

Searching Learning Connecting Serving
The Edmonton Unitarian

June 2017 Vol 58 No. 6



June 4 **“Flower Communion”** **Rev. Brian J. Kiely and the Youth Group**

One of the beloved traditions of our church and many UU congregations around the world is the flower communion. First started in Prague in the 1920's, friends and members are asked to bring a flower or two to church. These are collected before the service. Later people are invited to take up a different flower in our communion service. We all also welcome New Members who have joined in the past year.

June 11 **“Reading to Find Meaning”** **John Pater and Friends**

An exploration of how the best of Canadian literature can be mined for philosophical and religious meaning. Members of the Edmonton UU Literary Club will share highlights of their discussions on five award winning Canadian novels. In our journey we discovered it's less about what the books are about and more about what the books mean.

June 18 **“Picnic Service”** **Rev. Brian J. Kiely**

Another June tradition! Bring some food to share and perhaps a lawn chair and maybe things for outdoor activities. If the weather is nice, we gather in the park across the street, if not, we picnic in the church. Brian will offer a short service about 11ish and then we enjoy a shared meal.



June 25 **“Blessing of the Pets”** **Rev. Brian J. Kiely**

We affirm, “Respect for the interdependent web of all existence of which we are a part.” One way we like to remember this principle is by welcoming our furry, feathered and scaly friends to church once a year for a blessing service. Bring your pet friends or photos of those past or too tricky to transport and let us share a love of nature in a special way.



Ministerial Musings



Well, that year went fast! I was surprised to sit down and find myself already writing “Services for June”!

Sometimes it’s good to take stock. We often do it at the turning of the year, or the changing of the seasons. For someone in my line of work, and perhaps teachers, now is as good a time as any.

Our community did a great deal implementing and celebrating our Strategic Plan. We enjoyed a resurgence in the RE and Youth Programs under the leadership of DRE Lauren Kay who has done exceptional work.

In the office we have experienced developing efficiencies and changes in administrative and financial practices thanks to the dedicated work of Administrator Janet Polkovsky supported by Treasurer Susan Ruttan, Bookkeeper Bev Walker and Power Church guru

Andrew Mills.

The Board worked well and efficiently under the leadership of retiring President Mike Keast. Nothing fazes him.

We debated and decided on accepting a mural for the outside of our church. Democracy can be messy, but I think the community managed to remain civil and kept the differences of opinion from becoming personal. Conflict can be hard in a church, but I think we managed it as well as possible.

Social Justice had an active and productive year with an ever-growing team of concerned members.

We had some great parties for all ages and stages.

Theme ministry has proved very popular in its first full year. The addition of Service Leaders was a nice enhancement as well.

Chorealis managed a series of excellent musical services, Sundays that had both depth and beauty. And this year we enjoyed the regular gift of music from Orchestra Borealis one of our renters.

Together with Westwood, we managed a successful year of sponsorship for the Adam family, our Syrian refugees. After one year they are living independently, we have sorted out various medical, dental and optical issues, have found them a vehicle. The children have done well for their first year in Canadian schools and are looking forward to summer camps. Mohammad and Ramza continue working on their English and Mohammad is now searching for a job. I know they would like things to move faster, but things ARE moving.

So much else has happened that I could take up the whole newsletter. Labyrinth walks, special services, Soup Sundays, the garage sale and on and on and on. Thanks to everyone for making this place so darn busy!

Personally it’s been an interesting year as my relationship with Erica Slevin has blossomed into an engagement. The blending of families that has gone far better than we had any right to expect. We share four great children.

I completed my nine years of service to the ICUU and six years with Capital Region Housing and stepped away from both. There have been a few health issues over the winter, but they are behind me now and I am looking forward to my fund-raising bicycle events in June and August.

In all, it’s been a pretty good year. Thanks for being part of it.

See you in church
Brian

Religion on Tap – At Arcadia Bar!

Join us for our informal drop-in social and theological discussion evening this June on Tuesday the 12th at 7:00 pm. Brian Kiely will host the gathering and start a conversation. Everyone is welcome. Arcadia Bar is located at 10988 124 Street, just a couple of blocks from church.



INVITATION TO NEWCOMERS

If you are receiving our monthly *Newsletter* and are not yet a member of the church, but would like to be, please contact [Church Administrator, Janet Polkovsky, Phone: (780) 454-8073 -- chadmin@uce.ca] to start the process of becoming a fully-fledged member of our very vibrant community. We look forward to welcoming you.

Board Update

Your UCE Board met on May 10, 2017. A committee has been struck led by Gordon Ritchie to deal with installation of the Change for Children mural. Lockers will be purchased and installed in the men's' and women's' washrooms for the use of anyone wishing to secure their personal belongings. If you would like to speak on a particular topic, kindly contact President Mike Keast one week prior to the meeting. The next board meeting will be June 14, 2017 at 7:15 p.m.

National CUC News

- A weekend retreat for church leaders, and POTENTIAL leaders, is being held in Edmonton on Aug. 18-20. The retreat will be held at the Providence Retreat Centre. CUC organizers say it will be a time for learning new skills, connecting with other leaders, and personal reflection.
Organizers say the weekend will likely start on the Friday at 1 pm and end at lunchtime on the Sunday.
Cost: \$400, which includes meals and accommodation. Deadline for registration is June 15. Here's the link to registration: <http://cuc.ca/serving-spirit-registration-west/>
- Delegates to the annual meeting of the CUC have approved an increase in the money that congregations are asked to give to support the national office. The amount will rise from \$93 per member per year to \$100 per member. The increase, the first in several years, was strongly supported by most delegates, who know how important the national CUC operation is to our movement.
- The new CUC board looks quite a bit like the old board – President Keith Wilkinson of Vancouver, v-p Jane Ebbert of Calgary and secretary Carol Cumming Speirs of Montreal are all serving for another year. Our new treasurer is Tanya Cothran of Toronto. Tanya is an interesting person: she runs a small charity that helps start-up businesses in Africa. She has just left for a month working in Ethiopia, Kenya and Malawi.
-- Susan Ruttan, CUC board member

Summer Services at UCE

We're looking for some good people to lead any one of 10 summer Sunday services at UCE. The summer services at UCE are an opportunity for members and friends of the congregation to be involved in leading and directing a summer service. People can share their passions and interests that may be of interest to the rest of our community. Service topics can range from poetry readings and meditations, current socio-political issues, slide shows of significant trips, mini-theatrical productions, discussions on the meaning of life, the universe and everything. If you have an interest in volunteering to lead a summer service, contact John Pater (johncpater@gmail.com or 780-619-6843) and let him know your preference for dates starting July 2 and running through August 27. A service leader guide and service leader training is available to help guide you through the essentials.

Service Leader and Summer Speaker Training

On Sunday June 4th Brian Kiely and John Pater will lead a short workshop in the Sanctuary for those interested in speaking in church, use of microphones; service planning and presentation will be discussed. Please contact John Pater directly if you are interested: johncpater@gmail.com.



The George Spady Centre is an inner city agency which provides overnight shelter for 72 adults. It also has a 20 bed detox unit for adults under the influence of alcohol or drugs. Admission is immediate on a 24 hour 7 day basis. The emphasis at the Shelter and Detox unit is on stabilization and restoration of health in an accepting and non-judgmental way. This very vulnerable population appreciates your donation and support.

Another Garage Sale Success!

We had an exceptional garage sale this year with lots of donations of treasures from so many of you. It was a busy 2 weeks with many hands helping out to organize and price. Elaine Royer was there most of the time and her expertise was greatly appreciated at our boutique and jewelry table along with help from Yvonne Mireau. Others who pitched in for many hours were Donna Hamar, Kathy Stanley, Elin Logan, Nonie Buski, Wendy Smith, Chris Mooney, Allan Boyle, Louise Charach, Rosemary Falconer, Susan Ruttan, Shirley Edgar, Audrey Brooks, Sylvia Krogh, Pauline Atwood, Michelle Demers, Barbara Forbes and Jolien Pauw. There were also many others who came out to help. Stella Clarke and Elaine Reynard helped feed us. Thanks to all of you.



We had several people outside our church community who enjoy working at our sale. They were Ruth Smith-Hill, Douglas Oakley, William Sorenson, and Sandra Maygard. We also had expert help from Marcie who runs an antique shop to give us advice on evaluating the jewelry and collectibles. Karen Bilida was responsible for advertising daily with revolving pictures on Kijiji for several days prior to and during the sale. Susan Ruttan brought notices to the businesses in our neighbourhood. Karen and partner Scott Harrison along with Clair Horne put out all the signs and picked them up again on Saturday afternoon. Clair Horne, David Hagel and Vic Romanyshyn (along with their trucks) were invaluable in helping pick up items and then hauling things away.

To serve our delicious hot-dogs and pop, we had our resident chef Brian Kiely on Friday and then David Rae took over that position Saturday for many hours along with helper Ruth Smith-Hill. Sheila Parr and Dorothy Keeler made and sold fresh popcorn. Then there were those who helped with our Kijiji for free/donation on Monday and cleanup on Tuesday. Karen Bilida, Marilyn Gaa, Robert Begg, Donna Hamar, Jolien Pauw, Horst Konrad, David Hagel and Bev and Vic Romanyshyn (and Ruth once again - what would we have done without her...) all made the hall look even better than it did before we started.

As well as all the camaraderie we had working together, we were pleased to make over \$9,200 for our church. Gaylord Madill was our bean counter and kept us informed of the running total. And the community got involved in many ways. Shoppers say that they wait eagerly for our sale each year because the prices are low and they often find treasures. The kids enjoyed finding books and toys and many shoppers stopped for a hot dog and pop. A great effort, thanks to all!!

Co-Chairs Jan McMillan, Donna Hamar



Eco-Solar Home Tour



The 18th annual Eco-Solar Home Tour is coming up on Sat and Sun June 3 and 4. This is your chance to see the best in energy efficient homes in Edmonton and area. There are 9 net-zero-energy homes in this year's tour and 18 homes over two days to visit (9 each day). Check out the Solar Family Fun day Saturday at Evansdale community league (site 8), sign up for the guided bike tour, or see the home with the little gas generator in the yard (site 14). All that and a free draw for prizes like a Nest thermostat or a SEEK infra-red camera attachment for a smart phone. Go to the web site at [FHYPERLINK "http://www.ecosolar.ca"](http://www.ecosolar.ca) www.ecosolar.ca for details of the homes, addresses, and a map. The tour is free and you don't need to register. Just browse the homes and pick the ones you want to visit. We hope to see you there!

For the past two years UCE has sponsored the Eco-Solar Home Tour by providing meeting and storage space. Andrew Mills and Will Adair help organize the tour.

Genocide Memorial Service

You are invited to participate in the annual Genocide Memorial Service to be held at 1 p.m. July 16, 2017 at 9916 - 154 Street, Edmonton, Alberta. This event is sponsored by the Unitarian Church of Edmonton and the Edmonton Interfaith Centre for Education and Action.

The annual Genocide Memorial Service began as a witness to violence committed against human beings because of wars, greed, ethnic cleansing, slavery, gender bias, colonial appropriation of people and their lands, instances of neglect and political oppression, that resulted in mass extinction of helpless men, women and children.

Please go to uce.ca for more details.

<http://www.uce.ca/wordpress/wp-content/uploads/2012/03/GENOCIDE-MEMORIAL-BROCHURE-2016.pdf>



Rev. Audrey Brooks with Rev. Brian Kiely at the 6th annual genocide memorial

courtesy: Paula Kirman , Edmonton

Famous Unitarian Universalists



Lois Hole (1929-2005), Alberta's lieutenant-governor, Author, Businesswoman, Horticulturalist, Educator

Named lieutenant-governor in February, 2000, Hole was well known for her philanthropy, and her support for literacy.

A gardening enthusiast, Hole, along with her husband, ran one of Western Canada's largest retail gardening stores. The author of many gardening books, Hole was a regular contributor to a number of newspapers, including the Globe and Mail, Edmonton Journal and Edmonton Sun. She also made a number of appearances on CBC TV's Canadian Gardener. She was famous for the hugs she offered to almost everyone she met. Lois became well known for her community work.

The Rev. Brian Kiely, Minister of the Unitarian Church of Edmonton, of which she was a member, wrote "Through the years, Lois was a tireless advocate for many liberal causes. If she saw something as unjust, she was the person who went out and tried to do something about it." Her Unitarian principles inform much of her life and causes.

Communications Committee



Can you Tweet? The Communications Committee would love you to join us. This is a great committee of volunteers but you get to help from the comfort of your home and on your own timetable!

Please remember EVERYBODY can help with communications - Please participate in our active Facebook group page, remember to Like/ Share/ Invite/ Post/ Tag/ Comment. . Use this link to go directly to our



Facebook Group: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/41659071349/>

Or go to uce.ca and click on the Facebook link on the front page.

Not that familiar with Facebook? **Facebook classes, BEGINNER CLASSES ON JULY 8th 2pm-3:30pm.** These classes are for “very beginner” but there will also be help for “not so beginner”. Please contact Karen Bilida at Unitarian.Edmonton@yahoo.ca or 780-807-6380, we need a minimum of 6 people signed up to run the class.



All Committee chairs, please keep Communications informed of events, topics of interest, anything UCE related you would like to share. Our goal is to keep all the members and friends of UCE informed of the interesting and important things that our many Committees are up to. (Karen Bilida at Unitarian.Edmonton@yahoo.ca).

Heart to Heart

♥ Congratulations to Marge Roche on the birth of her great grandson Maddox.

♥ Dr. Brian Jessup Sproule, who was born on Halloween, October 31, 1925, died peacefully in Edmonton on April 15, 2017. Dr. Sproule received the Order of Canada in 2002, for his contributions to pulmonary medicine in Canada, and his ongoing commitment to world peace. Rev. Brian Kiely officiated at a service of remembrance and celebration of Dr. Sproule’s life. The UCE History Project will prepare a biographical sketch his life which will be posted in the church. Thanks to Dr. George Goldsand and John Sproule for sharing eulogy notes that will help prepare our information.

♥ Lillias Cowper is recovering well from a recent surgery. We send best wishes to this hard working member who always has time for others and for volunteer position is the church.

♥ Condolences are sent to Karen Mills and family; her mother died peacefully, on May 18th, after several years of decline. A memorial service was held Tuesday May 23, in Calgary, Alberta that several UCE members attended.

♥ From May 25 to Monday 22, 51 Unitarian youth and young adults attended a CanUuddle conference at UCE and Westwood Unitarian churches. For those of us who participated in the programming, which was led by their own members, the experience was profound. Michelle Van Der Molen took capable charge of providing all of the meals; Marilyn Gaa, Lauren Kay, and Corinne Jackson did night supervision duty; Jeff Bisanz and Kat Hartshorne supported the youth as they spoke at the church service on Sunday, May 21.

Dragging At the UCE



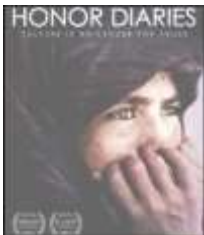
I would like to start off by saying “THANKYOU” thank you for donating this space for the youth of the community, this is opened the door for a lot of LGBTQ+ YOUTH to open up and be who they want to be and get a chance at performing as a drag queen/king. Without your sponsor of this venue, this would not have happened and the impact on the youths’ lives would have never happened. The past year has been very successful in the Dragging series drag shows for youth and has brought out many people who have enjoyed themselves. Last year we were able to raise approximately \$3000 for Camp FYREfly so far and are continuing to grow that up until June before presenting the cheque. We also presented a cheque of \$1007.00 to the Pride Center for their event Queer Prom which is held annually. The youth and I are very grateful for what the Unitarian Church has done for us and

the members for being so helpful and also joining in on the fun. Submitted by: Chris Whitford



We have a large but limited number of wristbands for participants. If you plan to be part of the parade, please let Brian know as soon as possible (briekie@aol.com) or sign up on the credenza in the foyer. www.uce.ca and Facebook for more updates.

Westwood Movie Night



This month’s social justice movie night features the provocative, award winning documentary **Honor Diaries**

Honor Diaries is a 2013 documentary film by producer Paula Kweskin. *Honor Diaries* explores violence against women in honor-based societies, with particular focus on female genital mutilation (FGM), violence against women and honor killings and forced marriage, and lack of access to education. The film profiles nine women’s rights activists with origins in the Muslim (and non-Muslim) world, and follows their efforts to effect change, both within their communities and beyond. (text from Wikipedia).

The trailer and other details about the movie are available at <http://www.honordiaries.com/> Screening

June 2, 7:00 PM Westwood. All are invited!

Child Haven International 14th Annual East Indian Dinner on Sunday, October 22, 2017 at 5 pm.

Inspired by the ideals and philosophy of Mahatma Gandhi, Child Haven International is a registered not for profit charity founded in 1985 by Unitarian minister Fred Cappuccino and his wife, Bonnie. Child Haven Int'l assists children and women in developing countries, who are in need of food, education, health care, shelter and clothing, emotional and moral support. Child Haven has five homes in India, one in Nepal, one in Tibet in China and one in Bangladesh. Further information is available at www.childhaven.ca

The Annual Edmonton Child Haven dinner will be held on Sunday, October 22, 2017 at the Meridian Banquet Centre, 4820 – 76 Avenue NW, Edmonton at 5 pm. Adult tickets are \$50, Children 5-12 years are \$20 and 4 years and under are free. Bonnie and Fred Cappuccino will be in attendance and show slides of some of the children. There will be a bazaar, silent and live auction, children's craft table and auctioning a painting created during the event by artist Lewis Lavoie. We hope you will join other Unitarians and support this worthwhile Unitarian initiative. Tickets are available from Sylvia Krogh, Paulette Hagel, Louise Charach, Donna Hamar and Edwina Madill.

Sylvia Galbraith is having a garage sale at the end of June and all proceeds will be donated to Child Haven. Sylvia lives at 10728-125 Street NW, Edmonton. If you have any contributions – they would be appreciated. If you are not able to deliver the donations she will pick them up if you contact her at 780-455-6741.

UCE Walking Group Schedule

Walkers carpool from church, leaving at 10 am, or meet at the walk site at 10.20 am. There are often changes to the schedule so if you are not on the email list please call Sheila, 780-454-7581 the day before to confirm the walk.

June 2	Spring Time in Paris Luncheon
June 9	Kinsman Park
June 16	Fort Saskatchewan
June 23	Laurier Park
June 30	Stony Plain

Around Our Church

- Sermons: On the YouTube website, <http://www.youtube.com/EdmUnitarian>. Need help: Contact Bill Lee billlee@ualberta.net or 780-435-7477
 - Brunch: Going for brunch after church is a UCE tradition. Want to join? Contact Marge Roche or Jennifer Hinchcliffe at church.
 - Recycling: We don't have recycling pickup at the church, so we need help with taking blue bags home for home collection or to the Recycle Centre. The bags are in the kitchen and/or social hall
 - Bissell Centre: All items donated to our church green box in the foyer go to the Bissell Centre Thrift Shoppe on 88St & 118 Ave. There they are sorted, some going to the store, some to various other programs including the Community Closet at 105Ave & 96St where they are dispensed for free. Earnings from the Thrift Shoppe support the Community Closet. Also accepted is all bedding and linen with the exception of cushions and pillows, small household items, CD's and videos but no books or tapes.
- For further information contact Barbara Forbes 780 439 4553 or Rosemary Falconer 780 472 9287.
- Pop Cans: We raise money from returnable bottles, tetra packs etc. donated by members. Drop your contribution in the second storage room (the single door) in Keeler Hall.
 - Food: If you use our kitchen, clean it up afterward and don't leave any food behind. Public Health Regulations prohibit the storing of perishable food for more than one day
 - Security: If your committee or groups are meeting after Church hours, please make sure all the exit doors are locked before setting the alarm and leaving. The exits that need to be checked are Keeler Hall and the side door (on the same as the main doors, by the picnic table.

Newsletter Submissions



We are looking for articles and news items that directly involve UCE. Since we are a diverse group of people with many different interests and events, UCE cannot print everything and must limit it to UCE items. Submissions should be short and may be edited for length and content. Don't forget to submit your newsletter items before the 20th of the month and before Thursday for order of service items. Please send appropriate articles and event descriptions **electronically** to the Church Administrator chadmin@uce.ca.

Thank you, the Communications Committee

Minister's Office Hours

Brian is usually in the office Tuesdays through Fridays from 10 until 2:30. Sometimes community meetings and visits cause him to be away. People dropping by are most welcome, but it's always best to call ahead and check to make sure he is there.

UCE Office Summer Staff and Hours

I am pleased to announce that this July and August; Erica Slevin will be providing the administrative duties for the church in addition to returning to school to finish a psychology degree. Because this is not a STEP position, the hours of the office have been reduced to 15 hours per week. The office scheduled hours of operation were not available at time of printing.

Submitted by Janet Polkovsky

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Newsletter Submission Deadline is the 20th of every month. Please send your article to chadmin@uce.ca

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Canvas: Andrew Mills andrew@misc.ca	780-432-0826
Communications Committee: Karen Bilida Unitarian.edmonton@yahoo.ca	
Property Management: Mike Keast	780-471-0872
Social Justice Committee: Jeff Bisanz	780-435-8209
Membership Committee: Michelle Van Der Molen	780-289-7576