

**CANADIAN UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST WOMEN'S ASSOCIATION
(CUUWA)**

CHAIR'S AGM REPORT MAY 19, 2013

Calgary will be a warm reunion for women who don't meet face-to-face very often. The cluster concept used for the 2012 AGM worked well for members who live near each other because had more than 50 % of our membership weaving an electronic web from Coast to Coast. In 2013 we plan to do business for an hour and then to host a Pink Tea, complete with real tea cups. Pink Teas were the networking tool that built momentum to obtain the right to vote. Frances Wright, founder of the Famous Five Foundation (F5F) will be guest speaker while Carolyn Harley will sing some songs she composed to commemorate these Alberta pioneers who led the legal battle that established women as "persons? It's amazing that 100 years ago, we didn't have voting rights and responsibilities nor were we classified as legally responsible adult citizens. Women have come a long way along the road to full equity, but many aspects of our personal, professional, public, and political perspectives are underdeveloped. Following is a brief summary of CUUWA activities during the past year. Please come to the AGM and Pink Tea to celebrate these successes and to plan for the future.

Council members meet quarterly using electronic tools such as email and teleconferencing to maintain the organization. This year two members of the original Council, both past-presidents of CUC, would like to retire. Mary Lu MacDonald (Halifax) and Ruth Patrick (Edmonton) have used their considerable expertise to guide this new organization through the perils of early growth. We are grateful and will miss their feisty comments. We welcomed new leadership development with the addition of Jane Ebbert and Marie Collins from the 2013 host city and Jessica Motherwell, (Vancouver) who brings enthusiasm and expertise for building spiritual networks. Gillian Burton and Janice Tait, (Toronto) and Margaret Linton, (Ottawa) provide that stable bridge between Eastern and Western Canada. You will learn more about Council contributions at the AGM.

We have communicated to scattered membership by sending newsletters, developing a brochure, constructing a web page (www.cuuwa.org) and creating a list serve (cuuwa@googlegroups.com) to host discussions. We hope as you share these tools with other women, you strengthen our spiritual and social justice focus. Please come to the AGM with ideas that you'd like to implement.

Several committees have been established. The Reproductive Justice Committee will report on initiatives (e.g. LunaPads). Would you be interested in an on-line course about women's spirituality? Or an on line course about political engagement regarding women-centred issues?

Perhaps the most successful outreach initiatives during 2012 were the March women's services held close to International Women's Day. In the Comox Valley, Edmonton, Vancouver, Ottawa, Toronto, Halifax, Unitarian services were dedicated to and led by women. They were so diverse, so original, so thoughtful, and so empowering! Consult the web page for ideas and consider organizing one for next year.

We'd like more of an outreach to women who are less fortunate than ourselves. Several ideas have been suggested but we'd like your input. See you May 19 for tea and conversation.

Betty Donaldson, Chair.