod 4) RAISING GLOBAL CITIZENS

How do we help our children navigate a world where everything from global crises to world cultures is pervasive and influential in their lives? Where's the line between family activism and information overload? And what role do the 7 principles play in helping us help our kids? Karen McKay will share some of the lessons she is learning while living with a house full of activist kids.

Speaker and Service Leader: Karen McKay

May 29 (no pod) TBA

Service Leader: Charles Davidson

June 5 (Pod 1) BEARING WITNESS: A NECESSARY PART OF LIVING IN A JUST SOCIETY?

In a democracy, how much do we owe those behind bars? How do we make the struggle for justice a part of our daily lives? Author and activist Linda Spalding will share with us the story of her thirty-year relationship with inmate, Maryann Acker, that began when Linda was called to serve on the jury that convicted Maryann of murder.

Speaker: Linda Spalding

Service Leader: Esta Spalding

June 12 (Pod 2) DANCING WITH THE DIVINE

This talk is inspired by Song #311 in Singing the Living Tradition: ♪"Let it be a dance we do. May I have this dance with you? Through the good times and the bad times, too, let it be a dance."♪ We'll dance together! And we'll talk about how we dance with the divine and with each other in the events of our inner and outer lives.

Speaker: Amy Cousineau

Service Leader: Linda Reith

June 19 (Pod 3) FATHERS AND SONS: THE BLESSING AND THE WOUND

Our presenter today is a Guelph-based clinical psychologist, family therapist and author with a background as a priest, high school teacher, and professor of Psychology at St. Jerome's University in Waterloo and a particular interest in the relationship of fathers and sons.

Speaker: Dr. John Theis

Service Leader: Charles Davidson

June 26 (Pod 4) FLOWER COMMUNION

Join us for a morning of songs, sharing and reflection as we honor our sacred community, each other and friendship. Please bring a flower and take part in this meaningful Unitarian tradition as we head our separate ways over the summer. A potluck, end-of-year picnic, and celebration to honour Rebekah and Sarah as they venture on new and exciting paths will follow this service.

Service leaders: Sarah McDougall, Matt Lucid, Rebekah Jamieson and Mel Horvath

*** Please note: UCG Sunday Services pause for July and August, then resume in September.**

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 or
telephone 519-836-3443. **Items for our next
newsletter are due by August 15, 2011**

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 4 – Chant Club 7:30pm
May 5 – Stone Soup (Chronic Pain) 12:30pm
May 8 – Mindfulness Group 4:30pm
May 12 – Coffee Hour 12:30pm at Planet Bean
May 12 – Parenting with Spirituality 6-8pm
May 13 – Youth Group sleepover weekend 6pm
May 19 – Stone Soup (Chronic Pain) 12:30pm
– Pagan Group 7:30pm
May 20 – Chalice Café 7:30pm
May 22 – Mindfulness Group 4:30pm
May 26 – Board meeting 6pm
May 28 – Fun'draising Yoga Dance, etc 9:30am
May 29 – UCG AGM 1pm after service
June 1 – Chant Club 7:45pm
June 2 – Stone Soup (Chronic Pain) 12:30pm
June 5 – Mindfulness Group 4:30pm
June 9 – Coffee Hour 12:30pm at Planet Bean
June 10-12 – Youth Group at Unicamp
June 12 – Mindfulness Group 4:30pm
June 16 – Stone Soup (Chronic Pain) 12:30pm
– Board meeting 6pm
June 17 – Chalice Café 7:30pm
June 25 – last Youth Group meeting of year

Meditation: Mondays 8pm

Yoga: Mondays at 6:30pm, Tuesdays 5:30pm

UNITARIAN CONGREGATION OF GUELPH

122 Harris Street, Guelph Ontario N1E 5T1

Phone 519-836-3443

www.guelph-unitarians.com

Lay Chaplains

Aspen Heisey

519-822-8666

THE BOARD FOR 2010 - 2011

| | | |
|-----------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------|
| President | Helen Prinold | 519-826-4449 |
| | president@guelph-unitarians.com | |
| Past President | Lorna Wylsun | 519-822-1053 |
| Treasurer | Steve Chovaz | 519-766-1965 |
| Member at Large | Harold Chapman | 519-763-2406 |
| Member at Large | Deirdre (Dee) Yates | 519-766-0523 |
| Member at Large | Julie Elliotson | 519-831-6534 |
| Member at Large | Karen Balcom | 519-836-1590 |
| Member at Large | Emily Gagnon | 519-343-1119 |
| Member at Large | Dave Beaton | 519-341-4997 |

COMMITTEE CHAIRS

| | | |
|-----------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------|
| Social Action | Helen Prinold | 519-826-4449 |
| Membership | Maria Chovaz | 519-766-1965 |
| Support Network | Sarah McDougall | 519-829-1679 |
| | delaney.dawe@gmail.com | |
| Sunday Services | Linda Reith | 519-822-4889 |
| Chaplaincy Committee | Deirdre Yates | 519-766-0523 |
| | deeyates@gmail.com | |

STAFF

Program Coordinator for Spiritual Development

Melissa (Mel) Horvarth 519-836-3443
coordinator@guelph-unitarians.com

Child & Youth Program Coordinator

Rebekah Jamieson 519-821-4176
admin@guelph-unitarians.com

Office Administrator (Newsletter Editor * Distribution and

Building Rental)

Rebekah Jamieson 519-821-4176
admin@guelph-unitarians.com

OTHERS WHO HELP

| | | |
|---------------------------------------------|----------------|--------------|
| POD Coordinator | Deirdre Yates | 519-766-0523 |
| MorningSong | Seanna Murphy | 519-265-4225 |
| Environment (building & grounds) | Harold Chapman | 519-763-2406 |
| Musicians | Naomi Matsui | 519-821-2830 |
| | Paul Smith | 519-767-1033 |
| Unitunz | Bruce Walton | 519-837-0322 |



FROM THE CENTRE OF THE WEB – A Message from Our President

As winter turns to spring, we see all around us the stirrings of new growth that come with warmth, nutrition and nurturing. There is a new sense of purpose as we move through spring...toward summer...- a growing confidence in the congregation.

*There's something happening here!
What it is, is becoming clear.
We're choosing love instead of fear
And amazing fantastic things are going on here!
It's time to stop, hey, what's that sound
Everybody look what's going down!
~ (A UCG paraphrase of Buffalo Springfield's iconic song from the sixties)*

Spring is a season well-suited to both reflection and rejoicing. Its goodness and beauty easily convince us to let our senses open and our minds and hearts be awake. The more open and awake we are, the more accurately we perceive whatever is actually happening. The more accurately we perceive something, the more powerfully and appropriately responsive to it we can be. Whether it concerns matters on the world stage or within our own hearts and lives, reflection gives us insight into how we use and don't use the power we have to make things happen. Rejoicing increases our access to that power. As we enter this season, things are certainly happening all around the world. Closer to home, I see people's lives being changed by their belonging in this community. I see people making new friendships and deepening existing ones. I see them claiming their power, bestowing their gifts, finding satisfaction in service, and discovering capacities for leadership and self-expression they didn't know they had. I see them giving and receiving encouragement and forgiveness as they hear and speak the deep joys and sorrows of their lives.

As we move into the blossoming time of our congregational year with pageants, May Day, planting our pollinator garden and holding our Flower Communion, along with Rebekah's blossoming as an accredited teacher, we're indeed in the season of new possibilities

I invite you all to join us on Sunday, May 29th to help shape our vision of the coming year. Once spring arrives and the weather gets changeable, it is time to get out and prepare the ground. If you find your energy rising, consider letting your ideas flow, your hands and minds work, your participation flourish and your heart connect at UCG.

With warm wishes, Helen

FROM OUR SPIRITUAL DEVELOPMENT COORDINATOR

What an absolutely energy-filled 2 months. From the mid-winter gathering, the 50th bash (which was amazing), stone soups, yoga, and of course the junior youth pageant - what an awesome time!!!!

As we flow into Spring, we have some new programs including Parenting with Spirituality, coffee hours and a native spirituality exploration in the works for our children/junior youth program, as well as a junior youth social justice project exploring the current struggle for bees and monarch butterflies. We'll be working with Georgina on the pollinator garden to create space for these valuable creatures.

I can't believe 8 months have passed already since I joined the community of UCG. It has been a sincere blessing to work with you, both for myself and my family!!

Much peace, Mel



REBEKAH'S CORNER



After working with the youth group and children's program at the UCG for almost 4 years, with mixed feelings, I am starting to transition into other areas of work. Ever since June Gilbertson cajoled me into facilitating a youth group here, I have been supported in doing this work in so many ways! I can hardly begin to thank everyone who has provided words of encouragement and indispensable Luka-care, especially this past year and a half while I have attended teacher's college in Buffalo. She and I have benefitted immensely from your practical care and love, finding such an amazing extended community. Thank you so much – I couldn't have done it without all of you!!!

I finally graduate this month and I'm looking for full-time work, and so this seems like the time to be passing my UCG responsibilities to other capable hands. Wish me luck in finding a job, and don't worry – I intend to stay closely connected with the UCG!

YOUTH GROUP The youth group will be wrapping up the year together with a “night on the town” sleepover in Guelph, a work weekend at Unicamp, and tubing down Elora Gorge. It's been a fun year, and I hope more youth will come out to play with us again in the fall. Youth aged 13-17 are welcome to attend our meetings – please contact Rebekah Jamieson at 519-821-4176 for more details.

Upcoming Events of Interest

UCG Parenting and Spirituality Meeting ~ Thursday, May 12, 6-8pm

This will be an evening of inspiration and conversation with Linda Reith offering her wisdom on the topic of parenting within a spiritual context. This is a free community event offering a great opportunity to get to know other parents within the UCG and beyond. Bring your questions and gain new insight on approaching life transitions from toddler to teen, beyond and between, with spirituality. Childcare is available. For more information or to register, contact Mel Horvath at coordinator@guelph-unitarians.com.

CUC Annual Meeting in Toronto ~ May 20-23

It is almost that time of year again, so make your calendars as we join the Toronto Unitarian Congregation and nurture our spirits! Programming for children, teens & adults as well as workshops. Visit www.cuc.ca.

Spirit Dance/Yoga Fun'draising Event ~ May 28th, 2011 at UCG

Join hosts Linda Reith, Aspen Heisey, Sarah McDougall and Mel Horvath for a morning of meditation, dance, yoga, tarot cards, and a bake/craft sale. All are invited - tell your neighbors, bring your friends! Our intention is to spread the love of community, friendship and to raise money to support the continuance of the programs and services at UCG (yoga, meditation, dance and tarot offerings are by donation).

To donate items to the craft and bake sale, please contact Sarah McDougall at delaney.dawe@gmail.com. For more information, contact Mel by email coordinator@guelph-unitarians.com or call 519-276-2527

“There's Something Happening Here!” UCG Annual General Meeting ~ Sunday, May 29

Help us find the fertilizer in the 2010/11 congregational year. Check out what's been going down, elect a new board and set the budget that will make our dreams a reality. Everyone is welcome! The meeting will take place after the Sunday Service. For more info, please contact Helen Prinold, president@guelph-unitarians.com

We Celebrated 50 Years of Guelph Unitarianism!

During the spring and summer of 1960, a few people in Guelph met to plan Sunday spiritual development programs for their children. At their request, Munroe Husbands (a Unitarian promoter from the American Unitarian Association, working through North America to start small, lay-led congregations) came to Guelph to discuss Unitarianism. By December a small congregation had been chartered and the first service was held in 1961.

Membership size varied over the years, and in 1985 the congregation purchased its first ‘owned’ home. Since 1992 the congregation has had three part-time ministers, each bringing their own thoughtful interpretations of UU values, and practical counselling for the lay-led committees. Community input in services was increased in later years, and offered a roster of lay-led mornings with many spiritual approaches—from earth-centered traditions to Buddhism. The congregation formed a Youth Group and added two paid positions to foster spiritual development in children and adults.

UCG had a full house the weekend of April 1st to 3rd, 2011 to celebrate our 50th anniversary. The Friday Chalice Café (an intergenerational song circle with the junior youth class acting as baristas) was a tuneful introduction to the weekend. A Saturday evening service drew a full house both of dignitaries and new and old members and friends. The evening featured the unveiling of a commemorative tapestry by Guelph fibre artist Helen Hughes which now graces the speaker’s podium at the front of the room, along with the singing of a new congregational song, “Shine that Light,” delivered by Bruce Walton and the Unitunz. Her Worship Karen Farbridge, Guelph’s first woman mayor, addressed the packed house, speaking from the heart about the long community history of UCG and also about her personal connection with us – both as our speaker and during a unique moment where the “peace of place” helped bring people together and bridge a political divide.



UCG Presidents gathered at the Saturday gala. Seated: Stu Dixon, Sherry Dixon Back row - Linda Reith, Helen Prinold, Jack Knight, Dee Yates, Elinor Knight, Joan Rentoul, Bruce Walton, Lorna Wyllsun, Harold Chapman

The Canadian Unitarian Council’s support and connection with the congregation was celebrated by central region CUC Board representative Reverend Jessica Purple-Rodella and demonstrated by the presence of CUC staff Linda Thomson and Helen Armstrong. The crowd also took great joy in playing the UCG version of the game show “Millionaire”, recognizing key contributors to UCG’s history such as Stu and Sherry Dixon, and the great cheer of thanks to the organizers of the weekend (Team 50 whose members were past UCG presidents). What a fun night!

The doors opened again the next day to a Sunday morning service focused on the Past, Present and Future. The past was again celebrated, and an archival slideshow played. The service leaders were delighted when Ellen Campbell, central region CUC Board member and retired Executive Director took to the podium to share warm wishes for UCG’s future. Completing a satisfying service was the arrival of the youngsters from their classes, ready to talk about what they wanted to do at UCG when they grew up, and bearing a special time capsule that will be set aside and hopefully opened at our 100th anniversary.

Many thanks to all the volunteers who made this event possible:

- Publicity – Maria Chovaz

- Tapestry – ideation, selection and artist liaison – Team 50 liaison Joan Rentoul
- Connection/invitations to CUC, articles in CUC publications pre & post – Helen Prinold
- Mayoral invitation & briefing – Joan Rentoul, Maria Chovaz, Helen Prinold
- Friday night – Bruce Walton & Jennifer Erikson with help from children’s lead Mel Horvath
- Saturday night Invitations, Printing & Postage – Joan Rentoul, Wanda Gordon, Maria Chovaz
- Saturday night refreshments and decorations – Organized by Nancy Schmidt, Susan Kelly, Reinie Jackson, Janet Colley and Naomi Matsui, cake from Helen Prinold & decorations by Rick Boersma and Aspen Heisey
- Sunday – Nancy Schmidt and her team along with the pod, special cake provided by Stu & Sherry Dixon and the Balcom family
- And, of course, a big shout out to TEAM 50!!!

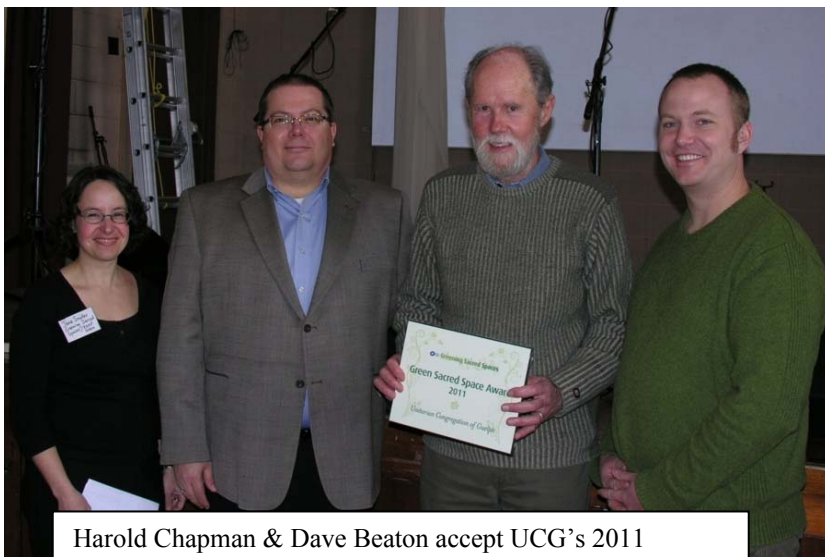
INVEST IN UCG’S SOLAR PROJECT!

We continue to investigate installing solar panels on UCG’s roof. Barring issues arising from a recently conducted structural assessment of our roof, UCG will be installing a 10 kW system made up of panels assembled in Guelph - buying local to produce power locally!

You can Invest in Solar Power! Here's how:

Help us to ensure the success of this ground-breaking initiative with your donations and investments.

Part of the cost of the system will be raised through donations and the issuing of debentures to congregation members and supporters. We are issuing debentures for \$1000 each at 5% interest paid annually to cover a portion of the cost of the system. They can be held for up to 20 years, but UCG reserves the right to redeem them at any time prior to maturity by paying the principal back to the holder, together with any interest owing. 15 members of the congregation have already pledged a total of more than \$30000 towards the project. We are looking for more investors. The remaining cost of the installation will be covered through our existing mortgage with Meridian Credit Union.



Harold Chapman & Dave Beaton accept UCG’s 2011 Greening Sacred Spaces Award festival from Jane Snyder of Green Sacred Spaces Waterloo and award sponsor Guelph Hydro March at the Transition Guelph Renaissance Festival (Photo courtesy of Elm Alyea)

If you wish to further support our solar initiative, you may also choose to donate the \$1000 principal to UCG at some time prior to maturity in return for a receipt which will qualify you for an income tax credit. With the interest you will already have received, and the income tax credit you will receive for donating the principal, you can give \$1000 of support to this project at little or no cost to yourself.

If all goes according to plan, the solar panels will be installed in July or August of this year. For more information, please contact Dave Beaton at 519-341-4997 or email dbeaton@creditvalleyca.ca.

FROM THE COMMITTEES OF THE UCG

SUNDAY SERVICES

We are moving along well! April 9th was our annual retreat and it gave us a wonderful opportunity to reflect on our services since last year and plan ahead. Georgina Noel and Margie Johnson chose to join the committee and so we are in a much better position to share the responsibilities among many hands. Naomi Matsui and Helen Prinold attended the retreat, not as committee members, but because they enjoy being part of the overall planning process and we are very grateful.

We intend to honour the “Hinges of the Year” again, meaning that there will be earth-based spirituality services at the equinoxes and solstices as well as the cross quarters (six weeks in between). This continues a tradition we have been following for a few years now. The difference this year is that we intend to have a subcommittee of SS formed to plan these services and give continuity.

It is true that we are a hard working committee, but it doesn't seem hard or like work. That's because we are doing what we enjoy and have each other's support.
~ Linda Reith, on behalf of the committee

MEMBERSHIP

We will soon be updating the UCG Membership Directory! Please look at the Directory and check your information to see if it is correct or if you need to be added. If there are any changes that need to be made, please email them to admin@guelph-unitarians.com. It will be reprinted next in the fall of 2011.

The membership committee is flourishing. We are 5 members – each with unique and wonderful ideas. We try to meet at least monthly. We welcome your ideas and input! ~ Maria Chovaz, Committee Chair, 519-766-1965

LAY CHAPLAINCY

We are pleased to be near the end of our recruiting phase, and will hopefully be introducing our new chaplain soon!!!

Lay Chaplains are members of our congregation who perform rites of passage for members and the community at large. The role provides wonderful opportunities for creative ritual building and meaningful dialogue with individuals and families while they celebrate the significant milestones in their lives. Contact Dee Yates for more info at 519-766-0523.

SUPPORT NETWORK (CARING COMMITTEE)

The Caring Committee meets throughout the year to discuss the ways in which we can continue to branch out and create supportive linkages in our community. 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. If you are curious about how we might help, or for more information, please call Sarah McDougall at 519-829-1679.

Currently the Caring Committee is comprised of Joan Rentoul, Elaine Bradshaw, Mel Horvath, and Sarah McDougall. We meet once a month to discuss all things related to caring at the UCG! If you'd like to join in on a meeting, please let us know!

JOIN A POD!

But what does a Pod do?

Every Sunday, our Hospitality Pods put on the coffee, boil the water for tea, and bring a snack to share with the congregation. For clean-up they make sure there is some lovely warm, soapy water in the sink for people to wash up their dishes. They clean the coffee pot and finish up any leftover dishes, and then give the coffee table a quick wipe!

We have 4 pods. Pod 1 does the first Sunday of each month, Pod 2 the second, Pod 3 the third, and Pod 4 does the fourth Sunday. There is also a list of people who want to help but can't commit to a pod! I would like to have 8 people in each pod so that you would only have to do pod duty once every 2 months. Also, if you are not able to be in a pod you can still bring a snack or help clean up whenever you are able!

To sign up for a pod or to be put on the back-up pod list, please see the Fairy Pod Mother (aka. Dee Yates).

ACTIVITIES OFFERED BY THE UCG

COFFEE HOUR

**Thursday, May 12 & June 9 at 12:30pm
at Planet Bean (Grange Street)**

Come to learn and share with other UCG members! This is a time for informal conversation, check-in and a great way to get to know the people of our community, build friendships and learn from one another. For more info, contact Mel coordinator@guelph-unitarians.com

STONE SOUP FOR CHRONIC PAIN

May 5 & 19, June 2 & 16 at 12:30pm

Stone Soup meetings for those suffering from chronic emotional or physical pain are offered the 1st and 3rd Thursdays of each month. Come support and be supported as we create an open space to be heard and nurtured. Each gathering will allow sharing, followed by a bowl of soup and conversation. Please bring an ingredient to add to the pot of surprise soup! Bread and crackers are also welcome. No childcare provided.

MORNINGSONG

Sundays at 10am

Love to sing and learn new pieces from the Unitarian songbook? Then the MorningSong is for you! We meet from 10-10:25am each Sunday to learn the songs for that day's service. No musical experience or long-term commitment is required - all are welcome to drop in. We will rehearse the children's song at the end, so please bring your children if they like to sing. Instruments are also welcome - hope to see you there! Seanna Murphy has graciously offered to lead this group. If you have any questions or suggestions, please contact her at seanna.murphy@gmail.com or 519-265-4225.

CHALICE CAFÉ

May 20 and June 17 at 7:30pm

Everyone is invited! Sponsored by the UCG and hosted by members of the Guelph Unitunz musical group, join us for a song circle. Bring your voices, your instruments and your songs to join in the jam or just sit back and hum along. Everyone who wants to gets a chance to lead us in a song. Come for a bit or stay for a while. This is a welcoming event. For more information, please contact Bruce Walton at 519-837-0322 or bruce@n8power.ca

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.

MINDFULNESS COMMUNITY OF GUELPH

Practicing the teachings of Ven. Thich Nhat Hanh
1st and 3rd Sundays of the month – 4:30 to 6:30pm
(May 1 and 15, June 5 and 19)

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 Lisa Lindsay at 519-766-0910.

EARTH-BASED SPIRITUALITY is one of the



recognized sources of the Unitarian Universalist tradition. We conduct regular monthly gatherings to deepen our understanding of how ritual is constructed and develops meaning. The group is small and informal, which makes this an ideal way to learn and explore. For more information, to join the email list for this group, or to confirm the next meeting date, contact Linda Reith by email ltreith@on.aibn.com or telephone 519-822-4889.

AROUND THE CONGREGATION

UCG CONGREGATIONAL PICNIC

AT UNICAMP

Saturday, July 31

Bring a picnic lunch and join other UCG members as we meet to spend a day together at Unicamp. Relax, connect and soak in the beautiful scenery, with opportunities for hiking the Bruce Trail, swimming, or even a cave tour. Please see the Unicamp website for directions at www.unicampofontario.ca

JOANNA MACY IN GUELPH

Joanna Macy, who is also a respected translator of the poetry of Rainer Maria Rilke, will co-host an evening of poetry and music on Wednesday, May 11, 2011, reading from her latest book of Rilke translations (written with co-author Anita Barrows), "A Year with Rilke." Musical artist David Darling will accompany Joanna with solo cello performances. A book signing will follow; location is Harcourt United Church, 87 Dean Ave. in Guelph. For more information, visit: www.sacredwisdomcentre.com

UNICAMP NEWS

CHILDREN'S CAMPS - Just a reminder that there is still space in children's camps that run the first three weeks of July. Please check our website at

www.unicampofontario.ca if you've not visited Unicamp before.

FAMILIES AND INDIVIDUALS - Unicamp is the perfect place for families to meet and August is our month for families and individuals.

Make this a summer to remember and experience your Unitarian Universalist Camp and Conference Centre in southern Ontario. This beautiful camp belongs to all Unitarians and like-minded people.

Please contact Wanda Gordon, Administrative Manager for Unicamp for information, questions and to register: admin@unicampofontario.ca or 519-822-6353.

Quarry Update

THANK YOU to all who took the time to write objection letters regarding the mega quarry threat to Unicamp. Now that the time to write objection letters has passed Unitarians should focus on the whole issue of quarries and how they are licensed. This needs to be an election issue in Ontario and I hope you will all contact your member of parliament and those running in the October election to make them aware of this issue and ask for their support in changing the way quarries are licensed. At the present time there is no requirement for an environmental assessment, even when the proposed quarry is 2,400 acres, over 200 feet deep and on top of the headwaters for 5 major rivers, rivers that provide drinking water for a large majority of people in southern Ontario. More info: www.stopthemelancthonquarry.ca.

FUN'DRAISING UPDATE

The UCG is moving steadily to our fun'draising goal of the year! Thank you for your continued support! Don't forget our fair-trade and organic coffee, tea and hot chocolate, vegetarian cookbooks, and now Stu Dixon's amazing watercolour paintings on Silent Auction. For more info, contact Janet Colley at 519-824-0207 or janetcolley@hotmail.com.

COLLECTION ENVELOPES

Thank you for using the collection envelopes – we send tax receipts to everyone who, over the year, makes a contribution to the UCG greater than \$10. There is no need to fill out your complete address if you are already on our list – all we need is a name on the envelope.

BRING YOUR SUNDAY DONATIONS

The Welcome-in Drop-in Centre on Gordon Street is a haven and a caring community for homeless persons, those suffering from mental illness, isolation and economic marginalization. Please help us give back to

our community by bringing a contribution for the Centre. Non-perishable food is easiest and coats and blankets are also appreciated. They will also use your Zehrs tapes and cheques are always welcome. Your old glasses and cell phones also are donated to a good cause.

DONATE ONLINE...

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

PARKING ON SUNDAYS

Please note that Ferra Flooring is happy to allow us to use their parking lot on Sundays. Perhaps the earlier arrivals or physically able could use the Ferra lot, leaving the church lot for those less able? Thank you!

JOB POSTING: OFFICE ADMINISTRATOR

The successful candidate will be accountable for a variety of duties and responsibilities within the Unitarian Congregation of Guelph, including: taking and filing board minutes, filing paperwork as required, preparing the newsletter, maintaining the website, preparing the member's directory and being responsible for the building rentals and various other duties.

Requirements of this position include: Competency in word, excel and online technologies such as email, web, etc. The ability to work independently and as part of a team, details oriented, excellent writing and editing skills, excellent organizational skills, and the ability to provide mentorship to youth volunteers. Police Check Required. Renumeration: \$15.00 per hour for 30 hours per month. All interested applicants are invited to submit their resume to Lorna Wyllsun at lwyllsun@gmail.com

Support Unicamp and Stop the Melancthon Quarry!

Most of you will already know the basics of this story. Over the last ten years, The Highland Companies, a large corporation backed by a US-based hedge fund, purchased 7,000 acres of prime agricultural land in northern Dufferin County with the stated intent of developing the largest commercial potato farming operation in Ontario. In mid-March 2011, the company filed an application for permission to operate a 2,316 acre open pit quarry on their land in Melancthon Township which lies directly atop at the headwaters of the Grand and Nottawasaga Rivers and atop the Amabel-

Lockport-Guelph Aquifer. This hydrological area is critical to the water security and water safety of much of southwestern Ontario. You can get a very graphic demonstration of the size of this project from maps posted by the North Dufferin Agriculture and Community Taskforce (NDACT) at:
www.ndact.com/NDACT/Quarry_map_page.html

Quarry projects always pit the proponents of economic development -- who stress benefits rising from the demand for aggregate, money to be made and jobs to be created in a declining economy -- against local residents and conservationists who emphasize costs in the form of noise, dust, carbon dioxide pollution from trucking, community cohesion, traffic and safety, contamination of ground water and river systems, degradation of surrounding agricultural land, damage to the local tourism and recreation economy, and implausible or missing plans for the reclamation of the quarry land. In this case, the local community seems far more convinced by the overwhelming costs associated with this project than by the uncertain benefits. Those costs are outlined in the "guide to the Quarry Project" document posted under "Support Unicamp" on the UCG website.

But why might people in Guelph be concerned, or more specifically why might Unitarians in Guelph be concerned? To begin, we can look at our spiritual commitments to the interdependent web of all existence and to the use of democratic processes in our society. Both of these principles are at risk in Melancthon. We can also appreciate the immediate risk to the sanctuary of Unicamp, located only 10km from the edge of the proposed quarry. In this case, supporting the people of Shelburne and Melancthon as they fight the quarry and protecting Unicamp is a cause that merges with very serious concerns about water security in our region. As the Mayor of Melancthon recently noted in a letter to the Minister of Agriculture, this project has the potential to negatively impact "One million Ontarians downstream from the Township." We are downstream.

Mining operations at the quarry will take place at the bottom of a 200 foot deep pit, well below the local water table. To maintain a workable mining face, Highland's plan requires that a system of pumps remove 600 million litres of water from the quarry every day. This is the equivalent of ¼ of the drinking water used by Ontarians each day. The Highland Companies plan to recirculate this water into the underground aquifers through a series of insertion wells. Groups organizing in opposition to the quarry have raised serious concerns about how this water might be contaminated by exposure to the blasting and mining process and about the long and short term effects of this massive draining and refilling of the aquifer. There is no precedent for a water movement

system of this scale in a quarrying operation, and this experiment will take place in a crucial hydrological zone. When the quarrying is over and Highland Company no longer has a financial responsibility to maintain the site, the pit will refill with water unless the pumps continue to run in perpetuity.

What have members of UCG been doing:

1. Writing letters of objection to The Highland Companies' Proposal
2. Attending NDACT (North Dufferin Agricultural and Community Taskforce) meetings, Meetings of the Dufferin County Council, and The Highland Companies' public meeting
3. Writing to our Mayor, our City Council, provincial and federal politicians and candidates, the Grand River Conservation Authority and the local media.
4. Donating money to NDACT
5. Connecting with other Unitarians through the listserv noted below
6. Connecting with the Council of Canadians, Wellington Water Watchers and Gravel Watch Ontario

What can you do now?

1. The period for writing a formal letter of objection as part of the application process closes on April 26th. If you are reading this before that date, the best things you can do is write a letter of objection - follow the instructions and the model letters in the Guide to the Quarry Project document at the UCG website.
2. After April 26th, you can still join many others writing to the Premier, The Minister of Natural Resources and our MPP Liz Sandals protesting the unreasonably short duration of the comment period, and asking for an extension to August 26th. See the quarry guide for suggested wording and addresses.
3. Watch the Congregation emails and website for info on the next steps. You can stay in touch with the issue through these organizations and their websites:

Groups Organizing in Opposition to the Quarry

1. North Dufferin Agriculture and Community Task Force (NDACT/ <http://www.ndact.com>)
2. Citizen's Alliance for a Sustainable Environment (CAUSE/ <http://www.citizensalliance.ca/>)
3. Conserve Our Rural Environment (CORE/ <http://www.corecares.ca/>)
4. Unicamp Stop the Quarry: a loosely organized yahoo group of committed Unitarians and Unicampers exploring ways to oppose the quarry.
<mailto:unicampstopquarry@yahoo.com>
5. An information clearinghouse is being built at <http://www.stopthemelancthonquarry.ca>