



## Sunday Programs for January and February

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.

### **January 2 (Pod 1) NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTIONS - ANOTHER HOLIDAY GIFT OR SELF-SABOTAGE?**

Why do we make New Year's resolutions? What can stand in our way of keeping them? How can we be more successful with this year's resolutions and future ones? Join life coach and recent UCG member, Elaine Bradshaw, as she shares her passion and insights.

**Speaker: Elaine Bradshaw**

**Service Leader: Emily Gagnon**

### **January 9 (Pod 2) EPIPHANY!**

Epiphany is a moment in time when we see something in a new way, in a different light. Join us as we consider the Christian Epiphany story: the star, the quest, and the gifts. How does this ancient story help us to see ourselves and our world in a new way and different light?

**Speaker: Amy Cousineau**

**Service Leader: Linda Reith**

### **January 16 (Pod 3) SACRED SPACES – JUNIOR YOUTH-LED SERVICE**

Join the "junior youth" of our community as they lead and share this Sunday using music, words and drama with their central topic being "sacred community, sacred me, sacred spaces." See through their eyes as they share what they value most about our unifying principles.

**Service Leaders: Mel Howarth and our Junior Youth**

### **January 23 (Pod 4) SELF-LOVE**

Join Mel as she shares the journey that brought her from a perceived hopeless place to one filled with hope, learning and healing. Be motivated and empowered as Mel reveals her realization of interconnectedness and love of the lessons in nature as she links the personal meaning of the lifecycle of the butterfly with her own dramatic weight reduction of 170lbs.

**Speaker: Mel Howarth**

### **January 30 (no Pod) CHANGING THE WORLD: ONE SEED AT A TIME**

UCG has a long history of supporting the work of USC (Unitarian Service Committee). Genevieve Grossenbacher, USC Canada's Program Officer for Public Engagement who works to mobilize people on key food issues, will speak about the work USC does to promote family farming

and healthy ecosystems around the world. She will share stories of the women, indigenous peoples, and small-scale farmers she met during her recent trip to Ethiopia, and ways we can build a more resilient food system.

**Speaker: Genevieve Grossenbacher**

**Service Leader: Nancy Schmidt**

### **February 6 (Pod 1) MIDWINTER AWAKENING A.K.A. IMBOLC/GROUNDHOG DAY**

This intergenerational service will help us move towards the coming Spring with greater awareness and purpose. Join us in an earth-based service with roots in the beginning of time.

**Service Leader: Linda Reith et al.**

### **February 13 (Pod 2) WILDERNESS CANOEING: EXPERIENCING NATURE AS SACRED SPACE**

Sacred spaces can be found within and outside of us, in the everyday as well as through our journeys and travels.

These spaces can stimulate transformation and change, mystery and awe, or quiet contemplation. Through pictures, music and stories, several members of UCG will share their perspectives on wilderness canoeing as a means of experiencing nature as sacred space.

**Participants: Aspen Heisey, Reinie Jackson, Susan Kelly, Naomi Matsui, Nancy Schmidt & Lorna Wyllsun**

### **February 20 (Pod 3) GREENING OUR SACRED SPACE**

At the time of printing, this service topic was not yet finalized. Stay tuned!

**Speaker: TBA**

**Service Leader: Dave Beaton**

### **February 27 (Pod 4) THE ART OF DYING**

The Christian tradition of the *ars moriendi* or art of dying developed in response to the ravages of the Black Death. In the 16th century, Erasmus made a significant contribution to the *ars moriendi* tradition by proposing that the best way to die is to live well and to practice virtue. The best preparation for death, he said, is a life well-lived. We will be exploring his advice.

**Service Leader: Harold Chapman**

**Speaker: John Buttars**

## 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 February 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

- Jan. 2 – Mindfulness Group 4:30pm
- Jan. 5 – Chant Club 7:30pm
- Jan. 6 – Stone Soup (Chronic Pain) 12:30pm
- Jan. 9 – Youth Group meets 6-8:30pm
- Jan. 13 – Stone Soup 12:30pm
- Jan. 16 – Mindfulness Group 4:30pm  
– Conversation on Death with Aspen 7pm
- Jan. 20 – Stone Soup (Chronic Pain) 12:30pm  
– Board meeting 6pm  
– Pagan Group 7:30pm
- Jan. 21 – Chalice Café 7:30pm
- Jan. 22 – Janus Reflections Workshop 9am-5pm
- Jan. 23 – Sunday Services Workshop 1pm  
– Youth Group meets 6-8:30pm
- Feb. 2 – Chant Club 7:30pm
- Feb. 3 – Stone Soup (Chronic Pain) 12:30pm
- Feb. 5 – Movie Sing-along night 6pm
- Feb. 6 – Mindfulness Group 4:30pm
- Feb. 8 – Homeroutes Concert 7pm
- Feb. 9 – Stone Soup 12:30pm
- Feb. 11 – Chalice Café 7:30pm
- Feb. 13 – Youth Group meets 6-8:30pm
- Feb. 17 – Stone Soup (Chronic Pain) 12:30pm  
– Board Meeting 6pm  
– Pagan Group 7:30pm
- Feb. 20 – Mindfulness Group 4:30pm
- Feb. 25 – Youth Group special movie 6:30pm
- Mar. 2 – Chant Club 7:30pm
- Mar. 3 – UCG Mid-Winter Gathering 6pm

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

### Lay Chaplains

Aspen Heisey 519-822-8666

### THE BOARD FOR 2010 - 2011

President	Helen Prinold	519-826-4449
	<a href="mailto:president@guelph-unitarians.com">president@guelph-unitarians.com</a>	
Past President	Lorna Wyllsun	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

### COMMITTEE CHAIRS

<b>Social Action</b>	Helen Prinold	519-826-4449
<b>Membership</b>	Maria Chovaz	519-766-1965
<b>Support Network</b>	Sarah McDougall	519-829-1679
	<a href="mailto:delaney.dawe@gmail.com">delaney.dawe@gmail.com</a>	
<b>Sunday Services</b>	Julie Elliotson	519-831-6534
<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**

Melissa (Mel) Howarth 519-836-3443  
[coordinator@guelph-unitarians.com](mailto:coordinator@guelph-unitarians.com)

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

Rebekah Jamieson 519-821-4176  
[admin@guelph-unitarians.com](mailto:admin@guelph-unitarians.com)

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

Rebekah Jamieson 519-821-4176  
[admin@guelph-unitarians.com](mailto:admin@guelph-unitarians.com)

### OTHERS WHO HELP

<b>POD Coordinator</b>	Deirdre Yates	519-766-0523
<b>MorningSong</b>	Seanna Murphy	519-265-4225
<b>Environment (building &amp; grounds)</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	519-837-0322



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

Winter – early nightfall, cloudy days, sparkly snow and slushy roads. Earth is moving through its darkening orbit, and has swung through Winter Solstice. Daylight has begun its subtle shift even as cold lingers. We are starting to look both backward and forward in a new season.

Seeds in the earth are gestating, but not visible. Some of us are still bathed in the joyous growth of a full and happy fall. Others are facing losses, uncertainties and disappointments.

This is a time when hope matters deeply – belief in a future with brighter days; holding on to the thought that we can work with whatever grief is now in our hearts; realizing that like seeds from the earth, new friends will appear in the months ahead; holding hope for the renewing of love and courage. We have hope for our loved ones and for our communities that they experience greater peace and more times of joy. In winter, our season is full of music and shining lights, gifts and celebrations; contemplation around a fire and hot chocolate after shedding damp boots & wetter mittens. Gift-giving has long been an important part of these celebrations. Ancient Romans loved to give honey and dates to encourage a sweet new year. In Russia, the lucky gift of white deer-shaped cookies reminds of the worship of an antlered winter goddess. Chinese astronomers accurately predicted each year's winter solstice over 2500 years ago, and some Chinese still give pink and white tangyuan (sweet rice balls), and eat them with family members to bring unity in the year ahead. While not denying or eradicating the shadows in our lives, in this season we affirm all the gifts of life.

The people around us can make the days warm in spite of the cold. Tiny new faces discover the joy of tinsel or the smells of cedar and cinnamon. Toddlers find friendly laps. Teens find new tunes, tweets and texts. Empty nesters reconfigure expectations and make travel plans. Those seniors who cannot travel this year hope for phone calls and photos – if not visits from family. Some have no one who is likely to call. During these coming winter months, I hope you will cast your thoughts to your UCG home, friends old and new, present and absent, and make plans to connect and share your own unique gifts within our intentional community.

With warm wishes, Helen

## **A MESSAGE FROM OUR SPIRITUAL DEVELOPMENT COORDINATOR**

Wow, another year has come and gone as we welcome in 2011!!! A common trend for me over the last 5 years, rather than creating a new year's resolution, is to create a desire list for the year, things I want to see appear more in my life (for instance, skating with kids, dates with my partner, more time to read in cafe and more quality times with friends).

Within our community, the common desire I have heard among other things is for more opportunities to connect, deepen friendships, and for deepening spirituality within self. In response to this, we have put together a month of “love” for February, self-love and love for our sacred community and each other. Look for offering to nurture our community's children, junior youth, youth and adults!!

Already these offerings are overflowing into January and ideally, rather than a “love” month, it will continue to build on and strengthen what UCG has been nurturing for almost 50 years!

Much peace, Mel



## REBEKAH'S CORNER



**KIDS' STUFF** Happy New Year to everyone! The children have really enjoyed preparing for the Yule service and doing seasonal crafts – they seem to enjoy any opportunity to paint with sparkly glitter! Welcome to new children and our “regulars” as we move into January and look more deeply into the UU principles, such as “All people need a voice!” We’re continuing to build friendships, learning and playing together, and generally having fun.

**YOUTH GROUP** The yearly yurt sleepover in November was much fun, and the youth are looking forward to more opportunities to hang out and grow together. We are organizing indoor and outdoor adventures, and we will be hosting a viewing of the “Laramie Project” film in February as part of the CUC’s youth initiative to fight homophobia. Youth aged 13-17 are welcome to attend our meetings – please contact Rebekah Jamieson at 519-821-4176 for more details.

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## Upcoming Events of Interest

### **A lively conversation about Death, facilitated by Aspen Heisey ~ Sunday, January 16, 7pm**

This will be a thought-provoking evening where we get to watch an hour-long video with real families doing the real work of caring for their dead. Have you ever wondered what it might look like if families could take care of their own loved ones at death? If options exist, what might they be?

**A Family Undertaking** "This provocative documentary explores the complex psychological, cultural, legal, and financial issues surrounding an important and growing trend: the home funeral movement. It profiles several families who have made the decision to forego the typical mortuary funeral and instead care for their loved ones at home. This video challenges viewers to re-examine their own attitudes toward life's only inevitability: death." Directed by Elizabeth Westrate. For more information: Aspen 519-822-8666 [aspenh@rogers.com](mailto:aspenh@rogers.com)

### **January Reflection: Janus Calling ~ January 22, 2011 9am-5pm** *Getting beyond either/or, wrong/right, open/hidden, dark/light.*

Owning our whole selves: the forbidden, the affirmed, the barely tolerated, the distrusted, the dependable, the renegade. Bringing our full power to our intentions. Facilitated by Sophiaheath and Linda Reith (Amalthea) and held at the UCG (122 Harris St). \$85 plus food to share. Register with SophiaHeath [sophiaheathwodin@gmail.com](mailto:sophiaheathwodin@gmail.com)

### **Midwinter Unitarian Retreat ~ February 4-6, 2011**

Hosted by the Unitarian Congregation of Greater Toronto

“Love is our doctrine; the quest for truth is our sacrament; and SERVICE IS OUR PRAYER.” Experience an educational and spiritually connecting Unitarian retreat. If you’re looking for a great get-away, spending 2 nights and taking 6 meals, along with choosing from a variety of workshops and activities for under \$250 may sound like fun. Perhaps it beckons you more easily when you hear it’s at YMCA Cedar Glen, situated on 263 acres of coniferous forest in breath-taking countryside - with warm, relaxed facilities and cozy cedar-lined rooms with ensuite bath. The country style buffet features wholesome meals for both vegetarian and non-vegetarian tastes. They also offer gluten free options in their non-smoking & nut-aware facility. Take a yoga class, square dance or hike the Bruce (or local) trails. [www.donheights.ca/mwr](http://www.donheights.ca/mwr) or contact Susan McLeod (416) 368-4014.

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

### **SUNDAY SERVICES**

Every year we offer an opportunity to strengthen the skills and understanding that make for building good services. This year it will be January 23rd and Cheryl Laird has agreed to facilitate the workshop for us. Cheryl, as most of you will know, is gifted in creating a relaxed yet focused atmosphere when she is facilitating the service. Who better to guide us in knowing the resources available to service leaders and being ready to support the congregation in our Sunday celebration? Please mark the date and set aside a couple of hours that Sunday afternoon to open new doors for yourself. The wider the participation, the richer the experience, so if you've wondered about service leading, COME. If you're an experienced service leader, COME.

The committee has been requesting new members to join in our work and I am glad to report that Emily Nootchai, Ryan Michael and Maria Chovaz have decided to be part of the committee. Hurrah! Dave Hudson has stepped off the committee and will be deeply missed. Thank you Dave for your generous and thoughtful involvement. The committee meets on Sunday afternoon after service about once or twice a newsletter cycle, so please consider becoming part of the brew.  
~ Linda Reith, on behalf of the committee

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### **MEMBERSHIP**

The membership committee met earlier in December (Janet Colley, Amanda Waddington, Ruth Ann Martin and Maria Chovaz). Sarah McDougall joined the meeting in an effort to keep the communication lines open between us and the support network committee so that we can best support our members. The membership committee is planning to set up a "visitor's" booth in January in the Sunshine Room. We think that visitors need our support after the service when everyone seems to know each other, and new people don't have anyone to talk to. We will have a person at the booth along with our flyers, pamphlets and so on. We hope that newcomers will feel more comfortable if there is a special place for them to hang out after the service. For more information on membership issues or how you might become involved, please contact our committee chair, Maria Chovaz at 519-766-1965.

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### **LAY CHAPLAINCY**

We are pleased to be near the end of our recruiting phase, and will hopefully be introducing our new chaplains 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.

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### **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!

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### **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 with. They wash out 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).

With Love and Good Wishes,  
The Fairy Pod Mother!

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## ACTIVITIES OFFERED BY THE UCG

### STONE SOUP

**Thursday, January 13 & February 10 at 12:30pm**

Come to learn and share with other UCG members! Each gathering will feature a UCG community member sharing with us about a significant piece of their spiritual journey, followed by a bowl of soup and conversation. Everyone brings an ingredient to add to the pot of surprise soup! Bread and crackers are also welcome. Open to all, childcare will not be provided.

***Special note:*** 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. **Dates: January 6 & 20, February 3 & 17**

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### 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](mailto:seanna.murphy@gmail.com) or 519-265-4225.

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### THE CHALICE CAFÉ

**January 21 at 7:30pm and February 11 at 6pm**  
**("Family Chalice" night)**

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 all ages. For more information, please contact Bruce Walton at 519-837-0322 or [bruce@n8power.ca](mailto:bruce@n8power.ca)

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### 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***  
**1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Sundays of the month – 4:30 to 6:30pm**  
**(January 2 and 16, February 6 and 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 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 [lrreith@on.aibn.com](mailto:lrreith@on.aibn.com) or telephone 519-822-4889.

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## AROUND THE CONGREGATION

### CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

**Thursday, March 3 at 6pm**

Mark your calendars and keep open this evening for UCG! We'll gather for fun, connection and food with a complimentary spaghetti dinner (bring a potluck dessert if you want to be sweet!). It will be our annual opportunity to imagine the future we want to create. It will focus our campaign for financial support and help us set priorities for the Board as they start a new Board year in May. Your participation is vital if we are going to be all that we can be. Every voice is needed so that we can be truly inclusive and truly your community.

### SUNDAY SOUP FOR JUSTICE

Until mid-spring this year, kind volunteers will be bringing a pot of delicious soup to serve after Sunday services – would you like to help? The soup – available at a \$5 (or pay what you can) donation – is one way we fund UCG social justice projects. Last year, we helped

send Megan Gilbertson to volunteer with the charity Child Haven ([www.childhaven.ca](http://www.childhaven.ca)) in India. We also supported Children of Bukati and helped provide uniforms for children to be able to attend school, in this African community. There will be a sign-up sheet by the Soup table between the June Gilbertson Memorial library bookshelves. Your help in taking a Sunday to bring a large pot of soup would be greatly appreciated!

## **UCG HOME ROUTES CONCERTS**

The UCG is proud to support the Winnipeg-based "Home Routes" concert program ([www.homeroutes.ca](http://www.homeroutes.ca)). Home Routes is about world-class musicians, known and unknown alike, performing complete concerts in the comfortable intimacy of private homes and other nontraditional spaces. They're fun to attend, fun to present, and fun to play. Just imagine our sanctuary as a concert hall with 25-40 of your closest friends and their closest friends gathered for an evening of great music! Bruce Walton has arranged the UCG to host. This is a great way to make our physical space a real community space. If you'd like more information, please call Bruce Walton or Jennifer Erickson at 519-837-0322.

**Tues Feb 8** – Kev Corbett ([www.kevcorbett.com](http://www.kevcorbett.com))

**Wed Mar 9** – Jess Reimer & Jeremy Goertzen-Hamm ([www.dougandjess.com](http://www.dougandjess.com))

**Thur Apr 7** – Mike Agranoff ([www.mikeagranoff.com](http://www.mikeagranoff.com))

## **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, and look for our new cookbooks. For more information, contact Janet Colley at 519-824-0207 or [janetcolley@hotmail.com](mailto: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](http://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!

*Get Involved!!!*

## **SPECIAL UCG ACTIVITIES**

### **50 YEARS NURTURING THE COMMUNITY: A WEEKEND CELEBRATION OF UNITARIANISM IN GUELPH (APRIL 2011)**

This summer, a group of former UCG presidents (TEAM 50!) met to begin planning for UCG's 50th Anniversary Celebration. Below is a description of the exciting plans. Please consider where you might contribute and contact Bruce Walton for details.



#### **The Vision...**

- Recognize UCG's contribution to the community within and to the greater, outer community
- Recognize the contribution of certain individuals who have "carried the torch" of the UCG over the years
- Have a party!
- Community outreach
- Looking ahead to the UCG's future

#### **Planning and preparation timeline:**

January-March 2011: work, work, work!!!

April 1-3, 2011: The big swaree!

#### **Events and Projects**

The following are ideas generated by the TEAM 50 members. Ideas have been divided and delegated to separate events and projects. Now, here's where you (the congregation and friends of UCG) come in...

For each of these events or projects to be a success, teams and/or individuals will need to take up their sponsorship, planning, preparation and implementation. TEAM 50 will monitor, guide and coordinate progress as well as being involved in certain events. TEAM 50 has prepared this to help people see what is possible for

the event or project to make it easier to decide where you would like to put your energies. *The more people who contribute, the more it will be a great success!*

### **Project 1: The First 50 Years**

Come travel back through the hidden yet remarkable history of our congregation. 2 or 3 people are needed to help prepare a retrospective presentation for our Saturday night celebration, for our “time capsule” Sunday Service gems, and to add to our Sunshine Room history board. *Skills needed:* sleuthing, story-telling, digitizing, creating and having fun.

*Sponsorship and coordinator:* Elinor Knight (519-823-1358)

- Involves addition to the history panels in the Sunshine Room... may involve change to digital medium with projection via digital frame (available at UCG)
- Create a slide-show for the Sat. night celebration
- Creating mock “retrospective time capsule”... items to be shared, once per week, in the 8 preceding Sunday Services in short “historical minute”; items could be organized under projects completed or decades

### **Project 2: Publicity/outreach/fundraising**

*Sponsorship and Coordination:* -your name here!?

- To past members and friends: via formal mail invitation (\$50?); list already started
- To other spiritual communities: mail invitation
- To the greater community, eg. Bridge banner, newspaper announcements; Mayoral proclamation; UCG website updates; UCG newsletter; CUC newsletter (Bruce to contact CUC for deadline announcement); Newsletters of other spiritual communities; wayside pulpit; Sunday service announcements
- Sunshine room bulletin board for regular updates: designated area for celebration announcements and updates; posters made summarizing all the projects
- Mugs for sale; t-shirts; cards; hymnals... other fundraising ideas... various costs involved in this

### **Project 3: Children & Youth - our legacy, our future**

- Possible ideas: involve kids in part of Chalice Café; Youth Sleepover followed by “social action” on the Saturday morning (involves supervision, cooking for kids, movies, etc); children participating in outreach at the Saturday morning market; children creating a wall mural (involving older, “graduated” youth)
- Developing a “social action” project
- Providing childcare for Sat. night and Sunday Service

### **Project 4: Chalice Café Special Edition**

*Sponsorship and coordination:* Bruce Walton and Jennifer Erickson

- The Friday night event
- Start with child-friendly portion

- Refreshment breaks: pizza dinner for kids; break snacks; celebratory UCG “birthday cake”
- Mel to provide face-painting

### **Project 5: Yard Clean-up/Building Celebratory Prep**

*Sponsorship and coordination:* Harold Chapman

- Possible tasks for youth?
- Completing 1 week ahead

### **Project 6: Saturday Evening Celebration**

This event is an evening for us to share and whoop it up a bit, fly our flag and honour significant contributions that have been made over the years. Food, Fun and Laughter. *Sponsorship and coordination:* \_\_\_\_\_  
Some ideas so far .....

- Historical slideshow from the archiving group, Skits, CUC Greetings, Past members invited, Honouring significant contributions over the years, Musical entertainment (Unitunz), Casual food... wine and cheese, finger food snacks, Unveiling the commemorative item

### **Project 7: Sunday Service**

*Sponsorship and Coordination:* Sunday service

- “Nurturing the Community, both inner and outer”: A Celebration of 50 years.
- Service leader and speaker
- Greetings form CUC (UCG president best to request)
- Music (Unitunz)
- Reflections on time, contributions
- Special guests
- Closing Soup Lunch/potluck... the lucky pod!

### **Project 8: Commemorative Item(s)**

*Sponsorship and coordination:* Joan Rentoul / TEAM 50  
We’d like to have something significant and tangible to commemorate this 50 year celebration. Ideally this would be both useful and artistic, spiritually uplifting and practical. A “portable” item would be nice, that could be taken to another space, if need be. All ideas will be given consideration and are very welcome. After we get your input, one will be chosen and we will commission someone to make it for us. Ideas so far have included.....

- Banner
- New lectern
- Something to hold our joys and concerns
- Wrought iron piece
- Something musical
- Stained glass piece
- New embroidered or quilted cloth for our table at the front, and a smaller one for the children’s program
- Statue
- Book