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June 2018 Services

Unrepeatable

e and unrepeatable as is We celebrate this the beauty of coming e bouquet of community as nual flower communion. with Unitarian history and Universalist theology.

Rev Debra Faulk, ovar and Lynn Nugent or Jane Perry

ninine-Masculine: Sundown rise on Compassion and Harmony

Leaving the once "celebrated" paradigm of the Battle of the Sexes, we are in transition from jittery change to creating and shaping our planet's next civilization for our children and children's children.

Service Facilitators: Hendrik Schaink and Rev Debra Faulk

Music: Music Director Jane Perry and UUphonia

June 17th Youth Led

Join the youth collective (both junior and senior youth) as they reflect on interdependence and how we learn from each other. From sharing experiences to celebrating major and minor milestones, youth members invite us to ponder bridging as an ongoing experience. Bringing our close knit circle out of the basement to the wider congregation, this service is a reminder that growing up is a group activity.

Service Facilitators: Youth and Youth Staff

June 24th Old Fashion Hymn Sing

Ever popular with our congregation, our annual hymn-sing service is a mostly-music service, bursting at the seams with our favourite hymns and rounds and featuring a couple of guest soloists. Bring your coffee, bring your best singing voice, and bring a friend --- and let's sing in the summer season together!

Service Facilitators & Musicians: Music Director Jane Perry, Brandis Purcell and friends



2 June 2018

Debra's Deliberations



I write this while attending our national conference of Unitarians and Unitarian Universalist from across Canada and UU Ministers of Canada Professional Days. There are more than 40 ministers gathered. Some are retired, some in the formation process, some community ministers, some serving hybrid ministries, some part time and many of us serving full-time community and Parish ministry. It is such a rich time and a time to recognize that many of the things that we struggle with in Calgary, are the same; matters of changes in the culture of religious community and stewardship, shifts in volunteerism and membership, these are issues faced in both Parish and community settings. Recognizing similar challenge is affirming and also provides the gift of sharing possible solutions. I am inspired!

This gathering provides the opportunity for collective imagining of solutions. There is a recognition of the gift of Congregational polity; each congregation has its own culture and determines how it is expressed. We joyfully create a greater recognition of another aspect of Congregational polity, that of sharing and supporting our neighbors. As ministers from across the country we are deeply engaging what it means to be Unitarian and Unitarian Universalist at this time. I see a significant shift from fierce individualism to more a sharing community orientation both at the personal and congregational level. This phenomenon shows itself in the broader culture as well. The sharing economy is growing in so many ways from Car2Go to tool libraries, so many examples of this cultural shift. How will we engage this?

In these deliberations I also wanted to share with you part of my summer plans. This is the 450th anniversary of Unitarianism. The name of our denomination was first coined in Transylvania. Ever since I was a youth I have delighted in that fact. Visiting the roots of this faith tradition has been on my bucket list since those early times. This summer I will go on a pilgrimage with other Unitarian ministers to Transylvania.

Beginning and ending in Kolozsvár/Cluj, this pilgrimage will take me to the region's most significant Unitarian holy places including Torda, Gyulaferhervar & Deva. We will help celebrate the 450th anniversary of the Edict of Torda by being at the dedication of the Center for Religious Freedom in the renovated Bishop's House in Kolozsvár and attend a conference on religious freedom led by a panel of theologians from Transylvania, the US, Indonesia, India and Burundi. The pilgrimage will include three days of conversation and joint programming with Hungarian Unitarian Church colleagues at a retreat center. This pilgrimage is only open to ministers, members of the UUMA and the Hungarian Unitarian Church Ministers Association, along with UU ministers from the UK and Ireland.

I will have lots to share!

Namaste, Debra

Please contact Debra directly to chat or arrange an appointment:

debra@unitarianscalgary.org or (403) 702-6486





Death Cafe

The Death Café is a relaxed and safe place where people can drink tea, eat cake, and discuss death, dying and grief. Learn to embrace life more fully as your awareness of death increases.

This Death Café will be held June 9, 2018 2:00 PM-4:00

PM and will be facilitated by Bev Webber, a Lay Chaplain with the Calgary Unitarians. These cafes are extremely popular, so while there is no charge, advanced registration is required. Please contact Bev Webber with questions or to register at webberbev@gmail.com 403-863-3110.



Save the Date! Calgary Unitarians will march in the 2018 Pride Parade on Sunday, September 2. We have signs! We have a quadracycle Surrey with fringe on the top! Join us for a fun walk in a family-friendly festival!





4 - Others 4 June

June's 4-Others recipient is Ecojustice, chosen by the Green Sanctuary Committee. Ecojustice is Canada's largest environmental law charity, working with their clients without charge to challenge governments and polluters in court to protect species and ecosystems under threat, protect communities from toxic chemicals and pollution, and accelerate the transition to a clean energy future.

"Will you teach your children what we have taught our children?

That the Earth is our Mother?

What befalls the Earth befalls the sons of the Earth. This we know: the Earth does not belong to Man, Man belongs to the Earth.

All things are connected like the blood that unites us all.

Man did not weave the web of life, he is merely a strand in it.

Whatever he does to it, he does to himself." Chief Seattle, 1854







Unitarian Sponsorship and Sanctuary

In March 2018 the Calgary Unitarians entered a one-year private sponsorship to help the Abdulrazzaq family settle in Calgary. In 2016, we sponsored an Ethiopian couple, Desalegnn and Worknesh. (<u>unitarianscalgary.org</u>, social justice, refugee sponsorship). This call for social justice action to help refugees flee persecution or war is not new. In1963, at the General Assembly of the Unitarian Universalist Association of Congregations (UUA)(with whom we were affiliated at the time) explicitly stated that they are in support of more just immigration policies. Over the years, the Calgary Unitarians have participated in sanctuary and sponsorships,

fully or partially funded by the Federal Government and by private sources as well.

In 1979 during the ministry of Jerome Howell, there was an exodus of "boat people" from Vietnam following the Vietnam war. It was desperate times for those living in Vietnam and the church sponsored the Nguyen family with 2 children, Bic age 6 and Hang age 5. This was a 2-year commitment to support their resettlement in Canada. The girls have gone on to lead productive lives, are married and have children of their own.

During the interim ministry of Josiah Bartlett in 1993, the church was asked to consider providing sanctuary for Mauricio from El Salvador who was facing deportation from Canada. Mauricio feared his return to El Salvador would result in his imprisonment or death. In December 1993, Mauricio Romero accepted sanctuary in the Church where he lived until receiving permission to remain in Canada in May 1994. Mauricio went on to find employment and get married.

Roderick Brown's ministry in 1999 saw the church enter a two year sponsorship of the Canhasi family, Fahredin, Ylfete, Durim (6) and Blendi (4) an Albanian family fleeing war torn Kosovo. After coming to Canada, they had two more children, Djellza and Rezon. The family learned English, the parents found jobs, became Canadian citizens, and integrated into Canadian life. The two older boys are now living on their own, working and pursuing their dreams. The two younger ones are completing their secondary education.

These are just a few of the calls to social justice relating to immigration that our congregation has answered over the years. The many Individuals who worked closely with these families remark that they received the unexpected reward of meaningful and lasting friendships.

The Canadian Unitarian Council (CUC) is designated as a Sponsorship Agreement Holder in partnership with the federal government. This designation means the CUC can authorize congregations to sponsor refugees. Sponsorship requires the commitment of a group of people to help refugees find their footing, establish themselves, and integrate into Canadian society.



Purchase Calgary Co-op Gift Cards, Make Money for CUU!

There truly is strength in numbers! The more Co-Op gift cards we order, the more money is made for Calgary Unitarians (CUU). This is the easiest, most efficient way to make a financial contribution to Our Beloved Community. When we spend \$5000 or less on cards, CUU receives 4% of that total. When the CUU order is between \$5000 - \$9999, 6% of the total goes towards our budget. And when \$10,000 or more is spent, Calgary Unitarians will net a whopping 9% of that gift card order. Now that is a LOT of dough!



Summer is Coming! Make Your July and August Co-op Card Purchases NOW!

We welcome postdated cheques or consider increasing your purchases in June for the summer months of barbequing, entertaining, travel, whatever the reason. These cards are convenient, easy to use, and helps support the good work

that Calgary Unitarians does in the community. It is truly a win-win proposition! Co-op has cards for different purchases, one type of card to purchase groceries and gas; a different one for purchases at Co-op Wine Spirits Beer locations.

You can make your **Summer Gift Card order Sunday, June 3, 2018** and then pick up your order the following **Sunday, June 10, 2018.**

We accept cheques, cash, or e-transfer!

These gift cards can be used either as gifts or for your own purchases. Please specify at the time of ordering which type of gift cards you are requesting.

How it works:

1. On the first Sunday of the month, using cash, cheque, or e- transfer place your order at the table in Wickenden Hall before or after the service. If you are not going to be at church on the first Sunday of the month, you can leave post-dated cheques in the Co-op Card/Fruit Cake Cheques mail slot in the administration office.

2. The gift cards will be distributed on the second Sunday of the month. If you are unable to pick up your cards on that day, you can collect it on the next Sunday.

3. Use the gift cards like cash when you make purchases at Calgary Co-op. You receive immediate cash

discounts with gas purchases that can be used in Co-op grocery stores; cards must be redeemed inside the gas bar when purchasing gas. When you become a member of the Calgary Co-op you also receive dividends at the end of each year; it's just that easy!

Any questions? Contact: Ev Dewar <u>ev.dewar@kogawa.com</u>, Sheila Ward <u>sggward@shaw.ca</u>, Frances Schaink <u>blue.sky@infovisi.com</u>, Alex Russell <u>itfromblighty@gmail.com</u>





6 June 2018

It's PUB NIGHT!

When: June 6th from 7:00-9:30pm
Where: Kensington Pub- 207 10A St. NW
www.kensingtonpub.com
Come out for a night of great conversation at one of
Calgary's most iconic pubs. The menu is very inclusive,
complete with gluten free and vegetarian options.
Pub Nights are held on the first Wednesday of every month.
Hope to see YOU there!





Young Adults Board

Games Day When: June16th from 2:00-6:00pm Where: Calgary Unitarians 1703 1st NW

There isn't a better way to connect with the young adults in your community than through some games, snacks, conversation and laughter! We will have all of this and more. Please feel free to bring a favourite board game and a snack or drink to share.

Truth, Healing, and Reconciliation Engagement

On Friday, May 11, 2018, seven of us Calgary Unitarians gathered with Debra to talk about our experiences at the Walking With Our Sisters event, which remembers and honours missing and murdered Indigenous women and girls and their families. We also discussed the movie, Indian Horse, from Richard Wagamese's novel of the same name, about a Native boy's residential school experience. Two of us had also attended David Bouchard's *Story As Medicine* presentation at the Calgary Public Library. Over a potluck dinner we shared our feelings, thoughts, questions, and experiences and explored ideas for other THR engagement activities.

Upcoming events:

June 26th - A group visit to the Glenbow Museum to view the art exhibit: *Alex Janvier: Modern Indigenous Master.* See the sign-up sheet on the "Church Activities" bulletin board.

June 23rd - "Keeping the Circle Strong" Aboriginal Awareness Week Calgary's Family Day Festival & Powwow at the former Indian Village, South end of Stampede Park. See the sign-up sheet on the "Community Events" bulletin board.

September 29th - Blackfoot-guided tour of the Blackfoot permanent exhibit at Glenbow Museum. More information and a sign-up sheet to come.

Fall/Winter/Spring 2018-19: Group reads: *Braiding Sweetgrass: Indigenous Wisdom, Scientific Knowledge, and the Teachings of Plants* by Robin Wall Kimmerer and *The Inconvenient Indian: a Curious Account of Native People in North America* by Thomas King.



7 June 2018

J UpBeat News with Jane Perry

Thank-you from Unison Festival! The Board and the Host Choirs of the Unison Festival Unisson 2018 offer heartfelt thanks to Calgary Unitarians for all that this community did to help make this national LGBTQ2 choral festival such a resounding success. Calgary Unitarians was named as the sponsor of one of the concert events in recognition of the rehearsal space it offered to the Host Choirs Massed Chorus, at a generous rental rate, from February through May 2018. Many from our community cheerfully volunteered throughout the festival weekend as ticket-takers, choir wranglers, roadies, and more. And many more bought tickets and came to cheer! Calgary Unitarians helped to make the festival a real community success --- thank you!

Thank-you to UUphonia and Chor Vida! As our music programme wraps up another terrific year, Music Director Jane Perry offers her grateful thanks to all the singers who gave time, energy, and enthusiastic voices to our two choirs this season. You add joy and heart to our Sunday services, enthusiasm to our choir-concert events, and an outstanding spirit of volunteerism across the board. A standing ovation to you all!

Huzzah to the Concert Production Team! Under the capable leadership of team captain Charlene Hoeppner, our Concert Production Team produced three wonderful concert events this past season at Calgary Unitarians: the choirs' November concert, February's An Afternoon of Chamber Music with cellist Tom Mirhady and friends, and April's Jazz On The Side show. Thanks and congratulations to Charlene and to Linda Brown, Donna Ontonio, Judy Osborne, and Hedda Zahner, along with Board liaison Ned Leavitt.

Resident choirs in concert! Calgary Renaissance Singers Players present "A Celebration of Jewish Choral Music" with Spiritus Chamber Choir and, in its first-ever Canadian performance, Los Angeles Zimriyah Chorale.



This concert is a collaborative effort by these three choruses and is generously sponsored by Beth Tzedec Conservative Congregation. There is a growing buzz about this concert --- get your tickets soon! Tuesday, June 19 at 7:30pm at Beth Tzedec Conservative Congregation (1325 Glenmore Trail SW.) Tickets: \$30/ \$25. Tickets are available online now at www.renaissance-singers.com

And looking ahead to next year....

Are you curious about the concerts we'll be offering next season? Want to know the gathering dates and times for the Coffee Choir? And when the heck is Cabaret 2019 happening? Check out the Summer Quest (July/ August edition) next month for the details!



Want to join in next semester's choirs? Stay tuned for details!





Religious Exploration Program



The children's choice 4 Others for the month of April was the Pet Access League Society.

PALS received <u>\$669.30</u> to continue their great work with pet therapy animals,

helping humans in need. We had three therapy dogs visit our classroom on Sunday, April 29th.



Pet Access League Society volunteers (Left to Right) Blondie, Dom and Stella, and their lovely human handlers.



Honouring Mother Earth on Mother's Day

Thank you to volunteer Ronnie Joy, who led the "Council of Children" on Mother's Day May 13th We danced, drummed, rattled and sang, celebrating the Earth as our Mother. Snow cats, polar bears and bunnies all contributed to the conversation.



We celebrated Earth Day by creating useful objects from recycling! Thank you to our volunteer Heather Walker for her April 22nd "Tossed and Found" class, where the children made cell phone holders, robots, pin holders, treasure boxes and more!

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Our Endowment Trust Fund Portfolio 2017 Year End Update

In 2015, we transferred our Calgary Endowment Funds to the larger Canadian Unitarian Council Endowment so that we could piggyback on their greater diversification and professional management. We still retain the ability to remove our funds when we wish, but instead of being a small Calgary based portfolio, we are now part of almost \$6 million fund which ensures that our investments get significantly more professional attention. The CUC investment manager, Alan Harman of Scotia McLeod, also applies socially responsible filters based on analysis from Sustainalytics which address environmental, social and governance factors.

We had a stellar year in 2017, gaining 12.85% net of all fees. We now have a fund worth approximately \$467,000! A portion of the income from our endowment fund each year is transferred to our congregation's budget to support annual operations.

Here is the commentary from Alan Harman on our year's performance:

"In 2017 the portfolio gained 12.85% net of all fees. A couple of relevant benchmarks to consider would be the TSE Total Return Index 9.10% and the TSX Universal Overall Bond Index 2.52%. The since inception net return is now 8.67% net (per year) vs 8.63% for the TSE and 3.01% for the TSX bond index.

Outperformance came from our overweight position in preferred shares on the fixed income side of the portfolio and a growing position in U.S. stocks (13% of portfolio) on the equity side (the S&P 500 Index – U.S. stocks - was up 14% in Canadian dollar terms in 2017).

The asset mix at 2017 year end stood at 69.2% equity (just under the 70% investment policy statement maximum weighting) and 28.8% in fixed income (cash, bonds, and preferred shares).

As we do not own equities in any fossil fuel/extraction industry companies (no energy or mining companies) the portfolio is "concentrated" in other industries, most particularly financials. While concentration normally translates into higher risk I believe the risks of owning extraction industry stocks would be greater and believe that we are making both ethical and prudent investment decisions.

I expect to continue with our current asset mix in 2018 as it is consistent with our outlook for stock market outperformance of bond markets and rising interest rates."

Alan Harmon

Scotia McLeod Wealth Management





Caring Team Opportunities

Summer Shawl Project

We have a Caring Shawl Ministry so that when a member or friend is hurting or healing, in pain of any kind, we can give them a shawl or lap blanket as a physical community 'hug'. These symbols of the care offered by Calgary Unitarian are made by the loving hands of many individuals – you could be one. The patterns, wool and knitting needles will be provided, even some basic knitting lessons if needed.

Food Bank Box

You may have noticed the Food Bank Box in the Barker Room. This is a Caring Ministry we offer for those who come knocking at our door and for those in our community that might need some assistance with extra food

to get them through the month. We also gratefully receive donations of new socks and toiletries (travel size soap, shampoo, tooth paste/brushes, etc.) so we can create comfort bags. Please consider contributing. There is also a box for pet food as some of the folks who come have pets in need as well.

For questions or further information contact caring@calgaryunitarians.ca



Volunteer Sign Up Made Easy!

Thanks to everyone who has signed up to volunteer on Sunday mornings with coffee, welcoming, setting up, or ushering. If you haven't had the opportunity to volunteer, or wish to do more, please visit our volunteer sign up page online. We're using SignUp.com. Here's how it works in 3 easy steps:

- 1) Click on one of the links below to see our SignUp.
- 2) Review the options listed and choose the spot(s) you like.
- 3) Sign up! It's Easy you will NOT need to register an account or keep a password on SignUp.com.

Coffee Prep or Cleanup: There are two separate signups - <u>http://signup.com/go/ngfHRvc</u> Ushers - <u>http://signup.com/go/LLfnBjt</u> Greeters - <u>http://signup.com/go/tDxnMEG</u> Service Setup - <u>http://signup.com/go/xAYQCXZ</u>

We'll be happy and excited to see your name beside a job for any of the Sundays this year!

~ Eric, Leslie, Donna, and Brandis.

Kudos

This last month of the congregational year is a time The congregational year ends and thoughts turn to to say thanks to everyone! The reason this is such an amazing community is the people!

Thanks to all those who served on a committee or task force this year!

Special Thanks to those Board of Trustee members Anniversary Dinner – October we are planning a who have completed their terms: Kenzie Love, Jeb Gaudet and Fay Giroux and to those who will continue and have joined for the upcoming congregational year.

Hats Off to the coffee preparers – the rest of us are so grateful!! We see you almost every Sunday Eric - and Conrad plus so many others. See the eNews for your opportunity to join the crew.

Thanks Liz Blackstock for coordinating the Caring Kitchen (30 meals prepared to give away!) and the Souper Sunday in May.

Thanks to those who filled out the staff evaluations - it is great feedback and a tool for setting goals.

So many people busy in the gardens – thank you for your stewardship and the resulting beauty we all enjoy.

We are pleased to officially welcome Sheila MacMaster as permanent Director of Religious Education. She bring a wealth of knowledge and skills along with her enthusiasm. The congregation is more informed about what the children and youth are doing because of her weekly 'what's happening' announcements. This along with her personal invitations has resulted in adults offering their gifts (dance, yoga, painting, storytelling) to the children which deepens relationships for sure. If you have a gift to share let her know! Welcome Sheila!

Endings Lead to Beginnings

possibilities for the coming year. Over the summer ponder where you might give of your time to building community. Here are a few opportunities.

gala celebration of Calgary Unitarians 60th as a revitalized congregation & 50 years in our building along with the 450th anniversary of Unitarianism interested in joining the planning team? Ask Rev Debra or a Board member for details.

CYRE – consider volunteering 1 or more Sundays per month with our children or youth contact dre@calgaryunitarians.ca

TLC – Theme Based Listening Circles – small group opportunities to explore the monthly theme. Interested in joining one in the fall or to train as a facilitator? tcl@calgaryunitarians.ca

Fun Fridays!

As we strive to deepen relationship and build our Beloved Community we need the chance to socialize, to laugh and learn together. Your Board of Trustees is initiating a program called Fun Fridays! We are working to have something happening every Friday evening at CUU. It may be movies, karaoke, game nights or potlucks interested in being part of the coordinating team? Talk with any Board member or Rev Debra.



How to Reach Our Staff

Minister

Rev. Debra Faulk debra<u>@unitarianscalgary.org</u> 403 702-6486

Director of Religious Exploration / Youth Program Coordinator Sheila MacMaster 403-404-1361 <u>dre@unitarianscalgary.org</u>

Music Director

Jane Perry music@unitarianscalgary.org

Administrator

Martha Mantikoski <u>office@unitarianscalqary.orq</u> 403-276-2436 Monday -Wednesday & Friday 9am to Noon **Office closed Thursdays**



Calgary Unitarians 1703 1st Street NW T2M 4P4 www.unitarianscalgary.org Phone: 403-276-2436

Publishing the Quest

The Quest is published 11 times per year by Calgary Unitarians. Electronic copies are available at <u>www.unitarianscalgary.org/</u> <u>newsletter/</u>. Submissions of articles, photographs, and event announcements are encouraged. Questions about the Quest, please email: <u>guest@unitarianscalgary.org.</u> The Quest Deadline is the 15th of every month except for July.

ENEWS

The ENEWS is normally published via email once a week on Wednesday. Material for the ENEWS must be submitted by Tuesday midnight. If you would like to the receive the ENEWS, please email <u>enews@unitarianscalgary.org</u>

Booking Rooms

As our facility gets busier it is important that if rooms are needed they are booked in advance. Space can be reserved either by filling out the online booking form found here: <u>http://tinyurl.com/ybq27pq6</u>, by contacting the Administrator at 403-276-2436 or office@unitarianscalgary.org

Lay Chaplains: Mary-Anna Louise Kovar and Beverly Webber

Our Lay Chaplains are trained to perform rites of passage, such as weddings, funerals/memorial services, child dedications, etc. They are available to provide such services for a fee to the wider community. (Services for Calgary Unitarians members are provided by the minister.) Our lay chaplains can be contacted by calling 403-276-2436 or via email: <u>laychaplains@unitarianscalgary.org.</u>

The Caring Team

The Caring Team provides support to the members, friends, and families of the congregation. If life has you stressed because of illness, hospitalization, moving, we can help. If you have something to be celebrated, such as a graduation, marriage or new child, we are there with you. We are all part of the Caring Team! Need support, have a concern, or want to be of service? Contact <u>caring@unitarianscalgary.org</u>