

Searching Learning Connecting Serving
The Edmonton Unitarian

January 2018, Vol 59 No. 01



January 7

“All Things Are Connected”

Chorealis

Chorealis begins the New Year, and our monthly theme of First Nations spirituality, by looking at connection - connection to oneself, to others around us, to the earth and all of creation.

<https://www.facebook.com/events/910091112485987/>

January 14

“Blanket Exercise”

10:30 - 12:30 p.m.

The Blanket Exercise is an interactive activity which explores the history of Canada and the plight of Indigenous people since the arrival of Europeans to our country. The Blanket Exercise begins with blankets arranged on the floor to represent Canada (Turtle Island) prior to Colonization. Participants, who represent Indigenous peoples, begin by moving around the blankets, trading items. As a narrator reads from a script, gradually their lives change, as more and more Europeans take over their land. Participants respond to cues read from prepared scrolls. By the end only a few Indigenous people remain on the blankets. A meaningful sharing circle completes the Exercise. **Please bring blankets.** The Exercise will take the place of the usual church service. **It will take at least two hours, perhaps a bit longer.** Afterwards bannock and preserves, tea and water will be available. **After, the UCE chalice group potluck, begins approximately 1pm.** <https://www.facebook.com/events/453982224999542/>

January 21

“Seven Sacred Teachings: Love and Respect”

Rev. Brian J. Kiely

Like Unitarians and our Principles, First Nations People are guided by seven spiritual teachings. This Sunday we will look at two, Love and Respect. <https://www.facebook.com/events/1274163169394250/>

January 28

“Seven Sacred Teachings: Courage and Honesty”

Rev. Brian J. Kiely

Continuing the theme of looking at the core teachings of indigenous spirituality. This Sunday we will look at two, Courage and Honesty. <https://www.facebook.com/events/381539182341283/>

Ministerial Musings



I am very much looking forward to the New Year and the two month long theme delving into the lessons of First Nations Spirituality. Since the Truth and Reconciliation Report was released in 2015, the challenge has been to weave the recommendations into the social fabric of this nation. The federal government has to do some things, the provincial governments has to do some things. Great. But the real fact is that more and more First Nations people live in our cities, and particularly here in Edmonton. That means our municipal government has a large role, for this is where services get delivered. And our mayor has said many times “We are all Treaty Six people.”

Everyone has a responsibility to uphold their part of the treaty, to work with our neighbours, to learn our history and obligation and to change ourselves and our perspectives when needed.

The TRC report noted,

Reconciliation must become a way of life. It will take many years to repair damaged trust and relationships in Aboriginal communities and between Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal peoples. Reconciliation not only requires apologies, reparations, the relearning of Canada’s national history, and public commemoration, but also needs real social, political, and economic change. Ongoing public education and dialogue are essential to reconciliation. Governments, churches, educational institutions, and Canadians from all walks of life are responsible for taking action on reconciliation in concrete ways, working collaboratively with Aboriginal peoples. Reconciliation begins with each and every one of us.

These two months of Sundays are intended to be a small step towards reconciliation and constructing the genuinely inclusive and just community we must become.

We devoted the month of October, 2015 to the topic, but if this work is to truly bring the change we seek, we must keep going back. We have to keep looking at ourselves, our possibilities and, for these eight weeks, at the gifts we gain from studying the First Nations traditions.

Four services will explore the Seven Sacred Teachings. There will be a Sunday given over to a two hour moving and educational Blanket Exercise, two musical services from Chorealism and one more service devoted to...we the details for that February service aren't quite fixed yet.

Hope we see you all in church for one or more of these!

Brian

Religion on Tap

Join us for our first informal drop-in social and theological discussion evening of 2018. “Religion on Tap” will be on Tuesday, January 16th. Metro Billiards, 10250 106 St starting at 7 p.m. <https://www.facebook.com/events/890477261152433/>



The Travelling Chalice Kit!



Each week we light a chalice in church, but few of us do it at home, even for special events. The Travelling Chalice is a new idea for us where families (of one or more) can borrow our kit for a week and explore what the chalice means to them. We will have a sign-up sheet on the credenza so you can book it ahead, or if no one has taken it, note that you have it and it's your for a week.

What's involved? Inside the box you will find a chalice and wax or electric candle (your choice), a lovely traditional Transylvanian Unitarian cloth, a book of meditations, a book with some longer essays on our Principles and a blank journal. You may want to use the chalice during meals or at bedtime or in the morning. You can choose a

reading in the kit or devise something of your own. There are no rules.

In the journal we would encourage you to record how you used the chalice, perhaps write down a reading you found or simply add it to the box. You can sign your entry or not. And if you are one of the first users, you will find a couple of entries as the staff has been taking it out for a test drive. Enjoy!

Brian, Lauren, Janet

Scent-Free Zone



UCE is a scent-free zone. We have members, some of them small children, with severe allergies. So avoid wearing any scents when you come to gatherings at the church – colognes, hair spray, etc. A couple of no-scent signs will be going up in the building shortly.

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.

Join the Team

Our church is looking for someone to join our leadership team as treasurer this spring. Current treasurer Susan Ruttan will be stepping down, as required by our bylaws – board members can serve only six years in a row.

We're looking for someone willing to get deeper into our church and to help it thrive. Prior experience as a treasurer is not necessary – Susan will be your guide, coach and assistant throughout the year. We also have a finance committee that helps the treasurer in many ways.

This will be a one-year commitment, finishing the last year of Susan's two-year term. You can get your feet wet for a year, see how you like being treasurer.

This is an important position for UCE. Please think about it, or think about who might be good at this job. Contact: Susan Ruttan, ruttans@shaw.ca



***for more volunteer opportunities, please read on!

Board Update

Your UCE Board met on December 13, 2017. The AGM has been scheduled for May 6, 2018. UCE is going scent free and signs will be installed. New ideas for next year's seniors' lunch will be explored. If you would like to speak on a particular topic, kindly contact President Karen Mills one week prior to the meeting. The next board meeting will take place on January 10, 2018 at 7:15 p.m.

Sharing Our Abundance

The Unitarian Church of Edmonton donates half of the loose change collected each month to a different charity. For the month of January, we will share with Change for Children, a local charity that partners with communities in Latin America and Africa who are struggling with poverty to improve access to basic needs, healthcare and education.



Chalice Groups: Thinking, Listening, Community

If you would like to join a chalice group for the New Year, sign up in the foyer. There will be a post-church potluck lunch on Sunday, January 14th for all that would like to join a chalice group.



Unitarian Universalist minister John Morgan said: People come into our communities looking for a place to belong (intimacy) and a place to seek meaning (ultimacy) about living and dying and the spaces between.

Chalice groups provide a unique opportunity for community members to explore deeper meaning and belonging by:

- Exploration and experimentation with deep personal reflection and listening
- Build a sense of community among the participants
- Create a climate of mutual respect and understanding
- Strengthen the shared experience of being a Unitarian Universalist.
- Fun!

For those who are interested, we will help form the small groups of 6-10 that will then meet regularly until June. Please contact Scott Harrison at talktoscott@live.ca for more information.

Winter UCE Directory Update

There are a lot of new faces in the church and it's been a good while since the Spring Directory. It's time to update the current directory with our members' and friends' latest information. This new directory will be available to the Church membership and will be sent out by email attachment at a later date. Those that receive their newsletter by mail will have a copy mailed to them. A limited amount of paper copies will be made available from the office.



To update your contact information, you have three choices:

- You can fill out the web form on our website at <http://www.uce.ca/wordpress/membership-update-2017/> the information will be sent to the Administrators' email; it will not be stored on the website.
- You will find a form attached to this month's newsletter. You may fill it out and return it to the Administrators' Office by email or paper copy (I will have enveloped outside my door).

You can also request a form at the Welcome/Membership Desk on Sundays.

December Happenings



On December 8th, the UCE Seniors joined together for their annual Christmas Lunch. Attendees enjoyed a hot meal, socializing, games and caroling. Thankfully there were helping hands bringing wine, food and helping with the washing up.



The Mitten Tree Service on December 17th was a lot of fun! Donated to the Bissell Centre were: 72 pairs of mitts, 162 pairs of socks, 96 hats and scarves, - and for the first time, underwear! Thank you to all who attended donated and brought food to make this event spectacular.



Sharing the Light – Winter Solstice Celebration



Lovely performances led by Westwood with assistance of some of the members of UCE's Chorealis. The Winter Solstice marks the longest night & the shortest day of the year. Across peoples & millennia, different faiths & traditions & those of no faith have celebrated in many ways the turn from deepest darkness to the return of light.



Adult Education Workshop



Theme: Sex and Magic, Exploring Sex through Paganism
January 22nd 6:30-8:00pm
<https://www.facebook.com/events/848828435297095/>.

For more information or to register, please contact Lauren Kay at ucekids@uce.ca. Childcare is available.

Committees Communication Luncheon

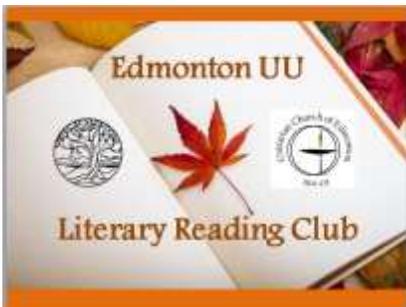
Mark your 2017 calendar for Sunday January 21 and Sunday April 15 for the Committee Chair Communication Luncheons.

All committees / groups / interested parties, please send a representative to our "Committee Chair Lunch". This get together will be ~1 hour long after Sunday service. Please send your RSVP for the Jan. 21st luncheon to Karen Bilida (Unitarian.Edmonton@yahoo.ca) before January 17th.

Thank you for working together for the future of our church.



Edmonton UU Literary Reading Club



Members and friends of Westwood Unitarian and Unitarian Church of Edmonton are invited to join in the second year of a book club that discusses Canadian finalists and winners of top literary awards and competitions. For this year we will be reading four great novels and meeting on the following Sunday evenings (6-8pm):

January 7 – **Louise Penny** : How the Light Gets In

February 25 – **Michael Ondaatje**: A Cat's Table

April 22 – **Richard Wagamese – Ojibway Author**: Indian Horse

In our discussions we explore what these books mean to religious liberals. You are welcome to come to one or more of the group

discussions. For more information and for meeting locations (we meet at members' homes) please contact johncpater@gmail.com .

Update on UCE's Casual Renters

A review of our casual renter policies and rates was initiated by the Board to ensure that the rates and policies for casual renters were appropriate. Without rental income the UCE would not be able to support its current level of staffing and services. The rates for casual renters were in many cases well below rates of other churches and community facilities. The review, also, identified that maintaining the UCE's charitable status requires compliance with Canadian Revenue Agency's requirement that:

A charity can lease property to another registered charity below market value. However, if the charity leases property to a non-charity tenant, it must lease the property at fair market value.



This means that UCE members cannot be given a lower rate for their private events at our church.

Church Administrator Janet Polkovsky is the key contact for casual renters, and prospective renters work through her. Where required, she receives advice from a Casual Renters Advisory Committee comprised of Mike Keast (chair), Larry Charach and Susan Ruttan. Janet has done a stellar job in maintaining excellent relations with the UCE's renters while ensuring our facilities are first available for UCE requirements to meet the needs of its members and friends.

The Board accepted the report's recommendations and established the Casual Rental Committee. As a result, a new Rate Schedule has been created for casual renters which will ensure that the UCE receives fair value for use of its casual rental space. This rate chart will appear on the new enhanced rental section on the UCE website (forthcoming).

To learn more about all this, feel free to have a discussion with any member of the Casual Renters Committee.

Please keep the beautiful UCE facilities in mind for your events (showers, weddings, memorial services, birthday parties, etc.).

Kitchen News



Due to recent issues and the perennial problem of dirty dishes left behind, the kitchen has now been secured with a number padlock on the door leading to from the coffee nook. The remaining doors will remain dead bolted. If you require access to the kitchen please contact Mike Keast at 780-780-497-1303 for the code. The good knives and the chafing dishes are in now in locked cupboards and you can sign the keys out from the workroom key box.

If you would like to take part in a cleaning bee to get the kitchen in tip top shape in the New Year, please contact Susan Ruttan at ruttans@shaw.ca.

🌹 HEART TO HEART

🌹 We wish the very best of health and happiness to our own Reverend Brian Kiely and his new wife, Erica Kiely. Surrounded only by witnesses and immediate family, they were wed on December 2nd by our DRE and Lay Chaplain, Lauren Kay.

🌹 With heavy hearts we also wish the very best to Shiraz and Lauren Kay as Shiraz returns to Baton Rouge, Louisiana to begin a new job in January. Lauren with Katherine and Damon will remain in Edmonton for the remainder of the school year.

🌹 Don Royer has experienced a serious fall resulting in several fractures. He is at the Royal Alexandra Hospital and will undergo surgery in the New Year. Please call Elaine first if you wish to arrange a visit after the holidays.

🌹 After a complete life filled with adventure, joy, and intellectual quests, Robert Brundin passed away surrounded by family December 6, 2017 at 87. A Celebration of Robert's Life will be at 1:30 p.m. on Friday, January 5, 2018, at the Unitarian Church of Edmonton, 10804 – 119 Street, NW Edmonton.

🌹 Art Johnston was a long term member of UCE, before the family moved to Comox in 1974. He died peacefully in Comox on December 11, 2017. He has been a member of the Comox Valley Unitarian Fellowship since 1974. Unitarianism filled his need for connection to the universe and serving society in a meaningful way. He always expressed a great appreciation of our faith and all its loving membership. Joy Johnston, 122 Seniors Village, 4640 Headquarters Road, Courtenay, BC. V9N 7J3

Donate!



If you have some skates you are not using, please contact Rosemary Falconer. Rosemary is collecting skates for the Adam family so they can get out and enjoy the season. Stake sizes needed are: women's in size 5 or 6 and men's shoe size about 9.5. Please contact her at 780-472-9287 or email: rfalcon@shaw.ca.

Many Thanks!

Many thanks once again to those who helped to make Blue Christmas happen. It's a lot of work, considerably lightened by so many hands, and the gratitude from our community makes it all worthwhile. You all deserve the very best 2018 has to offer! From Christina Keast.



Thank you to everyone who comes to volunteer at church! I see so many of you throughout the year: changing light bulbs, picking up bottles for the depot and donations for the Bissell Centre, unloading and distributing Food Bank hampers, decorating the Sanctuary and foyer, making coffee and bringing snacks for the children and youth, assisting the DRE, sitting on committees, staffing the garage sale, raising money, putting on social events and the list goes on and on. Volunteers are the pieces of the puzzle that makes this church whole and I feel honoured to be a part of it all. Janet Polkovsky, Church Administrator

Need a New Year's Resolution? Get Involved!

Sound Tech Team



The church has a small team of sound techs who do the sound for Sunday services. Does joining us appeal to you?

You need not think of yourself as a techie--many past and current techs will agree. 😊 It's mostly about attention to detail.

We'll start emailing you the monthly schedule so you can connect, at your convenience, with current team members before their assigned Sunday. On the Sunday, you'll meet them about 9:30-9:45 at the church. They will train you very gently at your own pace. You'll start by shadowing one or more tech on one or more of their Sundays. When you feel ready, you'll take over doing

the setup, sound board operation during the service, and take-down after, with that Sunday's tech coaching you as needed. You can continue to train for as many Sundays as you like. (And of course, you can opt out any time if you decide being a tech isn't for you.)

Once you feel ready, you can go solo:

Towards the end of each month, I email team members to find out which Sundays of the next month they can and want to be available. (If you expect to be too busy, it's entirely okay to ask to sit out a month.) Once they've all replied, I match members' availability with Sundays and email the schedule to the whole team, also cc'ing Brian, Janet, and Karen & Gordon for Chorealis.

Current team members are Marg Booker, Kat Hartshorne, and me. If you think you might like to join us, catch one of us in church, or email, call or text me.

Bill Lee: billlee@ualberta.net, mobile 780-435-7477.

Maintenance

The property management volunteers would like to invite anyone to come on in and help out around the church on Wednesdays from about 10 am till 2 pm. Any skill level is welcome and coffee and tea is supplied. Occasionally we even have a lunch supplied.

We also need someone to volunteer to show up before Sunday service and make sure all the entry ways and emergency exits are cleared. If you are able to do one Sunday a month or even one Sunday over the winter please let us know, mikekeast@shaw.ca .



Friendship



Please contact Marg Roche if you would like to be part of a volunteer phone tree group that will be called to occasionally help out with events around the church. For example UCE needs assistance with a memorial service on Jan 5, 2018. Please call (587-520-0235) or email (margmike@shaw.ca) Marg.

Canadian Unitarian Council News

NATIONAL CAMPAIGN

Our national Unitarian organization, the Canadian Unitarian Council, is making a special pitch for your support. It needs money for two important initiatives: building a new CUC website, and continuing the Truth, Healing and Reconciliation (THR) project.

The CUC's national website is being rebuilt to make it more responsive and accessible to newcomers, leaders and UUs looking for resources and information. It takes money to develop a robust, clean and professional site – we can't get away from that fact. Your donations will be designated for development and design.

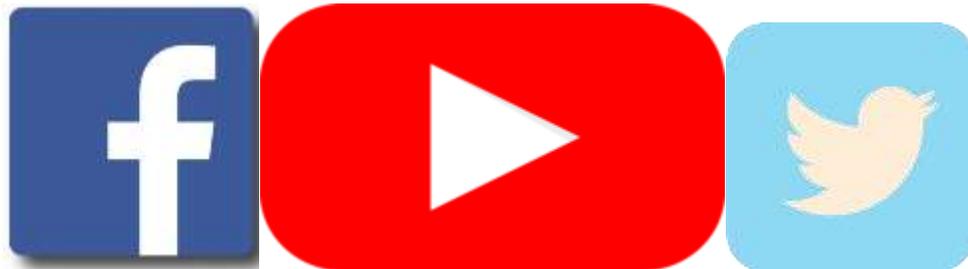
The CUC's Truth, Healing and Reconciliation initiative is succeeding beyond expectations. Led by Rev. Meg Roberts, Rev. Samaya Oakley and others, the team has created Reflection Guides for different age levels on the residential school and Indigenous experience for Unitarian Universalist congregations and other communities. Facilitators have been trained to help with engagement in the reflection guides.

Various groups, including Indigenous communities, have asked the CUC to share and use the reflection guides. The CUC needs funds to keep the program going and to further develop it.

Your contribution will be shared equally between the website and THR initiatives. Donating is simple:

- Donate online by going to cuc.ca/donate/ and selecting the 'Friends of the CUC' Fund.
- Or call our friendly Organizational Administrator, Ahna, at 1-888-568-5723 Monday – Thursday 9:00am – 4:40 pm EST and provide your credit information over the phone.
- Or send a cheque (made out to Canadian Unitarian Council and put Friends Fund in the memo field) to: Canadian Unitarian Council, 400-215 Spadina Ave., Toronto, ON M5T 2C7

Questions? Susan Ruttan (ruttans@shaw.ca) is your friendly CUC board member.



Thank you to the Communications Committee and their hard work on **Facebook**, **You Tube**, and our new **Twitter** Account. Please also look for links throughout this newsletter. Social Media cannot be successful alone. Every comment, like, share, invite helps us. Please share with your friends and family.

Spring Is a Long Way Off...



Please mark your calendars! Blue Hawaii is our theme for this congregational dinner on April 14th! Come in your hula skirt, wear your board shorts and come dance the night away in Hawaii!

Around Our Church

- **Scented** products such as hair spray, **perfume**, and deodorant can trigger reactions such as respiratory distress and headaches. We thank you for keeping your scents at home.
- **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
- **Walls:** Please do not use scotch tape on a painted wall. If you need a sign printed and posted in the church please contact the office, chadmin@uce.ca .
- **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).

Sunday Volunteer Schedule

Date	Greeter	Usher	Sound Technician	Coffee
January 7	Art Breier	Barbara Forbes	Marg Booker	John Turvey
January 14	Karen Bilida	Bryce Missall, Stella Clark	Bill Lee	Clair Horne
January 21	Gertrud Janke	Rosemary Falconer	Kat Hartshorne	Clair Horne
January 28	Doug Eastwell	Maurice Bourgoin	Bill Lee	Clair Horne

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.

January 5	Patricia Ravine, meet by Elin's house, 16112 – 78 A Avenue
January 12	Hawrelak Park. Park at the Mayfair and then lunch at the Mayfair
January 19	Ada Boulevard. Park at the Highlands Golf Course. Lunch at Bodega by Sabor (6509 112 Avenue)
January 26	Visit the new Funicular. Carpool from the Church

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.

Closed for the Holidays

The Administrator's Office will be closed from December 25th to January 1st. In case of emergency, please see below for contact information of our pastor, chaplain, board members and building maintenance.

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

People Finder

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President: Karen Mills Karen Mills karenmills@me.com	780-432-0826
Religious Exploration Leader: Lauren Kay ucekids@uce.ca	780-454-5816
Church Office: Janet Polkovsky chadmin@uce.ca	780-454-8073
Campus Minister Rev. Anne Barker aebarker@ualberta.ca	780-489-8842
Head Teller: Edwina Madill	780-462-2089
Canvas: Andrew Mills andrew@misc.ca	780-432-0826
Communications Committee: Karen Bilida Unitarian.edmonton@yahoo.ca	
Chaplain Services: Audrey Brooks audbrook@telusplanet.net	780-489-8842
Property Management: Mike Keast	780-497-1303

Retraction and Correction to December 2017 *The Edmonton Unitarian*

In the December Newsletter, we erroneously published incorrect information regarding the biography of Kat Hartshorne. On page 5, we would like to retract the following: "Kat is currently practicing law under the Crown Attorney". The correct information is "Kat Hartshorne is a member of UCE. She is a former teacher and a current lawyer." We apologize for the error and inconvenience it may have caused.

Membership Update Form

The following information will be used for our church database and directory. Please fill out the entire form so we can update our confidential database. If there is information you do not want published in the directory which is available to members and friends of the church, please tick the don't publish box to the left of that item. Please return this form to the church office. Children's names will not be included.

Adult 1: _____
First name Last name

Adult 2: _____
First name Last name

Phone 1: _____ Phone 2: _____

E-mail 1: _____ E-mail 2: _____

Address: _____

City: _____

Province _____ Postal code _____

Child 1: _____
First name Last name

Child 2: _____
First name Last name

Child 3: _____
First name Last name

Child 4: _____
First name Last name

I would like to receive the newsletter (please tick only one):

Electronically Only by post