

DECEMBER, 2009

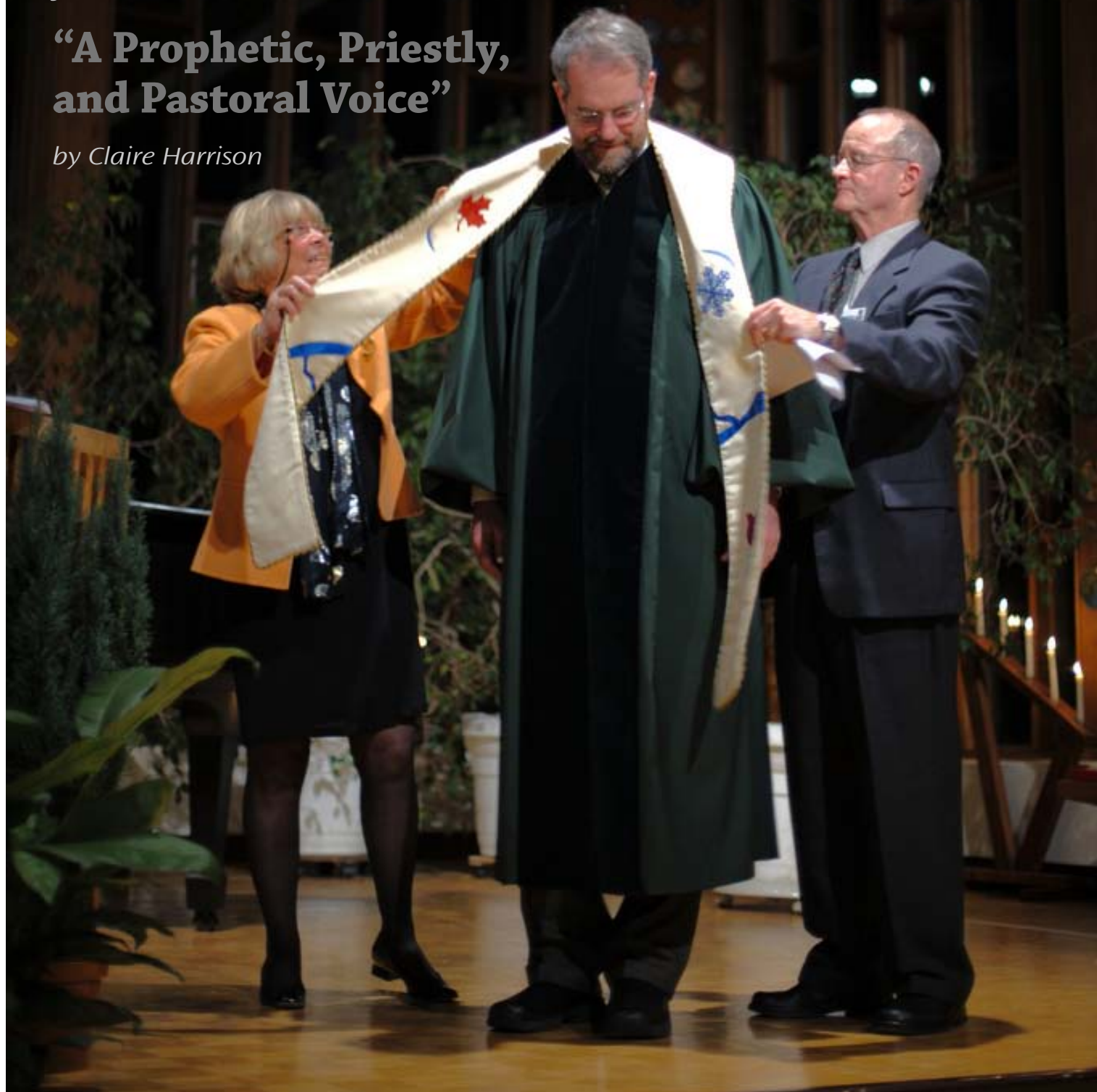
VOLUME 4, ISSUE 4

# Parkway Spire

The Installation of The Reverend  
John Newcomb Marsh

**“A Prophetic, Priestly,  
and Pastoral Voice”**

*by Claire Harrison*



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#### **Deadline for January, 2010 Issue**

Friday, December 4 at 7:00 p.m.  
E-mail [publications@firstunitarianottawa.ca](mailto:publications@firstunitarianottawa.ca)  
or go to [www.firstunitarianottawa.ca/connect](http://www.firstunitarianottawa.ca/connect)

## **PRESIDENT'S CORNER**

### *The Privacy Act and the Congregation*



First Unitarian must comply with federal and provincial legislation and regulations regarding privacy and the protection of people's personal information.

Under the Privacy Act, personal information is defined as information that identifies you or could identify you. The legislation establishes rules for organizations that collect, use, or disclose personal information for legitimate

business purposes.

These rules mean that the congregation must tell you why it is collecting your personal information and gain consent from you to use it. In addition, we have to:

- Be accurate when we use your information;
- Limit the use, disclosure, and retention of the information we collect;
- Use appropriate safety guards in all aspects of information collection and use;
- Give you access to the information we collect about you; and
- Provide you with recourse if we have mishandled your information in any way.

The Privacy Act is the reason the Photo Directory Committee has worked so hard to inform the congregation about the need to complete consent forms. The forms cover not only publishing personal information in the Directory, but also allow the church office to use that information for administrative contact, contact by the Pledge and/or Stewardship Committees, and distribution of publications such as the *e-UUOttawa* and the *Parkway Spire*.

### **Change and the Congregation**

We are living in very exciting times as a congregation. Last month, for example, we installed Rev. John Marsh as our new settled minister. This change is part of a gradual transformation of our congregation as we move ahead. I and the Board recognize that change is not always easy. Changes in the way we do things can cause anxiety and upset, even when people recognize that such changes are necessary. However, we must be willing to let go of those things from the past that no longer help us and embrace new ideas that will enhance us as a congregation and enable us to serve our members more fully.

I urge all of you to assist Rev. John Marsh as he leads us forward. I personally expect not only a stimulating time of change, but also the opportunity to participate in spiritual and meaningful experiences.

On behalf of the Board, I would like to wish all of you a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Respectfully submitted,  
Kathy Yach

#### **Lay Spiritual Care Visitors**

When you want someone to talk to, we are here to listen. Call coordinator **Ellen Bell** at **613-831-5205** to arrange a confidential visit.

#### **Caring Contacts for December**

Marianne Wood, 613-725-3452  
Judy Dunlop, 613-728-9242

*We listen, we phone,  
we bake, we drive.*



## CAPITAL IDEAS

### Title Needed



Here's a quiz: Studies show that, on average, Unitarian Universalists invite a friend to church once every:

- Seven months;
- Three years; or
- twenty-seven years;

What do you think? Tick tick tick tick tick tick tick. Time's up! And the correct answer is: Unitarian Universalists invite a friend to church once very twenty-seven years. Let's just say we take pride in not being pushy and not proselytizing. Let's also say that we do a bang-up job of keeping our light under a bushel.

I believe we have many messages the world needs to hear. One of those, especially needed in December, is: Loosen up a bit—relax.

Remember that St. Nicholas, the man after whom Santa Claus is modelled, was one of the first persons to be named a Christian saint who did not die the gruesome death of a martyr. He is remembered for being a nice guy, for giving one gift to one family, on one occasion—not because the family was related to him, but because it seemed like a good thing to do.

The moral for us is obvious. We shouldn't have to kill ourselves to observe the holiday season; we don't have to provide a gift for every person on the planet to whom we are related. All that is required is that we should be nice people.

Now, if you are feeling the least bit stressed, I do not want to add to that stress. However, should you want to invite someone to join us for the Christmas Eve service—a time when many unchurched families are looking for places to attend—we have made it easy (and maybe even fun) by providing an introductory video on YouTube to share with others. It is my first appearance on YouTube, and I was delighted to share the experience with my fellow “actor,” Precious the Hedgehog.

You can see the video by going to [www.youtube.com](http://www.youtube.com) and typing “Ottawa Unitarian” in the search bar. Then, if you wish, you can e-mail the link to any other person or group of persons you think might enjoy joining us. And, of course, if you invite someone now, you won't be overdue again until 2036!

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'John Marsh'.

*Rev. John Marsh, Minister*

P.S. Many thanks to all of you for the warm welcome you gave me and my family at the installation.

## Worship Services

### **December 5 at 10:30 a.m. Mitten Tree Service—Signs of Hope**

Children will be with us for the entire service. Everyone is invited to bring mittens, scarves and other gifts for the mitten tree. Afterward, the gifts will go to the Snowsuit Fund.

### **December 13 at 10:30 a.m. Chanukah—Lessons from adversity and struggle**

### **December 20 at 10:30 a.m. Solstice**

Will the sunny days of summer ever return? What is the right way to invite them back? And what praises shall we offer to the darkness? Come and hear tell of Yuletide treasure.

### **5:00 p.m.: Evening Solstice Service**

Bring a warm dish of food to share in this time of cold. All ages are invited.

### **Thursday, December 24 Christmas Eve Services**

**5:00 p.m.:** Family Service for All Ages

**6:15 p.m.:** Light Supper of soup, salad and bread will be served

**7:30 p.m.:** Service of Readings and Carols

**10:00 p.m.:** *La veille de Noel* (French-language service of carols and readings)

### **December 27: Seasonal Stories and Songs**





## The Installation of The Reverend John Newcomb Marsh “A Prophetic, Priestly, and Pastoral Voice”

by Claire Harrison

**O**n the evening of November 16, 2009, our congregation installed Reverend John Marsh as its settled minister. Guests included Reverend Marsh’s family, his ministerial colleagues, speakers from the Ottawa community, and members of the Unitarian Universalist Ministers Association Executive Committee. It was an evening of oratorical, musical, and visual richness. The speakers were poetic and insightful. Music Director Jane Perry, the Chalice Choir and guest trumpeter, Karen Donnelly, provided a wealth of music. And we were the beneficiaries of a cornucopia of beauty from the candle-lit stage to the processional of ministers, splendid in their robes and stoles.

The Act of Installation is the beginning of a covenant between a congregation and its chosen minister. In the “Charge to the Minister,” The Reverend Doctor Charles Eddis, founding president of the Canadian Unitarian Council (CUC), told

Reverend Marsh that his responsibility under the covenant was to take care of his congregation and its spiritual needs. But he also reminded Reverend Marsh that his ministry was part of the wider context of living in Canada and enjoined him to consider ways in which he could express how being Canadian underlies and informs our spirituality.

Kathleen Hunter, the first Executive Director of the CUC, made the “Charge to the Congregation.” She told us that Reverend Marsh’s responsibility under the covenant was to lead us, teach us, and comfort us—to provide us with a “prophetic, priestly, and pastoral voice.” In turn, we, the congregation, had two responsibilities. The first was to defend the freedom of the pulpit by acknowledging our minister’s right to “articulate the truth as he sees it.” If disagreement does occur, we must enter into a dialogue with him, not to argue for the purpose of finding the “right” answer, but to better understand how he had arrived at his

position and to communicate how we had arrived at ours.

The congregation’s second responsibility involved change. Change is inevitable, Ms. Hunter told us, not only within our congregation as members leave and new ones arrive, but also within the larger political, social, and economic context in which our congregation exists. Moreover, every minister has his or her own style, priorities, and ideas, and Reverend Marsh would be no different. Although we come to the congregation seeking what is eternal and transcendent, this does not mean that the congregation’s ways of doing things are equally eternal. We must learn not only to accept change but to embrace it.

Other speakers welcomed Reverend Marsh to Ottawa and into the city’s faith community; UU representatives praised him and wished him well in his new post. Overall, it was a solemn occasion, although not without its cliff-hangers and humour. Who could have anticipated that, when the Marsh-Patrick family went to light the chalice, its candle would first refuse to take the flame? Chalice, it would appear, do not necessarily obey an order of service.

Nor did we expect to hear our keynote speaker, The Reverend Stefan

Left: A view of the Installation participants. Below: keynote speaker Rev. Stefan Jonasson.  
 Photos: Richard Guy Briggs To see more of Richard's photographs of the installation, visit his Web site at <http://tricolour.net/photos/2009/11/16/>

Jonasson, who has known Reverend Marsh since his initial ministry in Edmonton, tell us that he had first considered the young minister to be an affable fellow but, well, frankly, something of a nuisance. It appears that Reverend Marsh kept going before the UU District Board and insisting on implementing change. However, The Reverend Jonasson soon changed his opinion when he understood that Reverend Marsh's tenacity arose, not from mere adherence to a stance, but from a deep, ethical integrity—an integrity fundamental to his ministry. When the service came to a close, we moved from spiritual richness to gastronomic pleasures. We nibbled hors' d'oeuvres, ate cake, and toasted our new minister with wine.

Congratulations are in order to the many people who made the Act of Installation a lovely, memorable service and to the Reception Team who brought our evening to an elegant and gracious close.



## Holly and Lace Bazaar: Hundreds of Happy Customers!

This year's Holly and Lace Bazaar on Sunday, November 14 was wonderful. Building community, sharing in a massive joint effort to serve that community, having fun and making a bit of money to support the cause. What could be better?! Kudos to everyone who worked on it.

The Fall Fair is largest and most successful fundraiser in the congregation's calendar. Many thanks to the volunteers—over 365 of them—who were involved in this year's Fair. For six days straight folks moved furniture, posted signs, sorted and culled donations, researched and priced items, and made food, all in preparation for a five-hour sale.

I know that there are times when many of you wonder if it is worth all the effort, but your hard work and dedication have paid off. And I hope you had a good time in the end. Our customers certainly did—many of them expressed appreciation, and one woman was overheard to say, "I'm having such fun!"

Thanks go to a crack team of coordinators: Paula Theetge, Margaret Linton, David Black, Joyce Turnbull, Isabel Burrows, Katherine Gunn, and David Hudson. Special thanks go to Scott Drennan, who stepped in to replace David Hudson as site manager. Ours is quite an organization, with 42 Booth Convenors and 315 other volunteers—many of whom were volunteering for the first time.

The Fall Fair provides about 7 percent of the congregation's operating budget. The funds allow us to keep the lights on and the doors open, so that our members and friends can continue to do the great work that we do, internally and externally.

Each year, the Fall Fair committee tries to reduce our impact on the environment while increasing our support for others in the broader community beyond our walls. The majority of the items left over after the Fair are donated to organizations that help others in need: shelters, immigrants and so on.

There will be a meeting of Fall Fair convenors on Sunday, December 6 at 12:30 p.m. in Room 2. Convenors are asked to submit reports on this year's bazaar prior to that meeting. Thank you for all your hard work.

If you'd like more information or you have any feedback that would help improve next year's Fall Fair, please submit it to the Fall Fair mail slot in the Volunteer Support Office or send it to [meg.gourlay@gmail.com](mailto:meg.gourlay@gmail.com)

—Meg Gourlay, Fall Fair Director



# Emergency Preparedness: *Pandemic Plan*

Our newly drafted plan, which describes measures to be taken in the event of a pandemic, is in review and soon to be published. Already, some infection control measures, based on Ottawa Medical Officer of Health (MOH) guidelines, have been implemented within our congregation and the building.

The measures with highest priority during a pandemic are:

- Communication;
- Caring (pastoral and physical); and
- Financial transactions to maintain solvency.

Other congregational functions may be suspended; for example, in the case of a severe pandemic, health officials may order large public gatherings to cease.

In order to ensure continuation of communication, caring, and financial solvency, we will ensure that the essential staff and volunteers doing these functions have trained backups, access to the necessary tools and data, and in many cases, the capability to work from home.

The Emergency Preparedness Committee (Mary Duncan, Nancy Lauder, Susan Mackenzie, Margaret Linton, and Ani Arnott) welcomes your interest and/or participation as we now begin to examine emergencies such as fire, floods, and ice storms.

—Margaret Linton

## Infection Control Measures

1. If you have symptoms of the flu (fever, dry cough, joint aches, and pain) please avoid public gatherings. You may resume your normal activities when you no longer have a fever (twenty-four hours fever-free without medication) and are feeling well.
2. The presence of a cough alone is not a reason to stay away from normal activities. It is not unusual for individuals to experience a cough for days to weeks beyond the period of infection.
3. Wash your hands often or use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer.
4. Cough or sneeze into your sleeve.
5. Refrain from shaking hands or holding hands during the sung benediction at the end of the Sunday service.
6. Get vaccinated.

## Pledge Campaign 2010 is Coming

We believe we are moving into a great new stage in our development as a congregation. Now, we can look further into the future. We can work together to build a steady and in-depth vision of where we want to go and how we want to get there. Reaching our goal will demand both clarity of purpose and the financial resources to achieve it.

Therefore, based on the experience and recommendation of our minister, John Marsh, we are proposing a more personal and conversational approach to our 2010 Pledge Campaign. Specifically, we would like to meet members in small groups, in meetings hosted by members in their homes. There, we can explore the issues together, answer questions, and hear suggestions for moving forward towards defining both our vision and what we will need to finance it. John and a co-chair of the Stewardship Committee will attend as sessions many as possible and make a short presentation. Sessions will be social gatherings and a chance to meet intimately with other members.

These small group meetings will be held from late January through March. That should be a long enough time span to allow everyone to find at least one suitable session, and for many people to contribute by hosting them. What we need now, though, are members who will volunteer to host a small-group session or sessions. Please give it some serious thought and let us know if you are willing to give it a go. Send a message to [stewardship@firstunitarianottawa.ca](mailto:stewardship@firstunitarianottawa.ca) or speak to Bob Armstrong (613-823-8751) or Prue Craib (613-719-7786) personally.

Blessings,

Bob and Prue,

Co-chairs, Stewardship Committee



### Thinking globally . . .

On a wet Saturday, many hundreds converged on Parliament Hill on October 24 to tell our government we want negotiators to work toward a strong climate change agreement at the UN conference in Copenhagen in December. First Unitarian had strong representation, with members carrying congregational and social justice banners. We were delighted to be joined by UUs from Montreal and Kingston!

Speakers included Elizabeth May (Green Party Leader), Robert Fox (Oxfam), Tzeporah Berman (PowerUP Canada), and Stephen Hazell (Sierra Club); art forms ranged from a flash dance by Power Shift youth, to crowd renditions of “ooh, it’s hot in here/ooh, c’est l’enfer ici . . .” As a finale, we spread across the lawns to “fill the Hill” for a broadcast to simultaneous Washington, D.C., demonstrations, moving our arms like giant clock hands ticking down to Copenhagen, as low mists lifted and Peace Tower bells rang the hour.

Watch for more national demonstrations on December 12, Global Day of Climate Action.



### . . . Acting locally

On November 7, several Environmental Working Group (EWG) members attended a meeting of a new local organization, Sustainable Living Ottawa West (SLOWest). Ably led by our own Jane Lindsay, participants brainstormed about what their neighbourhoods could be like if they were more sustainable. From community gardens to shared skills, tool libraries, citizens’ investment circles, and local currencies, the ideas flowed.

EWG is delighted to have a local organization like SLOWest to bounce ideas off and work with, on projects important to our congregation’s neighbourhood of Ottawa West.

—Alastaire Henderson



### Holtom Lecture

Celebration of Three Peace Makers: Edith Holtom, Flora Macdonald and Lotta Hitschmanova

On November 4, we celebrated three exceptional peace makers. The Holtom Lecture, established in honour of peace activist Edith Holtom by her family, was presented by the Honourable Flora MacDonald, a tireless humanitarian working especially in Afghanistan to help women support families and communities. The lecture was dedicated this year to Lotta Hitschmanova, on the 100th anniversary of her birth.

Edith Holtom was introduced by Rev. John Marsh and her granddaughter, Donna Holtom. In his short comments on Lotta Hitschmanova, journalist and writer Clyde Sanger pointed out the linkages to Flora MacDonald, both being avid travellers trying to help improve the lives of people and communities around the world. Flora MacDonald used a slide show to present the reality of life in Afghanistan, especially the situation of women. Through images and straightforward description of the people, she pointed out that the most urgent issues are food and education.

Chuck Shields provided thanks. A reception followed, at which Flora MacDonald and USC Canada representatives were surrounded by interested participants.

—Katrin Nagelschmitz



## Reflections from Nicky

The lower level buzzes with activity on Sunday mornings. Through stories and hands-on experiential activities, Religious Exploration leaders guide the children through prepared and engaging curricula, striving to make learning accessible to children with various learning styles and needs.

Let's take a walk down the corridors together and have a peek at what's going on! In the Moral Tales room, we'll find a small group of seven- and eight-year-olds exploring concepts such as welcome, empathy, non-violence, and responsibility. We might sit down to listen to a story in which children meet real and fictional heroines and heroes who have displayed moral courage and spiritual greatness, or perhaps hear the children themselves as they share their own stories as part of their Gems of Goodness project.

Meanwhile, a little ways down the hallway, the nine-year-olds are making clay lamps for Diwali, participating in a Samhain ritual, or creating menorahs and dreidels for Chanukah, as they learn about and celebrate some of the Holidays and Holy Days of fall and winter. Continuing on our journey, we walk past the NOW Room and find the five- and six-year-olds peacefully walking the labyrinth.

Across the way, we then see a large group of Junior Youth and adults involved in a game—the Coming of Age program has recently paired participants with adult mentors from the congregation who are supporting these youth as they continue to explore their personal spirituality and develop a greater sense of what they individually believe.

Without a doubt, children and youth are active and engaged, joyful, and eager to be here and participating

in Sunday-morning explorations. Come and see for yourselves! Of course, none of this would be happening without a very committed group of volunteer leaders, facilitators, and advisors who are willing to consider this work as a manifestation of their spiritual practice. Thank you, thank you, thank you for all that you do in support of our child and youth ministries!

As the light diminishes in our latitude of North America, we are preparing for the inner light that the winter holidays can bring. May you partake of this holiday season with mindfulness and delight!

Blessings,

Nicky Duenkel

Director of Lifespan Learning

### Religious Exploration Events

**Sunday, December 6:**

Mitten Tree Service for All Ages

**Sunday, December 20:**

Winter Crafts Workshop for Children  
Winter Solstice Soulful Sundown  
Service for All Ages, 4:00 p.m.

**Sunday, December 24:**

Christmas Eve Pageant, 5:00 p.m.



Left: Celebrating Me and My World, Linda Brown photo  
Middle: Holidays and Holy Days, Linda Brown photo  
Right: Coming of Age Chalice Retreat, Rachel Ozer photo



### Christmas in the Middle East

The first of a series of slide shows and discussions by Becky Hogue and Scott Drennan about their trip around the world. This part is about their time in Turkey, Syria, and Jordan last winter.

**When:** Sunday, December 13, from 12:30–2:30 p.m. **Where:** NOW Room

### Integral Philosophy Discussion

Can one be both spiritual and rational? The wisdoms of the great teachings were all developed before Newton, Freud, Darwin, and Einstein lived. How would Buddha or Jesus have taught differently if they had known the earth was round and that evolution was taking place?

Valerie Cousins and Dale Wilson are starting a new discussion group based on the works of Ken Wilber, author *Sex, Ecology, Spirituality* and *A Brief History of Everything*.

Focused on spirituality and enlightenment, this workshop is an exploration of spirituality compatible with science and UU principles.

**When:** alternate Saturdays beginning January 9, 2010, from 9:30 to 11:00 a.m.

### Weekly Meditation Group

The group will continue to meet until Wednesday, December 16 for basic breathing meditation and short exercises to develop mindfulness. Classes will resume January 6, 2010. Newcomers are welcome to begin at any time. Facilitated by Clea Derwent, assisted by Mo Gabe. Mo Gabe will lead the class December 9.

**When:** Wednesdays at 7:30 p.m.

**Where:** Room 4 **Contact:** clderwent@gmail.com, 613-695-0505

### Evensong

On December 2, Rev. John Marsh will lead the first week of a chalice group-style series entitled Evensong. The group will join in this with others who wish to do this program, on the first Wednesday of each month. For further details, contact Rev. Marsh at minister@firstunitarianottawa.ca.

### Reading for Growth

First Unitarian's RFG groups explore relevant issues through the reading of thought-provoking books.

One group meets on the second Monday of the month. In December, Monday RFG discusses *Afterbirth*, edited by Dani Klein Modisett.

**When:** December 14, 1:00–3:00 p.m.

**Where:** Rose Room, Unitarian House  
The Friday afternoon group will not be meeting in December.

### A Note from Joan

I have been asking for and encouraging submissions of writing and photos for the Lifespan Learning pages for about three years now, and these will be my final pages. I have enjoyed being a part of the development of Lifespan Learning in this congregation. I am grateful for the opportunities I have had as a volunteer. All the best to Annie MacTavish, editor of the *Parkway Spire* and her volunteer editorial staff. I think that the *Parkway Spire* is a publication we can all be proud of!

—Joan Turner

### Introducing Ourselves

Designed to give newcomers as much information as possible. We will ask about your spiritual journey so far, and share the histories of Unitarianism, Universalism, and this congregation. Led by Rev. John Marsh.

**When:** Tuesdays, January 5 to 26 at 7:00 p.m. **Registration:** Sign up on the bulletin board near the small kitchen or call the church office at 613-725-1066 **Contact:** Rev. John Marsh, 613-725-1066 or minister@firstunitarianottawa.ca.



## Our Whole Lives Training

From October 23 to 25, twelve trainees from Ottawa, Toronto, Montreal, Canton, NY and Phoenix, Arizona came together for a three-day intensive course on facilitating Adult and Young Adult OWL workshops. The training was facilitated by Monica Bennett and Jane Detwiler, from Hamilton and Boston, respectively. The trainees learned about a range of effective facilitation techniques and sexuality topics, and had a chance to practise facilitating some workshops themselves. The hope is that Ottawa attendees will have a chance to put their new skills to use at Adult and/or Young Adult OWL courses in the winter of 2010.

—Stephen Gabe

### Lifespan Learning Council

The council met on November 3. Present were Rev. John Marsh, Minister; Nicky Duenkel, Director of Lifespan Learning; Linda Brown, Children's RE; Guy Belleperche, OWL; Wendy Doyle, Adult Learning, Arthur Palmer, Seniors' Worship and Lunch Program; Louise Lefort, Board Liaison; and Jane Perry, Music.

Tamara Brown provided us with a report about the Youth group.

Kim Elmer, Chair, of the Adult Library Committee, provided a proposal for a living Adult Library which is vibrant, simple, supports ongoing learning programs and UU initiatives and is actively used. With the support of the LL Council, Kim and Rev. Marsh subsequently made decisions about which books could be donated to the Fall Fair or discarded. Thanks to Brian Cowan, newly donated books have been catalogued. Books from the library can be borrowed any time by simply filling in the card in the book and leaving it in the designated box in the Lounge.

The next meeting of the council is Tuesday, February 2, 2010.

—Joan Turner



### Seniors' Lunch Program

Members of the congregation and their friends continue to enjoy our monthly programs and each other's company. Attendance is typically around fifty to sixty in the cooler months and twenty-five to thirty-five in the summer. We have a planning committee of twelve people, and many volunteers who take turns to prepare the lunches, lay tables and clear up.

Our programs are quite varied. For music we have listened to our own Jane Perry and to visiting choirs and dance groups. Talks are popular, from our ministers to our own members, as for example Trudy Kassner, on her life as a professional skater, and others on their war experiences. From visiting speakers, we have heard in recent months about the history of Westboro and an illustrated account of a pilgrimage on the Camino de Santiago in Spain.

—Arthur Palmer



### Youth Group

The Youth Group is running again this year in the youth room (Room 1) each Sunday during the service. There are a lot of new youth this year, and most Sundays see close to fifteen there. In fact, we hope to find another sofa!

Twelve youth (along with advisors Stephen Gabe and Guy Belleperche) went to the Lintons' cottage on retreat in early October. We had a wonderful time getting to know each other and also planned a lot of what we want to do this year.

We would all like Youth Group to have more presence in the church and to do more social actions. So far we have been active in the church by helping the UU-UNO group, selling UNICEF cards and running the toy room at the Fall Fair.

One of our youth, Tamara Brown, is the co-Dean for CanUUdle in Victoria in 2010. One thought is that maybe the Youth Group could raise money to send some more Ottawa youth there. As well, we hope to participate in some youth cons, as well as the UU-UNO Spring Seminar in New York City in April. We are so excited!

—Arden Hody



# Musicalia Sound and Light

## Support the Sound and Light Upgrade Project!

This month, project co-leads Meg Gourlay and Jane Perry are kicking off fundraising for our sound and light system, with three exciting opportunities:

### Sponsor a Microphone!

Your donation towards a specific piece of equipment will earn you a place in one of the following groups:

- **Cable Cupid** (under \$25): Sponsor a length of microphone/audio cable.
- **Software Saint** (\$25 to \$49): Help us get the computer software for the new digital system.
- **Microphone Maestro** (\$50 to \$99): A new microphone can cost anywhere between \$250 and \$1,000.
- **Computer Champion** (\$100 to \$199): The digital system requires a new computer to run it.
- **Digital Soundboard Donor** (\$200 to \$299): We are going digital so that we can continue to send our morning worship service to Unitarian House when radio is replaced by digital broadcast in 2010.
- **Audio Angel** (\$300 and up): Help us to get new speakers for Worship Hall and the lower level.

### An auction of cozy handmade Afghan blankets!

Our Crafty Crafters have been busy with the creation of gorgeous wool throws to keep you toasty warm this winter. Watch for auction details in December editions of eUU and the Communique.

### The Ewashko Singers in Concert!

Conducted by the noted Ottawa conductor Laurence Ewashko, this group of Ottawa's finest choristers present a concert of holiday music from around the world, featuring solos, duets, and full choral performances. Proceeds go to the Sound and Light Upgrade Project.

**When:** Friday, December 11 at 7:30 p.m. **Where:** Worship Hall. **Tickets:** \$20 regular, \$12 senior/student, or pay what you can at the door.

—Jane Perry, Music Director

[music@firstunitarianottawa.ca](mailto:music@firstunitarianottawa.ca) or 613-725-1066 ext. 230

## World AIDS Day Ecumenical Service.

Join us in Worship Hall as we mark World AIDS Day with readings, reflections and choral music. Joining with us in this event are the Church of St. John the Evangelist (Anglican), All Saints Westboro, and First United Church. You will hear choral offerings from Tone Cluster, the Ottawa Gay Men's Chorus, and our own Chalice Choir. Reception to follow.

**When:** Tuesday, December 1 at 7:30 p.m. **Where:** Worship Hall.

**Information:** Music Director Jane Perry in the church office.

## Choirs' Winter Concert!

The Choirs of First Unitarian Congregation present Songs of December with guest musician Ellie Glantz (cantorial soloist). The first half of the program will include works to mark both World AIDS Day (December 1) and the 20th anniversary of the École Polytechnique Massacre in Montreal (December 6). In the second half, we celebrate the light in the midst of darkness with the music of Chanukah and Christmas. Reception to follow.

**When:** Sunday, December 6 at 3:00 p.m. **Where:** Worship Hall. **Tickets:** \$15 regular, \$10 senior/student, or pay what you can at the door.

# Lay Chaplaincy Program

First Unitarian needs an additional lay chaplain. The Lay Chaplaincy Committee is interested in receiving applications from members of the congregation who would like to serve in this capacity. Lay chaplains perform rites of passage services, mainly weddings, memorials and child dedications.

Those interested in being considered are asked to submit the following material by Monday, January 11, 2010:

- a curriculum vitae including your name and full contact information;
- a statement (around two pages in length) regarding your experience within the congregation and within the Unitarian denomination, your reasons for wanting to become a lay chaplain and what you believe you would bring to the role;
- three names and contact information for references, at least two of whom must be members of the congregation.

This material should be addressed to: Carol Card, Chair, Lay Chaplaincy Committee, c/o First Unitarian Congregation of Ottawa, 30 Cleary Avenue, Ottawa, ON, K2A 4A1, or [office@firstunitarianottawa.ca](mailto:office@firstunitarianottawa.ca). The selection committee will review applications and will hold interviews with candidates in late January 2010.

In reviewing applications, the Committee will be using the following criteria, which, other than the first one, are not presented in rank order.

The successful candidate will be someone who:

- is a committed and active member of the congregation
- is a good listener
- has good social skills and self-confidence
- is able to demonstrate sensitivity, but is also capable of being firm
- is flexible (must be comfortable with not being "in control")
- has a broad background of experience
- has a good understanding of Unitarianism
- is comfortable doing same-sex marriages
- is well-organized and punctual
- has experience and skill in public speaking.

For more information about a lay chaplain's role, please visit [http://www.cuc.ca/lay\\_chaplaincy/index.htm](http://www.cuc.ca/lay_chaplaincy/index.htm) or contact one of the following:

- Rev. John Marsh, 613-725-1066, [minister@firstunitarianottawa.ca](mailto:minister@firstunitarianottawa.ca)
- Bob Armstrong, 613-823-8751, [bob@theArmstrongs.ca](mailto:bob@theArmstrongs.ca)
- Caroline Elson, lay chaplain, 613-726-7199, [caroline.elson@gmail.com](mailto:caroline.elson@gmail.com)
- Carol Card, Chair, Lay Chaplaincy Committee, 613-722-2525, [card-philar@sympatico.ca](mailto:card-philar@sympatico.ca)

## THANK YOU! MERCI! GRACIAS!

*Here are some people and activities to appreciate, recognize, and celebrate:*

*Maury Prevost is the editor of this column. You can submit items to him by sending an e-mail to [mmprevost@sympatico.ca](mailto:mmprevost@sympatico.ca) or by calling 613-231-7391 at least forty-eight hours before the Parkway Spire deadline.*

- The people from Unitarian House and those who use the southeast stairwell to access Worship Hall and Fellowship Hall would like to thank Custodian Philip Downs for the recently installed coat hooks at the top of the stairwell.
- Guy Belleperche for his attention to detail as Registrar for the Young Adult/Adult OWL Facilitation training held on October 23 to 25; Lisa Sharp for arranging home hospitality for out-of-town registrants; and Jodi Banner and helpers who planned, prepared, and donated the delicious food.
- Susan Mackenzie, Nancy Lauder, Margaret Linton, Mary Duncan, and Ani Arnott for their efforts in emergency planning to meet a possible H1N1 pandemic.
- The Noble Birds give thanks to Kathleen Hughes for organizing the young adult social in November.
- Mary Duncan and others who organized the wonderful Holtom Lecture on November 4.
- The eighteen singers from the Chalice Choir who performed at a terrific Stephen Lewis Foundation fundraising evening at the NAC Fourth Stage on November 4.
- Valerie Cousins, Kent Swinburne, and those who organized Rev. John Marsh's installation on November 16. Ria Heynen and Isabel Burrows for organizing the evening reception. Thanks also to the dozen or so people who made the brunch for invited guests.
- Sharmila Khare and Chuck Shields for giving their time and expertise to lead the five-session course, "Articulating Your Faith." for fourteen participants.
- Our hard-working staff—Ani, Sylvia, Jane, Nicky, Marie, Annie, Phillip, Kevin, Mike, and Wesley—who do so much to support us in all of these and other activities.



## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### Year-End Finances

- Please ensure that all expense claims for the 2009 expenditures are submitted to the office before December 31.
- Please make any contributions to fulfill your 2009 pledge before the end of the year.
- If you wish to make your 2010 pledge now, you can do so. Just identify it as a 2010 contribution.
- Please note that all contributions received in the office or the floor safe in the Volunteer room before December 31, 2009 will be attributed to the 2009 tax year. Those received after December 31 will be attributed to the 2010 tax year.
- Please identify your intention on the memo line of any donation cheque or on any enclosing envelope.

### Welcoming New Members and Friends

We welcome those who have become Members of the Congregation: Jane Arbique, Jessie Davis, Lorna Davis, Kathleen Hughes, Marg Lee, Aditya Rai, Junior Member, Shree Rai, Dikchhya Rai, Ela Rusak, and Fiona Simmins.

And we welcome the following who have registered as Friends of the Congregation :

Meenara Akter, Doly Akter, Samsu Mia, Tahmina Akter, Mostofa Miah, Ronald Bell, Ray Benesch, Denis Bouillon, Robert Cummings, Sarah Dewar Norman Goddard, Janice Gray, Susan Hulley, Mary McCaffrey, Musharraf Miah, Nurulislam Miah, Racquel Smith, Charlene Smith, and Wendy Tomlinson.

—Submitted by Katherine Gunn

### Come sleep with us!

Planning to come to the Winter Olympics 2010? Beacon Unitarian Church in the Tri-Cities suburb of Vancouver, BC is offering in-home bed and breakfast, January through March, 2010.

For information go to [www.BeaconUnitarian.org](http://www.BeaconUnitarian.org) or call registrar Joy Silver at (604) 939-2213 or e-mail [odetojoy@telus.net](mailto:odetojoy@telus.net)

### ArtSpace

December Exhibit Schedule: Joan Devine. Artspace is in the Lounge. Contact: Laurie Foster-MacLeod at 613-728-1916

### UU Round Table Lunch -

You are invited to the Rose Bowl at 1717 Carling Avenue, 613-729-4000 Friday, December 18th, 1:00 p.m. Everyone welcome, especially newcomers.

Contact: Tudy McLaine, 613-745-8074 or Marjorie Daechsel, 613-596-1471 by Thursday, December 17th, to reserve a seat.

### Unitarian Women

The Unitarian Women's Group will hold its potluck lunch in Fellowship Hall on December 17. Bring a favourite dish, utensils, plate, and cup and meet us at 11:30 a.m. Please note a change to the Christmas gift exchange: In lieu of a gift, please bring an item or two to be given to the food bank.

MINISTERS  
LEVEE

# Holiday Gifts of Hope

## Reclaiming Christmas

Looking for a way to reduce stress during the Holidays? As an alternative to traditional gift giving, why not “reclaim Christmas” by offering a gift of hope made through a Unitarian Universalist charity?

One possible project is Child Haven International’s SoyaCow Project. This program funds an eco-friendly alternative to cow’s milk that feeds children in Child Haven homes and generates employment for local women. SoyaCow is environmentally sound, promotes sustainable small business, and provides nutritious food to children in need. Sounds like a perfect Christmas gift to me!

If you prefer a project closer to home, consider a contribution to the First Unitarian’s Building Renewal Campaign. The campaign is just shy of its goal and your contribution, no matter the size, would be appreciated. The International Council of Unitarians and Universalists’ India Project is another possible gift of hope. This program aims to start a Unitarian school in the Khasi Hills. Contributions to the school fund—a priceless gift of literacy—may be made through the CUC.

Reclaiming Christmas gift giving is possible and the benefits are many. Do some research, talk to other UUs, and then put your Christmas spirit to work.

Happy Holidays,  
Carol Anne Deneka

## Seasonal Mincemeat and Apple Pies

Mincemeat-apple and apple pies will be sold Sunday, December 6. Pies cost \$14 to \$12 respectively; profits will go to the Sound and Light Fund. To reserve pies, please contact Bobbee at [robertaengel@gmail.com](mailto:robertaengel@gmail.com); be sure to specify if you want your pies baked, unbaked, or frozen.

Do you love the smell of apple pies baking? Come help the Pie Makers and Bakers; we have jobs for any skill-set! We’ll convene the afternoon of **Friday, December 4**, in Fellowship Hall.

## Mitten Tree Sunday, December 13

While thinking about your donation of mitts, hats, or scarves for the Snowsuit Fund, please remember that the Crafty Crafters Knitters will be selling their creations in the West Lobby before service on December 13. Once again, the Knitters will offer a selection of unique, hand-knitted treasures, from traditional to trendy.

## Holiday Grocery Cards

Here is a pain-free way to support our congregation! Get your pre-paid Loblaw gift cards from a friendly VSOP during church office hours. Cards purchased over the holiday season yield a larger commission for the church coffers. Available in denominations from \$25 to \$250.

NEW AD

### JANE LINDSAY, Facilitator Guided Self Healing

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### First Unitarian Memorabilia Clearout

Everything must go! First Unitarian is clearing out its inventory of congregational memorabilia. We have t-shirts, fleece vests, stainless-steel water bottles, and cookbooks. For the collector, we are selling off our limited supply of 1998 centennial mugs and twenty-two carat gold-rimmed commemorative plates! Look for the sale table on Sundays after service, or talk to a VSOP during church office hours. **Contact:** Joan Auden, auden@primus.ca

### Fair Trade for the Holidays

**For sale:** Fair trade, organic chocolate products and Zatoun Xtra Virgin Olive Oil, plus other Zatoun products! A great opportunity to buy special Christmas gifts and, at the same time, support local communities in nations where people are struggling to survive. Brought to you by the Environmental and Global Justice Working Groups.

**When:** after the services on Sunday, December 13 and Sunday, December 20 **Where:** Fellowship Hall.

—Ria Heynen

### GoGo Granny Squares

The Unitarian GoGos will be having their December Granny Squares sale on Sunday, December 13 in Fellowship Hall after service. In keeping with a three-year tradition, we will also be offering a good selection of Christmas baking to help you with your holiday preparation and entertaining. And new this year will be homemade jams and marmalade, as well as our distinctive and attractive new aprons, which make lovely Christmas gifts.



NEW AD

### For Rent

Charming, newly renovated small three bedroom house on spacious lot. New kitchen with dishwasher. Wooden floors. Washer and Dryer. Walking distance from experimental farm, and Civic Hospital. Garage for one car. Close to elementary school and OC bus routes. Rent \$1,300 plus utilities. Available December first or 15th.

Two references required, one from employer. Non-smoker and no cats preferred. Lease 6 months or 18 months with option to renew. Owned by first unitarian church member. Contact Mike at 613-316-0621

## Norma Helen Hatcher (Morris)

1925–2009

**B**orn to Edwin and Lila Morris on September 25, 1925 in NDG, Montreal, Norma shared a happy, enlightened childhood with her sister Gwen (Wulff). She met Gordon Hatcher (and many of her life-long friends) at McGill University in Montreal during weekend skiing trips. They were married on June 9, 1945, the same year Norma graduated with B.Sc. honours in biochemistry. Over the next sixty years Norma grew with Gordon and their three children, Peter, Bruce and Eleanor, through the halcyon days of North America's golden age, and the troubled ones of its decline. Competence, integrity and balance were the signal traits of this thoroughly modern, multi-tasking wife, mother and scientist as she guided her family through fifteen household moves spanning Toronto to Miami to Halifax and back to Montreal, where in 1967 she completed her M.Sc. in microbiology at McGill. After they moved to

Albany, New York, in 1968, Norma worked for the New York State Department of Health for twenty-two years, pursuing a professional career focused on reducing the suffering of families with children carrying congenital diseases. Norma and Gordon moved to Ottawa in 1997 and joined the First Unitarian Congregation here.

For Norma, all her children were well-adjusted successes; her gardens were delightful just like those of her parents; and her meals were gourmet events, especially for Gordon. As Gordon's health deteriorated, Norma sacrificed hers to keep their lives united as long as the medical authorities would permit. A thoughtful and committed Unitarian from teenage years, Norma found and nurtured that church in every city she inhabited, finishing her life with stoicism and courage at Unitarian House in Ottawa on November 4, 2009. Grandchildren Suzanne, Matthew, Scott, Erik, Carl and Martin; and great-grandchildren

Holly (daughter of deceased grandson Ian) and Lucas carry Norma's biological spirit into the future. Respected and loved by all who knew her, Norma made a positive difference in this world!

There will be a memorial service held to celebrate Norma's life at 2:00 p.m. on Saturday, January 30, 2010, at the First Unitarian Congregation of Ottawa, 30 Cleary Ave, Ottawa, Ontario. Please forward condolences to Peter Hatcher, #311, 7327 118 St., Edmonton, Alberta, T6G 1S5. Donations in lieu of flowers should be sent to the Unitarian Service Committee, 56 Sparks Street, Suite 705, Ottawa, ON, K1P 5B1 or McGill University, Martlet House, 1430 Peel St., Montreal, Quebec, H3A 3T3.



THE PARKWAY SPIRE  
First Unitarian Congregation  
of Ottawa  
30 Cleary Avenue  
Ottawa, Ontario K2A 4A1