

UUFO Presents

# Fellowship News Infolettre UUFO

Summer Issue – August 2020



The Old Wooden Bridge – Photo by Ketheeswaran Sujiv, via Wiki Free Images

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## **BOARDWALK**

Brandon

It would be an understatement to say that we've seen great changes this spring and summer. It puts me in mind of the curse "May you live in interesting times." On that note, the board has decided that its theme for the year will be "adaptation."

In the spring, just as the lockdown started, the board was occupied with hiring a substitute for Sarah, our office administrator. We also helped transition all aspects of Fellowship to functioning virtually. Later, in June, we held the Annual General Meeting virtually. Planning the AGM involved considering many "what if" scenarios.

*Continued on P2...*



Swamp Milkweed Monarch – Photo provided by Teune via Wiki Free Images

## **On Internship**

Nancy

We are heading into another year of worship, celebration and social action. We are very fortunate that we will be joined this year by an intern, E.N.Hill. Some of us remember previous interns – Jennifer Channing, Kye Flannery, Jen Gray, and A.J. Galazen – and some of us understand the role of the intern. But for some of us, this will be new.

Fran Mowbray and I were asked to represent UUFO on the intern committee so we'd like to share what we know about the process. The Ministerial Fellowship Committee of the Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA) oversees the internship process. Every candidate seeking to become a minister with the UUA must complete a supervised internship. UUA lists internship sites and potential interns seeking placements. The purpose of the internship is for the person to develop the skills and experience needed to become a minister.

According to the UUA's manual, an internship site should enable the intern to pursue learning goals in a supportive atmosphere and provide opportunities for a variety of professional experiences.

Fran and I thought the following points outlined in the UUA manual are particularly Important to keep in mind:

1. Interns are not expected to fill a staff position. They are with us to learn.
2. We need to be mindful of our expectations and respect the intern's other commitments. In our case E.N.'s time will be divided - 70% with First and 30% with us.
3. Anonymous feedback is not appropriate. Often, congregants want to give feedback about the intern via a member of the internship committee. Feedback from congregants is welcome but it should be given in person or in written format with a name attached.

E.N. will be with us for ten months and Rev. Pat Haresch of First will be the supervising minister. The internship committee, comprised of three people from First - Joe Connor, Jan Andrews and Rev. Ellen Bell - and Fran and myself from UUFO, will meet regularly to support and guide E.N. We hope you will join us in welcoming E.N. to our unique and wonderful Fellowship!

*...BOARDWALK – Continued from P1*

At the AGM, the new board was elected as usual. In July, we held a virtual board "retreat" to provide an orientation for new members and do some planning for the year ahead. In August, we'll be busy coordinating COVID-19 safety measures for when the Fellowship opens up again.

We also held the first membership-wide review of UUFO's proposed new bylaws on August 9<sup>th</sup> (thanks Nick Lapan and Laura Evans) on Zoom. To ensure everyone who wants to review the bylaws has the chance, there will be a second review scheduled early in the fall.

Meanwhile, the intern minister we are sharing with First Unitarian has been hired. Fran Mowbray and Nancy Rubenstein will represent UUFO on the Intern Minister Committee. We are looking forward to the fresh perspective that a student minister can provide to our Fellowship.

Because two board members are reliant on public transit, the board has decided to continue meeting via Zoom for the foreseeable future. Our office administrator, Allison, will also continue to work from home for now.

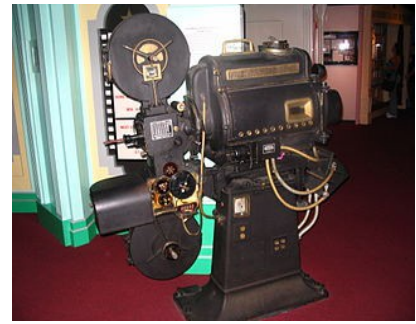
The board would like to thank the worship cluster for the work they have done and continue to do related to the pandemic. Not only did they manage the change to online services in the spring, but they continue to investigate new ways to hold services in the fall.

Thus far, the Fellowship has weathered the storm of the pandemic quite well. The upcoming year may be different, but we are confident it will be as engaging as ever.

## **UUFO Film Club**

Michel

Monday March 16th we were scheduled to have an UUFO movie outing yet the WHO had recently declared COVID a pandemic and I worried about going to the ByTowne Cinema and so I cancelled the outing. On Sunday the 15th, at our fellowship, I mused with a few of the movie group regulars about meeting at the ByTowne anyways but wasn't sure. My decision was taken for me because, by Monday the 16<sup>th</sup>, just about everything had closed down the ByTowne Cinema included.



Film Projector, Hollywood – Photo by Ankur P, via Wiki Free Images

In this unprecedented historical time we all went online UUFO included maintaining as much as we could virtually. Laura Evans suggested an online movie group discussion be scheduled bi-weekly. This is where the movie group is now meeting via Zoom every other Monday at 4:30 pm. We watch movies and then discuss them at the meeting. If you wish to join us there is a link provided via Friday Notes or just let me know at my email: [swissguy@rogers.com](mailto:swissguy@rogers.com)

We watched "Double Happiness" and "Meditation Park" for our first meeting. Both films directed by Mina Shum. We compared the similarities and differences between the two films and the growth that Mina Shum displayed as much time had passed between when she made each movie. Two weeks later we discussed "The Terminal" and "Catch me if you Can" both directed by Steven Spielberg. Both films starred Tom Hanks. Our next films to be discussed on Monday July 27th (by the time you read this this date will likely be in the past) are: "Rome Open City" and "Bicycle Thieves". Both are Italian Neo-Realist films. They were made near the end of the second world war or soon after and were a reflection of the destruction and poverty left because of the war. They were made to be realistic, to show the hardships of life during and soon after the war and used unknown actors and actresses. They were films with a socially conscious message. It is best to have a box of tissues beside you when you watch these.

In August we will watch and discuss: "Hope and Glory" and "Grave of the Fireflies". One is a humorous film about how children see the world and react to it during war time and takes place during the second world war and the bombings in England. The other is a Japanese anime film about a boy and his younger sister trying to deal with the losses and devastation the second world war was bringing to Japanese citizens.

All the films we watch are available on Netflix or for free on YouTube, Kanopy or Hoopla. Kanopy and Hoopla are free with a Ottawa Public Library membership. We, in the movie group, are always happy to welcome new participants. We are happy to get suggestions for films to watch as well. Hope to see you at the movies virtually.



Ottawa River – Photo by Michel Rathwell, via Wiki Free Images



## Coffee and Conversation

Laura

This has been a social summer for the Fellowship. The Sunday “coffee hour” from the spring continued as a discussion over zoom through the summer. Weeks alternated between a focused discussion and an unstructured chat that touched on personal issues, political and social developments: wherever the conversation took us.



Image via freepik.com

Some participants have been regulars and some just joined once or twice.

We were never fewer than a dozen. One week was a substantive discussion about how racism touches us. Another Sunday the discussion focused on how society should be (re)structured for a Just Recovery. A Sunday morning of humour was a laugh. In between we shared stories of job losses, joys of gardening, stories of restaurants reopening and the successes and challenges of life.

Above all, we have gotten to know each other a bit better. Zoom has the advantage of being accessible from home, no driving, no buses, no masks.

Thanks to Claire, Brandon and Martha for hosting some the discussions.



Bucharest Mug – Photo by Andru Stavrică, via Wiki Free Images

*Friendship is certainly  
the finest balm*

*Jane Austen*

## UUFO in Photos

Just because most of us haven't seen each other in a while, doesn't mean everything has ground to a halt.

Please enjoy these short updates as UUFO Members and Friends fill us in on what they've been celebrating.



Image of vintage "congratulations" card – public domain, via Wiki Free Images

Helmut, Marilyn, Fred, Mardele, and Elinor  
Enjoying some **distanced socializing** in the rain



Photo provided by Mark



Photo provided by the Caring Circle

**Happy Birthday, Ken!**  
Here is the Caring Circle  
honouring Ken's 88<sup>th</sup> birthday  
at their monthly meeting on August 14<sup>th</sup>  
(Ken's actual birthday).



Photo provided by the Caring Circle



## Welcome Baby Phoebe

**Dave** and **Carolle** welcomed a new granddaughter, Phoebe Régina (after Carolle's beloved grandmother) Edmunds on July 16<sup>th</sup>.

We are now the proud grandparents of four little ones: Olivier (four years), Freya, (two years), Nicolas (twenty months) and Phoebe (1 month)!

Life doesn't get better than this!



Photo provided by Dave



Photo provided by Sarah

## Baby Izzy Update

As you know, baby Isidore Marlo Brydon (Izzy) was born on April 23, joining Sarah', Dale', and Leander's family.

Four months later, Leander still loves his baby brother, and likes to try to make him smile. Izzy has grown so much and already even has two teeth!

## Happy Pride!

It's that time of year in Ottawa! UUFO wishes all our queer and trans members and friends a happy Pride! Celebrate each other, even at a distance, and keep on fighting for tomorrow.



Katowice Pride – Photo by Silar, via Wiki Free images

## Fellowship Pub Nights

Pat Lucey

For several years now, we've kept our monthly Friday Pub Night tradition alive, gathering with Fellowship friends in various pubs around Ottawa for an enjoyable social outing.

When the COVID-19 pandemic arrived and took these outings off the table for the time being, we moved to Zoom for our fun times, and our Pub Night was reborn into a weekly Friday evening check-in.

Over the summer, our Pub Night Zoom has been a regular spot in the week where Fellowship friends can just check in with one another, talk about what we've been doing all week, and regularly update one another about how we're coping with these unfamiliar times we're living in.

Personally speaking, I've appreciated the opportunity to connect with a few Fellowship friends on a weekly basis during the summer, which is usually a time when our community takes a long break from our Fellowship activities (not Pub Night, though – Pub Night doesn't take a summer vacation). And of course I especially appreciate the dedication of our Pub Night Zoom hosts in creating this weekly space for us to connect and chat – thank you so much!

Of course we don't know at this point where the pandemic will take us, what with schools re-opening, and the easing of some restrictions, but I'm hopeful we'll be able to transition back to our (properly managed and socially-distanced) in-person Pub Nights at least once or twice before winter sets in. So I'm looking for suggestions from you: assuming that outdoor gatherings will still be permissible in the coming months with respect to provincial and local health and safety regulations, where would you like to gather for an outdoor Pub Night in September and/or October? In the past, attendance has normally been somewhere between 12 and 20 persons, so this gives you an idea of the options which might be available to us. Please share your thoughts with me (check the directory for my contact information), and we'll see if we can make this happen!

*UUFO looks forward to our September 13  
Water Communion and Ingathering Celebration*



Photo via uufo.org



Image provided by freepik.com

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