

THE NOR'WESTER

The Newsletter of the Unitarian Fellowship of Northwest Toronto

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June 6th @ 10:30 a.m.

“Irish Famine in Canada”

Bill Neil - Irish Park Foundation

Bill, a representative from the Irish Park Foundation, will speak to us on the Irish emigrants who “invaded” Toronto in the fall of 1857. He will tell us about their suffering and subsequent contribution to the city.

Bill has served as a very successful Publisher & CEO of The Financial Post. After the sale of the Post, Bill was appointed President & CEO of MTI Global Inc., a material sciences corporation with expertise in the aerospace industry.

A believer in “Time for Work, Family and Community”, Bill has been active in both industry-related and charitable endeavors. Raised in working-class Belfast, Bill experienced first-hand the results of a dysfunctional, divided community and resolved to make a contribution to fixing it. Working with the board of The Ireland Fund of Canada for 10 years (7 as Chair), Bill helped raise funds for integrated education in Northern Ireland. Proud of his heritage, he also co-founded the establishment of Ireland Park in downtown Toronto to commemorate and celebrate the sacrifice and contribution of Irish Famine victims to building Toronto.

June 13th @ 10:30 a.m.

“Being Present”

Margo Holland and Ellen Jamal

We are very fortunate to have Margo & Ellen join us to share their presentation, *Being Present*, a service about being present to life and being aware of the beauty that surrounds us.

Margo has been a member of Don Heights since 2003 and is the past president. She is presently a lay chaplain. She is an Early Childhood Educator, has run her own daycare for the past 26 years, is a Feldenkrais Practitioner and facilitates Labyrinth workshops.

June 20th at 10:30 a.m.

50th Anniversary Service

Peter Hughes

It's here...our 50th Anniversary Celebration Service. How exciting! We look forward to sharing this day with current and past members and friends.

Peter Hughes, a favourite recent speaker at Northwest, will be delivering the main address and will be speaking on the Seven Unitarian Principles. We are also delighted to have Kalvin Drake with us, representing the CUC, who will also share a few words with us.

The choir will be leading us in beautiful music. Dave Jackson will be sharing with us his Memories of the Past, Marilyn Harris will be saying a few words about the Present, and Megan Ratcliffe, our newest member, will be looking ahead to our future.

Following the service, we will enjoy a delicious BBQ lunch and have the opportunity to celebrate the past and look towards our future with friends, both old and new.

June 27th at 10:30 a.m.

Annual General Meeting

All of Us - Chaired by Judy Magney

We encourage all members to come out and participate in our 2010 Annual Meeting. The meeting will be a chance to review the events of our 50th Fellowship year and prepare for our next Fellowship year by electing our new slate of officers for the Board and approving our budget for 2010/11. Please bring the Annual Meeting package with you that you will soon receive in the mail.

Give it a Moment's Thought . . .

Only those who risk going too far, can
find out how far one can go.

~ T.S. Eliot

SUMMER SERVICES

Thank you to those of you who have volunteered to lead a summer service. So far, we have these exciting programs scheduled:

July 11th - Arlene Kelland - Books! Books! and More Books!

July 18th - Dorothy De Haas - sharing her trip memories of Australia, New Zealand & Fiji

July 25th - Steve Watson - Sharing a talk on "The Good Society"

August 29th - Jim Lawry - "My Old Life in Toronto. My New Life in Mississauga"

*We are still looking for people to share a summer program August 8, 15, and 22. Please contact Grace if you are interested.
(ufnwt@bellnet.ca)*

Welcoming Congregations

Now More Than Ever

You may have seen a bit about Pride Toronto and the Gay Pride Parade in the news recently. The Stephen Harper Conservatives, in trying to solidify support with their socially conservative/religious base, has recently decided to slash over \$400,000 of tourism funding to Pride Toronto. This goes hand in hand with the recent decision to not fund maternal health initiatives that include abortion, and funding cuts to several women's groups. This may have put a damper on the parade but we can't let it dampen our spirit!



This year's Gay Pride Parade will be held on Sunday, July 4 at 2:30pm. The theme for this year is "You Belong". The Unitarian Congregations of Greater Toronto (UCGT) has been marching in the Gay Pride Parade for several years now. At last year's parade, Melanie Walters, from this congregation, joined them to help hold signs and march through the streets of downtown Toronto. If you would like to join Melanie, Dee, Megan and the rest of the Toronto Unitarians at this year's parade, please contact Melanie at dj_melly@hotmail.com.



Around the House



CALLING ALL BOOKIES!

The next Book Club meeting will be following the service on June 13th. The book we will be discussing is *Willy: Life of W. Somerset Maugham*. The moderator will be Merle Charleton.



CREATIVE SILENT AUCTION

Do you have a hidden talent? Do you have an item you could donate? Perhaps you would enjoy entertaining some Northwest friends? We are looking for contributions for our "Creative Silent Auction", to be displayed and bided on at our 50th Anniversary Celebration dinner at the Weston Golf & Country Club on Saturday, June 19th. Be creative, let your imagination run wild! We have already collected some fun and interesting "items". Please contact us if you would like to help (ufnwt@bellnet.ca / 416-249-8769).



THANK YOU!

Thank you to everyone who donated items for our tremendously successful yard sale". Our army of volunteers worked tirelessly on the Friday and Saturday. What a great team and what a wonderful way to foster camaraderie. Although it was a lot of effort, we shared many laughs. Together, we raised over \$630.00. Congratulations to Helen, Joanne, Mel, Ley, Geoff Lepper, Marilyn, Megan, Arlene, Tyler, Steve, Barbara, Elly, Claire, Deb, Tiffany, and Dee!

CAMEO

Thanks to Arlene for cooking us such a yummy vegetarian lunch at our May CAMEO. Thank goodness we ate lunch before we saw the movie, *Food Inc.*, which was a very scary and enlightening look at the food industry.

With all the excitement in June, with the 50th Anniversary Celebration, we will not be having a CAMEO lunch. Look for details about an English Garden Tea Party coming this summer.

C

BUILDING IMPROVEMENTS

The painting of the outside of the porch has recently been completed and re-energizes the back porch area! And the inside of the porch is looking much less cluttered thanks to Dee and her crew who moved all of the yard sale items out, that didn't sell, to be picked up by CP. Thanks to all the busy bees who continue to help beautify Fellowship House.



Kay Cook

Kay Cook, long term member and Chaplain of 20 years, passed away on May 9th, after her battle with Leukemia. Many friends & members of Northwest attended the beautiful Memorial Service on May 30th. A tribute to Kay Cook will be in the July newsletter.