



The Don Heights Bulletin

February 2012

Volume 57, Issue 6

Sunday Services, 10:30 a.m.

February 5th at 10:30 a.m.

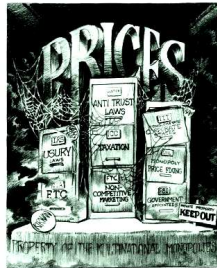
Debt, Usury and Monetary Reform

Presenter: Claudia Larrain

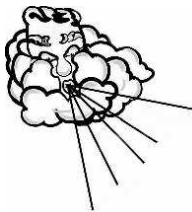
Service Leader: Michael Kenny

In light of the global financial crisis, we are going to take a closer look at how we got into this financial mess. We live in a society that is dependant on credit. Individuals and governments are carrying record levels of debt. The cost of living is going up, but wages are not.

How did we get in the situation we are in, and what solutions are available for us to get out?



COFFEE GROUP 1



February 12th at 10:30 a.m.

From Wind God to Personal Soul

Presenter: Rev. Donna Morrison-Reed

Service Leader: Margo Holland

Music: The Don Heights Choir

This sermon explores the human need for gods, why the first immortal beings created by humans were often wind gods, how the wind god turned into the personal soul, and how our twenty-first century western, inductive, fact-gathering civilization is threatening the existence of soul and precipitating the end of religion.

COFFEE GROUP 2



February 19th at 10:30 a.m.

Hidden Forms of Discrimination

Presenter: Michael Kenny

Discrimination is the prejudicial treatment of an individual based on their membership in a certain group or category. While some types of discrimination are more well-known, many forms of discrimination and the effects of discriminations are not. In this interactive talk, we will explore our own experiences with discrimination and learn to recognize and stop discrimination from occurring.

COFFEE GROUP 3

1:00 to 4:00 pm - GTA Unitarian Young Adult Group:
Game and Baking Event

February 26th at 10:30 a.m.

I've Got a Home in Glory-Land: A Lost Tale of the Underground Railroad

Presenter: Karolyn Smardz Frost

Service Leader: Beryl Hunter

Music: Steve Andersen



Come hear the fascinating story of Thornton and Lucie Blackburn, fugitive slaves from Kentucky whose 1833 escape to Canada made history. Their arrival sparked the first fugitive slave extradition case between Canada and the United States. More than any other event, it was this case that confirmed Canada as the safe haven at the end of the Underground Railroad. Author and archaeologist Karolyn Smardz Frost will speak about her 20-year quest for the clues to the story of this couple's historic flight to freedom.

COFFEE GROUP 4

12: 30 pm - Pot Luck

I just want to do God's will. And he's allowed me to go to the mountain. And I've looked over, and I've seen the promised land! I may not get there with you, but I want you to know that we as a people will get to the promised land. ~ Martin Luther King, Jr.

Don Heights Unitarian Congregation

Don Heights is a resilient, welcoming community of diverse individuals, promoting love, reason and freedom in religion, fostering lifelong spiritual growth and acting for social justice and the environment.

***Freedom in religion;
Justice in action.***

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The Don Heights office is open
Monday to Friday
from 9:00 am to 12:00 pm

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Margo Holland
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This month's column was written by Board member Judy Newman

Ants and Grasshoppers

Sitting in the board meeting this month talking about real estate, and all the decisions and emotions associated with that, I was reminded that human beings, alone among all living creatures on the earth, have knowledge of a future.

Oh, joy. Oh, terror. For organizations like Don Heights, being aware of the future necessitates things like annual meetings, strategic plans, budgets, boards and committees. Even though we all take our responsibilities seriously and do our best to move forward in a prudent and conscientious fashion, there are never any guarantees and that's a scary prospect.

Our current process is interesting to me because I find myself in a parallel situation to Don Heights. My personal future involves retirement and requires lots of thought and lots of changes. What would I like to do? Where should I live? What can I afford? Getting where I'm going will involve decisions about real estate and finances, downsizing, lifestyle changes, dealing with the bouts of darkness that will almost certainly be triggered by all these changes.

Again, no guarantees and also no committees or boards to blame if it all skids into the ditch. As exciting as it can be to contemplate a new start, I have recently flirted with the idea that it would be much safer and easier to stay where I am and adopt a philosophy being popularized by some of my fellow baby boomers.

SKINing (spending the kids' inheritance now) seems to be catching hold with some of my generation and would probably work for me, too. A lot of my difficulties could be eliminated by the simple expedient of spending every penny I can get my hands on to buy whatever I need or want in the hopes that I will run out before the money. Of course, some people have always lived this way, either through choice or necessity. We all remember Aesop's fable about the ant and the grasshopper. Really what boomers have invented may only be the bumper stickers that they somewhat self-consciously attach to large, expensive vehicles to explain how they are paying for them.

Of course, SKINing is one of the options available to Don Heights. We could avoid making hard choices by simply continuing to live beyond our means until we or the money run out but I suspect that would be our very last resort. I think that we will find our way to a sustainable lifestyle, whether it involves buying property or renting something more affordable. Once we are all settled, maybe some of the grasshoppers will take us on a holiday in their expensive motor homes.

~ Judy Newman



10 Codeco Court

Further to many members viewing the Codeco Court property and the subsequent informal meeting at Don Heights, we wanted to advise you that a conditional offer was not submitted on this property.

Also, because of the comments made at that meeting, the Location and Premises Committee has been directed to revise their mandate and bring it forward to the Board at the next meeting on February 8th. It was further directed that they bring a revised mandate to the congregation in the near future for congregational approval.

Respectfully,
Margo and Germaine

Generosity in December

Thanks to all of you whose contributions and/or purchases resulted in our being able to donate to local charities as follows: North York Women's Shelter: \$433 from the Craft Sale proceeds; ACSA (Agincourt Community Services Association): \$536 from the Mitten Tree collection; and the USC (Unitarian Service Committee): \$100 from the signers of the Don Heights Christmas Card.

~ Ruth Plumpton - Treasurer

Notes From the Board

Financial

The difference between the income for the end of the year (\$84,000) and expenditures (\$115,000) is \$-20,000.

Social Action donations included: \$433 to North York Women's Shelter, \$536 (Mitten Tree) to ACSA, \$100 (Christmas Card) to USC.

Guest Speakers

Tom Brown presented a property that is available and recommended that the board view it. Members of the board have viewed it.

John Plumpton shared insights on property ownership for a congregation and the mandate of the Locations and Premises committee based on previous experiences.

Motions

Motion: to support the process initiated by the Location and Premises Team re: the purchase of property at 10 Codeco court. Defeated.

Motion: to request that the Location & Premises committee revise the mandate of this committee. Accepted.

Motion: to request that a pre-approved mortgage be obtained by the Location & Premises Committee.
Accepted. ~ Lidia Labate



To Occupy . . .

To fill a space, a time or a place. It's an interesting definition to reflect on as one tries to understand the Occupy Movement. I think of it as a call to all of us to fill our space in the world with critical thinking. We are being urged to think and to take action about economic inequities, about environmental degradation and about social injustices. We are being urged not just to pass through our breaking world, but rather to let it occupy our minds and to take action that can fix our world before it is too late. The young people who lived in tents in St. James Park in the summer of 2011 and all the others who have demonstrated around the world are trying to give all of us a wakeup call. They are asking us not to be so comfortable. They are asking us to think before we buy water, before we buy airline tickets, before we buy cheap chocolate, before we buy toxic cleaning products, before we buy cheap imported foods. They are asking us to think about our own role in perpetuating the reign of the top 1%.

Everyday there are workshops and meetings about some aspect of the Occupy Movement in Toronto – even about how to prevent activist burnout. These groups welcome visitors and new members. Have a look at the calendar on the Occupy website and find your place in this global change movement. Participate in the work of creating a sustainable future for all of us in the interdependent web of all existence. Become an Occupier.

3 Plan to march in the summer of 2012. www.occupyto.com
~ Lorna Weigand

Canvass 2012 Update

We've received \$49,400 in pledges for 2012.

Unfortunately, this is \$10,000 short of our goal of \$60,000. There are still a few folks to be heard from and we are trying to reach them. If you are one and are able to make a pledge, please send in your form or give me a call at 416-497-5349. Thanks.

~ Ruth Plumpton, Treasurer

Sunday, March 4, 2012 after the Sunday Service

The DH Social Action Committee is organizing an opportunity for Don Heighters to participate in the CUC Active Democracy Survey. Details about lunch to follow.

The Active Democracy Study Group has prepared materials for congregations, interest groups, and individuals to study and respond through an online survey.

Congregations will be holding workshops between January and March 11, 2012 to gather input. All Canadian Unitarians and Universalists are invited to be part of this conversation, which will help to ensure that democratic processes within the CUC meet the ongoing needs and desires of our members.

<http://cuc.ca/active-democracy-study-group/>

Christmas 2011 at Don Heights



February Birthdays



Adult Program for February

The very popular program **Sharing Our Music** will be held on Thursday, February 2 at 7:30 p.m. at Matt and Rosemary Wood's condo. Bring a piece of music on CD or tape to share with the group. Or use the evening as a chance to talk about music which is meaningful to you. And bring some nibbles or a drink to share.

The **Spiritual Dialogue Circle**, held on the first Monday of each month, will meet on February 6 at 7:00 p.m. The topic this month is Honouring Parents.

Our monthly **Afternoon at the Movies** will meet on Wednesday, February 15. We will choose a movie that starts around 4:00 p.m., and information about the movie, location, and time will be available a week before the movie, either in the Order of Service or on DHall and DHDiscuss.

The **Book Group** will meet on February 19 after the Sunday Service and breaking with tradition, we will be reading and talking about a magazine, the January issue of *The Walrus Magazine*. This is a new venture for our group and we are looking forward to some good conversation. Please see the column to the left for more information about the magazine.

Wine, Women, and Spirituality meets on February 24 at 7:15 at Margo Holland's house. Come and find out what makes the women of Don Heights such a terrific group to be with.

If you appreciate the many activities at Don Heights, think about the work needed to keep things running smoothly. You may not be interested in doing a Sunday service, getting involved in Social Action, or attending an Adult Program. But there is one way that all of us can contribute to Don Heights. Come out to one of Linda Schofield's **Do Be Do Group** meetings! Once a month we meet to tackle necessary maintenance and organization at Don Heights. Everyone is welcome. Join us on Tuesday, February 28 any time between 10:30 a.m. and 1:00 p.m. Call Linda if you want more information.

~ Mary Doucette



Don Heights Book Group Winter and Spring, 2012



February 19, 2012 – The January issue of *The Walrus* magazine – Here's your opportunity to read this excellent Canadian general interest magazine which publishes articles on Canadian and international affairs, along with fiction and poetry by Canadian writers. It was launched in 2003 as an attempt to create a Canadian equivalent to American magazines such as *Harper's*, *The Atlantic Monthly* or *The New Yorker*. The magazine is committed to publishing the best work by the best writers from Canada and elsewhere on a wide range of topics for readers who are curious about the world. The magazine founder, David Berlin, chose the title because the walrus is a Canadian native, is curmudgeonly but clever, bulky but agile, and no one ignores a walrus.

March 18, 2012 – *The Secret River* by Kate Grenville - An Australian bestseller this is an eye-opening tale of the settlement of New South Wales by a population of exiled British criminals. A delicate coexistence with the native population dissolves into violence, and Grenville presents the settler-aboriginal conflict with equanimity and understanding.

April 15, 2012 – *The Uncommon Reader* AND *The Clothes They Stood Up In* by Alan Bennett - *The Uncommon Reader* is a very funny novella in which Queen Elizabeth II wanders into a mobile library van in pursuit of her runaway corgis and comes to know an avid reader who educates her in the joys of reading. In *The Clothes They Stood Up In* the staid Ransomes return from the opera to find their Regent's Park flat stripped bare--right down to the toilet-paper roll. Free of all their earthly belongings, the couple faces a perplexing question: Who are they without the things they've spent a lifetime accumulating? Suddenly a world of unlimited, frightening possibility opens up before them. Some have called this a near perfect little book.

Mary 27, 2012 – *Little Bee* by Chris Cleave - Cleave's skillful writing slowly, but relentlessly brings us to the central event of this book – a horrible thing that happened on a beach in Nigeria. We learn about a 4-year old boy who thinks he's Batman, his mother Sarah, his anguished father, and Little Bee, a Nigerian refugee. Little Bee's plight overlays a rich and disturbing subtext of broader issues such as the unfathomable abyss between first and third world countries, the dark politics of oil, and the labyrinthine plight of refugees.



Chris and Judy Stoute have returned to Toronto, looking very healthy and relaxed, after a family visit to Barbados.

Patrick McDonald writes that his mother, Heather McDonald, is lost in space and time, but seems pleasantly so most of the time. There are many people watching out for her. She still eats well, so Patrick dropped off her favourite Christmas Dinner. Who knows? Maybe the flavours and aroma will still bring a Christmas memory or two.



Tom Davis died in December as a result of complications from diabetes. Tom often played his guitar and entertained Don Heighers at Christmas parties, Dream Auction fundraisers and other events. He and his daughter were involved in the Don Heights Choir at one point. Our condolences to his family.



I am pleased to be able to report that Mary Rideout is now back in her residence. She has recovered from her cracked pelvis. Germaine Kovary has been in touch with her and Mary says she is happy to be home.

~ Rosemary Wood

Keep These Dates!
May 18 to 20, 2012 in Ottawa
Canadian Unitarian Council
Spiritual Leadership Symposium and
Annual General Meeting

Don Heights Festival Theatre



Thursday, February 9
Dinner at Windfields, 801 York Mills, between Leslie and Don Mills - 5pm, Dessert and coffee at Don Heights at 7:00, film at 7:15.

Woman In the Dunes (1964), a Japanese feature film based on the 1962 novel by Kobo Abe. The story focuses on the relationship that develops between a man and a woman forced to live together in a strange, stressful situation. The surreal and, at times, absurd nature of *Woman in the Dunes* has been compared to existentialist works such as Sartre's *No Exit* and Beckett's *Happy Days*. Aside from its intriguing premise, this film is notable for the life that director Hiroshi Teshigahara brings to the ever-shifting sand, which almost becomes a character in its own right.

The film adaptation of *Woman in the Dunes* won the Special Jury Prize at the 1964 Cannes Film Festival and, somewhat unusually for an avant-garde film, was nominated for the Best Foreign Language Film Oscar in the same year (losing out to Italian film *Yesterday, Today and Tomorrow*).

In 1965, Teshigahara was nominated for the Best Director Oscar (losing to Robert Wise for *The Sound of Music*).

If you would like to see this film, please let me know by e-mail.



There will be a charge of \$6 per person for dessert and coffee (proceeds to Don Heights); no charge for the show. Feel free to invite guests.

It's okay to skip the dinner and just come for dessert, coffee, and the show. Just let me know so we don't run out of dessert!

USC Canada Presentation The World We Want: An evening with Frances Moore Lappé

When: Tuesday, January 31st at 7:30pm

Where: Wychwood Barns (Barn 2), 601 Christie Street

Tickets : \$10 (+HST) available on line or in person or at Type Books in Toronto (427 Spadina Road location only).

The visionary author of the bestseller, Diet for a Small Planet, Frances Moore Lappé is still shaking up our myths about markets, food, and the environment . She challenges us to change the way we think, so that we can create the world we want.

Please see www.usc-canada.org/lappe for more information, or to purchase tickets online.

GTA Unitarian Young Adult Group

Board Game and Baking Event at Don Heights

February 19, 2012, from 1:00 - 4:00 pm

There will be young Unitarians from around the GTA attending the service, so it would be a great day to invite other young adults and youth to the congregation. However, people of all ages are welcome to join us!

Concert and Fundraiser for Regent Park School of Music

When: Saturday, March 31, 2012 at 2:30 pm

Where: First Unitarian Toronto Congregation
– 175 St. Clair Avenue West, Toronto

Cost: \$15.00 per person, or pay what you can

The concert on March 31 will consist of performances by the choir at First Unitarian Toronto Congregation, the Parkdale Children's Choir, resident musicians of First Toronto, and accomplished musicians from the Regent Park School of Music.

The funds raised at this event will go directly to the Regent Park School of Music, to help support their programs.

If you enjoy music, this is a concert you can't afford to miss.

Please speak to Christine Cover if you want tickets, or more information, at the Don Heights Office - 416-444-8839.



Volunteers Needed

Seeking a few UUs to join with me to form a downtown Toronto fundraising group for Child Haven. As many are aware, there are support groups outside of Toronto, but none here.

I was on the Board of the Lakeshore Unitarian Church (Montreal) when Bonnie and Fred began Child Haven, have since been a continuous supporter and was able to visit their magnificent Green Tara home in Nepal. My daughter Jen in Victoria has recently been involved in a very successful Child Haven fund-raising evening and inspired me to plan one here for Toronto.

I look forward to being able to share ideas with some UU's and to realize these into an evening of love and support (I know a venue that can be used).

Email me at cfarkass@gmail.com.

Calling All Artists

The **Don Heights Art Show** held last April was a big success, and will be repeated on **Saturday, April 14, 2012** at 3:00 pm.

The artists of Don Heights are invited to bring three pieces of art created by you personally for display or sale.

If you are interested in participating, please send an e-mail to Sharyn Devine.

Lay Chaplaincy "Basics" Training Designing and Leading Rites of Passage

When: April 20 to 22

Where: Hosted by the Unitarian Church of Hamilton

Cost: \$45

Have you ever wondered just what it is Lay Chaplains do in the community? An opportunity to find out is coming up in April, in Hamilton, Ontario.

This CUC workshop is intended for those who are considering Lay Chaplaincy, recently appointed Lay Chaplains, and members of a congregation's Lay Chaplaincy committee.

For more information about this training please contact Linda Thomson, CUC Congregational Development Director, at linda@cuc.ca

Please go to <http://laychaplaincybasics-hamilton-2012.eventbrite.ca/> to register for this training session.

February 2012

Sun.	Mon.	Tues.	Wed.	Thurs.	Fri.	Sat.
* = Lifespan Program ^ = Dream Event RE = Religious Exploration for Children		January 31 7:30 pm The World We Want with Frances Moore Lappé @ Wychwood Barns (see pg 7)	1 Oraynu	2 7:30 pm Sharing Our Music @ the Wood's	3	4
5 9:45 - Meditation Service - 10:30 am Debt, Usury and Monetary Reform	6 7:00 pm Spiritual Dialogue Circle - Honouring Parents	7 7:00 - 8:00 pm *Don Heights Choir 8:00 - 9:00 pm *Don Heights Community Choir	8 7:00 pm Board Meeting	9 *5:00 pm Dinner at Windfields 7:15 pm DH Festival Theatre <i>Woman in the Dunes</i>	10 Midwinter Unitarian Retreat at Cedar Glen YMCA Bolton <i>Contemplating Our Essential Nature</i>	11 Midwinter Retreat <i>Contemplating Our Essential Nature</i>
12 9:45 - Meditation Service - 10:30 am From Wind God to Personal Soul Midwinter Retreat	13 March Bulletin Deadline 10:30 am Caring Committee	14 7:00 - 8:00 pm *Don Heights Choir 8:00 - 9:00 pm *Don Heights Community Choir	15 Movie Afternoon	16	17 ^7:00 pm Euchre Night @ Lorna Weigand's 7:00 pm *Open Mike Coffee House	18
19 9:45 - Meditation Service - 10:30 am Hidden Forms of Discrimination 12:30 pm Book Group The January Issue of <i>Walrus Magazine</i> 1:00-4:00 pm - GTA Young Adult Group	20 11:00 am Sunday Services Meeting	21 7:00 - 8:00 pm *Don Heights Choir 8:00 - 9:00 pm *Don Heights Community Choir	22	23	24 Bulletin Stuffing 7:15 pm Wine, Women & Spirituality @ Margo Holland's Oraynu	25
26 9:45 - Meditation Service - 10:30 am I've Got a Home in Glory-Land: A Lost Tale of the Underground Railroad 12:30 pm Pot Luck 12:45 pm Social Action Film: <i>Voice of Women: The First 30 Years</i>	27	28 10:30 am - 1:00 pm DoBeDo Group 7:00 - 8:00 pm *Don Heights Choir 8:00 - 9:00 pm *Don Heights Community Choir	29 Oraynu	March 1	March 2	March 3