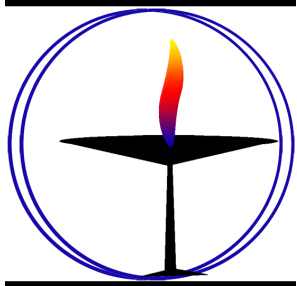


# The UU Church of Buffalo



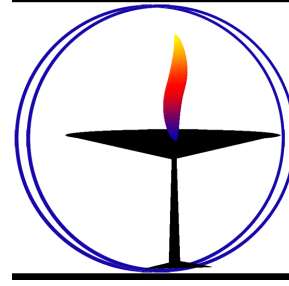
*Gather – Inspire – Transform*

**September 2014 Newsletter**

695 Elmwood Ave ∪ Buffalo, NY 14222

716-885-2136

[www.BuffaloUU.org](http://www.BuffaloUU.org)



**September 7, 10:30am**

*Ingathering and Welcoming*

**Rev. Mary Hnottavange-Telleen**

This Ingathering centers on a ritual which has become a tradition in many if not most Unitarian Universalist congregations each September. Two transcending themes are naturally built into it: first, the recognition of water as the very symbol of life and the connections that exist between responsible human beings and earthly creation. Second, the congregation affirms once again that being together in our place of worship is the heartbeat of community and embodies a reflection of our deepest reason for being together.



**September 14, 10:30am**

*An Evolving Ministry – Reflections -- Rev. Mary Hnottavange-Telleen*

This year the congregation embarks upon a new phase in its life. In preparation for a new covenant to begin our work together this year, the newly arrived Interim Minister will offer introductory autobiographical and theological reflections in the context of the service.

**September 21, 10:30am**

*Turning and Returning -- Rev. Fran Manly*

The Jewish High Holidays, beginning with Rosh Hashanah on September 26 and ending with Yom Kippur on October 4, begin this week. For our Jewish brothers and sisters, this will be a time of self-examination and repentance, things that are often in short supply in Unitarian Universalist congregations. Maybe they shouldn't be.

**September 28, 10:30am**

*Emergence -- Rev. Mary Hnottavange-Telleen*

We will reflect upon the organic and unfolding nature of our faith community as a living entity. How might this particular lens impact our self-understanding as a congregation called to a new sensitivity regarding the impact upon our life the great changes afoot in the world's environment.

# All On Board

by Phil Nicolai, UUCB Board of Trustees President

The pre-Socratic Greek philosopher, Heraclitus once said that the only thing that is constant is change. So how are things changing here at church? The most obvious will be the presence of our new interim minister in the pulpit on Ingathering Sunday, September 7th. Mary Hnottavange-Telleen has been getting to know our staff and many of the church members who volunteer or have been attending the summer services. As the church year starts up, I hope you will all have the opportunity to meet her and share your hopes and aspirations for our congregation with her.

Other things that have been changing are the way our governance structure has been adapting to serve the needs of the congregation. Our finance committee, under the able leadership of Marjorie Girth, has met several times this summer putting together a well crafted budget which will be presented at the Congregational Meeting on September 28th. Informational meetings will be held on the two Sundays before the Congregational Meeting to help answer questions you may have regarding it. Our stewardship team, co-chaired by Becky Humphrey and Jeff Lowry, is putting the finishing touches on our Annual Budget Drive which will officially start in October. One of the Board's most important functions is to be responsible for the financial health of the congregation. We have made enormous strides this past year tracking our income and expenses and enlisting your support to make sure that we are able to do the things that we want to do to fulfill our mission.

Our budget has a large aspirational component to it because we adopt it before we hold our budget drive. We intend to continue to provide support for our excellent staff so that they can in turn support us in keeping our programs and facilities operating at an optimal level. But that's just the ground floor. We're looking for visiting stewards to share their enthusiasm with fellow congregants in October. Our Strategy Committee is looking for people who are interested in formulating plans, both for the long and short term. Our care network always welcomes new members. This fall Bill Parke will be heading up a new outreach effort. Social justice, whether it's addressing the needs of the environment or homeless families in Western New York, wants your involvement. And if you're a teacher or a singer, check in with our Lifespan Faith Development Team or the Choir team. Did I mention Covenant Groups? Did I not mention the at least 10 to 15 other ministry teams that are fulfilling a vital mission in our community?

There is so much going on here at UUCB and there are so many great people wanting you to join them in the work they are doing. Welcome back. See you at church.





# Hello!



by Rev. Mary Hnottavange-Telleen

I greet you today from the margins of Phase II of what may seem to have become “The Never-ending Interim Ministry” at the Unitarian Universalist Church of Buffalo. I can appreciate that many of you may find yourselves feeling rather downcast at the prospect, after three full years of intentional transformation, being informed once again that you are entering a time of “Transition.” Oh! May it NOT Be So!

Interim Ministry at the outset, for both Minister and congregation, is in a sense beginning in the middle. And in this case, of course, it is the middle of the middle. Speaking as an Interim Minister, sometimes entry into the life of a new congregation may seem like being dropped into a stampeding herd bent on sailing off a cliff. Sometimes, it is more like finding oneself in a fairy tale and coming upon a peacefully slumbering giant. . . . Very occasionally, the experience has the mystery and romance of leaping onto a train and getting to know the passengers one by one, only to discover a great Poirot- style mystery. From the ministerial side, one just never knows what to expect, in spite of painstaking preparation, EXCEPT that it will be different from anything previous AND it will also bear dynamic similarity to one’s past experience with Unitarian Universalist congregations in transition.

Interim Ministers, I know well, are quite fond of speaking energetically about the joys of intentional change. We wax eloquent when it comes to describing the joys of institutional work of the interim period, and we love to generate enlivening visions that encourage walking forward together hand in hand, and working long hours shoulder to shoulder, in the spirit of renewal. All the while, a growing sense of doubt is cast on the efficacy of a natural tendency we humans share: the instinct to center our plans for a bright future around dearly held memories and past inspiration. Rising to the occasion is a tall order, no matter how it is packaged.

As I revisit “beginning in the middle” once again, I cannot help but recall one Sunday morning in 1990, when an impressively fierce and wild white-haired woman greeted me in line at the first Unitarian Universalist church I ever served. As a new minister there, I fervently hoped that my sermon on feminist theologian Nelle Morton’s new book, *The Journey Is Our Home*, would create a spirit of adventure in my first UU ministry. But, no. Surprisingly, this woman emphatically spat out, “I *do not* want to hear ‘the journey is our home.’ Please don’t say that ever again! I am tired of journeying,” she said. “I want a real home.”

And so began a two-year conversation that carried us through what proved to be very rich and interesting times that I recall with great fondness. The trick is to find a way to feel at home. . . while we are really still on the road. My theory is: if we are going to be traveling together, we might as well get comfortable!

There is only one real solution, so far as I know. That is to find ways to become more content and at peace in the present moment. And so that is where we shall begin this year of ministry together. It is a matter of no small spiritual significance. We will begin by finding rest at the center of the whirlwind around us, and in that extended moment, find good ways to connect, so that the relationships we build will have heart and strength.

During the next several weeks, I will be seeking to learn as much as possible from you, and the varied perspectives you have, to enrich my understanding of your circumstances. May it be a wonderful time of conversation, of reasoning and reflecting together, and of appreciating the important differences in perspective we will have on the whole of congregational life.

These weeks ahead are the all important, *getting to know you* period. It is a time to take it slow, to savor the opportunities that may lie hidden in once more, beginning anew. Please join me in looking forward!

# Loving Community Begins with You!

Sonja Jensen, CRE

Director of Lifespan Faith Development



*Come, come, whoever you are  
Wanderer, worshiper, lover of leaving  
Ours is no caravan of despair,  
Come, yet again come  
~Rumi*



The summer is winding down and we are getting an early taste of fall. With the cooler weather, thoughts turn to the routine of the academic year. While some kids dread the return of school, I confess I always got excited at the idea of new books, clothes and school supplies. I looked forward to learning new things and because I lived out in the country away from town I was really excited to have daily contact with my friends again.

Here at UUCB, we celebrate diversity, but often in school kids may not receive that kind of acceptance. For our children, it can be a retreat to come to church and spend time with other kids who share their values. While adults can often shape their social worlds to create a bubble of likeminded people, our kids really do live in a much more diverse community in their schools. In many ways this is enriching, but in others it is isolating. They need the consistent opportunity to check in with our church community to help their UU values deepen.

Making a commitment to bring children and youth regularly will help them feel like this is their community where they are safe to be themselves and drop some of the masks that school demands of them. Here children are not judged by their test scores, reading level or social group. Children and youth of color or who identify on the GLBTQ spectrum are not only accepted, they are encouraged to participate fully as leaders within the group and the district and even at the UUA level.

Here we talk about the things that are happening in our world and challenge our children, youth and adults to question how the values they bring to and learn from Unitarian Universalism apply to the way things are done in the world. And we teach them to support each other in feeling empowered to make a difference in the outcome.

This is a special place, like no other, in the lives of our young people. Come join us as we live into our mission to gather in loving community, inspiring one another to transform ourselves to create a more just and compassionate world. To make it so....we need you.

Regular attendance is an important element in building the relationships and trust that create the community we come here to find. As you plan extracurricular enrichment activities for your children this year, please set aside Sunday mornings as a sacred time to enjoy the unique benefits of attending church and being an integral part of this accepting community.

**First day of classes is September 14<sup>th</sup>. Required Parent Orientation and Registration will follow class. Lunch Included.**

# Ripples, Well Done!

Christine Derby-Cuadrado, Membership Coordinator

The “Creative Hospitality” Workshop held on Sunday, August 10<sup>th</sup> was a grand success with 48 people in attendance. The Welcome and Connections Team is to be applauded for their amazing efforts in creating and facilitating the workshop. The members of the Welcome and Connections Team are Julie Taylor, Evelyn Herr, Beryl Smith, Tim Ashton and Kaitlyn Steinberg. I am grateful for their passion in promoting hospitality, and when you see them, please commend them on their efforts.



Despite close quarters, there was much laughter and learning that took place. Beautiful and moving words of love for the UUCB and the UU Faith were shared. Several people wondered if the Welcome and Connections Team would regularly hold these types of events.

I invite you to think of each person who participated like a stone thrown into the middle of a pond. Imagine the spirit of welcoming, inclusion and hospitality rippling throughout our congregation and beyond. With this in mind we look to the approach of September and In-Gathering- of people returning and of those who will be visiting for the first time. For each of us it will be a time to put the spiritual practice of hospitality into action.

We cannot know who will continue exploring and who will make the UUCB their spiritual home. What we do know is that each person who enters the UUCB becomes a voice that goes back into the world. With that awareness, what matters then is that each person is able to say "The UU Church of Buffalo was inviting and I felt welcomed there. "

Engaging in the values we promote will create impact that we will know by the ripples that reach our shores. I hope you will join me in warmly welcoming everyone to our church. Thank you.



# News from the Ministerial Search Committee

Respectfully submitted by Rita Capezzi for Dave Batt, Gigi Helliwell, Richard Leimbach, Martha Malkiewicz, Juli Van Woert, and Steve Wixson

Summer has been a productive time for us. Since the Committee was charged in June, we have met three times, including once for a valuable and reassuring debriefing from the former Committee. We are getting to know each other better, working on our covenants, and defining roles. And, we are all looking forward to our overnight retreat at Stella Niagara with our UUA Settlement Representative, Craig Schwalenberg at the end of August.

Because we hold this work as a sacred responsibility, we carefully discerned how each of us can bring our gifts and talents to specific search tasks. As a group, we feel that we have the capacity to bring our individual best to assigned tasks, and that we can bring out the best in each other. While dividing up the work load is important, we also understand that some jobs require all of us to review and respond. Below is how we have divided up the committee roles:

Co-Chairs: Richard Leimbach and Juli van Woert

Secretary: Gigi Helliwell

Treasurer: Steve Wixson

Survey and Data Reviewers: Rita Capezzi and Martha Malkiewicz

Website and Newsletter Writer: Rita Capezzi

UUA Contact: Gigi Helliwell

Pulpit and Hospitality Arranger: Martha Malkiewicz

Reference Checkers: Dave Batt and Juli Van Woert

Contract Negotiator: Dave Batt (with two others appointed by the Board to this team).



In September, we will be ready to report about the covenants we create with each other and with the Congregation.

As we move into that next phase of our work, we do want to assure all of you that we will work with integrity to find the Minister who can collaborate with the leadership of our Congregation and call us to develop spiritually as we make real our Mission and Vision of Ministry. We are a bit further along this year than last in terms of the “health” of our church: our governance structure is up and running; our Ministry Teams, supported by staff, are developing and running our programs; we are developing a five-year financial plan that can help us achieve fully our staffing needs for a church of our size; and we can move forward expeditiously in the process for attaining 501(c) 3 status.

Fortunately for this Committee, we have inherited a search process that respects the character of our congregation. We are a diverse people—diverse in gender identity and expression, sexual and affectional orientation, race and color, ability, age, origin, politics, education level, social position, cultural variation, and spirituality. As a Welcoming Congregation, we look forward to calling a minister who expresses a unique and valuable humanity, one that will surely complement all that we, as a gathered people, already are. Because we are fully accepting of each potential candidate’s unique diversity, the only criteria for disqualifying someone as a match with our church would be a lack of the ministerial skills we need at this time in the life of our Church.

# Women's Society Program

## Saul Elkin will be our Guest Speaker

by Josette Cunningham

We are very excited that Mr. Saul Elkin, well recognized UB faculty member, director and actor for "Shakespeare in the Park" will be the guest speaker at the Women's Society program/luncheon Thursday September 18. His Topic will be, "Thirty Five Years with Shakespeare in the Park - A Life in the Theater." Saul Elkin's rich trove of information and experience, engaging style and his inimitable voice will make his presentation a most memorable one.



We convene at 11:00 for fellowship, appetizers, beverages and wine. At 11:30 we will have a short business meeting, followed immediately by The speaker. At 12:30 a delicious catered lunch will be served. We are pleased to have the return of Applewood Catering.. They presented us with fabulous and high quality lunches for last season's March and April Programs.

The fee for the lunch is now \$15 if paid in advance and \$17 if paid at the door. We are sorry for the increase in payment, but it was necessary in order to cover our costs. Reservations can be made in the Parish Hall on the following two Sundays, September 7 and September 14 or at [Josettepc50@gmail.com](mailto:Josettepc50@gmail.com). Payment can then be sent to the church, labeled ATTENTION: Josh Layton. Make your checks payable to UUCB and on the memo line write, Women's Society. We encourage you to save yourself a bit of money while getting a bargain by making payment in advance! We also very much appreciate it if you do so.

A request: Upon entering the building, we are asking you to please take just a moment to check in at the table by the doors of the Garden Entrance. Kindly do not just walk past. We really need to check your name off our list. This is to ensure that we have ordered the correct number of lunches. We would not want anyone to go hungry!

Do make a reservation and reserve your spot at what will surely be a most entertaining and informative event!

## Pulpit Flowers Ministry

Pulpit flowers have been a wonderful part of our Sunday services for many years, and because of the generous sponsorship of many of our church members, flowers will continue to beautify our sanctuary during this 2014-15 program year. This ministry is a legacy that provides a way for each of us to enhance our spiritual journey as we choose a meaningful flower dedication. You may want to pay tribute to a special anniversary, birthday, child dedication, a special time, a special cause, gratitude, etc. You may dedicate flowers more than once during the year, and/or consider requesting a "standing" reservation from year to year. We are now scheduling for the entire 2014-15 church year. Some dates have already been filled, so please reserve early in order to get your preferred date. Do it now while the idea is fresh! The cost is \$35.00, and you may choose to take the flowers with you after the service, or we can donate them to a local hospital for you. For more information, or to reserve a Sunday, please stop by the flower table after Sunday service, email us at [pulpitflowers.org](http://pulpitflowers.org) or call the church office at 716-885-2136, ext.4. The next available dates are September 21st. and 28th.



# Sharing the September Plate with The International Institute of Buffalo

In keeping with our mission to create a more just and compassionate world, the Unitarian Universalist Church of Buffalo shares our weekly collection plate with a local agency, living out our generosity in the Buffalo community. The September share-the-plate recipient is The International Institute of Buffalo's Human Trafficking Unit. The mission of the Human Trafficking Unit is to assist foreign-born victims of trafficking.



**International Institute of Buffalo**  
*Western New Yorkers Embracing the World*

Since 2007 the International Institute of Buffalo has served over 200 foreign-born victims of human trafficking from 11 different countries of origin. The International Institute assists victims with safe confidential shelter, safety planning, food, clothing and other basic necessities, links to medical assistance, links to legal support, transportation, links to mental health counseling, interpretation & translation, links to English classes and general victim advocacy with law enforcement and the criminal justice system.

In addition to providing direct services to victims, the International Institute of Buffalo conducts outreach in the community. IIB staff frequently conducts training for professionals as well as for civic clubs, churches and interested community members. These presentations cover the basics of trafficking, ways to ID victims, cultural and linguistic barriers faced by foreign-born victims and local response to human trafficking.

In the Share-the-Plate program, the church donates half the unrestricted donations made during each Sunday's offertory to a designated charity or organization identified by the Social Justice Task Force under policies formulated by the Board of Trustees. Recipients of the UUCB Share-the-Plate program must be either a 501(c)3 or 501(c)4 non-profit organization, and they must do work that is consistent with Unitarian Universalist principles. Any member of the congregation may nominate a recipient organization through the UUCB Social Justice Task Force.

Pledge payments may still be placed in the collection plate, either in a donation envelope or clearly marked "pledge" in the memo line. All undesignated cash goes to Share the Plate. If you wish to donate to Share the Plate by check, or with cash in an envelope, please note "Share the Plate" or just "Share" in the memo line or on the envelope. Envelopes are available from the ushers.

On going efforts by the Social Justice Task force are the collection of non-perishable food donations for the Network of Religious Communities as well as recycling of old cell phones and printer cartridges. Donations can be left in the baskets at both entrances to the sanctuary. The next meeting of the Social Justice Task Force will be September 14<sup>th</sup> following the Sunday service.



# Welcome to a New Year for Social Justice and Action!

Submitted by Ellen Moomaw, Social Justice Task Force

Our first meeting of the year is September 14th at 12:30 in the Community Room. Subsequent meetings will be on the 2nd Sunday of each month at 12:30 in the Community Room. All are needed! Please Join Us!

We will continue our Climate Theme for the coming year. If we don't solve this folks, our species, and perhaps our entire planet, is history.

There is a Shore Clean-up on Squaw Island on September 20th from 9-Noon. Ellen Gibson is heading this up. Call her at 882-3488 for more information.

There is a Climate Rally in New York City on SEPTEMBER 21ST. I am going and will have more information soon. Think about going along to lend your voice.

Other ways we are good neighbors:

We continue to Share the Plate each week with a local 501-c3 or 4 Charitable Organization. If you have suggestions for this project, speak to one of the SJTF members or come to the meeting September 14th.

We continue to collect food items for our Local Food Pantry. Baskets are at both entrances.

Our 100 Gardens for Haiti Garden Project at the church is continuing. A program through the UU Service Committee, we are raising funds to send to Haiti to help the ongoing crisis there. Contribute during Coffee Hour please. THANK YOU!!

## UUCB OUT-REACH TO JERICHO ROAD COMMUNITY HEALTH CENTER

Tutoring English at Jericho Road is beginning. Charles Kaars is already tutoring there. More tutors are needed to help our newest neighbors to assimilate. Be part of the solution. Come to the September 14th meeting for information.

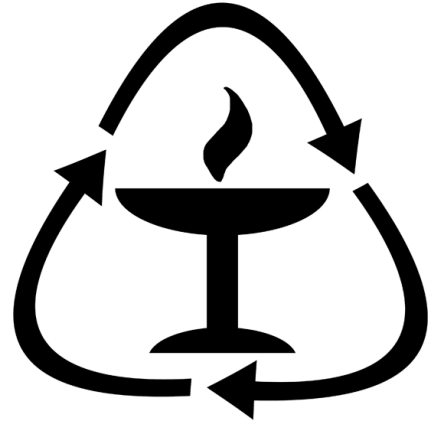
We will participate in Jericho Road Community Health Center's Bundle Up BUFFALO.

Needed are new and gently used outerwear items and blankets for men, women, and children of all ages: coats, baby/infant winter outerwear, boots, scarves, gloves/mittens, hats, blankets. Place in the bins by either door.

Also, cleaning products for holistic homes project at Jericho Road is collecting lead prevention cleaning buckets to distribute to families . Needed are buckets, rolls of paper towels, rubber or latex gloves, hand soap, 32oz. spray bottles, all-purpose cleaner, hand wipes.

Monetary donations are accepted. Checks made payable to Jericho Road Community Health Center with Bundle Up Buffalo or Cleaning Products in the memo line may be sent to: 184 Barton Street, Buffalo, NY 14213.

There is much to be done. No one can do everything, but we can each do something. Thank you for your participation in making our world more peaceful and just.



## The UU Church of Buffalo Staff

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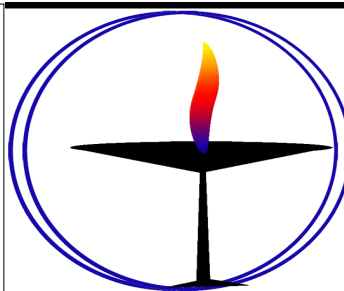
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## Happening at the UUCB

### UU Book Group Season Begins

**Monday, September 29**

Our book group meets September through November and January through June. To begin the 2014-15 season, we will be discussing CUTTING FOR STONE by Abraham Verghese on Monday, Sept. 29 at 7 PM in a member's home. All who plan to attend the meeting should call the host-of-the-month at 886-6838 so that she can plan for refreshments and seating. Newcomers who have read the book are welcome to join our discussion, but please be sure to call our host-of-the-month. Looking ahead, the October selection is: AND THE MOUNTAINS ECHOED by Khaled Hosseini. For general questions about our group, please call Ellen Gibson at 882-3488.



### Coming soon to UUCB: Ingathering!

We'll be celebrating the start of our new church year, and welcoming our new interim minister, Mary, on Sunday, September 7, with a special coffee hour in the Parish Hall after the service. Come meet, greet, and catch up on the news with all your UUCB friends...we hope to see you there!  
~ The Celebrations Team

## UUCB Yarnbusters

Yes we're still stitching along on the 2nd and 4th Tuesdays of the month. Not for knitters only. So...Grab your sticks, hooks or needles and join us on Tuesday, September 9th and 23rd, from 6:30 pm to 8ish in The Women's Lounge. This is an open group, church membership not required, so please forward to any friends or family that may be interested. Can't make it at 6:30? That's okay. This is not a meeting, drop in when you can. So whether you knit, crochet or "tat" give us a try. For more information email me, Sharon Walker, at [sharonw447@gmail.com](mailto:sharonw447@gmail.com).



## RE Wish List

We would like to refresh the toys in our nursery and are seeking supplies for some of our older classes as well.

### Our wish list includes:

Wooden puzzles (with all their pieces) for ages below three years old.  
baby dolls of all ethnicities (anatomically correct ones might be nice, they could live in the classroom with diapers on and be used for OWL classes)  
music CDs appropriate for children  
Infant and toddler toys that do NOT use batteries  
shape sorting toys with all of their pieces  
Duplos  
modern "little people" toys  
baskets made of natural materials in many sizes  
Large plastic "gems"  
Interesting stones, shells, feathers, and other fascinating natural items  
rubber stamps and stickers for making get well cards  
We also continue to collect soda can tabs for the Ronald McDonald house, donations of food for the food pantry, and pet care items for the SPCA. For any other donations please ALWAYS call ahead. There are many items that we just can't use that should be taken to other donation centers and we don't have enough staff to sort and dispose of unsolicited donations.

## Know Canada! -- A Cultural Salute to Our Northern Neighbors

Presented by Michael Harris

13 Sessions, starting September 10

Wednesdays, 9:30-11:30 am

In Western New York, we're right on the U.S./Canadian border, yet for the most part, we live in complete ignorance of and apathy to our Canadian brethren. It's a mistake to assume that Canada is a mere replica of the American nation; rather, it has a distinct and compelling sensibility of its own. In this course, we will look at some of the most notable and influential cultural figures to come out of Canada: musicians, writers and thinkers who have changed the world with their achievements.

In our attempt to know Canada better, we'll discover how much our country has been affected and enriched by this people of the 'Great White North'.

\$75 for full course or \$10 per session. To register and for more information, call the Unitarian Universalist Church of Buffalo office at 885-2136 or email [office@buffalouu.org](mailto:office@buffalouu.org).

### Weekly Schedule of Topics

Session One: (September 10): "Our Home and Native Land" -- The Land and Its People

Session Two: (September 17): How Canada Became Canada -- The History

Session Three (September 24): Painting Canada -- The Group of Seven

Session Four (October 1): Composing Canada -- Harry Somers and His Historical Opera LOUIS RIEL

Session Five (October 8): Humoring Canada -- Stephen Leacock and Robertson Davies

Session Six (October 15): Toronto Literary and Media Theorists -- Northrop Frye and Marshall McLuhan

Session Seven (October 22): Bach to the Future -- Classical Pianist Glenn Gould

Session Eight (October 29): Jazzy Canada  
Oscar Peterson and Diana Krall

NO CLASS ON NOVEMBER 5

Session Nine (November 12): Trudeauomania! -- The Life and Legacy of Pierre Eliot Trudeau

Session Ten (November 19): Separatist Canada -- The Question of Sovereignty for Quebec

NO CLASS ON NOVEMBER 26

Session Eleven (December 3): Not Just Folks! -- Leonard Cohen and Joni Mitchell

Session Twelve (December 10): Canada's Nobel Prize Storyteller -- Alice Munro

Session Thirteen (December 17): Canadian Woman of Letters -- Margaret Atwood

