

First Unitarian Universalist Church of Winnipeg

The Communicator January 2022

Sunday Services via [Zoom](#) at 10:30 am

The theme for January is Renewal

What's Inside

Sunday Services	1 - 2
Minister on Leave	2
Board Notes	3 - 4
Adult Programming	4
Transitional RE Consultant	5
Len Evans.....	6 - 7
Nurturing our Spirit	7
Financial Education Seminar	8
Who's Who	9



The deadline for the February 2022 issue is **Thursday, January 20th, 2022**

January 2, 2022

Sounds of Renewal

Service leaders: UU Poets

Service coordinators: Steve Lennon, Sarah Cummings

As we renew the year with a fresh start and heaps of hope, a gaggle of Unitarian Universalist poets will explore in verse what renewal means to them. Start your 2022 with our church's traditional poetry service. See you then.

January 9, 2022

Renewing Our Free and Responsible Search for Truth and Meaning

Service leader: Odell Havsdotter

Service coordinators: Marian Siemens, Paula Wachs

We will examine what it means to renew and regenerate our commitment to our fourth principle, in light of everything we are dealing with at the beginning of 2022. What does it mean to be free in our search, and what does it mean to be responsible in our search? There will be opportunities for attendees to share their perspective with others.

continued on page 2

The Communicator

January 16, 2022

Renewal? What if I'm Just Hanging On?

Practical Mental Health Strategies for Coping Well

Service leader: Angela Haig

Service coordinators: Marian Siemens, Sarah Cummings

Many of us are doing just okay or are struggling during this pandemic. We've learned to adjust and re-invent routines over the past 20 months. On January 16, Angela Haig will look at what else we can do to cope well.

January 23, 2022

Renewal Through Recovery

Service leader: Norm Cobb

Service coordinators: Steve Lennon, Paula Wachs

Norm Cobb is a long time (30+ years) member of our congregation. In this service he will reflect on how he developed a 3-year addiction about 20 years ago, having been actively involved in the church, rebuilding a

career after being a stay-at-home Dad for 7 years, and while still being married with two teen daughters at home. Most importantly, Norm will focus on the ongoing work involved in recovery. As he says, "In recovery, we never graduate. We have to fully grasp that our disease is a spiritual disease. Our only reprieve is continued spiritual growth. On the positive side, spiritual growth can be infinite. That realization keeps me humble."

January 30, 2022

Societal Bereavement:

Becoming CEO of Your Own Personal Renewal Corporation

Service leader: Heather Emberley

Service coordinators: Dylan Fijal, Odell Havsdotter

We are bombarded with messages to "move forward" and that we need to "pivot" in these challenging pandemic times. Do we need closure in order to do that? Let's explore physical and spiritual renewal.

Rev. Meghann Robern Away



First UU Church of Winnipeg is proud to meet the Fair Compensation Guidelines of the UUA. These guidelines ensure that we take good care of our professional staff and recognize the importance of adequate paid vacation time (four weeks per year), as well as study leave (four weeks per year) and sabbatical (one month for each year of service). Rev. Robern will be combining these three portions of her contract for the next six months to return July 1, 2022.

We wish her rest and renewal during her absence.

The Communicator



Board Notes

by Marlene Schellenberg, President

This Board spent its first six months addressing many urgent matters that included staff departures, financial uncertainty, and systemic restructuring. Thanks to

the support many of you expressed, our community has been able to address many of these matters. Here are some things this community has done:

- participated in adopting the CUC's 8th Principle;
- attended the CUC Mental Health Matters Workshop;
- applied for and received TechUp provincial grant of \$5000;
- applied for and received \$1500 grant from Winnipeg West Bequest Trust to fund Access for All through technology (this is an AIM Team initiative);
- acquired equipment to provide in-person and virtual services;
- initiated an ad hoc group to develop better approaches to handling conflict;
- hired a Rental Events Coordinator.

This is only a partial list of dynamic new initiatives. All the while, committees in our Ministry, Justice, Congregational Services, Finance, and Facilities Clusters have sustained us with their passionate and steady work.

The Board is encouraged by your willingness to respond to our invitations

to volunteer and lend a hand in the work of our community. Our re-established Volunteer Resources Committee has begun its work to determine how we can connect participants to suitable roles. We trust that you will "step up" when asked to serve.

One of our volunteers who steps up over and over is our Property Chair, Michael Thiessen. Michael has engaged contractors to paint around windows and repoint brick and stucco. He keeps an eye on the snow clearing and sanding of our new parking lot. He is also vigilant of activities along our riverbank where we attempt to hold a fine balance between welcoming and safety. The volunteer work he performs could fill this page. Michael says he does this from the heart. His tasks are many, so please consider ways you could support him on the Properties Committee in the New Year. Contact office@uuwinnipeg.mb.ca and we'll connect you with Michael.

An exciting development has been signing a 4-month contract beginning January 1, 2022 with Deb Weiner to support our RE and help vision a new path. More information about Deb appears in another column in this Communicator. Some of you know that Paul Rodermond will be continuing his career path in Ontario mid-January. We continue to search for a Music Director to take over February 1, 2022.

The last few years have been a test of strength of the UU faith; all the

continued on page 4

The Communicator

Board Notes continued

lofty principles and aspirations we so proudly hold up when the going is easy have been tested during the pandemic. And we are still here. I invite us all to dig deep into our faith to look for strength. Lately, I've been guided by our first Aspiration to be: **Deeply Connected:** *We strive to foster healthy relationships amongst and within UU communities, with the broader world and with all life.*

When we look at each other, let's assume the best intent, approach each other with curiosity, and listen for different expressions of meaning to learn and broaden our understandings of each other. With the winter solstice behind us, we are moving toward the light. May we be filled with energy and hope for possibility in all areas of our congregational life.

Adult Programming

by Heather Emberley

Adult Programs is prepared for a dark and stormy night with a Zoom presentation, "Happiness is a Little Free Library" on Wednesday, January 26th from 7-8 pm.

Take one little library add two Unitarian Universalist library stewards, mix in five years of anecdotes and U have a recipe for some literary adventures. Whether you are considering constructing a Little Free Library (LFL) or are curious about those little boxes popping up throughout the city, you are invited to join us and bring your questions for Q & A. Here is the zoom link:

<https://zoom.us/j/96500664617?pwd=ZXArQVI3aVhibXE0TEhqK0xIdTkyZz09>

Meeting ID: 965 0066 4617

Passcode: 011593



The Communicator

Introducing Deb Weiner Transitional Religious Education Consultant



The Interim DLFD Search Team is delighted to tell you that we have engaged the services of Deb Weiner to consult with us on a new vision for our Religious Explorations

Program. Deb is a credentialed interim religious educator and lifelong Unitarian Universalist, focused on helping congregations in transition bring health and vitality to their religious education programs and congregational systems. She is also a coach and mentor to religious professionals. Deb has worked with congregations in the US and Canada on transitional ministry challenges they are facing. She is a writer and editor, an inspirational leader, public speaker and

team organizer, and serves in leadership roles for both the Liberal Religious Educators Association (LREDA) and the Association for UU Music Ministries (AUUMM). In her 'copious spare time' she operates a small catering business, The Delicious Dish, and can often be found in musical or theatrical productions in the greater Boston area.

We have contracted Deb's services January 1 - April 30, 2022. From Massachusetts, she will provide 10 hours of service each month meeting with leaders, interviewing key members and friends and families of the congregation. Further, she will conduct a study and report on curricular alternatives for education, as well as consult and plan a timeline for implementation and steps to re-initiate programming for RE. Target date for programming is fall 2022, but will be dependent on health and safety protocols.

We are thrilled to have Deb join us and look forward to working with her.

The Communicator

Remembering a First UU Church Member - Len Evans

by Gini Martin



Len Evans (Leonard Salusbury Evans) 1929-2016. Member for Brandon East, in the Provincial Legislature for thirty years. The website of the Manitoba Historical Society lists him as a 'Memorable Manitoban'.

Len, born in Transcona, earned an MA in Economics from The University of Manitoba. After a short time as a teacher, he moved his young family to Ottawa to work for the Dominion Bureau of Statistics (Stats Can) and then the CMHC. After eight years, he asked to be transferred back to Manitoba. In 1965, he accepted a position at Brandon University as an Economics professor. He ran provincially for the NDP. Elected to the Schreyer government in 1969, he served the people of Brandon East for 30 years. He did not stand for re election in 1999.

Len served as an MLA and cabinet minister: including Minister of Mines and Natural Resources (1969), Minister of Industry and Commerce (1969-1977), Minister Responsible for Manitoba Housing and Renewal Corporation (1976-1977), Minister of Natural Resources (1981-1982, 1986-1988), Minister Responsible for Manitoba Telephone System (1981-1982), Minister

of Community Service and Correction (1981-1983), Minister of Employment Services and Economic Security (1983-1988), Minister Responsible for A. E. McKenzie Company (1983-1984), and Minister Responsible for Manitoba Data Services (1987-1988).

As MLA, he helped orchestrate the expansion of Brandon's boundaries, allowing the city to take in a larger industrial tax base that helped fund future growth. The construction of the Keystone Centre, and the rebuilding of the First Street Bridge are a few of his achievements. He worked tirelessly for his constituents and their individual concerns. His obituary in the Free Press said " His socialist principles guided his actions throughout his life. A fierce champion of social justice, he touched the lives of so many people and left the world a better place.... He was a staunch humanist and a long time member of the Unitarian Church."

In 2010, the addition to Assiniboine Community College's campus was named The Len Evans Centre for Trades and Technology

One MLA colleague wrote " Len was an incredibly hard working MLA and Minister. He was always lugging around binders of briefing books and heading off to meetings with staff and persons representing the fields for which he was responsible. Then, every weekend driving back to Brandon to be with his family and meet with constituents.... Always cheerful, no matter the burden."

continued on page 7

The Communicator

In the early 1980s, as community services minister, Evans helped kick-start a reorganization of child-welfare services that included an end to out-of-province adoptions for indigenous children. That move, along with a series of tough recommendations from a child-welfare inquiry led by Justice Edwin Kimelman, effectively ended the so-called Sixties Scoop.

Another colleague MLA wrote "remembering his vitality and vision for making government work for people... Len's energy was remarkable..."

After leaving politics he served on the Public Utilities Board and the Board of Governors of Brandon University.

An accordion player and pianist, Len loved performing and played many a concert in local seniors' homes. After his death, the Len Evans Memorial Scholarship at Brandon University was established in his name.

In recognition of his community service, he received the [Queen Elizabeth II Silver Jubilee Medal](#) (1977) and [Queen Elizabeth II Golden Jubilee Medal](#) (2002), and an honorary doctorate from [Brandon University](#) (2001). He was inducted into the Manitoba Order of the Buffalo Hunt (2016).

Len and his wife, Alice attended the church when they were in Winnipeg.

Drew Caldwell, who succeeded Evans as MLA for Brandon East in 1999, called Evans "the single greatest public servant in the history of Brandon."

Thanks to The Brandon Sun, The Winnipeg Free Press and the Manitoba Historical Society.

Serving With Spirit: Nurturing UU Leaders Mini- Series



**January 23 & 30,
February 6, 13 & 20,
2022**

**1-3 pm PT/ 2-4 pm
MT/ 3- 5 pm CT/ 4- 6
pm ET/ 5- 7 pm AT**

Do you wish that your life as a volunteer and a leader was a joyful expression of your values, not a task on your to-do list? Do you struggle to know how to engage in a way which encourages resiliency? Do you desire to operate within a wider base of connections and spiritual/sustaining practices in your life?

Join Rev. Linda Thomson, Liz James and Joan Carolyn, for an interactive five sessions over a five-week learning journey this winter! Each week, you start with learning materials—videos, worksheets, and experiential learning experiences. You're invited to work through the materials at your own pace, on your own, and with classmates online. Each Sunday afternoon/evening, the group gathers on Zoom to share and learn together.

Together we will seek to build our capacity as leaders, allowing us to return to our home communities with stronger networks, fresh perspectives, and a sense of rejuvenation. For more information or to register - <https://cuc.ca/events/serving-with-spirit-nurturing-uu-leaders/1642953600/1642953600/>

The Communicator

Financial Education Seminar

Two Fridays, February 4 & 11,
2022, 1:30 – 3:30 pm



Take control of your financial destiny. Let's apply some independent UU thinking and a bit of iconoclasm to ensure your financial inter-

ests and outcomes align with your values and desires.

Participants will be provided with proven practical tips and techniques to assess:

- using self-directed investments vs advisor led or both
- the quality of your advisor's service and how to increase advisor accountability
- general investment portfolio flaws
- whether your investment costs are acceptable to you vs. lower cost alternatives
- whether your estate planning has avoided the most common flaws

General investment approaches will be provided. Resources for investor awareness and independence will be reviewed.

This seminar is not intended to replace professional financial advice provided by qualified industry professionals. Participants are assumed to have basic investment knowledge.

Seminar facilitator **Doug Wasyliw**, a member of our congregation is a retired former Certified Financial Planner and a current volunteer trustee of the church's Endowment Fund.

A suggested donation of \$25.00 or \$10.00 low income to the First UU Church of Winnipeg or its Endowment Fund covers both sessions. Limited means will not be a barrier to participation.

Program sponsors are the Endowment Fund Committee and the Adult Programming Committee.

Please register through Doug at ret-coachdjw@yahoo.ca and you will be sent the Zoom link.



The Communicator



Happy New Year
Here's hoping to
seeing everyone
in person in 2022

Please submit materials to the editor Marjorie Doyle by email to: communicator@uuwinnipeg.mb.ca
The **deadline** for the **February 2022** issue is:
Thursday, January 20th, 2022

The opinions of the authors are their own and do not necessarily represent those of the Board of Directors, the editorial board, the newsletter editor, or the church minister.

Who's Who

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