



Sunday Programs for November & December

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.

November 7 (Pod 1) CANADA'S MÉTIS NATION AND THE YEAR OF THE MÉTIS

The Métis are one of Canada's three aboriginal peoples, along with First Nations and the Inuit. 2010 was declared the "Year of the Métis" in Canada and marks the 125th anniversary of the Northwest Rebellion and the execution of Louis Riel, a Métis hero and founding father of Manitoba. Métis history and struggle highlight the importance of the UU principles of justice, respect, dignity and democracy. Hear stories about Métis people, their culture, spirituality, challenges and celebrations from speaker Kimberley Anderson, PhD, a Métis/Cree educator, author and researcher of native women's issues. Her son Rajan will end the service with lively Métis fiddle music.

Speaker: Kimberley Anderson

Service Leader: Paul Smith

November 14 (Pod 2) REINVENTING THE SACRED

When our habitual ways no longer work for us, how might we reclaim the sacred? Consider this: Science does not take away the mystery and magic of Life, science merely rephrases it. When the existing religions no longer meet the needs of a group of people, a new religion evolves. The Biosphere is our true progenitor; it, in itself, is sacred.

Speaker: Karis Burkowski

Service Leader: Cheryl Laird

November 21 (Pod 3) CANADIAN SOCIAL HISTORY: A RACIAL TIMELINE

Wilburn Hayden, member of Toronto's Neighbourhood Unitarian Universalist Congregation and Professor & Director of the School of Social Work, York University, last spoke to us in the spring on the subject of racism and white privilege in Canada. He left us with challenges and suggestions to confront and dismantle this type of oppression within our own communities. He continues today with part two of his illuminating discussion.

Speaker: Wilburn Hayden

Service Leader: TBA

November 28 (Pod 4)

THE SPIRITUALITY OF LIBRARIES

Beyond the stereotypes of horn-rimmed, tweed-wearing shushing librarians by which they are plagued, libraries are

spaces that evoke the inevitable interconnectedness of our lives and bodies. Join Dave Hudson as he reflects on the spirituality of libraries from his perspective as both a librarian and a Unitarian.

Speaker: Dave Hudson

December 5 (Pod 1) SERVICE TOPIC TBA

December 12 (Pod 2) WAITING IN THE DARKNESS... FOR THE LIGHT - PART 2

A follow up on last year's presentation on this topic. A time to explore the darkness in which we wait for the coming of the light. What are the associations we make with darkness? What is the richness of the dark times and dark places? What can we learn from waiting in the dark?

Speaker: Amy Cousineau

Service Leader: Linda Reith

December 19 (Pod 3) YULE

Join us for another interactive, multi-generational service to celebrate the Winter Solstice. Connect with the power of community to help light our way in the darkness. Share the gifts and blessings of this time of the year.

Service Leaders: Rebekah Jamieson and Linda Reith

December 26 (Pod 4) BETWEEN TIMES – SELF AS LEFTOVER

After the feasting, the presents and the decadence of merry-making are over, we are left to contemplate our abundance and recognize those things that truly matter amidst the rubble and memories of the holiday season. Leftovers most often refer to the unwanted, forgotten or discarded pieces of the season - but what if they are, in fact, the bits that matter the most? Join Julie in attempting this Unitarian Universalist reframe of a familiar holiday phenomena.

Note: there will be no children's program this Sunday.

Speaker: Julie Elliotson

***MorningSong begins every Sunday morning at 10am – come sing with us!**

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 December 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

November 3 – Chant Club 7:30pm
November 6 – UCG Dream Auction 7pm
November 7 – Mindfulness Group 4:30pm
– Youth Group 6-8:30pm
November 18 – Board Meeting 5:30pm
– Pagan Group 7:30pm
November 19 – Chalice Café 7:30pm
November 21 – Mindfulness Group 4:30pm
November 27 – New UU Course 9am-1pm
November 28 – Homeroutes Concert 7pm
December 1 – Chant Club 7:30pm
December 5 – Mindfulness Group 4:30pm
December 10 – Youth Group 6-8:30pm
– Chalice Café 7:30pm
December 11 – Craft and Bake Sale 12-4pm
December 16 – Board Social 5:30pm
January 5 – Chant Club 7:30pm

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 2009 - 2010

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

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	Julie Elliotson	519-831-6534
Chaplaincy Committee	Deirdre Yates	519-766-0523
	deeyates@gmail.com	

STAFF

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OTHERS WHO HELP

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MorningSong Seanna Murphy 519-265-4225

Environment (building & grounds)

Harold Chapman 519-763-2406

Musicians Naomi Matsui 519-821-2830

Pam Dickie 519-823-1891

Paul Smith 519-767-1033

Unitunz Bruce Walton 519-837-0322



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

Ah, fall – the bright bursts of colour on the leaves match the bright bursts of energy at UCG. Amazing creativity, dynamism and generosity – these are just a few things that are vibrating through UCG’s rooms these days....along with the sounds of a growing group of engaged children who are learning and playing together.

Our 2010-11 season began with services that have become happy traditions – the Water Service and the barking and meowing good time with our pets. October marked the start of our soup months and our apple crisp fun’draiser produced mouth-wateringly good results...so we are indeed cooking! Bringing our talents to service of the community - while respecting our individual needs - bears beautiful fruit. With each of us contributing with joy as we are able to the UCG table, we are seeing flavour-full results.

We initiated our season in the newly-ramped space with high energy and also some uncertainty. Look into the eyes of the members and you might see a hint of the anxiety change brings...yet also shining around that space you will likely see confidence and a blaze of commitment. Our congregation is rolling and – instead of the old saying about a rolling stone gathering no moss – I would suggest that when you're on a roll, you gather momentum...

As we head toward the end of 2010, let’s gather our energy, intention and vision around us....moving forward to share and savour a satisfying UCG experience.

Blessings, Helen

A MESSAGE FROM OUR SPIRITUAL DEVELOPMENT COORDINATOR

Greetings! It has been a busy and wonderful time as I get grounded and connect with the dynamic and interesting people that make up our spiritual community. I am in awe of the brilliant minds and aware and connected hearts of our children/youth and blown away by the passionate people I am getting the honour to know. The vast amount of causes and projects that our people are involved with in connecting to the broader community is simply beautiful and a reminder of the amazing things that can happen when we simply, as Mary Oliver so poetically writes, "let the soft animal of our soul love what it loves."



I am looking forward to Secret Pals this November and connecting further with the community, whether it is sharing over Stone Soup, cleaning up among friends, picnicking at the Jesuit Centre, rocking with the Unitunz, service Sunday mornings, earth spirituality group, planning the 50th anniversary party, pot lucks, parties and fundraisers. It is clear that this community is a living, giving wealth of spiritual growth and nurture for children and adults because of the care taken for each other, the building and our children. The love is everywhere!

It is wonderful to get to know you on a personal level also, and share the "glads and sads" of life together, in community. Your warmth and welcome to Matt, Belle, Bear, Pip and Jack has made this a wonderfully easy transition with each of us feeling a sense of belonging, and a personal place within the community. We are also excited to announce that we are officially engaged and making plans for our wedding July 2nd, 2011.

Thank you to each of you for the big and little things you do, that have grown and sustained this community for almost 50 years now - each dish washed, committee served on, hand held, hug given, dollar raised and time taken in countless capacities. It is an honour to work for and with such a vital and alive community.

Much peace, Mel

Don't miss the annual UCG DREAM AUCTION
our biggest, very FUN fun'draising event of the year!
Saturday, November 7 at 7pm!

REBEKAH'S CORNER



KIDS' STUFF As we're approaching the winter season, the kids have been enjoying the intergenerational services. Secret Pals in November should be an exciting time of getting to know some older members of the congregation too, and our programming will be focused on Famous Unitarians and the Fourth UU Principle (free and responsible search for truth and meaning).

YOUTH GROUP Join us this Sunday for our first ever Parent-Teen Challenge Night, and then on November 26, we'll be having a yurt sleepover where we'll really get a chance to bond as a group! Youth aged 13-17 are welcome to attend – please contact Rebekah Jamieson at 519-821-4176 for more details.

Much fun was had in late September at our Picnic and Walk of the Cosmos at Ignatius Retreat Centre *(photos by Rebekah Jamieson)*



Upcoming Events of Interest

Making Connections: Central Region Fall Gathering ~ November 13, 2010

Hosted by the First Unitarian Congregation of Waterloo

Join other local Unitarians for a day of networking, learning and re-reflecting on how we in individual congregations are part of the larger regional movement and on how we can ensure a vital, sustained and sustaining future. For more information, contact Fiona Heath at fjheath@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

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 at beautiful Cedar Glen (Bolton, Ontario). Choose from workshops on mandala drawing, time management, food security and many more, as well as hearing a talk by Kate Green, USC Canada. For more information, see the flyers on the UCG information table or contact Susan McLeod (416) 368-4014.

FROM THE COMMITTEES OF THE UCG

SUNDAY SERVICES

Last year, influenced by the environmental activist and Buddhist teacher, Joanna Macy, we created a new set of opening words: *In this flame we witness the power of transformation. Awed again by the wonder of life, we are grateful to be vital to this living universe, this inspiring community.* It may seem exaggerated to say each of us is vital, as if we are essential. However, each of us is part of the vitality of the community and the universe. Our choices make a difference. Macy invites us to recognize our unique contribution to the evolution of the cosmos through our open hearts and observing minds. We help the universe see itself. If we withdraw our attention then the process moves differently. If we give our attention and are willing to see both the danger and the beauty, then the universe has that information. Similarly, the congregation benefits from the involvement of each of us. In our particular ways, we contribute to the vitality of the whole. Please consider coming out to a Sunday Service Committee meeting and learn how you might also contribute to our committee's activities. Please contact Julie Elliotson or Nancy Schmidt for more info.

MEMBERSHIP

We've seen many new visitors recently, and we're very excited about the growth of our community. For more information on membership issues or how you might become involved, please contact our committee chair, Maria Chovaz at 519-766-1965.

LAY CHAPLAINCY

UCG offers lay chaplaincy services for people wanting ceremonies such as weddings, memorials, child dedications, or any other such service. Please contact Deirdre Yates for more information at 519-766-0523.

UCG SUPPORT NETWORK

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! Contact Sarah McDougall at 519-829-1679.

ACTIVITIES OFFERED BY THE UCG

STONE SOUP

Thursday, November 11 at 12:30pm with our new SDC, Mel Horvath

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.

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.

THE CHALICE CAFÉ

November 19 and December 10 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 all ages. 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
(November 7 and 21, December 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. Last year we initiated 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 or telephone 519-822-4889.

AROUND THE CONGREGATION

NEW UNITARIAN COURSE

Saturday, November 27, 9am-1pm

Do you want to know more about the UCG and Unitarian Universalism in general? Everyone is welcome to attend this informative and engaging workshop on November 27 from 9am-1pm (lunch to follow). Topics include: What does "Unitarian" mean anyway? What does it mean to be a member the Unitarian Congregation of Guelph? What is the history of the Unitarian Universalist religious movement? When was the UCG founded? How does the UCG organize itself? What does being a Unitarian mean to me? This course is offered free of charge. Childcare can be provided upon request with 5 days notice. Please contact Sarah McDougall at smcdouga@uoguelph.ca or call at 519-829-1679 for more info or to register.

CALLING ALL BAKERS AND ARTISTS!

DECEMBER 11, 12-4PM

We need baked goods and crafts for our first annual Christmas Bake and Craft sale. This is an important fun'draising event for UCG. Please start thinking about what you would like to bake or make for this event. For more information, please contact Maria Chovaz at 519-766-1965.

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) 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

Following last year's successful hosting of folk singer Rik Palleri, as part of the Winnipeg-based Home Routes concert series (www.homeroutes.ca), UCG will play host to a full series of talented artists this coming year. Here is the line-up and the dates so mark your calendars now! This is a great opportunity to reach out to the broader community (yes, invite your friends), to support grass-roots talent (both young and budding and more seasoned and mature!) and have a fun night of great musical entertainment (ask anyone who came last year!). We'll keep you posted with reminders, closer to the concert dates. If you'd like more information, please call Bruce Walton or Jennifer Erickson at 519-837-0322.

Sun Nov 28 – Lindsay Jane (www.lindsayjane.ca)

Tues Feb 8 – Kev Corbett (www.kevcorbett.com)

Wed Mar 9 – Jess Reimer & Jeremy Goertzen-Hamm (www.dougandjess.com)

Thur Apr 7 – Mike Agranoff (www.mikeagranoff.com)

UCG T-SHIRTS

If you ordered a UCG T-shirt in June, PLEASE come and pick it up and don't forget to bring in your \$19-25 donation. The list will be sent out by email to everyone who ordered them. Patches were also made so if you would like to get your own version of the image but put it on a bag or elsewhere, you can do it! Patches are \$5-10, sliding scale. For more information, please contact Janet Colley at 519-824-0207.

MITTEN TREE

Hopefully you've started knitting for our annual "Mitten Tree". Mittens, hats and scarves left on the tree this season are donated to youngsters in primary school who need some winter warmth. So please create or buy some cozy additions to help decorate our tree this year.

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 could use the Ferra lot leaving the church lot for the latecomers if they are able? Adding the ramp has removed some spots so your help is appreciated!

COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

OUR ENVIRONMENTAL FUTURE

NOVEMBER 10, 4:30-10PM U OF G

Free admission. All welcome.

Thornborough Building, University of Guelph, Lecture Room 1200 (University Centre bus stop)

This event will present vital possibilities for our economic and environmental sustainability. It should be of interest to anyone concerned about our future jobs, food and water security and energy use. The presentations are by well-known experts with Q&A following each presentation. There will be a short break in the middle for people to stretch, eat or browse the books and info. (The food court in the U of Guelph will be open.) Speakers include:

Robert Rapier (world expert on peak oil) "Peak Oil – What? When?"

Peter Victor (York U) – "Managing without Growth – Yes We Can!"

Jennifer Sumner (OISE) – "Effects of Growth on a Community"

Mike Nickerson (author) – "Life, Money and Illusion; Living on Earth as if we want to stay."

Evan Fraser (University of Guelph) – "Empires of Food" and "the Rise & Fall of Civilizations"

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:

December 2010: All event teams & sponsors confirmed

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 events and projects will be a great success!

Project 1: The First 50 Years

Come, travel back through the hidden yet remarkable history of our congregation. Two or three 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)

- Project already started by Elinor
- Involves addition to the history panels in the Sunshine Room... may involve change to digital medium with projection via digital frame (available at UCG)
- Start displaying after the Christmas break to help build momentum
- Involves creating a slide-show presentation for the Saturday 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; items shared as part of the Offering ritual (i.e. “look at what your support has already done”); needs to be coordinated through Sunday services

Budgetary needs: Approx. \$100

- Digital frame and/or additions to the existing panels
- Time/personnel resources to convert information to digital format

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 to be made up summarizing all the projects
- FACEBOOK page... (Harold looking into this.)
- Mugs for sale; t-shirts; cards; hymnals... other fundraising ideas... various costs involved in this

Budgetary Needs: Mailers \$50-100 Advertising? Promo items?

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

Sponsorship and coordination: _____

- Possible ideas: involve kids in part of Chalice Café (already done in the “Chalice Café Event”); 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 Saturday night and Sunday Service times

Budgetary Needs:

- All food involved if a sleep-over happens
- Wall mural supplies
- Childcare costs (unless some youth wish to “donate” this contribution!)

Project 4: Chalice Café Special Edition

Sponsorship and coordination: Bruce Walton and Jennifer Erickson

- The Friday night event
- Start with child-friendly portion and end with general audience portion
- Refreshment breaks: pizza dinner for kids; break snacks; celebratory UCG “birthday cake”
- Mel to provide face-painting

Budgetary needs: Pizza, snacks; cake

Project 5: Yard Clean-up/Building Celebratory Prep

Sponsorship and coordination: Harold Chapman

- Possible tasks for youth?
- Completing 1 week ahead
- Joan Rentoul painting the front door... already done!

Budgetary needs: Paint?

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
- Previous members invited
- Honouring significant contributions over the years
- Musical entertainment by the Unitunz
- Casual food... wine and cheese, finger food snacks
- Unveiling the commemorative item



Budgetary needs:

- Finger food unless delegated “pot-luck”
- Liquor and refreshments
- ???

Project 7: Sunday Service

Sponsorship and Coordination: Sunday services _____

- “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!

Budgetary needs: ???

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

Budgetary needs: \$500-1000

Offering of matching donation, up to \$500

UCG Solar Project Shines On

In Fall 2009, the UCG board was approached by a solar company interested in installing solar panels on the roof of our building. In January 2010, an information session was announced and the contractor made a follow-up presentation to the congregation. There was considerable interest in getting more information and the board created a sub-committee led by Dave Beaton to explore whether solar was something that would work for UCG. At the AGM in May 2010, Dave presented an initial feasibility study and a motion was passed to go ahead with gathering more information and bringing a full solar installation proposal to the congregation.

Following a year of investigation, UCG has received a conditional contract offer to install a 9.1 kW solar system on our roof to generate electricity. The project will cost approximately \$85,000 including panels, electrical work, and new shingles for the south side of the building. While the initial cost of the system will go on our mortgage, due to a 20 year contract with the Ontario Power Authority (aka. hydro and the provincial government), we will sell back the power we generate to Guelph Hydro, hopefully making about \$8,400 a year to pay the mortgage back and maintain the system for 15 years – and then for the next five, we can make a decent profit (and hopefully even longer as solar panels have been known to last for up to forty years).

At a special meeting of the congregation on October 28th, after a presentation and substantial discussion, a motion was passed by over one-third of UCG’s membership to move ahead and put the panels in place. This is an exciting and nerve-racking prospect for us all! Thankfully, Dave Beaton (reporting to the Board) has agreed to act as Project Manager and take us forward.

If you weren’t at the meeting and have questions on (or opinions about) the solar project, it’s not too late to express them. In fact, it’s important...and it’s not about politics and the result of a vote...because you are part of our community, we need your input and wisdom. There is a presentation in the Sunshine Room about the project. And our Board President, Helen Prinold, has offered to meet with anyone who has questions about the project and share the Board’s thinking and the facts as we know them (just call or flag her down when you see her ☺).

As we make this happen, we want solar to be your intention...we are an intentional community. Read on for the details of the proposal.

Why Go Solar?

In keeping with Unitarian Principle number 7 (“Respect for the interdependent web of all existence of which we are a part”), we want to be as sustainable as possible - the solar project fits in well with this mandate and will help us reduce the ecological footprint of our congregation.

In 2009, the Ontario government launched a Feed in Tariff (FIT) program under the Ontario Green Energy Act. The program promotes renewable electricity generation by offering contracts for a high set price for electricity. Most small residential customers pay 6.4 cents per kilowatt hour (if they’re not on a smart meter and paying by time of use). UCG would receive 80.2 cents per kilowatt hour for a guaranteed length of 20 years.

This financial incentive by the government to encourage people to put in solar is part of Ontario’s plan to phase out coal-generated (and air polluting) power by 2014, respond to climate change issues and attract more green jobs.

Once the UCG Solar Project puts electricity onto the Ontario power grid, we will be offsetting the generation of electricity from other sources such as coal and natural gas and preventing the emission of 6.4 tonnes of carbon dioxide annually.

For comparison’s sake, this would be the equivalent of 8841 km less of driving per year or planting 742 acres of forest to capture carbon. Certainly this is a significant contribution to caring for our web of life!

Solar Panels on the UCG

On September 20th, 2010, UCG received a conditional offer of a MicroFIT contract from the Ontario Power Authority to buy energy we put onto the grid (which means we have one year to complete the installation and “plug in” at the special price). The roof of our congregational building has excellent southern exposure and is large enough to fit a 9.1 Kilowatt solar array (collection of solar panels). Our system will be ‘grid tied’ so all energy generated will be sold to Ontario’s electrical grid. A 9.1 Kilowatt system should generate approximately 10500 kWh’s of power per year which translates into \$8400 annual revenue over a 20-year contract period.

Meridian Credit Union is supportive of the project and is able to roll the cost of the project into the congregational mortgage that Steve Chavez is currently renegotiating. With financing of approximately 5.06%, the loan will be paid back over a 15-year period using the income solely from the panels. The panels should continue to produce power for many years beyond the initial 20-year contract.

We hope that we will be able to count on the support of the congregation to make contributions toward the project that will let us pay down the mortgage even sooner, leaving us with an ongoing revenue stream for programming.

Common Questions

What if the government changes or the program is cancelled? The MicroFIT contract is legally binding even if the program is cancelled. We could sue them for damages for breach of contract.

What if the congregation has to move? If we move the congregation during the time of our contract, the panels and the contract with the OPA would be transferred with the building. Discussions with Ned Coates, a local realtor have indicated that this would not negatively impact the ability to sell our building and that, in fact, having the panels already done would be a selling feature.

What’s Next and Timelines? In order for the panels to be installed, the south face of the UCG roof needs to be re-shingled (this would need to occur within the next 5-10 years anyway) and the electrical system needs to be changed which will increase the safety of our system. These costs will be rolled into the new mortgage. Our MicroFIT approval requires that the project be completed by September of 2011. At this point, we anticipate that the panels will be installed in the spring of 2011.

Spreading the Word Want to help spread the word about the UCG Solar Project? If you are interested in joining a committee to spread the word about the solar project, please contact Solar Communication Committee Chair, Katie Gad.